

**Summary of the birds identified on the Forest Bird Monitoring Program transect in the Guthrie Bancroft Farm woods in 2005:**

**Point # Species 06-03-05 (06-23-05)**

1.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1 (1)  
Blue Jay 1 (1)  
Black-capped Chickadee (2)  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Brown Creeper (1)  
Winter Wren 1  
Veery 2  
Hermit Thrush 1 (1)  
Wood Thrush 1 (1)  
American Robin 1 (1)  
Blue-headed Vireo 1  
Red-eyed Vireo (1)  
Black-throated Blue Warbler 1 (2)  
Ovenbird 2 (2)  
Canada Warbler 1  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1  
White-throated Sparrow 1 (1)

2.

Least Flycatcher 3 (1)  
Blue Jay 1  
White-breasted Nuthatch (1)  
Winter Wren (1)  
Veery 1 (3)  
Wood Thrush 2  
Hermit Thrush (1)  
American Robin (1)  
Blue-headed Vireo (1)  
Red-eyed Vireo 2 (2)  
Black-throated Blue Warbler 2 (1)  
Ovenbird 2 (3)  
Scarlet Tanager (1)  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1  
Baltimore Oriole 1

3.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)  
Hairy Woodpecker 1  
Eastern Wood Pewee 1 (1)  
Blue Jay 1  
White-breasted Nuthatch 1 (1)  
Veery 2 (1)  
Hermit Thrush 1  
Magnolia Warbler 1  
American Redstart 1  
Ovenbird 1 (3)  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1 (1)

4.

Eastern Wood Pewee (1)  
Veery 1  
Wood Thrush 1 (2)  
American Robin 1 (1)  
Blue-headed Vireo 1  
Red-eyed Vireo 1 (3)  
Magnolia Warbler (1)  
Ovenbird 2 (2)  
Scarlet Tanager 1  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1 (1)

5.

Eastern Wood Pewee 1  
Least Flycatcher 1  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 1  
Veery (1)  
Wood Thrush (1)  
American Robin 2  
Red-eyed Vireo 1 (4)  
Ovenbird 4 (3)  
Scarlet Tanager 1

We have recorded 36 species during the eight years of our bird observations on the monitoring transect. Twelve of these species were found five or fewer times and should be considered rare along the transect.

We observed 25 species this year, slightly above the 7-year average of 23.29 since 1999. No species were recorded for the first time, but three of the five monitoring points has species new for those points.

There is considerable difference in species numbers between points. The points are approximately one-quarter kilometer from each other along the old woods road that descends from the lower end of the Bancroft Farm field to Route 17, a short distance east of its junction with Route 116. Point 1 is a quarter mile from the field edge; Point 5 is a half kilometer from Route 17. There is an elevational gradient of about 200 feet and a surface moisture gradient from saturated soils and standing water in June at Point 1 to fairly well-drained soils at Point 5. Forest age, tree species composition, and thickness of understory change as well. These changes are fairly subtle but are evident in differences in distribution of several bird species. For example, Common Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow have only been observed at Point 1 (they prefer or tolerate wet and open woods), but Eastern Wood Pewee and least Flycatcher have occurred at all points except Point 1. Blue Jay, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Brown Creeper have only been observed at Points 1,2, and 3. Less clear are the reasons why Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers occur almost entirely at Points 1 and 3, and Winter Wren has not occurred at Point 5 but occurs regularly elsewhere. By contrast, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, American Crow, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occur at all points regularly. Red-eyed Vireo and Ovenbird occur at almost all points almost always.

The points are not uniformly rich in species. Point 1 averages 15.2 species per year, Points 2 and 3 average 11 species per year, and Points 4 and 5 average 9 species per year.

As we accumulate data over the years we increase the predictability of species occurring at certain points. Understanding why is an intriguing question that will be harder to get at.