

GARDINER LIBRARY
BIRDING WALKS

2022 • A SUMMARY THROUGH PHOTOS AND WORDS



GARDINER LIBRARY & MINNEWASKA STATE PARK PRESERVE

WELCOME



Hello Gardiner Library Birding Participants,

Thank you all for participating in the second full season of birding at the Gardiner Library!

In year two, we learned more about the timing of nesting birds, saw many young birds, nests, and young birds being fed by their parents. We encountered most of the species we observed in 2021 and there were a few new surprise visitors! There were also new plant and insect observations that enriched our weekly walks.

The following page lists the 96 bird species (91 species within the strict April–October) that were observed in 2022 in the area around the Library, the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, and Majestic Park – quite an increase from the 75 species that were observed in 2021. Find on the following pages photographs and a few words that some of the participants have shared.

I want to thank each and every participant that came out for the walks – whether it was just once or came repeatedly. A special thanks to Alexandra, Dan, Carla, Charlie, Deb, Kathleen, Bob, and John for making so many walks. This program couldn't have been continually offered without interest and support.

I'm looking forward to the seasonal changes as they come, spring bird migration, and exploring the many aspects of the land in the coming year.

Nicholas Martin
Park Educator
Minnewaska State Park Preserve

INDEX

BIRD SPECIES • APRIL • MAY • JUNE • JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • MEMORIES

SPECIES SUMMARY

Bird species observed – through visual or auditory means – within or flying over the Gardiner Library, Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, and Majestic Park:

Canada Goose	Great Crested Flycatcher	Purple Finch
Mallard	Eastern Kingbird	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Warbling Vireo	Chipping Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Red-eyed Vireo	Field Sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Blue Jay	American Tree Sparrow ⁵
Chimney Swift	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Fish Crow	White-throated Sparrow
Killdeer	Common Raven	Song Sparrow
Herring Gull ¹	Black-capped Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow ⁶
Great Blue Heron	Tufted Titmouse	Eastern Towhee
Black Vulture	Tree Swallow	Orchard Oriole
Turkey Vulture	Barn Swallow	Baltimore Oriole
Northern Harrier	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk ²	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Brown-headed Cowbird
Cooper's Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Common Grackle
Bald Eagle	Brown Creeper ³	Ovenbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Louisiana Waterthrush
Broad-winged Hawk	House Wren	Blue-winged Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Winter Wren ⁴	Black-and-white Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	European Starling	American Redstart
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Northern Parula
Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Yellow Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Northern Flicker	Hermit Thrush	Palm Warbler
American Kestrel	Wood Thrush	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Merlin	American Robin	Black-throated Green Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Cedar Waxwing	Scarlet Tanager
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	House Sparrow	Northern Cardinal
Willow Flycatcher	American Pipit	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Eastern Phoebe	House Finch	Indigo Bunting

Birds with a notation were spotted outside of the range of the weekly April–October birding walks.

2, 3 & 5: Observed January 14, 2022

3: Also observed February 11, 2022

1, 4 & 6: Observed November 11, 2022

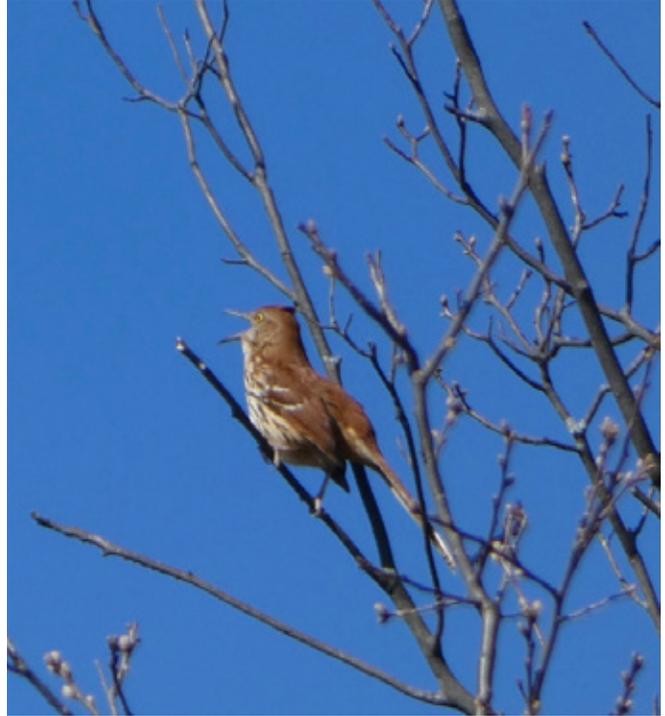
APRIL



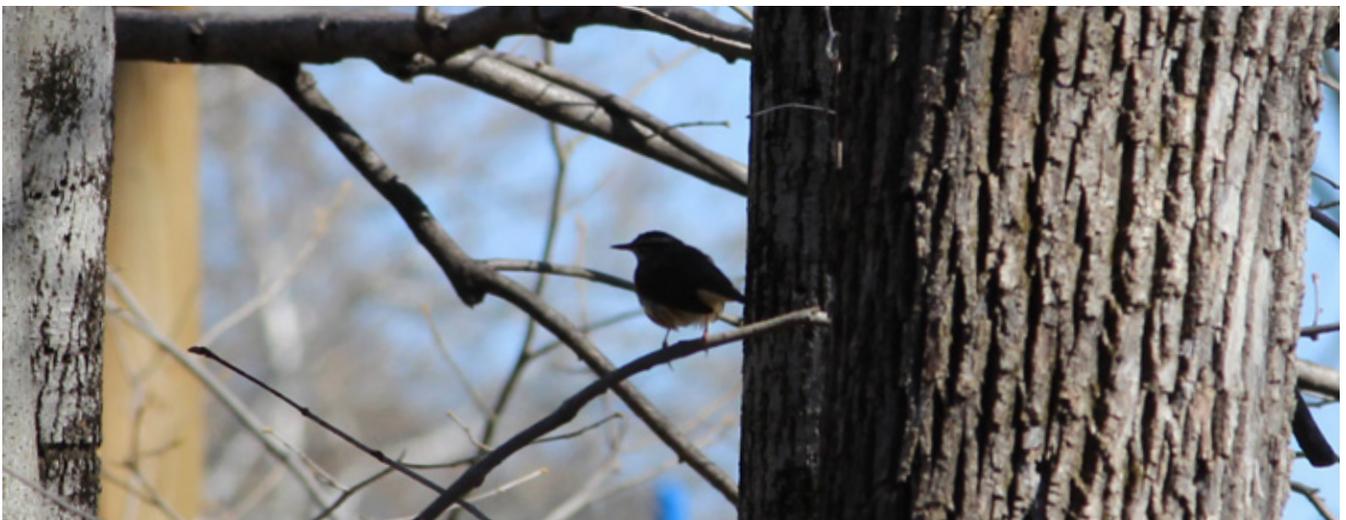
The field and red barn in Majestic Park (top). A Field Sparrow tilting it's head back and singing it's heart out (bottom).

Photos: Nicholas Martin (top), Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam (bottom)

APRIL



A Red-winged Blackbird showing off its shoulders (top left), a Brown Thrasher mid-song (top right), and a Red-bellied Woodpecker (bottom).
Photos: Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam

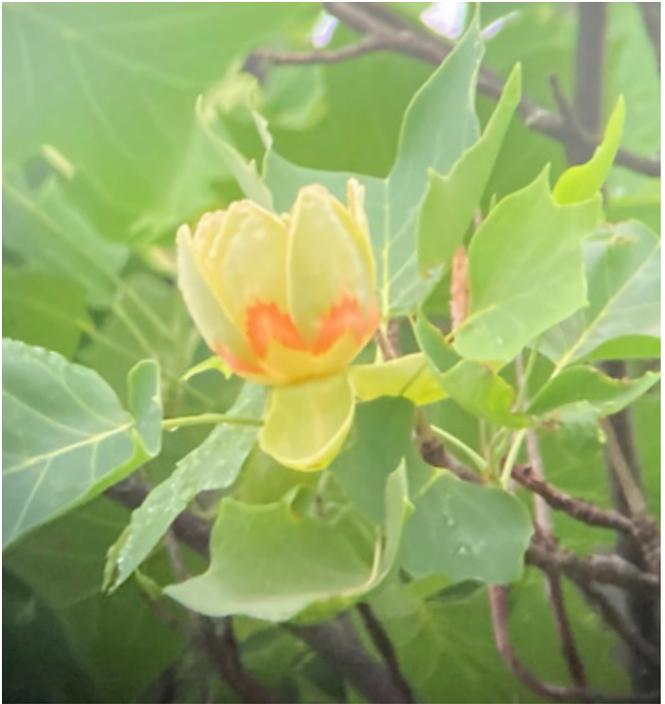


A garter snake near the red barn in Majestic Park (top). Alexandra, Charlie, and Carla (middle). A crap photo of a Louisiana Waterthrush!

Photos: Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam (top), Nicholas Martin (middle & bottom)



The pollinator garden being planted out (top). A Blue-winged Warbler (!) (bottom left) and the gardeners checking out the warbler (bottom right).
Photos: Nicholas Martin (top & bottom left), Dan Vanderkam (bottom right)



The find of the century, by Charlie – a resting Common Nighthawk(!) over the Rail Trail (top). A Brown Thrasher and Tulip Tree flower.

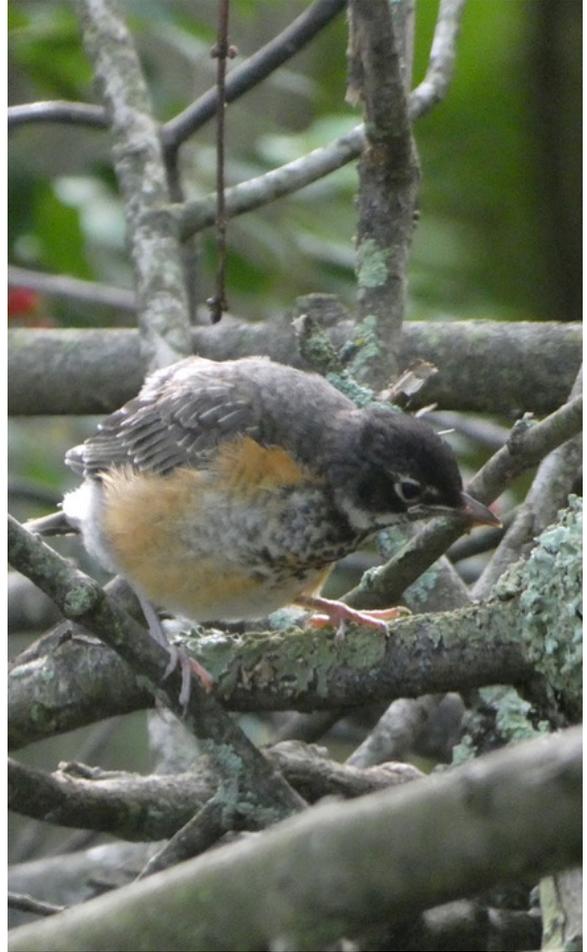
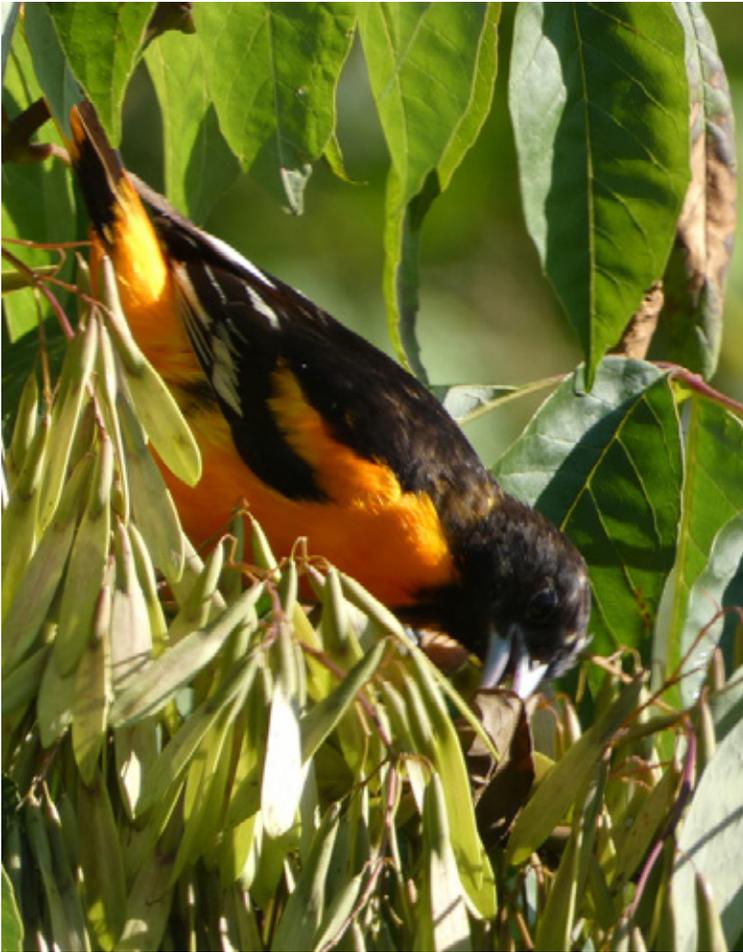
Photos: Nicholas Martin (top & bottom right), Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam (bottom left)

JUNE



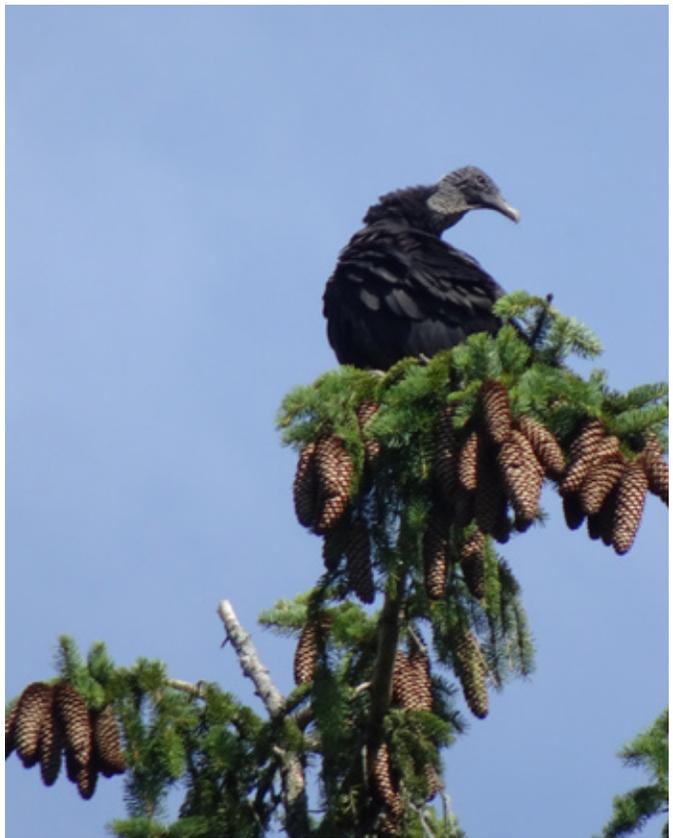
An Ebony Clearwing damselfly resting on a honeysuckle plant (top).
A Northern Watersnake resting by the water near the red barn (bottom).
Photos: Nicholas Martin

JUNE



A Baltimore Oriole foraging on ash tree seeds (top left). A young American Robin (top right). A Painted Turtle we encountered in the field (bottom).
Photos: Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam (top left & right), Nicholas Martin (bottom)

JULY



A Polyphemus Moth (top left), Common Milkweed (top right), damselfly (bottom left), and Black Vulture in the “vulture tree” (bottom right).

Photos: Nicholas Martin (top right), Olivia Castañeda (all other photos)

JULY



Visiting the Library fairy garden (top left). An adult Rose-breasted Grosbeak (top right). A young and adult Barn Swallow on the red barn (bottom).
Photos: Nicholas Martin (top left & bottom), Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam (top right)

AUGUST



An American Goldfinch nest (top). Carolina Wrens exploring (bottom left).
The group entering Majestic Park from the Rail Trail (bottom right).
Photos: Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam (top & bottom left), Nicholas Martin (bottom right)

AUGUST



Two White-tailed Deer in the field off of the Rail Trail (top). Some sort of hornet nest in pieces and an unemerged hornet (bottom left & right).

Photos: Nicholas Martin



A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher along the Rail Trail (top). Goldenrod in bloom in Majestic Park, with the red barn in the background (bottom).

Photos: Nicholas Martin

SEPTEMBER



A Red-eyed Vireo (top left) and young Rose-breasted Grosbeak (top right).
A surprise sighting of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo by the Rail Trail (bottom).
Photos: Nicholas Martin (top left & bottom), Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam (top right)



A Furrow Orbweaver in a dried flower (top). A Northern Mockingbird by the red barn (bottom left) and an American Pippit (bottom right).

Photos: Nicholas Martin (top and bottom left), Deb Weltsch (bottom right)



The fall foliage along the Rail Trail (top). Purple asters and a sign (bottom left) and insect hotel (bottom right) in the Library pollinator garden.

Photos: Alexandra Lotero Vanderkam



A view of Majestic Park, the red barn, and the Shawangunk Mountains in the distance, on a beautiful October morning.

Photo: Nicholas Martin



The Gardiner Library was dressed up and celebrating Halloween as the Haunted Library.

Photo: Nicholas Martin

MEMORIES & REFLECTIONS

The day Charlie found the Common Nighthawk on a tree branch stands out! What a find. I remember watching it for 45 minutes with the spotting scope from the new Pollinator Garden site at the Library. That was a first – being so excited we couldn't continue! Nick was thrilled.

The few weeks the Blue-winged Warbler sang from a tree along the Rail Trail. I had never heard one and it was fun to watch it open its beak and sing its buzzy tune.

I will remember this year as the year of the baby birds. I was more attuned to the patterns of the nesting season this year. Singing, nest site selection, nest building, baby birds in nest, fledging... On our walks, I remember seeing baby American Robins getting fed, Baltimore Orioles building a nest, Eastern Kingbirds building a nest, Northern Mockingbirds feeding young, Barn Swallows fledging, and American Goldfinches in their nest. We also saw some young warblers. Deb taught me that short tails is a good hint that I'm looking at a very young bird. I started participating in the Breeding Bird Atlas by entering breeding codes.

And of course, the new pollinator garden! It was a joy to watch it get planted, grow and bloom. I hope we can change practices so the big meadow in Majestic Park doesn't get mown next year.

Alex

My happiest memory is when my 12 year old friend, Henry, from Pennsylvania joined us in mid-August. It was his first bird and nature walk with a professional naturalist (Nick). A very fun and enlightening event for him (and all of us), especially when we found a low-lying goldfinch nest with several babies.

Carla

Finally learning the song of the Blue-winged Warbler and seeing it so often in the spring.

Telling the other participants about the Carolina Wren dance and doing the wren dance with them.

The morning that Charlie found the Common Nighthawk perched on a Black Walnut over the Rail Trail was an injection of serotonin. We were standing near the new pollinator garden when Charlie said something along the lines of, "I see a bird and it's plumage looks like tree bark..." As soon as he said that, I had a feeling it was something interesting and put my binoculars up immediately to search for the bird.

I loved seeing the Brown Thrashers so often this season, as well.

The day that Deb found the American Pipits as we were leaving Majestic Park.

Finding the Black-billed Cuckoo right off the parking lot one morning and grateful it stayed still so folks could see it and photos could be taken.

Seeing new things we hadn't observed in 2021, like the Polyphemus Moth and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Nicholas



FIN