



# Spring Migrants and Breeding Birds at Glover's Ledge

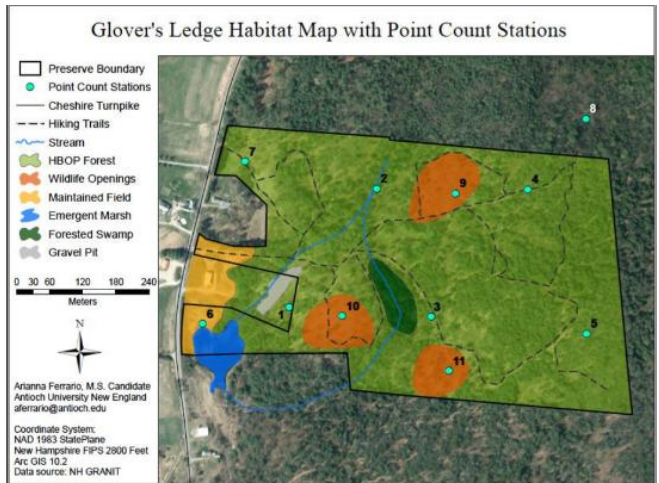
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Glover's Ledge  
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Birds are excellent indicators of forest health and are some of the most widely studied animals. Knowledge of resident birds as well as birds that visit the property can be a useful tool for monitoring our habitat and creating new conservation strategies to provide healthy habitat for all living things on our property.

## Bird Species at Glover's Ledge

Since we began keeping records, over 100 species of birds have been recorded using Glover's Ledge. Some, like the Ruffed Grouse, use the forested wetland areas toward the center of the property as nesting habitat. Others, like the American Woodcock, take advantage of our open field areas to put on impressive mating displays at dusk. And many, like the Red Knot, Magnolia Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher have merely stopped to refuel during their long migrations.

Here is just a brief sample of some of the birds you can expect to see or hear: Mallard ducks, pileated woodpeckers, hermit thrushes, turkey vultures, common ravens, common yellowthroats, wild turkeys, ruby-throated hummingbirds, golden-crowned kinglets, black-capped chickadees, and song sparrows.



Map of locations sampled in Ferrario's study.

## Birds Across our Landscape

In 2018, AUNE master's student Arianna Ferrario completed a thesis project on the quality of habitat available for birds here and counted the species using each habitat type.

She selected various locations within Glover's Ledge and conducted both bird and vegetation surveys. Habitats she sampled included thick forest, forested swamp, maintained field, and wildlife openings created by thinning tree cover.

Ferrario found 57 species during her survey, many of which used open habitats like the maintained fields and wildlife openings. While open habitats tended to be the most diverse, forested areas provided habitat for certain types of birds like hermit thrushes, winter wrens, and common ravens.

Her study shows us that multiple types of habitat are important for supporting our bird species and that we can work towards attracting these and more species to the property by maintaining this mosaic of habitat patches.



Golden-crowned kinglet photographed at Glover's Ledge by Steven Lamonde.



Ovenbird at Glover's Ledge by Kim Snyder

Ferrario's survey found a typical community of New Hampshire birds for a low-elevation forest like ours. However, some of the species found have been marked as declining throughout this region and thus are in need of both more study and ideal habitat patches to use. We are continuing bird surveys at Glover's Ledge through formal surveys like Ferrario's, bird walks held by Antioch Bird Club, and eBird records from individuals visiting the property.



*Veery photographed at Glover's Ledge  
by John Dunham.*

### **Landscape Perspective**

Because birds are such charismatic creatures and easy to see anywhere, they are an incredible tool for conservation science and for connecting the public to nature. So many species have long migrations: linking together many different habitat types and often multiple continents during their annual travels.

In an increasingly urbanized world, patches of diverse habitat like Glover's Ledge are increasingly important as stop-over sites for migrating birds and nesting areas for New Hampshire resident species. Managing the areas Ferrario's study identified through invasive species control, encouraging the growth of native shrubs and trees, and maintaining open patches and edge habitats will provide quality habitat for our birds.

### **Things to look for:**

*Look up and listen: birds are everywhere! With or without a pair of binoculars, you can notice the different bird activity at different places on the property. Walk from one area to another and compare: what do you see flying? What do you hear? Are any nests visible? What does each area have that might make it attractive to certain birds?*



*Barred owl at Glover's Ledge at dusk,  
photographed by John Dunham.*

### **Learn more about the birds of Glover's ledge and bird conservation**

*Check out our eBird hotspot:*

*<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L6290645>*

*Find resources through the Antioch Bird Club:*

*Read about how our Motus tower helps us track visitors to the property in Bulletin #08*

### **Citation:**

Ferrario, A. (2018). *Assessment of Habitat and Food Resource Availability for Spring Migrant and Breeding Birds at Glover's Ledge in Langdon, New Hampshire*. Antioch University New England, Keene, NH.