



Where to See Migratory Bird Species in Lexington



Warblers are small beautiful tropical birds that fly north every spring from Central and South America and the Caribbean to breed and raise their young. They are joined in this annual trek by other colorful passerines such as our familiar Northern Orioles (formerly Baltimore Oriole) Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks and many more migratory species. Some make their summer homes with us here in Lexington, but most are just passing through on the way north to their nesting areas in northern New England and Canada.

The earliest of these summer visitors begin arriving in Lexington in early to mid April, with the peak of the spring migration occurring from late April through mid May. During this peak period it is often possible to see 20 to 30 or more different species in a single morning. Best viewing times are between 6:30 and 9:00 am.

Lexington has several areas that are prime spots for observing these seasonal migrants. The Arlington Reservoir, Dunback Meadow, and the Lower Vine Brook property between Hayes Lane and Vine Street, have each recorded over 20 species of warblers in addition to many other migratory species. The power line corridor north and south of the parking area on Turning Mill Road is also another area that attracts a wide variety of migratory species including several grassland species such as Rufous-sided Towhee, Indigo Bunting and Prairie Warbler.

To find out what others are seeing in any of these areas with the exception of the Turning Mill Road area, or to record a list of your own observations, visit the Ebird website (www.ebird.org) operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, click on Explore Data, then select Explore Hotspots and enter the name of the area. This will bring up all previously posted observations for each area from the current season as well as past observations from past years.