

# Bird Finding in Northern Berkshire County

**Editor's Note.** *In this issue, Bird Observer reprints several brief site guides from the recently published Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Extension, 2003). This 334-page guide provides a long-desired companion to the 1994 Birder's Guide to Eastern Massachusetts. The new guide was edited by Jan Ortiz, David A. Spector, Pete Westover, and Mary Alice Wilson; illustrations are by Andrew Finch Magee. The entire guide will be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of Bird Observer. Meanwhile, with the publisher's permission, we are reprinting the first five chapters of the guide, covering the five most northern sites described for Berkshire County. The first, on the Eph's Pond area, is by Leslie Reed-Evans, while the other four, covering Clarksburg State Park, Monroe State Forest, Savoy Mountain State Forest, and the Mount Greylock area, were written by Ronald Rancatti.*

*Unlike the expanded versions of two other sites (High Ridge Wildlife Management Area and Northfield; see Bird Observer 29:6, December 2001, and 30:1, February 2002, respectively) published in advance of the book, these five site guides are reprinted verbatim, and offer a tempting look at that part of Massachusetts most resembling northern New England in its flora and fauna.*

The book may be ordered online at <<http://www.umassextension.org>>, or by calling 413-545-2717 (877-UMASSXT in Massachusetts).

## B1. Eph's Pond Area, Williamstown

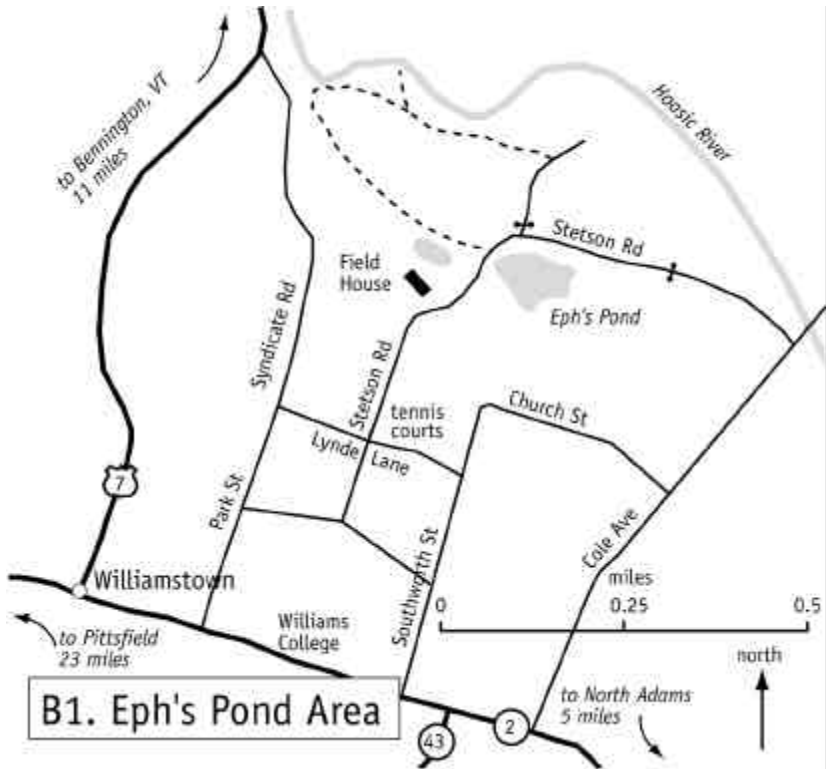
### Eph's Pond

It is amazing that amidst the comings and goings of hundreds of students it is possible to see a migrant Osprey fishing for goldfish. Backed by an extensive swamp and ringed with snags, Eph's Pond has a surprisingly diverse population in all seasons. The best times for birding are early morning and late afternoon.

From the intersection of Routes 2 and 7 in Williamstown head 0.3 mile east on Route 2 and turn left on Park Street. Head north 0.2 mile to Lynde Lane, turn right, and go one block. At the four-way stop turn left and continue straight past the Williams College field house on the left and downhill to the playing fields. The pond is immediately on the right. Parking is available along the edge of the field.

Bird by walking along the edge of the pond on the drive. There are several places with good views of the pond. Check the shrubby edges as well. Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, and Common Merganser are seen in early spring. Occasionally American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Hooded Merganser also stop here.

Activity around the pond starts in early spring with the return of Swamp Sparrows and other early arrivals. Great Blue Heron and Belted Kingfisher, found along the Hoosic throughout the winter in some years, also visit in early spring.



The Osprey, a spectacular migrant, fishes the ponds and the river, perching in large cottonwoods. Other raptors here include Sharp-shinned, Broad-winged, and Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Great Horned and Barred Owls. It is not unusual to find piles of feathers dotting the playing fields on early morning walks, evidence of these winged predators.

The pond and pond edge are very active in April. Shorebirds such as Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, and Solitary Sandpiper are spring visitors. American Bittern, Wilson's Snipe, and American Woodcock are sighted occasionally. Virginia Rail has been reported. Green Heron is a warm-weather resident, often flying between the pond and the river. Look for Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Yellow-rumped, and Palm Warblers around the pond.

May is of course the jackpot for species. Watch for Wood Duck on the pond and Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and Barn Swallows over the pond. Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, and Baltimore Oriole nest in the shrubby perimeter. Killdeer, Eastern Bluebird, and American Robin stalk the field. Hermit and Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting are in the woods. Willow and Least Flycatchers, Carolina and House Wrens, Cedar Waxwing, Black-and-white Warbler, and American Redstart add their songs to the cacophony.

A few shorebirds filter through in August. Three or four Great Blue Herons consider the pond their August home and expend significant energy chasing away the immature Little Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons that disperse to fish here. Killdeer, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers gather on muddy banks if the water is low. Chimney Swifts gather over the pond in great numbers at dusk.

In fall watch for American Black Duck and noisy blackbird flocks. Vireos, thrushes, warblers, and sparrows, including White-throated and White-crowned, and other fruit-eating migrants gorge on fruits of the silky, red-panicked, and red-osier dogwoods, Japanese honeysuckle, and buckthorn. Walk slowly around the pond listening for the rustle of the underbrush as these birds prepare for migration.

Late fall and winter are the times to see the last waterfowl and returning winter residents. Cedar Waxwing flocks inhabit thickets around the pond; check for Bohemian Waxwing among them. Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, and Northern Cardinal are also common here. On the river, Common Mergansers congregate in the swifter areas through winter.

### **Hoosic River**

From Eph's Pond, walk north along the drive to the large gate at the curve. Follow a paved road between the lower football field and the higher playing field until just past the large spruces. Turn left into the woods and follow the track west along the Hoosic River. In spring, look for both nuthatches, Carolina Wren, Black-and-white Warbler, and American Redstart in tangled understory along the path. Approach the lookouts above the river quietly and scan for Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Common Merganser, and, in migration, Osprey. The tall cottonwoods and other floodplain species attract Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, and a variety of woodpeckers. The trail branches several times; follow the trail to the right to a sand and gravel bar along a curve of the river or continue through the floodplain forest to the bottom of the curve, the best place to look for Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers. A left-hand turn at that point leads across a bridge and through the woods to a cleared sewer easement. The brushy edge here hosts many warblers in migration. Turn left and follow this cleared path back to the playing field and parking area, passing a smaller pond and its associated swamp on your right.

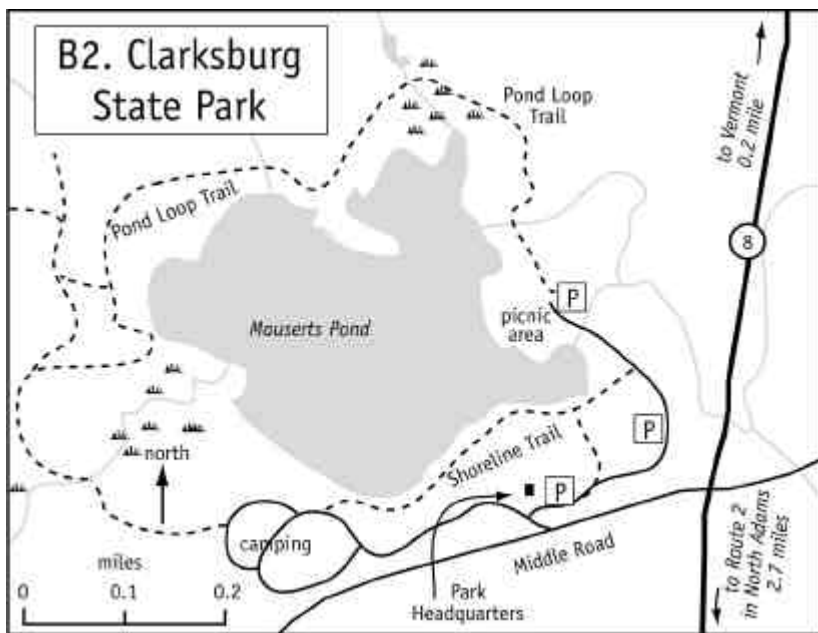
*Leslie Reed-Evans*

## **B2. Clarksburg State Park, Clarksburg**

In North Adams at the intersection of Routes 2 and 8, go north on Route 8. After 3 miles turn left on Middle Road in Clarksburg. The park entrance is 0.2 mile on your right. Park near the headquarters and pick up a trail map.

Birding Clarksburg State Park is best April through October. The walk on the paved park road heading east to the pond through a grove of towering white pines is usually productive. Great Horned Owls breed, and Yellow-rumped and Blackburnian

Warblers are numerous. At the pond scan for waterfowl and Spotted Sandpipers. In spring you may have the whole park and migrating waterfowl, Osprey, and songbirds to yourself. A trail encircles the pond, beginning at the far end of the picnic area. Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers and Northern Waterthrush breed here. Red-shouldered Hawks frequent the marshy inlets, and Pileated Woodpecker is often encountered. This blue-blazed trail can be wet, especially during rainy periods and in spring. Bridges and boardwalks make it more accessible. You can also explore Shoreline Trail linking the camping area and parking lots and trails to the west of the pond loop. Watch in the park for Great Blue Heron, Hooded Merganser, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, and Evening Grosbeak.



### B3. Monroe State Forest, Monroe

In North Adams at the intersection of Routes 2 and 8, go east on Route 2 crossing the top of the Hoosac Range at the Florida town line. After nearly 5 miles from the intersection turn left (north) on Tilda Hill Road at a green sign for Monroe and the Fire Department buildings. Drive roughly 4.2 miles on this road to a Monroe State Forest sign on your right shortly after a small bridge spanning Dunbar Brook. Ample parking is just beyond this sign. North Road is across the road. South Road and the Dunbar Loop are on the same side as the parking lot. Watch in appropriate habitat in this forest for Hooded Merganser, Pileated Woodpecker, and Evening Grosbeak.

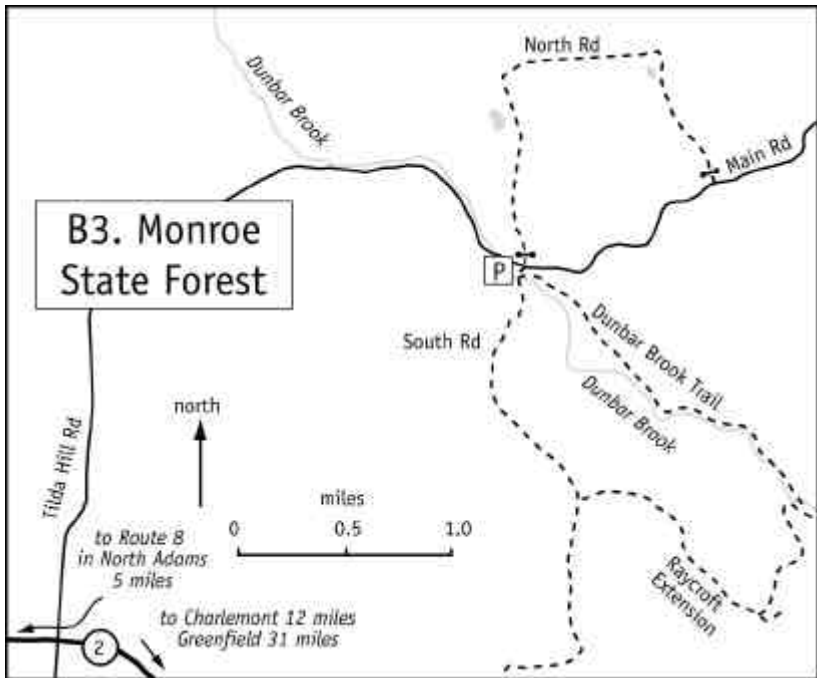
## North Road

The best time to bird this area is May through July. North Road (closed to traffic) passes a metal gate and climbs steadily a short while before becoming an easy level walk. Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and upland forest warblers can usually be heard singing from thick hemlock-covered slopes to your left on the lower portion of this road. Winter Wren is also regular here. These species continue as the road becomes more level. To the left a small beaver pond, obscured by vegetation except in the spring, offers excellent opportunities for Red-shouldered Hawk.

The road ascends gradually to a small clearing, an old farm site. Turn sharply right; you will immediately pass another beaver pond on your left with a white pine plantation on your right. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, and Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks nest between this point and the next metal gate at the other end of this road. Barred and Northern Saw-whet Owls are present here in breeding season. Swainson's Thrushes are expected. Rusty Blackbirds have been observed near the beaver ponds in breeding season, but nesting is not confirmed. The area is remote and the road closed, allowing a quiet birding opportunity.

## Dunbar Loop

This hike, nearly 4 miles long, has some steep ascents and descents. Numerous Swainson's Thrushes are expected, especially in the first half of July, when counts have reached 20 individuals. Start early to enjoy their beautiful song, Swainson's



Thrush regularly sings until late morning in early July. From the moment you leave your vehicle be alert for their song. Walk down South Road toward the bridge over Dunbar Brook around the first bend. The rushing stream almost drowns out all bird song, but the road soon swings right and climbs away from the noisy stream.

Continue on South Road to Raycroft Extension Road, your first left. Swainson's Thrushes and numerous Blackburnian Warblers are found along this road. Follow the road about one mile to a footpath on your left, the third leg of this trip. It descends gradually at first but becomes increasingly steep. A three-sided shelter along this trail is a good spot to rest. From here to the bottom of the ravine the going is steep. Winter Wren is often found here, especially around toppled trees on the slope. Swainson's Thrush, also fond of hemlock ravines, is again found here. Cross Dunbar Brook over a footbridge and turn left.

You are now on the hike's fourth and final portion; Dunbar Brook keeps you company for awhile. Golden-crowned Kinglets can be present but are sometimes difficult to hear next to the stream. The trail ascends gradually, following the stream, but near the end it veers away and climbs the side of the ravine, where you usually encounter more Swainson's Thrushes. After the steep climb the trail levels out, and you are soon back on South Road near the bridge you crossed at the beginning. Turn right; your vehicle is only yards away.

## B4. Savoy Mountain State Forest, Florida, North Adams, and Savoy

### **Spruce Hill**

From Monroe State Forest (see previous account), return to Route 2, turn right (west), go 1 mile and turn left (south) on Central Shaft Road.

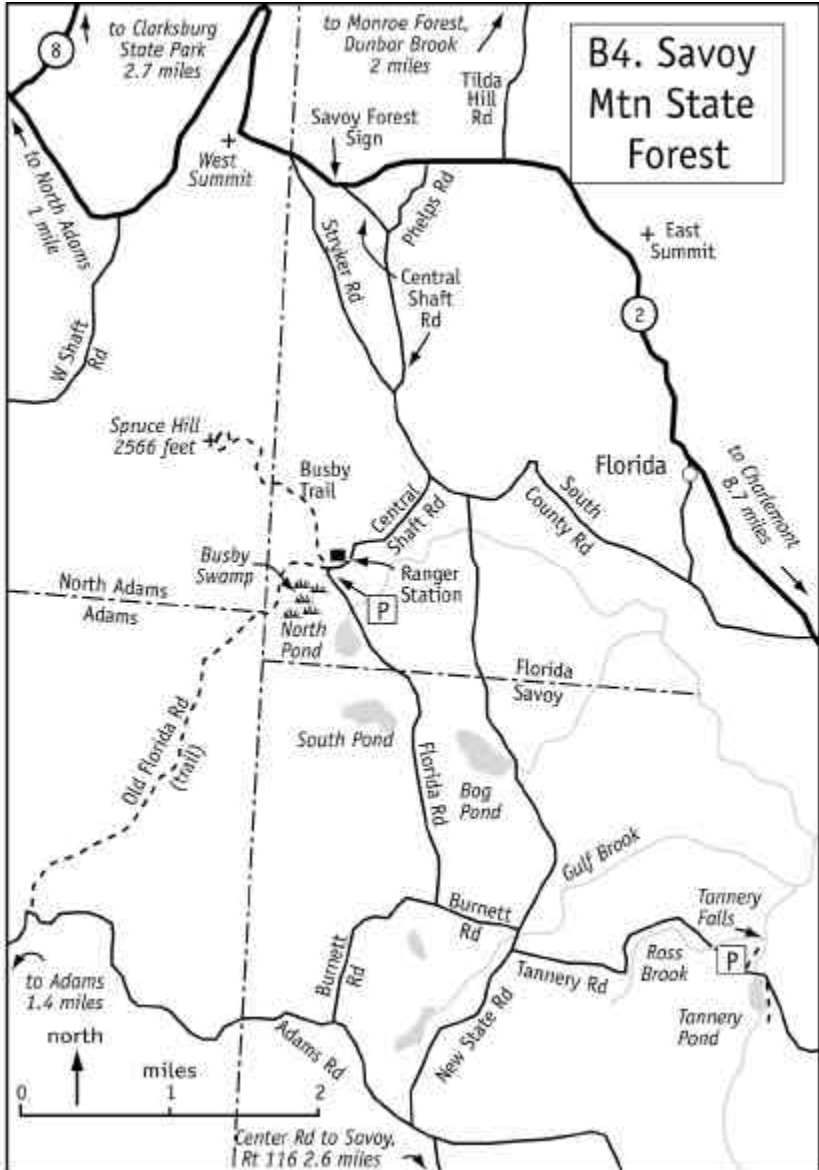
Alternatively, from the intersection of Route 8 north and Route 2 in North Adams, head east on Route 2, up through the hairpin turn, over the Hoosac Range into the town of Florida. After 4.2 miles past Route 8, just after a Savoy Mountain State Forest sign, turn right on Central Shaft Road.

Once on Central Shaft Road go 0.3 mile, bear right and go an additional 1.0 mile. Turn sharply right to stay on Central Shaft Road and continue another 1.5 miles. Park on the wide shoulder just after the Savoy Mountain State Forest Ranger Station on the right.

Before hiking to the summit, walk ahead a hundred feet from your vehicle to view Busby Swamp, where you may see moose. Listen for Alder Flycatcher and Swamp Sparrow in spring and summer. Wetlands such as these are favored areas for Barred and Northern Saw-whet Owls.

Return to your vehicle, walk to the woods road, and quickly take the first road to the right. There are signs for the blue-blazed Busby Trail to the Spruce Hill hawk lookout. It is 1.2 miles to the summit.

You almost immediately cross a power line, where Chestnut-sided Warbler is found. A second power line is good for Chestnut-sided Warbler and Eastern Towhee. The trail gradually ascends through several Norway spruce plantations. Watch for nesting Sharp-shinned Hawk. These spruce plantations are dependable for Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers.





Hardwood forest takes over for the remainder of the journey. After the cellar hole of an old farm house the trail swings left and climbs steeply toward the summit. Stop and rest where an old stone wall straddles the trail. Hermit Thrush and Black-throated Blue and Canada Warblers are found here.

After this wonderful resting stop you climb steadily again. A loop hike is recommended from a fork in the trail where a steep ledge looms before you. Turn left; the trail soon scrambles up the ledge face. Beyond the top of the ledge the trail continues steadily uphill. After climbing the last small piece of ledge just below the summit you are treated to a view that makes your hard work worth it. Mount Greylock commands the Hoosic Valley yawning before you. But the birds are the main reason for being here so watch for Turkey Vultures and Common Ravens floating by. In fall, visit the full-time hawkwatch site on the north side of the summit, reached by following the blue-blazed trail a few hundred feet through stunted hardwoods to a large clearing.

In early September expect to see migrating Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel, and a few early Broad-winged Hawks. Usually by September 10 the number of migrating Broad-winged Hawks swells dramatically, and peak numbers occur anytime between this date and September 24. High counts of Osprey also occur at this time. Close up views of passing hawks are common. By late September, usually after the Broad-winged Hawks depart, adult Sharp-shinned Hawks take over as the most common raptor. This is also an excellent time for Peregrine Falcon and good numbers of Osprey and American Kestrels. A few Northern Harriers, Cooper's Hawks, and Merlins add to the excitement. By mid-October the deciduous foliage disappears, and Red-tailed Hawk is the most common migrating raptor. From mid-October into November, sighting a magnificent Golden Eagle is possible. If you have never seen a Golden Eagle, you'll never forget your first. Other late-season migrants include Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and American Kestrel.

Other migrants seen in good numbers include Snow Geese (October), flocks of Blue Jays and American Robins, and numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers. October brings occasional Northern Shrikes, Snow Buntings, Evening Grosbeaks, and other winter finches.

To return to the main trail, head north through the hawkwatch site clearing and follow the blue-blazed trail. Descend a stone staircase just before the terminus of the summit loop. The trail back to your vehicle is on the left.

### **Tannery Pond and Tannery Falls, Savoy**

This is a heavily forested area with the possibility of raptors and Pileated Woodpecker along the roads and trails. Species found here include Wood Duck, American Woodcock, Barred and Northern Saw-whet Owls, Alder Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Black-throated Blue and Canada Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, and Purple Finch. The recommended time to visit is May through July. Tannery Road is not open in winter.

Continue south on Central Shaft Road (which becomes Florida Road), go left on Burnett Road, and turn sharply right over a small bridge on New State Road (about 2.5 miles from the ranger station). After about 0.2 mile turn left on Tannery Road and drive 2 miles to the parking lot at the trailhead to Tannery Falls.

The trail to the bottom of Tannery Falls and its ravine travels through heavy hemlock growth with Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Return to the parking lot and walk along Tannery Road just beyond. Turn left; Tannery Pond is soon on your right. Examine the pond for waterfowl and an occasional Great Blue Heron. To reach the marshy end of Tannery Pond walk beyond the pond. Turn right on an old woods road amidst a white pine grove, and walk past thick hemlocks on your right. Listen for Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak.

The forest thins after a few minutes of walking, and you gain an excellent view of the marshy end of the pond. Be alert for rare nesters such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. These upland marshy areas are the favorite habitat of these three species.

Return to Tannery Road, walk past the parking lot, and cross the Ross Brook bridge. Continue walking on Tannery Road a short distance to a Norway spruce plantation on your left and hemlocks on your right, a dependable location to hear Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, and Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers. Norway spruce plantations near openings such as Tannery Road are excellent nesting locations for Sharp-shinned Hawk. Noisy fledglings are usually found from mid-July into early August.

## B5. Mount Greylock Area, Adams, Cheshire, New Ashford, North Adams, and Williamstown

Mount Greylock is the highest spot in Massachusetts. The mountain and surrounding highlands host many northern species, and many of the boreal areas, including the summit, are readily accessible by car when the road is open (late spring through late fall). There are many options for hikes of various levels of difficulty. If you are planning to hike, carry one of the many excellent trail maps and guides available at the Visitors Center, park kiosks, and area bookstores.

From the north (Notch Road): From downtown North Adams head west on Route 2 over the overpass; after 1.2 miles turn left on Notch Road. Proceed on Notch Road to its junction with Pattison Road. Turn left and continue on Notch Road until small fields appear on both sides. Bear sharply right just beyond. You will pass a large Mount Greylock State Reservation sign on your right and go through a gate (closed in winter). Continue on Notch Road as it climbs the northern slope of Mount Williams. The Appalachian Trail (AT) crosses at roughly 6 miles. Continue to the junction of

Notch Road and Rockwell Road at nearly 10 miles from North Adams. The Gould Trail starts at the parking lot directly across from the stop sign.

From the south (Rockwell Road): Driving north from Pittsfield on Route 7, watch in Lanesborough for the brown Mount Greylock State Reservation sign. Turn northeast on North Main Street. Drive nearly 0.7 mile and bear sharply right on Greylock/Quarry Road. Pass the Mount Greylock State Reservation maintenance building on your left. The road becomes Rockwell Road at this point and climbs past open fields to the Mount Greylock Visitors Center on your right. The road is steep past the metal gate (closed in winter) but soon levels off. From the Visitors Center it is 7.4 miles to the junction with Notch Road.

### **Notch Road, Adams**

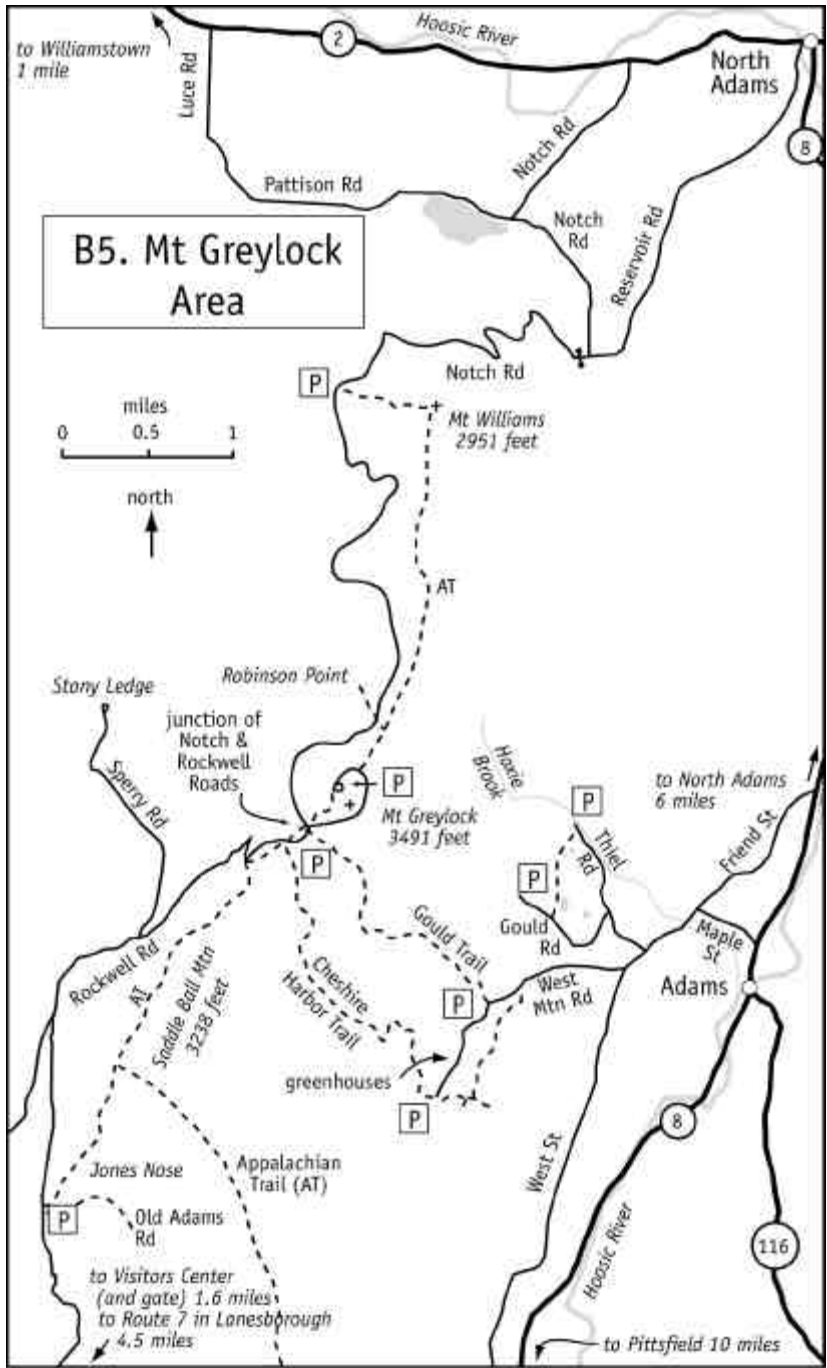
Because this trip, which begins at the parking lot at the junction of Notch and Rockwell Roads, includes walking on Notch Road, it is best to begin at dawn when traffic is not a problem and bird song is at greatest intensity. Listen for Swainson's Thrush and Yellow-rumped and Blackpoll Warblers as soon as you leave your car. You may be surprised at the number of American Robins. Walk across Rockwell Road and head north on Notch Road. Thick spruce and balsam fir are on both sides of the road. After one mile the Robinson's Point trailhead on your left has been a dependable spot for Blackpoll Warbler. Continue a little farther to the sign marking the boundary of the War Memorial Park.

You can return to your vehicle or continue on a loop hike. For the loop hike take a spur trail on the opposite (east) side of the road a short distance south of the Robinson's Point trailhead. This spur leads quickly to the Appalachian Trail (AT). Turn right on the AT and ascend steadily through an excellent area for Winter Wren, Canada Warbler, Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Indigo Bunting. The trail continues to Rockwell Road where the trail on the left heads downhill toward your vehicle less than half a mile away. Along the way you have a commanding view of the Hoosic Valley. Watch for Chimney Swifts and swallows, especially in late summer.

You may also encounter Barred and Northern Saw-whet Owls, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Magnolia Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, and, in some years, Red Crossbill and Pine Siskin.

### **Mount Greylock Summit, Adams**

From the junction of Notch and Rockwell Roads, continue on the paved road about 0.8 mile to the parking area at the top. The summit, with its spruce-fir woods and large grassy openings, has a rich history of attracting rare nesters, migrants, and species unexpected at high altitude. Watch for Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped and Blackpoll Warblers, White-throated Sparrow, and Purple Finch. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins can occur at any time or not at all. Keep an eye to the sky for



migrating raptors from late August through October. October is a good time to find Snow Buntings. Unusual sightings have included an Eastern Screech-Owl in June 1948, a Black-backed Woodpecker back in February 1928, a Northern Wheatear in October 1994, and 20 Lapland Longspurs in October 1985.

Bicknell's Thrush nested near the Mount Greylock summit up to about 30 years ago. It still nests on southern Vermont's higher peaks, so keep this species in mind at the summit, especially late May through mid-July.

### **Saddle Ball Mountain on the Appalachian Trail (AT), New Ashford**

From the junction of Notch and Rockwell Roads, follow Rockwell Road downhill (south) 0.5 mile to the large AT sign. A short dirt road to the left of this sign leads to the parking lot. Walk back to the paved road, pass the sign, and enter the forest on the AT to the right of the sign. If you have two vehicles, leaving the second at the Jones Nose parking lot (2.8 miles farther south on Rockwell Road) eliminates the need to retrace your steps; the return hike, however, is often productive.

Mid-May through mid-August is the best time to visit Saddle Ball Mountain, its birds, and its forest of spruce-fir and northern hardwoods. After you enter the forest the trail ascends, crosses a small knoll, and then descends to a boardwalk across a sphagnum bog. Listen for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Common Raven, Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, and Nashville and Canada Warblers. Barred and Northern Saw-whet Owls occur here and at other locations on this ridge. The trail then ascends a series of small summits and passes other sphagnum bogs. Sharp-shinned Hawks have nested at one of these bogs. A few Blackpoll Warblers are usually found along this trail near bogs and small summits. A good day along Saddle Ball could yield four to six Blackpoll Warblers. One or two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, closely associated with spruce bogs, are usually found each year. Mourning Warblers are found in recently disturbed, scrubby areas. One such place is on Old Adams Road which leads east from the parking lot below Jones Nose.

Nomadic Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins add excitement those years they occur. Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Swainson's Thrush can be heard almost anywhere along the ridge top. Swainson's Thrush occurs here in small numbers, so if you encounter one, take time to savor his beautiful song. Listen throughout this area for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia and Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrow, Purple Finch, and Evening Grosbeak.

### **Greylock Glen (Gould/Thiel Roads Property), Adams**

From the intersection of Routes 8 and 116 in the center of Adams, go north about 0.2 mile on Route 8, and turn left (west) on Maple Street (note large statue of President McKinley at the intersection). After about 0.2 mile turn left (south) on West Street where Maple ends. After 0.4 mile turn right (west) on Gould Road; apple orchards will be on both sides of the road. After 0.3 mile go left on Gould Road. Parking is available a few hundred feet farther on the right.

This area's many habitats, including mixed forest, spruce lots, weedy fields, and small wetlands, provide good birding year-round. This area is popular with town residents; you probably will not find yourself alone, although this 1000+ acre State Department of Environmental Management tract has plenty of elbow room. An ideal way to bird the center portion of this area is to use the paved roads that nearly circle it. You can also enter the center of this open area by various trails. Pick up a free map at the Greylock Glen regulations sign. It is hard to get lost if you use Mount Greylock's imposing mass to the west as a reference point.

From October to April, look for Red-tailed and the scarcer Rough-legged Hawks, American Kestrel, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting. Common Ravens often soar overhead or over Greylock's slopes. Cedar Waxwings frequent this area; their flocks should be checked carefully for Bohemian Waxwing. Some hardy Eastern Bluebirds and American Robins are seen here in mild winters. Quietly inspect the spruce lots for whitewash or pellets, evidence of recent owl roosting. With luck you may find the owl itself. Stay alert for American Crows mobbing Great Horned or Barred Owls and for Black-capped Chickadees mobbing Eastern Screech-Owls or Northern Saw-whet Owls.

In fall and spring, this site yields Northern Harrier and other migrating hawks looking for a meal. Northern songbirds such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm Warbler, and, less commonly, Wilson's Warbler and Fox Sparrow, frequent this area in migration. A 1995 breeding bird survey of this tract located 78 species. A Mourning Warbler was a rare find. Louisiana Waterthrushes are found along Hoxie Brook. Other species include American Woodcock, Sharp-shinned, Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrel. Black-billed Cuckoo, Alder and Willow Flycatchers occur around the ponds.

Watch in appropriate habitat for Cooper's Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Blue-winged, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, and Indigo Bunting.

### **Greylock Glen (West Mountain Road Property), Adams**


This is a less traveled portion of the Glen. Follow directions above to Greylock Glen, but continue south on West Street an additional 0.1 mile. Turn right on West Mountain Road immediately after the small Peck's Brook bridge. Proceed on West Mountain Road until you reach fields on both sides. At a sharp left corner (0.7 mile) there is parking on your right for the Gould Trail.

From here scan for Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel, and, from October to April, for Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike. Then drive farther on West Mountain Road, passing Mount Greylock Greenhouses on your right. The road soon ends at parking for the Cheshire Harbor Trail. This is the trail of choice to hike to Mount Greylock's summit; be sure you have the necessary trail maps.

A different trail, and an excellent way to bird the varied habitat of highland meadows and forest, is to take a 2-mile loop which begins at the Cheshire Harbor

Trail parking lot. Follow the footpath (old road) on the east side of the parking area through a brushy pasture. At a fork in the trail, continue straight through a row of trees and stone wall that separates this pasture from a smaller one, bear left on another footpath. Eastern Towhee and Indigo Bunting are common here. This footpath enters secondary growth and then descends to a field. Expect Alder Flycatcher here, and listen for the buzzy Blue-winged Warbler song in May and June. Veery, Hermit and Wood Thrushes, Nashville Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow occur in this upland area.

Just beyond the field and a small brook, bear sharply right, and follow a badly rutted trail along the edge of a field with a mature mixed-hardwood forest on your right. Views of Mount Greylock are impressive from this entire area of the Glen. Where the trail intersects another footpath near the end of the field, go right and enter the forest. Turn left at the next intersection. Turn left again back to West Mountain Road. At the road either retrace your route or take West Mountain Road past the Gould Trail parking lot and the greenhouses back to your vehicle.

Watch in appropriate habitat in this section for Northern Harrier (spring and fall), Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Broad-winged Hawks, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Pileated Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Palm (spring and fall), and Canada Warblers, and Savannah Sparrow. 

*Ronald Rancatti*



ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK BY GEORGE C. WEST