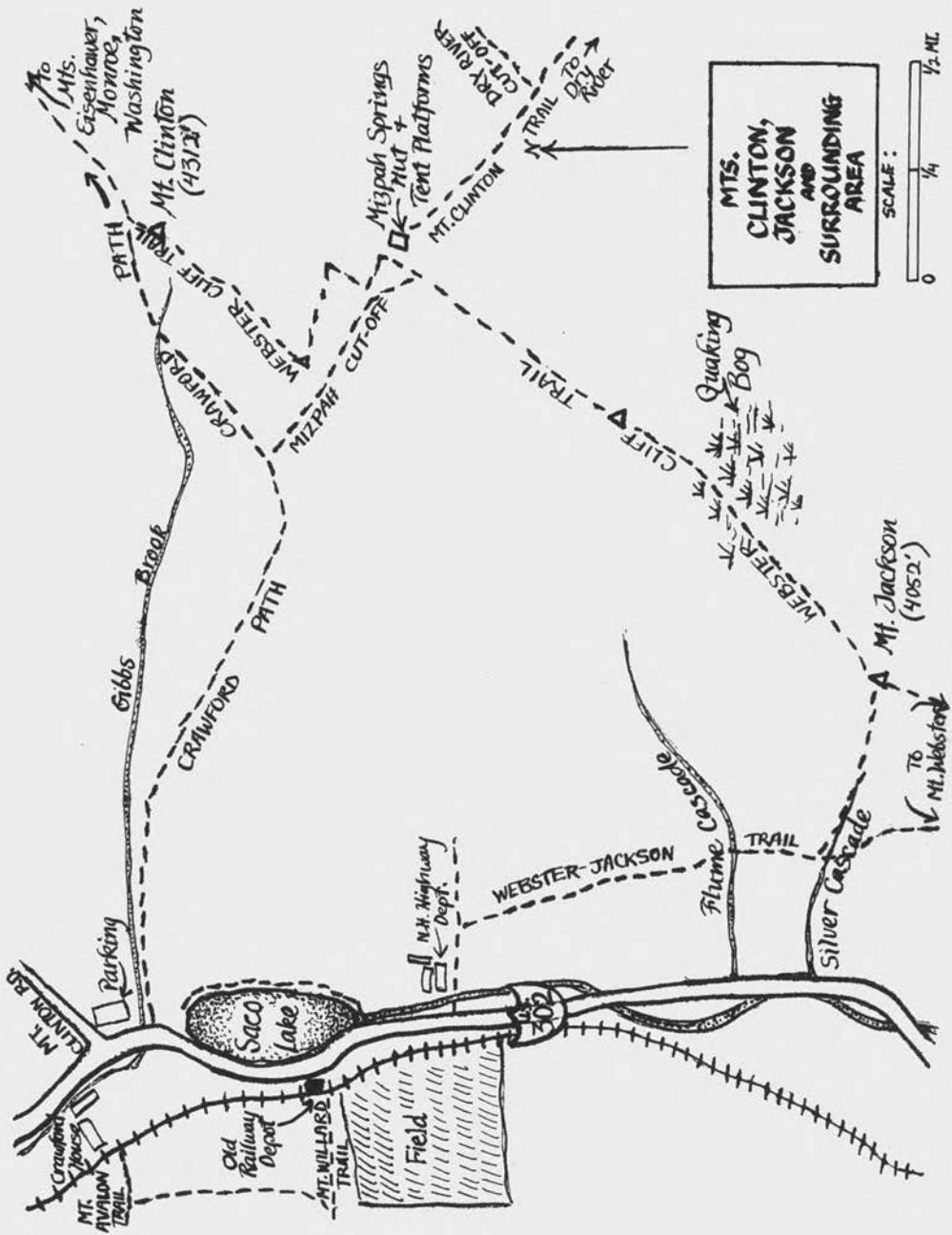


**MTS.  
CLINTON,  
JACKSON  
AND  
SURROUNDING  
AREA**



BIRDING ON MTS. CLINTON AND JACKSON  
IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

By Michael R. Greenwald, West Roxbury

Massachusetts birders who wish to observe migrants in their northern nesting territories and the boreal species which seldom or never come into Massachusetts should consider climbing in the southern Presidential Range of New Hampshire's White Mountains. Although more limited in number than those found in eastern Massachusetts, the habitats include second-growth forests of mixed hardwoods and conifers, virgin stands of Red Spruce and boreal forests of Black Spruce and Balsam Fir, alpine bogs, and arctic tundra. This article describes birds and plant life you might see on several paths in this range.

The Crawford Path is the oldest continuously used footpath in North America (see end of article for directions). Its first section was cut in 1819 by Abel Crawford and his son, Ethan Allen Crawford. It later (1840) became a bridle path, but after a few decades, reverted to its original status.

As you start up the Crawford Path, you are entering second-growth hardwoods (mostly Red Maple and beech) mixed with some Red Spruce. The spruce will become increasingly numerous as you ascend. If you can hear over the sound of Gibbs Brook on your left, you will hear Winter Wrens, Swainson's Thrushes, Solitary and Red-eyed Vireos, Black-and-white, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, and American Redstarts. This presents the most frustrating (or interesting) element in mountain birding: you will never see 80-90% of the birds you hear. It is not only wise but essential to learn as many bird songs and calls as possible before you go.

As one ascends, the changes in the mountain flowers are as interesting as those in the birds. Among the flowers you should see along the trail at the lower elevations are Wood-sorrel or Oxalis (Oxalis montana), Painted and Red (or Wake-robin) Trillium (Trillium undulatum and T. erectum), and Moccasin-flower or Lady Slipper (Cypripedium acaule) in both the pink and white varieties.

(Note: the list of flowers given in this article is by no means complete or exclusive. Many other species grow on these trails. The list is meant merely to be representative of some of the more common and more noticeable flowers.)

About 1/2 mile up the trail, you enter the Gibbs Brook Scenic Area (marked with a sign) containing mixed Red Spruce and Balsam Fir. The Red Spruce is the climax species in the lower elevations throughout much of the White Mountains. (Heavy lumbering and forest fires at the end of the last century and the early decades of this century have left very few virgin stands.) In this area, you leave behind many of the bird species found in the deciduous growth. But some, such as the Winter Wren, the Swainson's Thrush, and the Yellow-rumped Warbler become more numerous. In addition, you begin to hear Blackburnian Warblers, Brown Creepers, and perhaps a Golden-crowned Kinglet or Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Flower species begin to change also. You now see large numbers of Canada Mayflower or Bead-ruby (Maianthemum canadense) and Clintonia or Blue-bead (Clintonia borealis). The latter are called Blue-bead because of the hard blue berries which appear in mid-summer (they are poisonous, so don't eat them). Note the color of the Clintonia blossoms - one of the few flowers classified as green.

At 1.75 miles from the base (allow 1-1/2 to 2 hours' walking time), you will come to the junction of the Crawford Path with the Mizpah Cut-off. Take the Mizpah Cut-off right (east) to Mizpah Springs Hut. You are now entering boreal forest - mostly Black Spruce and Balsam Fir. On the side of the trail, the small white flowers which resemble dogwoods (or, later in the season, the clusters of red berries) are Bunchberries (Cornus canadensis). In theory, the berries are edible, although reputedly quite tasteless. If you bend down close to the ground, you may find Creeping snowberries (Gaultheria hispidula) and Goldthread (Coptis groenlandica). Goldthread blossoms are white; the name is derived from the bright golden color of the roots.

In another .75 miles, you will reach the junction of the Mizpah Cut-off with the Webster Cliff Trail. Turn left (north) for Mizpah Springs Hut (about 200 yards) and Mt. Clinton, or right (south) for Mt. Jackson. The hut is a hostel run by the Appalachian Mountain Club. It accommodates 60 people for breakfast, dinner, and overnight lodging (blankets and pillows are provided). Reservations must be made well in advance (deposit required) with the AMC at Pinkham Notch Camp, Gorham, New Hampshire 03581 (tel.: 1-603-466-2727). For those who are a bit more rugged, there are tent platforms outside the hut available on a first-come-first-served basis. A fee is charged. During the day, you are always welcome inside the hut. (While serving as a naturalist-in-residence at Mizpah, I have left maps designating bird locations. Check with the hut crew to see if anyone has done this recently.) In the cleared area behind the hut, in the vicinity of the solar one-holer (a solar composting latrine), I have found Nashville and Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and an occasional Gray Jay. The climb up Mt. Clinton looks worse than it is. Mt. Clinton has two ambiguously-defined summits, the northern being the highest (elevation: 4312'). The steep climb lasts only as far as the first (southern) summit, about 1/4 mile from the hut. About half-way up this pitch, on the right side of the trail, is a patch of Twinflower (Linnaea borealis). If the plants are in bloom (mid to late June), bend down and smell them. A little further up, also on the right and just below a ledge, is a single Pale Laurel (Kalmia polifolia). If it is in flower (mid-June), note the terminal inflorescence.

Just below the first summit, you see a number of different members of the heath family growing on both sides of the trail. These plants are all adapted to growing in areas where it is difficult to obtain or retain moisture. Look at the underside of the leaves of the Labrador Tea (Ledum groenlandicum). The fuzz helps the plant take moisture directly from the clouds. On the right, you will see Sheep Laurel (Kalmia angustifolia) and Rhodora (Rhododendron canadense) growing together. Notice the lateral inflorescence on the Sheep Laurel. Just above these plants is Bog Bilberry (Vaccinium uliginosum), a close relative of the blueberries. Fortunately, the berries do not ripen until mid-August when many of the warblers have left. If you start eating them, you might forget about the

rest of your birding schedule.

Other plants growing on the first summit are Mountain Avens (Geum pecki) which look like buttercups but are quite unrelated, Three-toothed Cinquefoil (Potentilla tridentata), Crowberry (Empetrum sp.), Mountain Sandwort (Arenaria groenlandica) which seems to grow out of solid rock, and Mountain Cranberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea), very bitter tasting but good for making jelly (note: the Mountain Cranberry does not ripen until August when the berries are black). Keep your ears open for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Winter Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and Magnolia Warblers. Ever present are Yellow-rumped and Blackpoll Warblers, White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos.

The walk to the main summit is a fairly easy hike of about 1/2 mile. There is no appreciable change in either the plant or the bird population. On the main summit itself, however, you break treeline and emerge onto arctic tundra. You notice large mats of Diapensia (Diapensia lapponica), one of the most prevalent alpine flowers. You may also see Lapland Rosebay (Rhododendron lapponicum), an alpine relative of the Rhodora. It is not necessary to proceed northward from the summit if your primary purpose is birding. For although the alpine flowers become increasingly varied as you ascend toward Mt. Washington, the only two birds consistently found above treeline are the White-throated Sparrow and the Dark-eyed Junco.

You should now retrace your steps and head toward Mt. Jackson. The trail to Jackson, with the exception of a small knoll mid-way between Mts. Clinton and Jackson, is mostly level (average elevation: 3800') and entirely through either boreal forest or alpine bog surrounded by boreal forest. It is on this stretch of trail that you are most likely to encounter Spruce Grouse. Indeed, after ten years in the White Mountains, I have found this to be the most reliable location for these sought-after birds.

You should also expect to find Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, and Blackpoll Warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos. You may also find Common Ravens, Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, Cape May Warblers, Purple Finches, and Red- and White-winged Crossbills. The tall plants near the junction of Webster Cliff Trail with the Mizpah Cut-off are Indian Poke or False-hellebore (Veratrum viride). You will also see currants along the trail (three species occur in the White Mountains: Swamp Black, Skunk, and Red Currants [Ribes lacustre, R. glandulosum, and R. triste]) as well as Baked-apple Berry or Cloudberry (Rubus chamaemorus).

About 1/4 mile below the summit of Mt. Jackson, you will emerge into an open area known as the Quaking Bog. There is no free water in the bog as it has been completely filled in by natural succession. However, during wet seasons the bog becomes undermined with water which makes the ground appear to quake. The most common plants here are the Cotton Grass or Hare's Tail (Eriophorum spissum), Sundew (Drosera rotundifolia), and along the trail itself, Wren's Egg Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos). Please stay on the boardwalk and do not walk on the bog. This area is extremely fragile and subject to very heavy use. If everyone were to walk into the bog, its very survival would be threatened. Comparing the trampled area on

either side of the boardwalk with the untrampled area further into the bog demonstrates this point.

In the bog, as in so much of the White Mountains, the most prevalent avian species are the Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and Dark-eyed Juncos. However, you occasionally find Gray Jays, Nashville Warblers, and crossbills.

It might be worth while to ascend to the summit of Mt. Jackson (elevation: 4052'). In June of 1979, three Gray Jays took up residence there, apparently with the conviction that they would be able to beg an unlimited food supply from passing hikers. These jays became very tame and could be hand-fed.

From the summit, you may return to the hut, continue south toward Mt. Webster, or descend to your car via the Jackson branch of the Webster-Jackson Trail (be sure to turn right when you reach the junction with the Webster branch). However, if your primary interest is birding, it is unnecessary to continue south toward Mt. Webster. The habitat does not change appreciably and the trail, although only one mile long, is considerably rougher than the stretch between Mts. Clinton and Jackson. Also, it is unwise to ascend Mt. Webster directly from U.S. 302 via the Webster Cliff Trail (Appalachian Trail) because the trail is quite long and quite steep.

When you return to the bottom, it might be worth while to walk around Saco Lake and to check out the overgrown field at the base of Mt. Willard on the other side of the road. Reliable observers have found Mourning Warblers in the field.

Two final notes of caution are in order. The first relates to the mountains. The alpine plants that you see growing alongside the trail are especially adapted to withstand the desiccating winds, bitter cold, and deep snows of the high elevations. They grow low to the ground with leaves that are leathery or fuzzy and very small. Their root systems are adapted to anchor them in soils only a fraction of an inch thick. But in spite of all this, they are not designed to withstand human impact. The extremely rare Dwarf Cinquefoil (Potentilla robbinsiana Oakes) grows in soil so thin that even a minor disturbance will uproot the plant and kill it. A patch of Diapensia, which might be sixty years old, can be destroyed with a single footstep. In an alpine bog, there is nothing underneath the plants but spruce peat. Plants can be submerged into the peat with hand pressure. Approximately 65,000 people hike in the Presidential Range every summer. If every one of those hikers wandered uncontrolled, the very environment which brought them into the mountains in the first place would be rapidly destroyed. Please, stay on the trails! If you do stray, stay on the rocks. In the White Mountains, good birding etiquette and good hiking etiquette must be observed.

The second note of caution applies to you, the hiker. The signposts in the White Mountains caution that these mountains have the worst weather in America. This is not hyperbole. Treeline at 4000'-4500' as opposed to 9000'-11,000' in the west attests this sufficiently. Save for Antarctica, the White Mountains have the worst weather in the world. Mt. Washington, five miles to the north of Mt. Clinton, has killed more

people than any other mountain on earth. Seven people have died on the Crawford Path alone. The combination of high winds, cold temperatures (even in summer), and sudden storms is fatal to the unprepared. Be sure that you are carrying plenty of extra clothing (including hat and mittens), preferably wool. Carry sturdy wind and rain gear (the winds in the White Mountains are frequently above hurricane force). Carry a first aid kit, extra food, extra water (above Gibbs Brook, there is NO WATER on any of the trails in this article save at Mizpah Springs), a compass (and know-how to use it), a map (the Appalachian Mountain Club Mt. Washington Map #6), and an AMC White Mountain Guidebook. Always let someone else know your itinerary.

### An Annotated List of the Summer Birds of the White Mountains

This list originally included only the birds of the southern Presidentials, based on my own observations. But this created a problem of what to include and what to exclude. For example, should the Mourning Warbler and the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker be excluded simply because I had not observed them and they were found on the other side of U.S. 302? I therefore decided to expand the list to include those birds seen anywhere in the White Mountains either by myself or by other observers. However, the problem still remained. Should I include the Yellow-throated Vireos which I have observed in neighboring areas in Maine? Some boundary, no matter how artificial, had to be created. Therefore, this list includes those birds observed within the outermost boundaries of the WMNF either by myself or other observers. Those species observed at least once on the southern Presidentials are marked "X."

Comments on relative abundance of species have no scientific bearing whatsoever. They are based on my impressions accumulated over ten years of hiking and birding in the White Mountains, not on actual censuses.

Anseriformes: Most of the ponds in the White Mountains are too small to support waterfowl. One exception, however, is Zeland Pond in which Black Ducks (Anas rubripes) and Wood Ducks (Aix sponsa) have been observed.

Falconiformes: Although a number of species of hawks are resident in the White Mountains, they are rarely seen, hidden as they are by the trees. I have observed, however, Goshawks (Accipiter gentilis) in the ravine between Carter Ledge and Hammond Ridge on Mt. Chocorua and a flight of Broad-winged Hawks (Buteo platypterus)<sup>x</sup> playing in the air currents along the southern Presidentials. Bald Eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) have been reported nesting in the southern Mahoosucs and a Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) was reported from the Webster Cliffs, but to my knowledge, neither of these latter two reports has been confirmed.

Galliformes: The only two members of this order generally found in the mountains are the Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus)<sup>x</sup>, fairly common at lower elevations (below 3000'), and the Spruce Grouse (Canachites canadensis)<sup>x</sup>, quite common in its proper habitat above 3500'. The Spruce grouse seems to require flat expanses of boreal forest. Thus the broad ridges of the southern Presidentials, Bond-Guyot, Osceola, and others are ideal. The bird is best seen five to seven weeks after the last snow-melt as the young and the mother will still be traveling in a family group (usually the second or third week in July). Because this bird

reputedly tastes very bad, it does not suffer from predation, either animal or human and as a result its fear-response is quite low. If you behave like a hiker and move rather briskly down the trail, the bird will usually sit in or next to the trail and wait for you. A solitary female sitting in the trail can usually be approached quite closely. Males and females with young are usually more wary, but not much. However, if you stalk the bird, it will become suspicious and skulk away into the pucker-brush. Furthermore, although the birds are usually spotted on the ground, they do perch especially when frightened. I have observed them as high as 12'-14' in the trees.

About these birds, Pough writes, "A plentiful supply of coarse gravel is important, and the major excursions of these sedentary birds seem to be trips to stream or lakeside sources of this material."<sup>1</sup> There are no streams or lakesides in those areas of the White Mountains where the Spruce Grouse are usually found. However, hikers have long since worn away the soil on the trails and have ground the bedrock into gravel. This need for gravel might explain the birds' frequent appearances on the trails.

Identification should present no problem as the male Spruce Grouse is quite distinctive and the cinnamon terminal band on the tail is very prominent on both sexes. The terminal bands on the tail of the Ruffed Grouse are white-black-white.

Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia): Fairly common around lakes and sluggish streams.

American Woodcock (Philohela minor): Common in and along dirt roads and those trails which were once lumber roads or railroads.

Rock Dove (Columba livia): Common in towns.

Mourning Dove (Zenaidura macroura): Common in towns and wood-margins.

Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica): Common in towns. Has been reliably reported from the Crawford House opposite the trailhead for the Crawford Path.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus colubris): Uncommon near houses.

Belted Kingfisher (Magaceryle alcyon): Common near large lakes.

Common Flicker (Colaptes auratus): Common near fields or open areas.

Pileated Woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus): Uncommon. Has been reliably reported from Church Pond.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius): Has not been reported to me but should be found in the stands of birches along the Kancamagus Highway or in the white birch forests occasionally found in the White Mountains.

Hairy Woodpecker (Picoides villosus)<sup>x</sup>: Common at lower elevations.

Downy Woodpecker (Picoides pubescens)<sup>x</sup>: Common at lower elevations.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (Picoides arcticus)<sup>x</sup>: Rare. This and the next species have been reported by reliable observers on the Nancy Pond Trail, further south on U.S. 302 and at Church Pond on the Kanca-magus Highway.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (Picoides tridactylus): Rare. See previous species.

Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus): Common along large streams at lower elevations.

Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe): Common near open areas at lower elevations.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Empidonax flaviventris)<sup>x</sup>: Uncommon in Red Spruce forests but becomes increasingly common as the spruce changes from Red Spruce to Black Spruce and as the number of Balsam Fir increases.

Least Flycatcher (Empidonax minimus)<sup>x</sup>: Common in deciduous forests at lower elevations.

Eastern Wood Pewee (Contopus virens): Common somewhat deeper into the woods than the Least Flycatcher. Seems to tolerate more evergreens mixed in with the hardwoods than does the previous species.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (Nuttallornis borealis): Uncommon because its preferred habitat is uncommon. Has been found in the vicinity of Zealand Pond and reliably reported from the vicinity of Church Pond.



Spruce Grouse by Julie S. Roberts



Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica): Common, especially in towns, farms, etc. Can be found in the vicinity of the Crawford House.

Cliff Swallow (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota): Uncommon. When found in the White Mountains, it is usually nesting under bridges.

Tree Swallow (Iridoprocne bicolor): Common, especially near lakes and ponds.

Rough-winged Swallow (Stelgidopteryx ruficollis): Uncommon but reliably reported.

Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata)<sup>x</sup>: Common at lower elevations, especially along roads and in towns. Ventures to higher elevations during periods of air inversion.

Gray Jay (Perisoreus canadensis)<sup>x</sup>: Uncommon and local. These birds generally travel in small flocks and seem to prefer open areas in the boreal forest. Ridge crests and summits, therefore, offer the best opportunities for observation. I have found the ridge of the southern Presidentials to be the most reliable for producing Gray Jays, but even here have observed them infrequently.

Common Raven (Corvus corax)<sup>x</sup>: Uncommon to common. Any large, black bird observed on a ridge above treeline is probably a Common Raven. If you are below the trees, you are more likely to hear the bird croaking as it passes overhead. They are uncommon between Mts. Clinton and Jackson. If you are looking specifically for this bird, try the summit of Mt. Chocorua on a warm, moderately windy day.

Common Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos)<sup>x</sup>: Common along roadsides and in towns.

Black-capped Chickadee (Parus atricapillus)<sup>x</sup>: Common at all but the highest elevations.

Boreal Chickadee (Parus hudsonicus)<sup>x</sup>: Rare to uncommon; rare on the southern Presidentials. More common on the north slopes of the northern Presidentials. These birds seem to become more numerous in August and early autumn.

White-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis)<sup>x</sup>: Common in the deciduous trees at lower elevations. Not found at all in the spruce zones.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis)<sup>x</sup>: Rare in summer below the spruce zones and extremely variable above. In June of 1979, I found one Red-breasted Nuthatch in two weeks in the spruce zone whereas in 1976, I was finding four or five per mile.

Brown Creeper (Certhia familiaris)<sup>x</sup>: Found in the spruce zones but abundance is difficult to determine. Their song and call do not carry well and they are probably far more numerous than my observations would indicate.

House Wren (Troglodytes aedon): Uncommon in towns. Not found deep in the forest.

Winter Wren (Troglodytes troglodytes)<sup>x</sup>: Common at all elevations but shows a slight preference for the spruce zones.

Gray Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis): Common in brush at lower elevations.

Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum): Common in deciduous wood-margins.

American Robin (Turdus migratorius)<sup>x</sup>: Common on lawns and in towns. Uncommon deep in deciduous forests. Generally not found at all in the spruce zones. However, like the Blue Jay, during periods of air inversion, robins can be found to the limit of the trees. I once observed a robin at 5100' on the Crawford Path, perched on the top of a leader in a patch of Krummholz.

Wood Thrush (Hylocichla mustelina): Common in deciduous forests. Has been observed at the base of Mt. Willard on the opposite side of U.S. 302 from the southern Presidentials.

Hermit Thrush (Catharus guttata): Common in proper habitat. Seems to prefer open conifers at elevations up to 3000'. I do not know if this "openness" relates to the distance between the trees, the species of tree, or some combination of the two. I have most regularly observed them in Red Pine (Pinus resinosa) and Eastern Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) in "open" forests. If the Hermit Thrush is to be found on the southern Presidentials, it is most likely to be in the open stand of Balsam Fir and Red Spruce about .75 miles up the Crawford Path from U.S. 302.

Swainson's Thrush (Catharus ustulata)<sup>x</sup>: Common at all elevations but shows a decided preference for spruce-balsam forests.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (Catharus minima)<sup>x</sup>: Fairly common between 3500' and treeline. In recent years, a Gray-cheeked Thrush has always been found on the slope of Mt. Clinton just above Mizpah Springs Hut. This, however, is a very bad place to see Gray-cheeked Thrushes. The best place in the White Mountains to observe these birds is on the Lion's Head Trail on Mt. Washington just before the trail leaves the trees.

Veery (Catharus fuscescens): Common in deciduous brush and wood-margins.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Polioptilla caerulea): Accidental. In theory, these birds should not appear in the White Mountains at all. However, in May, 1975, I observed a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the summit of Mt. Stanton (elevation 1748') in Glen, New Hampshire. I observed a second bird in Brownfield Bog, Brownfield, Maine, in July, 1979. Both birds exhibited peculiar behavior and I have assumed them to be accidentals.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa)<sup>x</sup>: Found in the spruce zones. Like the Brown Creeper, their call does not carry well hence their numbers are difficult to determine. I have found them much more frequently in open spruce than in closed spruce but that may be because the spruce being open, the birds were more easily observed.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Regulus calendula)<sup>x</sup>: Common in boreal forest.

Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum)<sup>x</sup>: Common but irregular at lower elevations.

Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius)<sup>x</sup>: Common in mixed deciduous-conifer and in Red Spruce-Balsam Fir forests.

Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus)<sup>x</sup>: Very common in deciduous forests but limited to that zone.

Philadelphia Vireo (Vireo philadelphicus): Rare but reliably reported in deciduous forests.

Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus): Rare in moist deciduous forests.

Black-and-white Warbler (Mniotilta varia)<sup>x</sup>: Relatively common in deciduous forests at lower elevations.

Tennessee Warbler (Vermivora peregrina)<sup>x</sup>: Uncommon to common in the spruce forests.

Nashville Warbler (Vermivora ruficapilla)<sup>x</sup>: Common in low deciduous growth at lower elevations and in open areas in the boreal forest. On the southern Presidentials, they are best observed in the vicinity of Mizpah Springs Hut and the Quaking Bog.

Northern Parula Warbler (Parula americana): Uncommon to common near water at lower elevations.

Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia): Common in towns and in thickets near sluggish water at lower elevations.

Magnolia Warbler (Dendroica magnolia)<sup>x</sup>: Common in spruce forests.

Cape May Warbler (Dendroica tigrina)<sup>x</sup>: Uncommon in spruce forests.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (Dendroica coronata)<sup>x</sup>: Very common at lower elevations and abundant in spruce forests.

Black-throated Green Warbler (Dendroica virens)<sup>x</sup>: Very common in all zones but the boreal (they are found in Red Spruce-Balsam Fir areas; my observations do not show them in Black Spruce-Balsam Fir growths). In the White Mountains, their commonest song is zoo-zoo-zoo-dee-zee, not zoo-zee-zoo-zoo-zee.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (Dendroica caerulescens)<sup>x</sup>: Common in the same zones as the Black-throated Green Warbler.

Blackburnian Warbler (Dendroica fusca)<sup>x</sup>: Common in coniferous forests but very difficult to see since it generally sits at the very tops of the evergreens.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (Dendroica pensylvanica): Common in deciduous growth and wood-margins.

Bay-breasted Warbler (Dendroica castanea): I have observed 3 Bay-breasted Warblers on the Nancy Pond Trail, and have had one report of one from Church Pond. There ought to be more. Perhaps, like the Brown Creeper and the Golden-crowned Kinglet, their song is too faint to be heard at any appreciable distance. Reliable local observers have seen them in greater numbers during migration but never during nesting season. More information would be appreciated.

Blackpoll Warbler (Dendroica striata)<sup>x</sup>: Abundant in Red Spruce-Balsam Fir. Extremely abundant in the boreal zone. This bird is often heard but seldom seen.

Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus). Uncommon since there are very few pine forests in the White Mountains. However, I have occasionally observed these birds in mixed deciduous-coniferous forests.

Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapillus)<sup>x</sup>: Common in deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests at lower elevations.

Northern Waterthrush (Seiurus noveboracensis): Uncommon to common in suitable habitat.

Louisiana Waterthrush (Seiurus noveboracensis): Rare (perhaps accidental). They have been reported from North Conway, N.H. Peter D. Vickery of Lincoln, Maine, would like reports of any Louisiana Waterthrushes observed in Maine.

Common Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas): Common in thickets near water.

Mourning Warbler (Oporornis philadelphia): Rare. They have been reliably reported in the overgrown field at the base of the Mt. Willard Trail.

Wilson's Warbler (Wilsonia pusilla): Rare to uncommon. Reliably reported in thickets at Church Pond.

Canada Warbler (Wilsonia canadensis)<sup>x</sup>: Common but variable in deciduous forests at lower elevations.

American Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla)<sup>x</sup>: Common at lower elevations.

Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus): Common in suitable habitat. They can be found in the overgrown field at the base of Mt. Willard.

Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula)<sup>x</sup>: Common, especially at roadside picnic areas, campgrounds, and parking lots.

Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater): Common in or near fields and lawns.

Northern (Baltimore) Oriole (Icterus galbula): Common in deciduous trees in towns.

Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea): Uncommon to common in deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests. All of the reports of Scarlet Tanagers which I have heard and all of my own observations are from improved campgrounds or along the Kancamagus Highway.

Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis): Rare. I have seen only one--just south of the trailhead of the Piper Trail on Mt. Chocorua.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus ludovicianus): Fairly common at lower elevations.

Evening Grosbeak (Hesperiphona verpertina): Although I have heard reliable reports of Evening Grosbeaks in the White Mountains in the summer, they are relatively uncommon until very late summer, after which they are locally common until mid- to late May.

Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus)<sup>x</sup>: Not as common in the spruce forests as might be expected. In My Wilderness: East to Katahdin, Douglas speaks of these birds as being very common at higher elevations. Either Douglas' impressions or mine are quite inaccurate, or else something has happened to the Purple Finch population over the past two decades.

Pine Grosbeak (Pinicola enucleator): Not present during the summer but locally common during the winter.

Pine Siskin (Carduelis pinus): Uncommon in summer and highly irregular. In some years I have found them in pines, presumably nesting, and in other years I have not found them at all.

American Goldfinch (Carduelis tristis): Common in fields and lawns near woods.

Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra)<sup>x</sup>: Rare in the spruce forests. Travels in small flocks. I have observed them in the Quaking Bog on Mt. Jackson.

White-winged Crossbill (Loxia leucoptera)<sup>x</sup>: Uncommon in the spruce forests. Travels in small flocks. Also observed in the Quaking Bog on Mt. Jackson. I have seen flocks of White-winged Crossbills on the small knoll between Mizpah Springs Hut and Mt. Jackson. Upon returning the following day, I could not find a single bird. This bird is easily found by its song: a long series of very loud trills on various pitches.

Rufous-sided Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus): Common in wood-margins, deciduous brush and scrub.

Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis)<sup>x</sup>: Abundant, especially in boreal forest, alpine bog, and on the tundra. This is one of only two birds regularly found in the patches of krummholz above the treeline.

Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina): Common on lawns and in fields near woods. Seems to prefer conifers for nesting.

White-throated Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis)<sup>x</sup>: Abundant. On the southern Presidentials, it shows a marked preference for the boreal zone. At lower elevations, look in logged areas. Together with the Dark-eyed Junco, this is one of the two birds regularly found in the patches of krummholz above treeline.

Swamp Sparrow (Melospiza georgiana): Uncommon because its preferred habitat is uncommon. Found in swampy areas such as Zealand Pond and some of the ponds in and around the Pemigewasset Wilderness.

Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia): Common in wood-margins and overgrown fields.

#### DIRECTIONS:

To approach the southern Presidentials via the easiest route, take I-95 north into New Hampshire. In Portsmouth (Exit 4), exit left, following the signs for the Spaulding Turnpike and N.H. 16. Follow the Turnpike around the city of Rochester to the end and watch for signs marked "N.H. 16 North" (marked "Conway" and "White Mountains"). This exit is not numbered but veers left where Exit 17 veers right. Do NOT exit on N.H. 16 in Dover because this will take you through the cities of Dover and Rochester. Stay on N.H. 16 into North Conway taking care to take the well-marked sharp left in Conway. In North Conway, U.S. 302 enters on the right from Portland, Maine, and the two roads run together through North Conway and Intervale. In Glen, N.H., 16 takes a sharp right and continues north (sign is marked "Berlin"). Do NOT follow 16; rather, stay on 302 through Bartlett and Crawford Notch. As you come out of Crawford Notch, you will see an old railroad depot (now serving as an information booth) and the old Crawford House ahead on your left. Between the two and on the right side of the road, just before the Mt. Clinton Road bears off to the right to the Mt. Washington Cog Railway, you will see a parking area above the main road. Park here.

Head back down the road about 150 yards and on the left (the same side of the road as your car), you will see a set of railroad ties heading up the bank. This is the trailhead for the Crawford Path.

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1. Richard H. Pough, Audubon Water Bird Guide: Water, Game, and Large Land Birds: Eastern and Central North America from Southern Texas to Central Greenland, (Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, c1951), p. 174
  2. William C. Douglas, My Wilderness: East to Katahdin, (New York: Pyramid Books, c1961)



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