


1st Place – 2005 Field Notebook 14-18: Thomas Johnson

Date 4-23-04 Time 1915 Weather rain, 55°F
Location Home, Hummelstown, PA

American Bitter Flyover



← pale patch obvious, only good mark in poor light

Date 4-24-04 Time 8:15-11:00 Weather bright, still, 75°F
Location Wildwood Lake Sanctuary, Harrisburg, PA
biked w/ Ramsey Kony -> 3 mile walk


7 species of warblers

- +150 MYWA - all over, singing
- 6 PAWA
- 2 NAWA
- 4 NOWA - 2 singing - county bird
- 1 LAWA - good song comparison w/ NOWA
- 2 YWAR
- 1 BAWW - feeding on tree trunk

Other notable birds

- 3 GRCA - first of year
- 3 WOTH
- 1 EATO
- 1 SWSP
- 8 BOGN
- 1 BHVI
- + NRWS
- + TRSW
- 2 CHSW
- 1 OSPR
- 1 GRHE
- 2 SOSA
- 2 GRYE
- 1 SPBA (also, 2 PWF)
- 2 RBME

61 species total



dull sparrow - narrow NAWA
sparking into throat

Date 6-12-04 Time 11:30-13:30 Weather clear, still, 70°F
Location Stockhill Rd, Sligo, Clarion County, PA
biked near Piney Tract w/ parents on route to Michigan looking for HESP + CCSP in reclaimed strip mines dotted w/ pines

5 HESP - excellent looks at ~10 feet, singing "t-slip" + giving high metallic chip

(life bird)

- flat head
- olive hindneck/nape
- large pink bill
- black malar borders + auricular stripe
- fine streaked upper breast

4 CCSP - "bze-bze-bze" song

- preferred pines to grasses


PA state bird

- observed mating in flight (odd?)
- very pale overall
- dark brown cap + mustachial stripe
- white malar

- 10 GRSP
- 2 VESP - observed nest
- 2 CHSP
- 5 FISP
- 10 SOSP
- 3 PRWA
- 2 BOBO
- 3 FAME
- 2 PUP1
- 1 SCTA
- 2 RTHA
- 1 BWMA

Date 6-12-04 Time prev Weather prev
Location prev


Adult Henslow's Sparrow (moulted tail)




- massive bill (flathead)
- nesting in patch of vetch in open grasslands, skulking with short flights, often sat in shrubs for > 2 minutes.

unlike other Ammodramas

this individual had other intense contrast/plumage - darker neck, darker less contrast in feather



Adult Clay-colored Sparrow



Date 7-20-04 Time 5:30-11:00 Weather cloudy, still, 60°F
 Location Moose Bog, Warlock WMA, Ferrisburgh, VT
 looked for boreal species with Mom + Andy McLevin - found 3/4 of the Boreal Grand Sparrows (SPGR, BOCH, GRJA, BBWO)! This was one of my most memorable birding adventures yet!! (* = life bird)

5 BBWO* - heard 3, saw 2 - viewed adult ♂ foraging + feeding juvenile from ~5 ft!! The adult soaked spruce trees and pulled larvae out to feed the gawling juvenile.

1 BOCH - heard + seen from parking lot... raspy note than BOCH

8 GRJA* - found in groups of 2-3 calling... 1 juvenile with adults viewed along trail tooting + rattling

2 WNCR* - ♂'s countering from 100 ft spruces - buzzy, juncy-ish song w/ two distinct parts... another triller!

5 BCBW
 3 NAWA
 5 YRWA
 10 GCKI
 1 CGRA
 3 BLJA
 1 dead SPGR - remains in parking lot!!

Date 7-20-04 Time prev Weather prev
 Location Moose Bog Trail, Ferrisburgh, VT

Adult ♂
 Black-backed Woodpecker

We heard BBWO's gawling, tapping, and 'Rip'ing

blue-black glass

golden - white extends over bill



long hairy bill

three toes, missing back inside toe - to compensate, the lone back toe is very thick + sturdy

Adult Gray Jay - the birds sat near us + flew over the trail like ghosts

shabby bill

gray wings + back

8
 8-20-04 1330-1700 overcast, S, 75°F
 Katama Airpark, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, MA

looked for the Red-footed Falcon w/ mom (1st North American Record)

My mom + I caught the 1:30 PM ferry from Falmouth to Oakes Bluff, then grabbed a taxi to Katama. The bird was present from when we arrived @ 1500 until 1630, when we caught a ride back to Oakes Bluff w/ Bill + Paedence Fen of SC.

RFFO Notes

- observed flying + sitting, the falcon was hunting + eating all afternoon... flying on shallow windboards, then hovering + diving into the grass of the airfield to catch insects
- habits reminiscent of AMKE, but larger overall
- a study in grays, with a slate back and light underparts w/ light brown streaks - wings barred gray with some rufous in underwing coverts - some adult gray underwing coverts were apparent w/ the barred juvenile feathers.
- head gray, with very dark helmet @ face - bill bright gold/orange w/ black tip
- legs + feet deep red/orange, with rusty "stockings"
- barred brown/gray tail molting central ruts
- inner primaries appeared black - new molt-in

9
 GPS coordinates: N 41° 21.643' W 70° 31.501'
 Red-footed Falcon
 Katama, MA

about two dozen other blockers + countless curious residents viewed this beautiful bird today

All plumage details matched with those of a bird just over one year in age - this male is beginning to acquire adult plumage

The RFFO was catching insects, mostly grasshoppers at a small craft airfield overgrown with brush

airfield signpost

wings cast w/ tail when perched

barred gray underwing coverts w/ some uniform gray adult feathers (for separation from Minor Falcon) - very hard to see in the field

inner primary molt

very long tail

central tail feathers molting

rufous underwing coverts + "stockings" bright red/orange feet

