

Worcester County Checklist and Reporting Form

This checklist is based on the second revision of a list originally developed by David K. Wetherbee (1950) as an annual reporting form for the Forbush Bird Club. The first revision was done by Jenkins, Blodget & McMenemy in 1974. The second revision was done in 1993 by Francis X. McMenemy and Bradford G. Blodget.

Estimated arrival and departure dates are indicated by numbers for the months and by letters A-D for the weeks of each month. For example, the Palm Warbler (4A-5B, 9A-11A) should be looked for from the first week of April through the second week of May in the spring and the first week of September through the first week of November in the fall. Breeding species appear in bold face type and the following abbreviations and symbols are used:

- + scattered reports during the winter
- * rare and/or local breeder
- ** erratic or infrequent breeder
- P.R. permanent resident or present throughout the year

Nomenclature and taxonomic order employed in this ckeck-list follow the seventh edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union 1998) as revised through the 49th Supplement (2008).

Note that the checklist is structured for recording spring arrival and last fall dates for terminal migrants as well as for noting in and out dates in both spring and fall for passing migrants. Qualify localities, such as "Quabbin" or "Wachusett Reservoir," with the name of the town in which an observation was made. Sightings of species not included in the checklist ("write-ins") and extraordinary date records should be accompanied with full particulars, either attached or in the space provided. Email completed checklists to *The Chickadee* editor caronenv@aol.com by January 25 of the following year.

Francis X. McMenemy
Paul Meleski
Alan Marble

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Notes on the new Checklist Reporting Form from Alan Marble

As you know, the annual compilation found in our annual publication, *The Chickadee*, relies on members submitting checklists and reports to the Editor-in Chief, as well as reporting sightings on the internet and eBird.

The preferred way to submit sightings is by using [eBird](#). Many members are now doing this and it saves the Editor and the Editorial Committee a tremendous amount of

time. I started to use eBird in January and it's very easy to use, once you get started, and allows you to track your birding information in a variety of ways. I would encourage everyone to give it a try. It also makes it easy for the editorial staff to retrieve information.

Traditionally, members sent in a "Worcester County Checklist and Reporting Form." The current paper form is outdated as the taxonomic order of the birds has undergone changes in recent years and this makes it difficult for the Editor to use. We have developed an updated "Worcester County Checklist and Reporting Form" which is the version now on this Forbush Web Site. You simply need to download the form to your desktop and you can type your sightings right into the form and at the end of the year, send it as an attachment to [Charles Caron](#). At the end of the year you can print out the forms for your records or save it on your computer. The preferred format is Microsoft Excel (.xls), but for those without access to this software, a pdf version is available also.

I received a tremendous amount of help and guidance in this revision from Fran McMenemy and Paul Meleski. Joan Zumpfe used her extraordinary skills as a proofreader to get things right. Rick Quimby made an important suggestion in the layout of the pages. Kim Allen provided technical support and suggestions on the design of the spreadsheet. Without the help of these people, I could not have completed this project.