Bird Language Field Notes

January 31, 2017 @1250 hours Facing NORTH just south of our shed **1 HOUR**

* Forgot Binocolars
* Experimenting with sit spots
* 2 Downy or Hairy Woodpeckers in the top of tree in front of me
* Hear sporadic chickadees
* @1257 a nuthatch moved into that tree. The woodpeckers moved one tree to my right.
* @1258, nuthatch flew overhead to some point well behind me and to my left. The calls grew very insistent. Eventually moved off or quit calling.
* @1301 woodpeckers still in 2nd tree
* @1302, wind increases making it harder to hear
* @1304, a distinct increase in bird sounds. Appears my approach did NOT warrant warning calls but perhaps did warrant everyone becoming silent.
* @1306, just noticed the woodpeckers gone. Hear some (not sure which) talking off to my right.
* @1307, wren and one unidentified bird move into Hemlock in front of me. Also hear a chickadee start talking there. Something tapping behind me. Eventually betrays itself by calling (nuthatch). Moves off to my left @ about 30’ up.
* @1309, nuthatch still calling behind me and gets a little more insistent. Moves off to my left still calling.
* @1312, nuthatch well behind me gets very insistent while one closer taps quietly on tree.
* @1313 two Red-headed Woodpeckers go crazy off to my right. Moves to dead stub ~50’ away straight to my right (E). Starts vocalizing again and moves to the top while staring SE. I hear a little rustling that way but cannot figure out what is moving over there.
* @1317 chickadee back to my NE talking
* @1321 Fairly quiet except for nuthatch still tapping behind me
* @1327 Little Downy or Hairy flies over from SW-E-NE
  + Mourning Dove talking off to the NE
* @1330 Very quiet. Just occasional sounds in the yard to the N. Dove still talking a little.
* @1334 Bald Eagle flies over from N to S just a little above the canopy
* @1335 I hear a Red-bellied Woodpecker off across the yard (NE)
* @1337 Red-headed Woodpecker comes by to the E again
* @1345 Birds appear @ good baseline. A couple of minutes ago, some bird to my south issues what had to of been an alarm call. The Red-headed Woodpecker keeps moving around to my E, occasionally talking.
* @1348 Overall quiet with just occasional sounds including tapping on trees.
* @1351 Leave sit spot. Red-headed WP back talking to my E.

February 2, 2017 @ 1105 Hours sitting in NE corner of the yard facing south. **1 HOUR**

* Created a plow alarm with Mourning Doves scattering really badly as I moved into my sit spot. Got really quiet.
* @1112 Red-bellied WP starts scolding/talking above me.
* @1118 Approaching baseline with the song birds. Woodpeckers still talking behind me (N). Doves I startled start “cooing”
* @1120 Juncos returned to baseline. Feeding all around on the ground, etc
* @1122 @ least 2-3 Red-headed Woodpeckers talking (S?, W, NW)
* @1126 Car returns home and a bird plow (or hook/sentinel?) ensues. Birds fly to respectful distance to await developments.
* @1130 Flock of juncos that fled car moves from E of feeder to thicket N of feeder.
* @1153 Helicopter passes to the S
* @1155 Still no juncos have returned
* @1156 Someone sticks their head out of the backdoor and yells @ me. Birds scatter and get quiet in the immediate vicinity. One brave bird returns to the feeder soon.
* @1159 Someone else walks out and scares it. Red-headed WP starts chattering to the S.
* @1201 Robin alarms behind me. Red-headed woodpeckers now chattering W and NW.
* @1205 Red-bellied WPs moved through and one chattering off to the S.
* Done

February 6, 2017 @1605 hours sitting on E edge of small field/clearing next door near old home site. **1 HOUR**

* @1605 Woods silent and dripping. Fog in the air.
* @1615 a wren (I think) starts talking loudly to the SE or SSE. Sounds like it was disturbed.
* @1616 Mixing in another sound or even song but still sounds disturbed. Very insistent. Neighbors ducks or guineas or something are squawking badly
* @1620 Maybe hear the soft call of a screech owl
* @1621 Robins squawking behind me somewhere
* @1622 Wren scolding definitely off to the E now
* @1623 Dynamite or something off to the SW
  + Very few birds in my immediate location. Bad spot? Am I too obvious? Too late in the day?
* @1625-1628 Robin scolding to my N or NW
* @1630 Birds are quiet locally. Crows far to the E are calling
* @1635 Still silent except for distant crows
* @1637 Light rain.
* @1640 Sprinkles.
* @1642 Precip done for most part. Still very quiet.
* @1644 Screech owl again somewhere to my E
* @1651 Still not much behind water dripping in the woods, distant vehicles, and the neighbor’s domestic birds. Woods always seem very quiet when foggy. Why?
* @1655 was hoping for some larger mammals late in the day but maybe not.
* @1700 I think the majority of birds must be roosting
* @1706 One tiny sounding bird makes a sound behind me.
* Done

February 7, 2017 @1040 hours sitting just south of shed again **1 HOUR**

* Stayed closer to the house because of the threat of thunderstorms and heavier rain
* @1040 Birds active everywhere
* @1045 Quiets down a little
* @1047 Nuthatch starts talking high in tree to my NW. May be his territory I am sitting in as I had one around last time I sat here.
* @1049 He flew to a large tree 75’-90’ to the W
* @1053 Cat came by. Did not notice any alarm. Maybe the birds are too used to him or maybe I need to pay better attention.
* @1057 Seem to be at good baseline.
* @1100 Finally hear one of my woodpecker friends to the E. I think the Red-headed Woodpecker
* @1102 Titmouse flies over @ about 20’. Sees the cat and posts up and starts scolding. A couple more come by including one @ ~8’ to see what the cat is doing.
* @1107 Birds have moved on and quit worrying about the cat.
* @1108 A few sprinkles. Main storm still well to the west. Wind picking up significantly though. Faint rumbles of thunder now in the distance.
* @1112 Sprinkles slowed down but thunder still in the distance. Titmouse talking a lot to my WNW and woodpecker talking some to the W.
* @1113 Little Downy WP in top of tree just W
* @1116 Cat makes a move towards a Titmouse that had moved down to ~4’. Bird moved up to ~25’ and was joined by another to keep an eye on the cat.
* @1120. Back to apparent baseline although seems a little quiet.
* @1122 Definitely quiet. Getting darker. Thunder a little more noticeable in the distance.
* @1123 A kingfisher flies over. Birds alarm near feeder. Doves fly off (all based on hearing only as feeder is not within sight).
* @1125. Sprinkles start again.
* @1127 Notice groups of birds leaving vicinity of the feeder to perch in trees, presumably to ride out the storm.
* @1135 Quit due to approaching storm.

February 10, 2017 @1350 hours sitting behind shed again. **1 HOUR**

* General notes for the day. Sandhill cranes passing through heading N. Lare flocks of robins in the area. Sunny, 55 degrees. Moon is waxing gibbous nearly full.
* @1355 small flock of robins flies overhead just above tree top headed S. Unusually quiet today.
* @1358 More robins fly by squawking in the tree tops. Dogs barking up and down the road nearby. Sounds like maybe the mailman is passing.
* @1401 1st nuthatch heard somewhere behind me.
* @1405 Two Titmice (Spelling?) move into tree to my NE
* @1408 Small woodpecker shows up just E in tall tree canopy
* @1420 Definitely seem to be at a good baseline.
* @1424 Robins keep flying over from N to S in the tree tops. I hear most of them coming. Perhaps they are stopping for water @ the pond next door. Curious why they all squawk though.
* @1428 Wind picks up a little
* @1430 Red-headed WP to the NO on the other side of house goes crazy.
* @1434 Some birds start talking to my S. Sounds like an alarm but not certain.
* @1446 Fairly quiet out again with just a bird here and there in the distance.
* @1551 flock of sandhill cranes coming from S.
* Done

February 12, 2017 @ 1025 hours at old home site in clearing again **1 HOUR**

* @1025 only one robin alert as I approached today
* @1033 flock of birds flies over. Not sure what.
* @1034 Robin starts alarming (shrieking) to the W. Then another joins. Afterwards becomes deathly quiet.
* @1038 Some bird singing E and one W but unsure what kind.
* @1040 Hawk flying over S and W. Too far to identify. Wood pecker SW and NE both talking some. Red-bellied I think based on call.
* @1047 Figured out birds singing are largely titmice.
* @1048 Sun comes out. Very nice day!
* @1040 Breeze kicks up a little.
* @1055 Much quieter now with woodpecker occasionally still talking to my E.
* @1101 WP NW calls and WP W answers. Shortly after, the WP to the NW starts “drumming”
* @1105 Darker to the W. May be a shower moving in.
* @1113 quiet enough for a while. I am going to explore the field a little and see if I can stir anything up.
* @1125 Quit. Mot much happening.

Feburary 12, 2017 @1530 hours in NE corner of Yard **1 HOUR**

* Added some fresh bird seed to the board. Want to figure out if the birds are just about done for the day or if my other late afternoon sit spots have been a fluke. If they are still active the food should draw them in hopefully.
* Cold front just passed by which introduces another variable.
* Low level winds and cloud movement from the WNW or NW.
* Earlier today they were from the SW.
* @1541 Still no sign of birds @ feeder
* @1542 Hearing some singing and other sounds in the woods from birds
* @1544 Birds discover seed. 2 quick visitors. I think at least 1 titmouse although maybe both were.
* @1548 Most birds make some sort of call when the come to feed or leave the feeder or both. WP of sorts has moved into large tree to my SE and is chattering quietly.
* @1550 Fairly steady stream of visitors to feeder including a male cardinal, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice.
* @1552 While visitors are steady, still nothing close to the numbers of earlier in the day when we had a flock of juncos, etc
* @1559 Birds are becoming more consistent. 2 Red-bellied WPs working. One up in a tree and one on feeder in that vicinity. Starting to understand their companion calls I think.
* @1600 Cardinals did NOT like cat coming out of the woods. Jumped off the feeder and got up higher in the trees.
* @1604 Birds seem to be avoiding the feeder now that the cat is hanging out on the back deck 10-15’ away. This is interesting because they don’t normally pay him any mind.
* @1609 Red-bellied WP in tree near feeder makes call and gets instant response from bird now to my ENE
* @1610 Getting much colder. Not truly cold, but after highs in the mid 60s today it definitely is back to “campfire weather”
* @1613 Cat appears to have left the deck and feeder vicinity but still no birds back on the feeder
* @1618 Chickadee finally visits feeder.
* Been watching a Red-headed WP and Northern Flicker chasing around in the woods. The flicker was just minding its own business when the WP showed up. The WP kept flying to where the flicker was and each time the flicker yielded the space and moved. Very interesting.
* @1626 Several nuthatches moved through. Listening to their continuous chatter was very interesting. I think it was the companion call idea to just keep track of each other.
* @1628 Someone opened back door and chickadees “hooked” to see what was going on. Quite vocal about it.
* @1630 Done.

February 13, 2017 @1025 Hours at NE corner of the yard **1 HOUR**

* Really messed up the baseline as I approached. Created quite a ruckus.
* @1032 Birds already back to the feeder. Robins that I scared off still squawking in the woods.
* @1037 Chickadee flies to tree just N of bird feeder, calls loudly for a few seconds, then another chickadee flies from the woods to the bird feeder. 1st bird then flies down. Both grab food and go back up into nearby tree together to eat. Wondering if they take turns moving and scouting/watching.
* @1040 Wondering if I permanently scared the robins.
* @1042 Back to fairly good baseline except larger birds (robins, doves, etc) have not returned. Chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, all flying and sitting close to me so they seem to feel comfortable.
* @1046 Crows calling a lot off to my E
* @1052-@1054 A Mourning Dove shows up in the top of a tree in the front of the house (W), assess the situation, approaches over the top of the house and takes a position in a tree near the feeder.
* Did not realize until almost after the fact, but the birds alarmed for the cat as it came slinking out of the woods. As the cat’s posture relaxed from “hunting” to “going to get a drink,” the birds calmed down to the point that they continued eating at the feeder as he strolled past.
* @1057 Dove finally makes the move to the feeder.
* @1058 Some muttering from WP to my S (Red-bellied)
* @1101 Dove flies off but feeding activity continues @ the feeder. Keep hearing “maybe” robins in the woods. Still none back in the yard. Definitely robin(s) I’m hearing now.
* @1106 Maybe sandhill cranes off in the distance. Birds to my E squawking a lot (woodpeckers and robins especially). WP behind me (N) also talking and (W) also (red-headed).
* @1110 Blue jay to my east squawks and then flies in closer
* @1113 Robin flies into small tree right next to me. Maybe finally getting over being scared of me. Cat starts another tour of the woods off to my S so maybe will hear/learn some alarms.
* @1116 Someone came out of the house. Cat did not run to see them so he is definitely hunting now. Robin moved a couple of trees over and is sitting motionless. Does not apparently trust me yet.
* @1121 Cat back walking perimeter of yard.
* @1125 Done.

February 14, 2017 @ 1000 hours back in field near old home site facing SW**. 1 HOUR**

* On the short walk in, a titmouse told everyone about me. Soon a second titmouse picked up the alarm ahead of me. Then a woodpecker did the same off to my right. It got quieter as I approached and entered the field/clearing. I can hear an occasional small bird flying around but so far have not seen them as of @1013.
* @1013 Crow is cawing to my SE and Sandhill Cranes are occasionally calling to the E. Helicopter to the W. Geese honking to my E.
* @1014 Helicopter comes into view from the W coming straight overhead and on to the E.
* @1015 Robin starts squawking to my NW or NNW. Crows fly overhead next and one peels off to circle me and take a look. Cranes now moved on to my NNE and then N. They are headed NW it seems.
* @1057 Crow flies and lands in tree @ edge of clearing to my W. @1019 it finally flies off. Very light precip starting. Hopefully rain will hold off as I did not come prepared for rain.
* @1021. Back to quiet in my immediate area. Crows are off to my ENE well into the distance. Still haven’t’ heard from the robin again.
* @1026 A mourning dove is talking off to the N. Crows still having fun off in the distance.
* @1044 Last 15+ minutes: Something small was rustling in the tall grasses/dried weeds nearby so I investigated. Spent a long time standing motionless watching and became convinced it was a mouse. I finally started moving in slowly to find it and a little sparrow or similar brown bird popped out. Had me fooled.
* @1050 took a slow walk around the field for last 10 minutes. Tried to find the sparrows again to identify and never could get close enough. @1103 Back home.

February 15, 2017 @1010 hours in field near old home site. **1 HOUR**.

* Tons of robins in the area as I approached my spot. It seems a large flock is moving through. More bird noise and excitement than I have seen here in this field before.
* Hoping to see the sparrows again from yesterday.
* Very chill out today (front passed last night)
* @1017 a pair of flickers or some type of WP flies into trees to my SW
* @1021 Large woodpeckers (I think) move into trees to the W. I think it was 2-3 Pileated WPs but cannot get a clear view and they have not called yet. Robins still talking around but no longer in my immediate vicinity.
* @1024 Several robins return to edge of clearing to my SW.
* @1025 Large flock of robins returns to my whole side of the field in trees along the edge. Apparently my entry interrupted the whole flock and they are just now coming back.
* @1028 A big flock flies over. One has stopped in the tree to my south about 30’ up and is watching me.
* @1030 A Pileated WP flies by just to my S. Almost like it is travelling with the robins.
* @1032 This must be migration day. The robins just keep coming.
* @1033 Robins mob a holly busy nearby. Maybe eating the seeds/berries? Wren comes by near where I saw the sparrows yesterday (W).
* @1038 I can hear robin poop hitting the ground when the fly over me (scary).
* @1039 Robin lands to my SW to get a drink where water has filled 4-wheeler ruts in the field ~30’ away. They seem to take turns with everything. Always several sentinels posted up while others eat, drink, etc.
* @1041 Still some mobbing the holly bush. Getting fewer and fewer though. Definitely back to baseline. Robins seem very comfortable around me.
* @1044 Robins all making a super high pitched sound and not moving AT ALL. All birds have froze. Had some vultures circle over maybe the shadow scared them? (Later research indicated I had been heating their hawk warning. Never saw anything other than the vulture so either I missed the hawk or the robins didn’t accurately identify the bird circling overhead)
* @1046 crows flying over
* @1047 Robins start talking normally again and moving around.
* @1050 Robins now feeding within 15-20’ of me.
* @1057 I don’t notice anymore robins in the holly busy now.
* @1057 I was able to stand up. Only the very closest robin moved back any. Still had some within 20-25’ stay put.
* @1100 Lots of cranes calling off to the N.
* @1102 Majority of robins nearby seem to have moved on. Still a few left though. Going to investigate holly bush.

February 16, 2017 @1254 hours in field again **1 HOUR**

* Large group of robins I walked past didn’t alarm as bad as yesterday. The smaller birds made little high pitched alarm calls for a few minutes
* Flock of small birds (Juncos?) in area as I approached my sit spot. Sunny and cool day.
* @1301 Bluebird comes by and lands in tree to my SW or WSW.
* @1306 I hear a nuthatch behind me to the N. Sandhill Cranes off in the distance.
* @1314 Pretty quiet. Not a whole lot going on yet. Far in the distance I can hear a nuthatch.
* @1330 Helicopter passes to the S. Even in the quiet, I am enjoying being out here. The wind whispering through the trees is great.
* @1333 Going to take a short walk and look for critters/birds.
* @1353 Found the little sparrows back in their thicket but still cannot get a good look @ them. Need to bring binoculars with me so I can try to identify them.
* @1354 Done.

February 16, 2017 @1036 hours in field **2 HOURS**

* Remembered my binoculars today for the first time. Hopefully the sparrows come by.
* Alar given upon my approach by something small in bushes/trees. Very high pitched sound. WP takes it up.
* @1044 Red-bellied WP randomly squawks a few times but overall pretty calm/quiet day.
* @1050 Occasional muttering from the WP behind me (E) otherwise quiet
* @1057 Bee of some sort. 1st one I’ve seen this year and it seems really early.
* @1059 I hear the sparrows back in the woods
* @1112 Something singing off in the woods to my E
* @1134 Got a good look at the sparrows. Am leaning towards them being the Chipping Sparrow but that doesn’t totally add up. Has a distinct brownish eye line extending back from its eye. Same color on top but with a lighter stripe straight over the crown (but not white).
* @1138 Female cardinal stops by to my SW in a small tree. Chirping away.
* @1145 Cardinal quiet now but still hanging out. Waiting for hopefully one more look @ the sparrows.
* FINALLLY figured out it was just a pair of song sparrows. Distinct markings extends down onto its chest. Based on their behavior, my guess is it is a pair that will nest near my sit spot which is awesome. Now I have 2 residents (hopefully?!?) to get to know.
* Finished @1226 counting 2 hours after the short walk back home.

February 19, 2017 @1629 after getting home from work. Sitting at NW corner of garden for the shade so I can see better around the back yard. **1 HOUR**

* About 60-70’ from my usual backyard sit spot @ NE corner of the yard. Doves fly away. Robin alerts as I sit down.
* @1620 Red-headed WP starts calling behind me. Robin far enough away I don’t think its for me. Wondering if the cat is over there.
* @1621 Cardinal singing S of house
* @1627 Dove flies completely off. It had flown up high in a tree E of the house in the woods. Flies off to the east. I guess decided not to wait me out.
* Lots more bird activity than most days. Wondering if the warm weather has them more active and maybe even establishing territories for spring…?
* *Random notes: Sharp shinned hawk came by today during my float trip with a client at lunch time on the Caney Fork. Saw one on my last trip as well. Never noticed them there before and both times it was in the same general area. ALSO heard screech owls last night.*
* @1635 Robin goes crazy again to my SE. Both times a Red-headed WP has been muttering nearby. Wondering if it is an alarm or territorial dispute. Still suspicious about the cat.
* @1641 WP behind me muttering. One to the SE also muttering. Robin picking up in intensity again.
* @1644 Calm again.
* @1645 Chickadee lands in busy next to me and starts calling. Realizing we have a TON of woodpeckers around.
* @1651 Car approaches. Not a terrible alarm for it.
* @1655 Chickadees talking here and there around the yard.
* @1657 “baseline” is definitely more active than other evenings I’ve been out.
* @1700 Birds finally start to calm down.
* @1701 Back door rattles. Someone maybe about to come out. Some bird making little high pitched noises (warnings?)
* @1705 Frog starting to sing down @ pond to my NW.
* @1706 WPs get a little vocal
* @1710 One WP is getting chased by others when it gets to close to certain spots.
* @1715 DONE.

February 20, 2017 @1000 in the field **1 HOUR**

* @1005 sparrows here today. Saw doves, wren, woodpeckers, and sparrows on the way in. Hear other birds off in the distance.
* @1009 Some robins show up in tops of nearby trees.
* @1012 Majority of flock flies off to the N.
* @1014 Lots of singing off in the distance
* @1014 Nuthatches calling back and forth across the field from perimeter trees.
* @1017 Hear sandhill cranes headed N. Was just wondering if they are done so good to still hear some.
* @1022 Not much going on. Occasional birds off in the forest talking and singing. Cranes getting closer. May get to see some.
* @1024 Flock comes into view to my S. Doing a lot of circling.
* @1027 Finally hear sparrows rustling in thicket. They stay quiet for so long when I come. My goal is for them to not mind me approaching.
* @1041 Last few minutes, something was going on to my N. Squirrel went crazy. WPs went crazy, dove was hopping around through lower branches of thicket area.
* @1045 movign closer to check on my sparrow buddies.
* @1046 Sparrows don’t fly off entirely but I don’t move into their space either.
* @1040 head to investigate the thicket to my N. Find a squirrel and a yellow-shafted flicker I had been hearing. No sign of anything that would cause the earlier ruckus though.
* @1100 DONE

February 24, 2017 @1110 in Field **1 HOUR**

* My sparrow friend chirps @ my approach. Overall quiet out. Very warm and windy day with cold front due in tonight. Daffodils @ old home site behind me (E & NE) are now in full bloom.
* @1116 a bird flies closer that is singing. I think it is a bluebird but I’m having a very hard time seeing it outlined against the bright sky well enough to be certain. Song very similar to the Eastern Bluebird on my Audubon app.
* @1124 Bluebird has flown back and forth between small trees in field and large old dead tree to the immediate NE of me at edge of the field. Now sitting calmy in tree in field. Wondering if dead tree will be a nest tree.
* @1128 Flew into trees to my E w/2 others. Sun too bright in that area for me to look.
* @1130 Still waiting on my sparrow friends. It seems to always take them a long time to continue foraging after I arrive.
* Sitting 15-20’ SW of my usual spot today. Wind is strong enough that occasional dead limbs and hangers are coming down today so avoiding sitting under trees.
* @1136 Sparrow or something starts chirping to the S @ ground level.
* @1141 Wondering if I sat too closet to the small weed thicket. Still no action from my sparrow friends unless they moved and the bird @1136 was one of them.
* @1151 Titmouse starts talking to my E just a little. Another answers from the N. I think birds are starting to get territories maybe. Confused by how warm it is.
* @1157 Big Pileated WP flies quietly over from N to S. @1158 starts calling down in the woods to my S very continuously. Finally calms down.
* @1200 Lots of random chirps and small noises here and there in the woods. The birds seem really active.
* @1201 Pileated gives one big call and then flies off to the E.
* @1210 DONE

February 26, 2017@ 0954 in the field **1 HOUR**

* My sparrow friends were out foraging as I approached my spot. Continued to make high pitched chirps even after I sat down occasionally. Did not completely dive into cover and become silent this time.
* @1000 Nuthatch talking off to my N insistently.
* @1001 Some light tapping behind me (E)
* @1002 Something is causing an alarm to my N @ the entrance to the field/clearing. Titmice, etc all going crazy.
* @1005 Bluebird lands in small tree to my NW. Looks like same bird from Friday. Small WP (Downy?) tapping on dead tree behind me now.
* @1006 Gorgeous male bluebird flies into small trees. Both birds commence feeding/foraging on ground. Get food then fly back up into trees.. Titmouse squawking W somewhere.
* @1009 Small group/flock of titmice/chickadees fly into trees immediately behind me.
* @1010 Titmouse to my W starts an alarm. One to my S picks it up. Then ones behind me start. Have some fly down to within 4-5’ of me. Maybe they aren’t alarms calls after all?
* @1016 My sparrow friend is sitting above his thicket quietly chirping away.
* @1017 Sparrow singing a little. Sounds very happy. Still hear birds foraging very close behind me.
* @1023 Red-headed WP talking well off to my E. The large mixed flock has either largely moved on or settled down to baseline.
* @1025 Bluebird flies from right to left (NW to W) through smaller trees in clearing.
* @1028 Something in holly bush eating/tapping on something. Titmouse comes flying out.
* @1030 Still quite a few birds behind me (E and NE). I think a lot of the flock is still around but has mostly calmed down.
* So many sounds going on today. I’m having a hard time deciding which ones are important and need documenting.
* @1034 Sparrow back on his favorite perch. Mixed flock now much more vocal behind me (E and SE). Titmice and nuthatches really talking. I’ve noticed that the sparrow prefers to post up right above the thickest weeds and briers. Assumedly this is because he can dive in to safety in a hurry if necessary.
* @1038 Sparrow still chirping quietly. Finally moves and I lose track of him
* @1039 Female bluebird back just to my W. Male back just to my NW.
* @1043 Notice sparrow feeding on ground in 4 wheeler ruts to my SW. It was in a shadow initially and I couldn’t really see anything but movement.
* @1047 Sparrow blends in sow well to the ground. Have hard time seeing it unless it is moving.
* Sparrow feeds all the way up to when I leave. When I stand up to leave, it hops towards the weeds. Once I start walking out it posts up on its favorite weed.
* @1055 DONE

17 HOURS total thus far

February 27, 2017 @1045 In the Field Facing South Today **1 HOUR**

* Heard what I think was the sparrow(s) as I came into the field but have not seen them yet.
* @1056 Not much going on. Super windy today. Our backyard feeder had a bunch of birds eating @ it. Had some light rain moving through a little while ago. Thinking the birds are hunkered down until the wind/weather relaxes.
* @1102 Solitary robin flies over from the W headed E.
* @1105 Solitary and quiet crow jets by well to the E headed SW and disappears off to my S.
* @1106 Clouds continue to thin. Appears to be some blue sky to the W maybe.
* @1107 Some type of wood pecker sounds to the E. A nuthatch starts calling to my E or NE fairly quietly. Patches of blue sky look to stay to the NW most likely. Sun shining weakly through dense overcast.
* @1110 Strong burst of wind but overall the trend is calmer. Sky getting bring enough it is hard to look up into the trees anywhere in the direction of the sun.
* @1117 A bird chipping to my N and being answered off to the E or ENE. Heard a chickadee. Turn to face N because of how bright the sky is.
* @1119 See a nuthatch fly into the trees along N edge of the clearing. After it disappears in the tree I hear its call.
* @1121. Nuthatch flies to top of small tree to my NW. Starts working down the tree. Another shows up on nearby tree. 1st one flies E to woods, then second one does a minute later.
* @1125 Sun gets brighter. Bird activity picks up significantly. Mixed flock moving through foraging. So far titmice and nuthatches.
* @1131 Overcast getting thicker again. Less bird activity.
* @1134 Here some small chips/chirps. Still looking for my sparrow friends but cannot find a bird to go with the sound.
* @1145 Done

March 2, 2017 @1435 in the Field facing NNW **1 HOUR**

* Remembered my binoculars again finally. Hopefully will see some interesting birds.
* @1440 Something talking (singing?) to the W, slowly shifting to NW by @1443
* Very chilly today after yesterdays strong cold front. Not many birds moving around. Assumedly they are trying to conserve energy by only moving for food today.
* @1446 Plane flies over NW. Branch or something falls in woods to the W.
* @1448 hear Pileated Wood Pecker well off in the distance.
* @1449 Notice the wind has shifted and grown colder. This morning it was out of the W. Now it is from the N.
* Starting to wonder about the sparrows. Haven’t been seeing them.
* @1451 Hear one small sound from a nuthatch.
* @1455 Titmouse fussing to the NE
* @1456 Titmouse closer and to the N or NNW. Wind gusts changing directions a lot.
* @1457 Large Turkey Vulture flies over
* @1459 Some more birds talking nearby
* @1501 Quiet again except plane flying over
* @1506 Another plane. They seem extra loud today. Actually 2. One NE and one S/SE.
* @1508 Vulture circling just W again. Now NNW @1510.
* @1510 Hear a Blue Jay off in the distance.
* @1512 Another plane. Green body. Overhead heading W.
* @1513 Vulture flies over again.
* @1514 Wood pecker muttering well N. Nuthatch talking well NE.
* @1515 Now 2 vultures to the W.
* @1518. Another plane to my S
* @1523 Another plane to my E.
* @1525 Not much happening. Very quiet day as far as birds go. I think they are all at the house where the bird feeder is. Robin squawking off to the NE somewhere
* @1535 Done

March 3, 2017 @1100 in the Field **1 HOUR**

* Could and windy again. Not much going on at all today. Moon is a waxing crescent. Only heard one or two bids as I was walking in. Decided to move back into the woods a little to the E (approximately 60’) from my usual sit spot. Hoping for some different looks/perspectives as a result.
* @1114 Wind is really cold. Hopefully I’ll make it for an hour
* @1116 Heard one tiny bird sound somewhere. So far the only bird I’ve seen was a vulture on my walk in. Still no sign of the sparrows. Really starting to think they were migrants that headed N when the weather was nice.
* @1119 Vulture passes to the W
* @1121 Another tiny bird sound somewhere around but still no idea where. Hear neighbor’s guineas off to the NNW.
* @1124 Baseline yesterday and today seems to be near total silence. Hear one bird singing well off in the distance to the NE.
* @1130 Thought I heard my sparrow chirping to the W. Something singing off to the N. A nuthatch or something also talking off that direction (or titmouse?).
* @1133 Bird singing to the N stops suddenly. Something calls or sings to the W in the clearing.
* @1140 Still really quiet in my patch of woods. All bird sounds are in the distance. Closest is a nuthatch to the N or NE. Probably close enough to see if I turned around. Almost sounds worried. Wonder if a cat or something is moving around over there.
* @1141 Turned around but have not seen the nuthatch. Going to do a slow walk around the field and look for the sparrows.
* @1146 Found the pair of sparrows! Glad they are still around. They were foraging on the ground and disappeared up into a cedar tree they have hid in before.
* @1150 taking a slow walk to heavier cover along N edge of field.
* @1155 not much happening in perimeter of field. Walk back home. Lots more birds hanging around, assumedly for food from the feeder.

March 3, 2017 @1455 In Field **1 HOUR**

* wondering if the birds will be anymore active than earlier today
* My sparrow friends were out foraging along the path near my spot. Flew into their preferred weed patch/thicket.
* @1510 Still quiet although I hear a few more birds in the distance this time. Mainly crows and woodpeckers.
* @1511 My sparrow buddy comes out and starts chirping away. On his favorite perch.
* @1413 Dog barking up the road. Nuthatches talking somewhere behind me.
* @1514 The sparrow is much quieter with only an occasional chirp.
* @1515 A woodpecker starts talking insistently behind me (NE)
* wind still frigid. Excited about the warmup forecast to start tomorrow
* @1518 Sparrow leaves his favorite perch. Chirping somewhere down lower in the weeds/briers. Then hops back up to his post @1519. Female a shadow flitting around 1-2’ off the ground in heavy cover.
* @1520 He dives off again. Then returns to his perch but not getting as high on it as usual. Definitely more bird sounds now than earlier today. That is not saying much though.
* @1524 Got a phone call I needed to take. Sparrow stayed on his perch, then went in the weeds after I hung up again. Still chirping.
* @1525 Sparrow returned to his perch and then flew closer to me to forage on the path. Still chirping away.
* @1527 Bluebird came out to sing above me and slightly N on tip of branch it has used before.
* @1528 2nd sparrow up on favorite perch. Wish I had binoculars because now I’m not sure which is male and female.
* @1530 Both now foraging on the ground
* @1532 Male bluebird foraging just to my W. Titmouse talking/singing to my E not too far.
* @1534 2 chickadees one following the other, fly over W to E.
* @1535 Male bluebird follows female up to the same perch as before. Definitely a likely nest spot. I see him poke his head in a hole there like he is feeding something although it seems early for that. Maybe he is just scouting the place out.
* @1538 Titmouse squawking to my S.
* @1540 Dove cooing N. Various sounds suggest a migratory mixed flock # and SE and S. Chickadees, Titmice, and Nuthatches.
* @1541 Sparrows still feeding calmly 20’ away.
* @1543 Notice less overall sound. Bluebird talking/singing to my S.
* @1546 One sparrow chases the other off, or so it appeared. Not sure what was up with that.
* @1555 Done

March 5, 2016 @1105 in the Field **1 HOUR**

* @1108 Sparrows fly into their tangle of weeds chirping at my approach
* @1111 Bugs flying around so it did not get cold enough to eliminate them.
* @1115 Dove cooing off in the distance (N). Jet flying over.
* @1120 Something singing W. I think bluebirds. The sparrows are starting to rustle around a little. Still in dense cover though.
* @1121 Titmouse scolding to my N.
* @1132 Still quiet. Has become more quiet. Maybe just the midday doldrums.
* @1142 Oddly my sparrow friends are still hiding. Was out hog hunting last night and we discussed several times how it was unusually quiet. Same thing today. VERY quiet.
* @1155 Sparrows finally fly up to favorite perch and one other one is chirping a little.
* @1156 Sparrows fly S 20’ to another perch. Then S another 20-25’ to their favorite cedar.
* @1200 Bluebird way off in distance sings briefly. Airplane flying over
* Sparrows finally flying out to forage on path near tree.
* @1205 DONE.

March 3, 2017 @1630 at NW corner of garden (more birds around the house) **1 HOUR**

* @1630 Bird feeder active. As I approach spot, doves move back to trees. By @1637 they are returning to feed. Smaller birds never really quit.
* @1637 Red-headed Woodpecker, N and W of me talking. Forsythia @ SE corner of garden woods edge starting to bloom. Cloudy around 63 degrees. Cat comes to hang out with me.
* @1641 Good numbers of small birds moving and talking throughout woods. @1643 A dove flies E into tree @edge of woods 30’ up.
* @1644 A Downy Woodpecker is at the suet cake at feeder. A Hairy Woodpecker comes and chases it off. 1st returns. I think it is a male and female of the same species @1648.
* @1651 Dove returns to feeder
* @1653 Dove exits yard heading NE
* @1656 Someone comes out the back door to chasten dog for digging.
* @1659 Cat now under feeder. Waiting for mouse, mole, etc. to pop out of ground. Birds are trying to determine the safety of feeding.
* @1701 Chickadee talking loudly. Clearly not thrilled about cat
* @1702 Chickadee flying from tree to tree near feeder
* @1704 Someone comes to take dog for a walk.
* @1707 Someone else comes outside. Scares birds. Gets pretty quiet. Clouds thickening a lot. Rain passing tonight (light showers)
* @1709 Birds getting closer to roosting I think. Quieter in general even out in the woods.
* @1715 Going to finish time walking in the woods.
* @1730 Done Not much to see.

March 7, 2017 @1630 in Field **1 HOUR**

* Walked up to my sit spot in field. Tons going on with the birds at home. As I progressed into the field, it got very quiet. Really beginning to wonder why the baseline is so different so close together. Heard a screech owl briefly.
* @1645 Red-bellied Woodpecker lands in tree above me. 1st interesting thing at my actual sit spot today.
* @1646 Wren scolding back near the house based on the sounds through the woods.
* @1649 Just noticed how fast the low clouds are moving but very calm here at the surface.
* @1650 My bluebird friend comes out on a branch of the tree where the hole/potential nest is. Small flock of robins flies over W to E.
* @1652 Bluebird flies off to a different spot to the E talking all the while. Not sure if it is unhappy with my presence or what.
* @1706 Pair of geese fly over from N to NW to W to SW. They were headed mostly S but detoured a little to avoid me it appears. Dove cooing to the NW.
* @1707 Another good sized flock of robins flies over from W to E
* @1715 Dove still cooing to the NW
* @1725 Dove still cooing…
* @1730 Done

March 8, 2017 @1315 in the Smokies at the “Rootwad” Pool **1 HOUR**

* Big fish spotted about an hour ago. Came back to sit and watch the pool.
* Sunny skies. Fish rising in middle of the flat. Big fish laying on bedrock about ½ way up pool against the far bank.
* @1326 Small (8-9”) fish darts past on my side of the pool and another rises a short distance out.
* @1330 Still sporadic rises on the flat. Big fish still sitting down.
* @1333 Notice that fish rising on the flat seem to be holding in the shadows of trees growing on the bank.
* @1335 Decent fish that is at least 12” comes cruising down the flat.
* @1341 Fish rising on near (S) bank in shade. Very gentle dimple rises. Probably BWOs but maybe midges or Blue Quills.
* @1349 Small fish around 4 inches long moves onto bank just below me. Feeding heavily. Cannot see what it is eating so assume midges.
* @1352 A second small fish moves in just below and about 10’ downstream of the first one. I can see midges hatching and maybe some little black caddis.
* @1355 Breeze is decidedly colder
* @1401 A nicer rainbow moved right in to the bank for 3-4 minutes and then moved back into the middle.
* @1404 An otter moves in on the far side of pool near the big brown (or large mink?). It disappears under an undercut bank. Perhaps a den site?
* @1407 I see it again. Fish still rising but the big fish spooked and has disappeared.
* @1411 Fish active at head of pool.
* @1415 Done

March 10, 2017 @1535 in Field **1 HOUR**

* @1538 approached my spot and sat down @1539
* Right before sitting down, my sparrow friends chirped a few times. They were in their little thicket/patch of weeds. One flew over to their favorite cedar. A minute later, the other made a couple of high pitched small sounds and then flew over as well @1541.
* @1544 I repositioned closer to the cedar so I could better observe the sparrows if they came out of hiding. Other than the sparrows, it is a pretty quiet day. Strong NW winds and cool temps. Mostly sunny with about 5% cloud clover.
* @1549 Something singing off to my ESE. Maybe a bluebird.
* @1550 A Mourning Dove bursts out of treeline due N of me and quickly loops W to S to SE back into woods 80 yards south of its original position. Something spooked/startled it I think.
* @1600 Very quiet except for neighbor’s guineas and maybe ducks
* @1603 Getting colder. Something singing way off to my N.
* @1406 A woodpecker calls (Flicker maybe?) to my N. A moment later a flash of yellow confirms a Northern Flicker at @1408
* @1408 I see a large flock of small birds swoop up into trees to my N.. Wish I was closer so I could se what they are. One flies down to a holly busy in the field, flies back a couple of minutes later.
* @1624 Sparrow returns to its favorite perch. Been watching large flock for last 15 minutes. Flew down into the field to feed and have been working my way along the ground.
* @1625 Sparrow flew on N a little and started feeding. The large flock is getting close now and I can see they are Juncos. Some fed within 10’ of me for a while.
* @1635 Done.

March 14, 2017 @1035 in the Kitchen watching the bird feeder **1 HOUR**

* Too cold today to sit outside.
* Feeder has been active today. Snow and 30 degrees. Low light and cloudy.
* Something was singing loudly a few minutes ago.
* @1038 Board now empty.
* @1045 Chickadee and a titmouse make an appearance. Grab food and fly up to a tree to eat. Chickadees keep coming.
* @1046 A nuthatch joins. Downy Woodpecker on the suet cake now. Birds are back to being a steady stream. Not sure why it got so calm for a bit.
* @1049 A bluebird comes into the yard, perching on the side of trees.
* @1050 Junco and Goldfinch here now.
* @1051 Carolina Wren flies onto bird board and then progresses over to the suet cake.
* @1052 Two Goldfinches flutter about 3’ up in the air and almost look like they are squabbling. Then they come back down and land and eat. Then quickly they fly off. Lots of birds feeding on ground now, especially the juncos.
* @1055 Goldfinch starts chasing juncos off the feeder when they come too close.
* @1057 A male cardinal shows up. I can hear a jay calling. It soon flies down onto the board and all the other birds scatter. As soon as the Blue Jay leaves, other birds start returning. I can still hear the Jay calling though.
* @1100 Female cardinal shows up.
* @1102 Jay starts hollering again.
* @1108 Red-bellied Woodpecker is feeding on suet cake. Drops down to the ground and then flies away.
* @1109 Red-headed Woodpecker on the bird board. Then 2 jays.
* @1110 Notice 2 doves now feeding on the ground.
* @1111 Dove lands on bird board, creating a spray of snow from the wind/force it creates. Blue Jay then lands and dove gets quite nervous. Seconds later it leaves. Body language never comfortable after the jay landed.
* @1112 Something singing nearby. Not sure what.
* @1115 Now at least 4 doves. Red-bellied WP alternating between suet cake, feeder, and trees. Dove sitting on shepherd’s crook above suet feeder.
* @1119 Dove is puffed up. Then it shrinks. I think it is fluffing up its feathers to stay warm perhaps?
* @1125 I see an Eastern Towhee skirting the edge of the woods/flying along the edge of the yard. 1st one I have seen during “class” activities and 1st one in general in a while.
* @1135 Done.

March 17, 2017 @1330 Stream Watching in the Smokies at Tully’s Pool **2 HOURS 20 MIN**

* I found a really nice brown trout in this pool a month or two back
* Have been noticing that many of the really good pools are at or just below where small tributary streams enter.
* Water is very cold and clear
* Spent about **an hour this morning** (counted in the 2 hours 20 min above) slowly driving the river and stopping to look for fish. Lots of quality brown trout sitting out.
* @1334 Some bug hatches out of the near foam line and flies away. Looked like a little black caddis possibly.
* Pool Diagram in my journal
* @1345 A good sized #10-#12 black stonefly crawls past me on the rock
* @1350 Small caddis flies by and lands in the water. Still no active fish I have noticed. A few midges starting to hatch.
* @1354 Pretty good midge hatch in progress. A few little black caddis too. All in slack water on near side of the pool
* @1400 head down to watch another pool.
* @1419 Find a small riser. Several pools downstream. No discernable hatch.
* @1430. Walk back towards the car.
* @1441 Pool just below car, find good fish. Already looked there once and never saw it the first time. Get binoculars to watch the fish. It is a really nice fish but not sure if it is a rainbow or brown. Acts more like a brown and is sitting in a brown trout spot.
* @1450 Find a nice little brown rising in hole just above my car and decide to fish for it. Both Blue Quills and Quill Gordons coming off now. Work through several flies and miss the fish on a Blue Quill and Guide’s Choice Hares Ear before getting it on my Blue Quill nymph variation of a Pheasant Tail Nymph in #18. Quit counting time at 1450 when I started fishing for the brown trout.
* Done

March 20, 201 In Field @1310 **1 HOUR**

* Sparrow chirps once or twice and flies from thicket to favorite tree right as I sit down.
* Bird singing to the SW when I arrive. I think it is a cardinal.
* Blue Jays talking. Crows talking. Lots off in the distance…
* @1316 Red-bellied WP (I think) sounds to my N
* @1317 Cardinal or whatever now singing again a little farther SW. Overall very quiet in my immediate vicinity.
* @1347 Pileated WP hollers just to my W then flies by just to my N. Still very quiet in my immediate area. Various birds are talking/singing off in the distance though and I wish I knew my birds better to identify what kind of birds are singing.
* @1353 Pileated calls to my S. Clouds thinning and sun getting really warm/hot. Fairly calm day with just a light breeze.
* Not sure if I am bothering the birds or if they just aren’t really active in my immediate area.
* @1358 Something singing to my S and I have no idea what it is.
* @1359 Still nothing from my sparrow friends. Must be warm enough out that they can just chill and wait for me to leave.
* @1403 Bird singing closer to my S now.
* @1405 Notice a couple lower notes after the song sometime
* @1496 2 or more new birds singing nearby
* @1410 Done

March 20, 2017 In Field at @1630 **1 HOUR**

* As I walked into the field, the sparrows were feeding in the ruts from the 4-wheeler. They hopped further away and then briefly spooked into the weeds. However by @1635 they were back out feeding on the ground down near their favorite cedar tree. Very warm and still out.
* @1638 Pileated calls to my SSE. Crows much further away in the same direction.
* @1640 Another sparrow flies into the favorite tree and I hear a 4th I think there are a total of 4 around now but not certain.
* @1645 Pileated calls again. Flock of juncos has joined the sparrows in foraging.
* @1648 Several titmice move through foraging. Bluebird also out foraging. Eating a big worm or caterpillar type thing…
* @1649 One sparrow returns to forage closer to where I first saw them and closer to me.
* @1653 Spot bird that resembles a Goldfinch in winter plumage but with a distinct small yellow or white ring around the eye. After much searching, I think it is a Yellow-throated Vireo, a white-eyed vireo, or a Pine Warbler. I want another look at it now but no luck.
* @1702 Large Pileated flies over W to E.
* @1708 At least 2 Pileated WPs have been flying around a calling, etc.
* @1709 My sparrow friends are back out hopping around and feeding
* @1710 One sparrow hops up in the tree to my S and the other goes back to their thicket. The one in the tree flies into the woods E (nearly behind me). Shortly after (@1714) the other one follows into the woods. They are foraging around climbs of daffodils at the old home site.
* @1716 One sparrows gives their alarm chirp and quickly jumps 20’ up in a tree to look around. I must have missed something because I’m not sure why.
* @1721 Lots of birds back in the woods foraging at all levels so not sure if the sparrow was just a little jumpy or what. Big Pileated WP back there foraging on or near the ground.
* @1725 Quick walk around the field to check out birds. Not much to see.
* @1730 Done

March 21, 2017 In field @1044 **1 HOUR**

* @1054 I have spent the last approximately 10 minutes trying to walk slowly and locate some of the birds singing so I can figure out what they are. I saw a nuthatch or two and had what I think was a chipmunk alarm for me, but otherwise unsuccessful.
* No obvious sign of my sparrows yet. They might have been foraging in the woods around the old home site when I first arrived but not sure.
* @1059 Titmouse or two scolding off to my N. So many birds singing all around. I wish I knew what they are.
* @1100 A bird has flown by to the W. Stopping to sing as it went every little ways.
* @1101 Something scolding or chattering not far to my S.
* @1106 Scolding/chattering progressing farther back into the woods it sounds like.
* @1108 Still hear the talking/chattering to my S. Singing off to the WSW. So bright I should have brought sunglasses. Very warm. Sunny with light winds and a few clouds.
* @1110 Bird I interrupted when I tried to find it now singing again to my W.
* @1118 Been trying to figure out what bird is singing W of me. Thinking of going looking again.
* @1121 Was able to get within 100’ of it and observed a beautiful male cardinal singing. I suspected it was a cardinal but could never see it. The song is a little different from any of the ones on my Audubon App which was throwing me off.
* @1123 Hear what sounds a lot like the sparrows warning chirps off to my N. Quiets down quickly though.
* @1124 Cardinal still singing away. I think it must be its selected territory. One (probably the same) was singing there yesterday also.
* @1125 Small cumulus clouds starting to form. Definite cooler breeze out of the N.
* @1129 Cardinal finally quiets down. Big bumblebee flies by. Lots of bugs out today.
* @1130 Feel allergies kicking in.
* @1131 Cardinal stats singing 100-150 yards N of where it had been singing. Wondering if it is singing at both ends of its territory perhaps. Hear another well off to the SSW.
* @1133 Cardinal now making agitated sounds to the WNW. Fairly rapid chirps or tweets.
* @1135 Winds back to light and variable but tending out of the S. Cardinal now calling even farther to the NW or W of last location.
* @1140 Cardinal now quiet. Several WPs talking to the NW.
* @1147 Done

To identify birds, per discussion with Dr. Swafford

* Look @ beak
* Look @ the wing (bar or not, color)
* Look at the tail (notched/straight, etc)

March 22, 2017 @1030 In Field **1 HOUR**

* @1031 Sparrows feeding around my sit spot dive into thicket at my approach. 2 Pairs this time.
* Brown reddish bill. Clean chest. Brown strip on top of head. Identify second pair as Field Sparrows.
* The dive into the thicket is mixed with lots of warning chirps.
* @1037 Still chip chipping. Birds hop up to look at me from time to time. Cool day today. Sunny with scattered high cirrus NW to NE winds temps in the 40s
* @1043 Song sparrow comes out to his favorite perch on tallest blackberry above thicket
* @1050 One of each sparrow flies to old home site behind me. Others soon follow.
* @1052 Two bluebirds fly from my ESE to my W or WNW talking. Start foraging in the field. One goes into the southernmost holly bush.
* In my Journal is a diagram I drew of the field where I have my sit spot
* @1055 Sparrow on ground just to my S chirps several times then flies to the holly bush and starts fussing and chirping.
* @1057 Another sparrow flies to tree just above holly busy. Has distinct yellow patch right above tail on body.
* @1101 Bird starts singing behind me. I’m able to locate it. Identify a Carolina Wren.
* After searching Google, the bird @1057 must have been a Yellow-Rumped Warbler. It stopped by the holly busy to check for berries then kept going.
* @1113 Field sparrow pops out of cedar and works from SSW to SSE into edge of woods. @1122 No sign of my cardinal friend today but good to see the bluebirds and warbler
* @1125 Getting quieter in general
* @1130

March 22, 2016 @1340 In Field **1 HOUR**

* A bluebird was singing in the upper (N) end of field as I approached. When I came into view, it hopped up 20’ or so in its tree and watched me. Disappeared when I looked away.
* Sparrows around. Chirped when I first sat down and a couple flew a few yards to the N and disappeared
* @1352 Going hunting the chipmunk
* @1406 Did not find chipmunk but did find my cardinals and a brown thrasher. After sitting back down, the male cardinal flew to the favorite cedar, then over to the brush pile and commenced singing.
* @1415 Keep hearing bluebirds talking/singing way off to my S. Overall very quiet compared to earlier today.
* @1418 Bird flies into small trees to my W. Flicks tail a lot. Quickly flies on to my S. When I get binoculars on it I recognize the Eastern Phoebe. It is flying up and catching bugs then back to the tree.
* @1427 Nuthatch talking incessantly off to my N or NNE
* @1432 Been hearing high pitched sound for a few minutes when finally a pair of titmice come by along edge of woods from S to E of me then on NE. Must be companion calls because they were talking almost nonstop to each other.
* @1435 Hear a car to my N on our road. Nuthatch still chattering some. Now one of to my E.
* @1440 Done

March 23, 2017 In Field @1115 **1 HOUR**

* When I walked out the door, a bird was singing a beautiful song so I stopped to locate it. Bright rosy colored head and upper chest. Short stubby thick bill. House Finch.
* @1124 Cardinal singing back in the woods behind me to the E
* @1125 One of the sparrows chirped softly as it flew along the edge of the woods from SSE to E of me.
* @1127 One of the field sparrows jumps up on a blackberry bramble to my SW and starts chirping away
* @1128 Finishes with a song, then flies 100-150’ down (SE) into the weeds where it keeps chirping and singing
* @1129 Bluebird foraging at forest edge to my S just out from where I heard the chipmunk the other day
* @1131 Sparrow has moved W based on its song to the far S end of the field. Continues to sing.
* @1135 pretty quiet now
* @1140 Not much going on
* @1144 Small bird flies from W or SW to my S and up 40’ in a tree. Here an answering call back to the west that sounds like a nuthatch
* @1149 Pileated sounds way to my W.
* @1150 Going to check on my chipmunk
* @1155 No sign of chipmunk but I did see a small butterfly. Beautiful periwinkle colored wings displayed in flight, but only shows dull gray when it lands and has wings up showing undersides.
* Not sure what all the birds are doing, but it is really quiet out today. Occasional sounds well off in the distance.
* @1158 Pileated calling to my W not too far. In woods on other side of the clearing.
* @1159 Thought I heard bluebird to my NW. Quiet last 15 minutes in my immediate vicinity.
* @1215 Done

March 23, 2016 @1315 On Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* Tons of birds active around the house. Robins foraging across the front yard. House Finch male singing away to the S. He soon switches to the area where I saw him this morning in trees near the NW corner of the house.
* Red-headed WP moving all around in woods to the NW. Always returning to its favorite stub.
* @1325 Juncos talking softly and foraging
* @1328 BIG Pileated WP flies by and lands on tree near the Red-headed WPs tree. The Red-headed WP starts going crazy. Robins all froze when Pileated 1st swooped over just above.
* @1330 Chickadee hopping around talking in woods to my S.
* @1333 Redheaded WP still agitated. No sign of Pileated now. Titmouse flies by to the S and lands SW.
* @1335 Mailman comes down the driveway and most birds scatter or get really quiet
* @1339 WP still muttering/fussing
* @1349 Figure out a call I have been wondering about is a titmouse. Birds are becoming more active in the front yard again.
* @1353 House Finch starts singing again. Female comes to land on top of landscaping evergreen at SW porch corner. Looks at me then flies away.
* @1359 Blue Jay squawks to my SW. House Finch pair flies by S to N.
* @1400 Male House Finch resumes singing
* @1415 Done

March 23, 201 @1710 Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* Various WP and other birds calling
* Quiclky went around back and added food to the feeder/board.
* @1718 Light sprinkles. No rain forecast but it is definitely raining.
* @1721 Something singing that I have not learned yet
* Appears the flock of robins that was around most of the day has finally moved on.
* @1724 Still very light sprinkles
* @1725 Chickadee chattering somewhere to my S or around behind the house to the E
* @1727 Rain picks up just a little. Chickadee still talking but less.
* @1739 It has gotten quiet with the light rain, but the sun is wanting to peak out to the W and might indicate the rain is going to be short lived.
* @1740 Red-bellied WP calls to my NW. Not much going on. Notice that the spring beauties have mostly closed up for the night already.
* @1741 Neighbor’s guineas squawking up the road.
* @1742 Red-headed Wp flying around its favorite area chattering
* @1745 Unidentified song bird singing to my S. Cannot find it through my bincoculars. It moves off to the S before I can move closer. Overal increase in bird sounds now. Rain pretty much done.
* @1746 Crow off to the W talking
* @1748 Hair WP squawking to my S and dancing around the side of a big tree up high almost sounded like a robin squawking
* @1601 Sun peaks out through the clouds
* @1605 Robins talking off to the N.
* @1610 Neighbor’s dog barking like crazy
* @1613 Cardinal or something chipping to the N
* @1614 Robins talking to the W or NW. one flies in at treetop level W to E.
* @1615 Dog still barking…DONE.

March 24, 2017 @1755 Picnic Table at Inez Wren School facing N across ball field **30 min**

* Something singing like crazy to my SE
* @1800 Crow caws to my WSW. Spot 2 in top of tall tree
* @1802 Robin talking to the SE
* @1803 Keep thinking I hear a cardinal talking to the SW at the back corner of the building. My binoculars help me pick out a beautiful male in the big holly bush back there. To me it sounds like his warning chirps. Maybe doesn’t like me here?
* @1806 Starling or something circles up high to my SE making an interesting noise. Have a couple songsters now to my E and SE.
* @1807 Robin talking to the SE again.
* @1810 Hear a sound to my E that sounds like a squirrel or mouse chewing but cannot find the culprit.
* @1814 Something big moves in the woods to my W. Have seen deer and coyotes here so could be one of those. Pileated WP calling repeatedly to my SE
* @1817 Bird still signing to my E. Really wish I knew the song. Varied enough I’m suspicious of a mockingbird.
* @1820 Pileated calling more to the ESE now
* @1821 car approaches. Did not seem to mess up baseline too much except robin squawks to my E. Song birds still singing away.
* @1825 Done

March 26, 2017 Front Porch @1045 **1 HOUR**

* Light rain falling right now. Surprisingly the birds are fairly active.
* @1050 ~~Robin~~ or ~~cardinal~~ squawking off to the SSE around the corner of the house. It flies closer and realize it is a Hairy WP. Had me fooled.
* @1052 Wind picks up and rain gets heavier. Now moderate intensity.
* @1054 Redheaded WP to the NW starts chattering. Blue Jays screaming to the N. Nuthatch SW and Chickadee NW talking.
* @1055 Rain eases a little. Now light rain again.
* @1056 Titmouse foraging at forest edge to my NW
* @1058 Rain picks up again. Birds quitter or maybe I just can’t hear them over the rain.
* @1100 Jays going nuts to the N. Rain eases
* @1105 Hairy WP talking again to my S.
* @1107 Rain picks up again.
* @1113 Rain almost stops. Titmouse talking to the NW. not far away but still cannot see it.
* @1116 Nuthatch lands in front yard 30’ from me, then flies S across the driveway. Starts slowly working tis way into the woods further S. Stops to shake water off every now and again.
* @1123 Some small bird sound from my SW I cannot identify
* @1129 Rain nearly done. Probably most drops now coming off the trees. Birds singing all around. So far not close enough to identify.
* @1138 Light rain starting back up and getting quieter again although still some sounds in the distance
* @1140 A nuthatch calls briefly somewhere overhead. It seems birds are staying up high in the trees today.
* @1142 Rain eases just a little but still sprinkling.
* @1145 Done

March 28, 2017 @17015 In Field **I HOUR**

* @1705 On my walk up, I heard a bird and saw it high in a tree and learned a new chickadee sound that way.
* @1715 So many sounds around me. I can definitely hear chickadees and titmice.
* @1717 A titmouse or chickadee is scolding to my NW. I assume these are all part of a large mixed winter flock still but maybe they will all be here for the summer
* @1718 I turn around and a “wild” cat is 100+ feet to my N in the 4 wheeler trail. It is frozen completely and watching me. Maybe why birds were scolding.
* @1720. Cardinal starts singing to my N
* @1721 Cat runs off to the N and bird starts scolding in the woods/thicket there. Sounds like a Carolina Wren
* @1724 Birds scolding a little closer but still to the N. Wonder if the cast turned around and is sneaking through the woods towards me. So many sounds today. Need a better way to learn all my local bird sounds.
* @1732 Something starts chirping to my SW like it is disturbed. Almost sounds like my sparrows but not exactly unless it is slightly different warning call. By @1734 the sounds have moved further off.
* @1737 Titmouse (or wren?) scolding loudly to the NNW across the field/clearing in woods in that direction
* @1744 It just got really quiet compared to how much noise was here earlier.
* @1750 Dove starting to coo/”mourn”. Pileated WP talking way off to my N.
* @1752 Some WP starts calling to my NW not far away. Chickadees and some other birds burst into noise around large brush pile to my SW at bottom end of field. After a while I wander down that way but birds are gone before I get close enough to see anything with binoculars.
* @1801 A nuthatch is calling to my W
* @1805 Done

April 2, 2017 @1110 In Field **1 HOUR**

* As I approached the entrance to the field, a Pileated WP was calling and apparently foraging. It flew off as I approached. A chickadee was calling and moving around in the pines near the entrance as well. A nuthatch was calling across the clearing.
* @1121 Last 10 minutes I walked a little N of my sit spot to try and identify a bird that was calling. I can hear these birds are calling all over. While I was over there, I heard a turkey gobble (or a hunter…?) off to the SE.
* @1129 Another gobble and another and another. So many birds singing all around me but cannot locate any of them to identify them
* @1133 Finally figure out one of the birds is a titmouse
* @1135 A small plane flies almost directly overhead and fairly low. Headed WNW.
* @1137 Birds singing again 2-3 syllables (Rooster also crowing to my NNW)**.** Trees starting to leaf out barely. Blackberries also leafing out.
* @1144 Titmouse scolds behind me
* @1146 Gets really quiet in my immediate area. Pileated calls off to the N and a jet is flying over in the same direction. Tree above me dropping sap occasionally. Almost every strange all I have heard today has only a Tufted Titmouse in its vinicty today.
* @1149 A small black butterfly flies past.
* The calls I kept wondering about seem to be from titmice. There were several all off through the woods and they seemed to be maintaining communication with each other.
* @1151 A cardinal calls somewhere off to my W. Another small plane (or same one?) flies by off to the N. Hear a jet somewhere overhead to the N.
* Super bright and calm day with only one small patch of cirrus to the N.
* @1153 I hear grasshoppers making their sounds in the grass and weeds.
* @1154 Grasshopper flies right past me and lands 5-6 feet away.
* @1156 Something singing way back behind me (ENE) but otherwise quiet except for the grasshoppers, flies, and bees.
* @1157 Jay screams off to the E
* @1159 More sounds around. WP drumming to my SE. Birds singing both E and W of me. Still nothing very close.
* @1201 Hear a nuthatch to the NE. Still nothing very close
* @1203 Off to find bird that is singing behind me near the house.
* @1210 Did not locate bird It got quiet when I got too close and I never saw it.
* @1211 Done

April 2, 2017 @1245 Front Porch **30 min**

* Learning more titmouse sounds
* @1249 a titmouse out in the yard beyond the driveway at edge of the weeds is making a super high pitched sound and shaking /trembling/fluttering almost like a baby. Finally stops and starts “normal” calls again.
* @1254 Pileated WP flies over, coming form the W and then turning NE in front of the house
* @1258 A titmouse is making some tiny sounds nearby
* @1259 Titmouse jumps up on porch within 5-6’ of me. It stops and sings the song’call I have been hearing all day. Then it jumps to the chain for the porch swing, then flies up to see if there is anything to eat in an old wasp nest in the corner of the roof. Next it flies back to the chain before flying to a nearby tree to the NE. There it makes a swipe at a bug flying by but misses. It starts singing again before hopping up out of sight around @1303.
* @1311 I see the redheaded Wp W loop around in his patch of woods to the NW
* @1313 Titmice calling off through the woods. I hear a nuthatch call once closer to me but don’t see it.
* @1315 Done

April 2, 2017 Daddy’s Creek @1630 Dense Hemlock thicket along river. Lots of birds.**1 HR**

* Stirred up a bunch of birds moving into the sit spot including chickadees
* @1636 One small bird with a distinct yellow head and black belt/band around its throat. White barring on wings. Long slender bird but small (5-6” long)
* @1643 Gray and white bird. White ring around eye. White barring on wings. Tail 3 prongs. Eating a pine seed or something. Maybe some faintyellow under the leading edge of its wings? Blue-headed vireo?
* @1655 A kingfisher calls from upstream S somewhere. Things have quieted down been looking through the Audobon App and my Bird field guide
* @1658 White stripe on top of head alternating white and black stripes or bars on sides (streaks?). Found Black and White Warbler.
* @1710 First one probably a black throated green warbler male in breeding colors
* @1716 Chickadee continues flitting around in nearby trees. Sit spot near riffle in the stream where bugs are likely hatching if any of the birds eat bugs.
* @1723 King fisher flies over coming from the east and headed west at right angles to the stream
* Very quiet/calm. Birds were alarming as we moved into sit spot. Calmed down after about 15 minutes. Now only occasional sounds from there.
* @1726 Chickadee and an unidentified bird chirping.
* @1730 Done

April 3, 2016 @1305 Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* @1307 Titmouse scolding like crazy by NW corner of house or thereabouts. Chickadee talking a lot as well. Cat is near me so not sure what the problem is.
* @1309 Titmouse mostly quiet. Chickadee working its way through the trees to my W calling repeatedly. Flying/moving from N to S. Nuthatch also calling.
* @1312 Dog barking up the road. Redheaded WP just started chattering briefly in trees near its usual spot.
* @1313 Wren starts scolding and talking somewhere to the S or Se. If I had to guess I would say around the lean to. Something is making VERY high-pitched alarm or other type calls.
* @1316 Dog barking again
* @1317 Cat ventures down the stairs and around the corner of the house to the S
* @1319 hear some chirps that sound a lot like a sparrow NW. Jay calling to the NW. Another bird (probably titmouse) calling to my W. Nuthatch talking a lot to my WSW
* @1323 Getting really quiet overall especially close by. Vultures circling to the W.
* @1324 vultures pass overhead trending east.
* @1325 Cat back and sitting on his favorite char. Wind picks up suddenly
* @1328 Nuthatch still talking some to the SW
* @1334 Wind has almed ab it. Nuthatch still talking away.
* @1336 Chickadee to my S moving around, up , and down through trees and talking
* @1345 Getting lighter out (clouds thinning). Birds getting more active again. A pair of titmice work in close through the woods and then head around back in the direction of the feeder
* @1348 3 titmice back briefly chattering away, then return towards the feeder
* @1351 Birds chattering and a titmouse is scolding to my S
* @1359 Something new/different singing to my SSW
* @1304 Pileated calls to the S
* @1305 Done

April 3, 2017 In Field about 25-30’ SSE of usual spot **1 HOUR**

* Quite as I approached. Clouds just giving way to sunny skies as the cloud debris from this morning’s rain is finally clearing and heating is commencing.
* @1545 Situated in my sit spot
* @1547 WP makes a brief noise or 2 behind me to the NE
* @1549 Nuthatch calls to the N
* @1552 Something making tiny high pitched noises to my N
* @1553 I recognize 2 or 3 titmice calls echoing back and firth from NW to E. It is the strange call I could not figure out the other day for the longest time.
* Breezy out today. Fairly strong low level flow out of the south as indicated by scattered cumulus racing N.
* @1557 Sun getting too bright so turning around to the N or NE
* @1602 I hear a nuthatch scold to the W, then a pair of them come into view. Soon one flies over to my E and the other follows. Then I hear another chipping off to the W. The 1st two move further into the woods to my E and commence really fussing
* @1610 Titmouse scolding off to my N around old home site before moving further off
* @1612 Pileated WP flies E to W about 100 yards off to my Nat tree top level. Never made a sound.
* @1613 Pileated flies back again W to E and just a little S of previous line. Calls loudly from woods to my NNE
* @1618 Really has gotten quiet. Wondering about my sparrow and bluebird friends since I have not seen them lately
* @1619 Vulture circling off to the N, then NE, then E. Trending S or SE.
* @1621 Bird (assumedly bluebird) flies quietly and directly to the hole in the branch they had and quickly enters
* @1623 Nuthatch calling in tree tops just to my NE then E. Bird comes out of the just mentioned hole and quickly flies to the tree above me 30’-40’ off ground. It is a female bluebird. I quickly find the male nearby in a tree just to the NE.
* @1625 Both bluebirds still in their respective places quietly watching/observing me
* @1627 I notice the female bluebird has disappeared but male still at his post. Surprisingly quiet knowing how he likes to sing. Would bet they definitely have a hole with a nest there
* @1631 The male flies over and flutters around with the female. Maybe they are in the egg-laying stage. Then they fly off, male first then the female, into woods to the E
* @1632 Nuthatch calling again to my E
* @1634 Red-bellied WP flies to tree about 100’ to my E and scares up the nuthatch in the process.
* @1634 Nuthatch flitting around tree branches not wanting to go far. Wondering if it is a nesting tree for it. Appears to be several holes in the tree.
* @1638 WP flies off back towards the N. Still no more from the bluebirds.
* @1640 I think I hear the bluebirds off to the N but don’t see them
* Done

April 4, 2017 @1055 In Field **1 HOUR**

* Partly Cloudly and fairly warm today
* Lots going on when I entered the field
* @1100 A field sparrow chirps behind me SE and flies N towards the old home site, working its way along slowly through the underbrush.
* @1102 Chirping from holly bush. Quickly locate a female cardinal. I think she might be eating the berries but not certain
* @1105 I recognize a titmouse calling back in the woods off to the S or Se. Female cardinal still chirping.
* @1107 The female cardinal hops up on a branch to the NE side of the bush, then flies NE to the pines at the top end of the field
* @1108 Getting more quiet. Returning to baseline.
* @1110 Ttimouse scolds suddenly behind me E
* @1113 Another scolding session ENE. Both times, the titmouse was moving around in low brush 1-5’ off the ground
* @1115 I hear a tree frog off to my S. Big yellow and black butterfly flies by to my S
* @1117 Now a titmouse scolding behind me and also somewhere to the S
* @1118 Frog still making some noise and titmouse to the S still scolding.
* @1121 Quiet. Some grasshoppers flying around. Several small black butterflies flying around near me. Faint sound of scolding still off to my S
* @1126 cardinal starts singing somewhere off to my E
* @1132 Sparrow returns to field to my NW
* @1134 Male cardinal shows up 25’ up in a tree to my W. He is chirping kind of like he is looking for his mate. He flies on off to my N where the female disappeared to a while back
* @1138 Cardinal still chirping to the N
* @1139 Thought I heard a bluebird to my NNE but don’t see any yet
* @1140 Winds pick up and frog talking some again
* @1142 Several birds calling to my SW including nuthatch and chickadee
* @1143 Cardinal singing now to the N. Calls to my SW seem to be centered around large brush pile. Chickadee and titmouse now seem to be the most vocal that way although a nuthatch still joins in at least a little
* @1146 Titmouse now move to the S calling insistently
* @1149 Cardinal really singing now. Neighbors guineas really talking
* @1155 Done

April 4, 2017 @1505 Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* Overall quiet out with only some minor small bird sounds to the N and NW. Bright sunny with far fewer clouds than earlier sitting in the field
* Nuthatch calling somewhere to the WSW around @1509
* Nuthatch moves in closer just to my SW and well up in a tree. @1510 I hear it move on. Cannot tell if it is further out in the woods or around near the feeder behind the house
* @1513 I notice lots of bumblebees around the redbud out in the yard, apparently enjoying the flowers and hopefully pollinating. Little black butterflies also
* @1515 WP squawks a little to the S. I hear a bird singing I want to find so going looking. Quit singing so I quit looking @1518
* @1520 Notice chickadee moving in the very top of a tall tree in the woods to my WNW
* @1532 Redheaded WP flies N from its preferred spot
* @1606 Been going through all the birds of TN on my App and still cannot figure out the bird that called earlier. My best guess is a cardinal with a significant song variation. Extremely musical sound and best thing I can related it to was if someone was sliding a trombone slid up and down super fast
* Done

April 4, 2017 @1700 S Corner of Field Facing NNE **1 HOUR**

* A few small birds around when I approached. Finally got situated after a slow walk in by @1712
* @1714 The male cardinal started singing from back towards my usual sit spot.
* @1718 A small wren pops out of the large brush pile to my left (W). Something larger rustling back behind. Size-wise it sounds like a squirrel. Appear to be at or near baseline. Tree frog or something similar talking (several fo them) to the W primarily (SW, W, NW).
* @1720 Cardinal has calmed down, neighbor’s guineas start up a racket
* @1724 Wren bouncing around in the brush behind me again. Getting more brave.
* Bird I heard on porch earlier singing off to the W. Still no idea what it is . Need some good recordings or need it to come closer
* @1733 Titmouse goes crazy back near my usual sit spot. Starts working back farther E into the woods still scolding like crazy.
* @1740 A big pileated WP flies from the E near my usual sit spot and disappears in the woods to my NW. Starts hollering soon after. Titmouse scolding again to my E back in woods along property line.
* @1741 Jet flying over to my NE headed NW.
* @1742 I sneezed really loud and it got quiet. One or two small birds to my E still making tiny squeak like noises
* When I firs sat down I noticed a god mint smell. Just now glanced around and picked a few leaves to chew. Delicious!
* @1750 Frogs near my usual spot are getting warmed up
* @1755 Start back towards home slowly
* @1805 Done

April 5, 2017 Two incidents **30 minutes**

* @0745 when I came out to head to school to teach Algebra I, one of the mystery sounds from yesterday was to the N. I was a little early so took 10 minutes to find….a cardinal. (10 minutes)
* Later, I was changing oil in my car around @1100 when another sound started to my S followed uickly by others. Soon the area near the learn-to by the shed had a full blown alarm going. A cardinal came in up high and started singing another of the songs I’ve been wondering about. Never did figure out about the alarm (20 minutes)

April 5, 2017 @1310 Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* @1314 Cardinal singing to the NW. Titmouse piping to the W and WSW. Nuthatch or two talking to the SW and W. Chickadee talking to my SSW.
* @1321 Titmouse (2-3) calling with the high pitched call
* @1322 cardinal singing again
* @1329 Went looking for the closest titmouse with the piping call. It got quiet before I could locate it when I got too close but soon followed with the classic Peter Peter calls. Starting to think those are a form of an alarm.
* @1333 Basline. Just a few random bids talking here and there
* @1335 WP talking SW
* @1339 Clouds thickening just a little. Small airplane flying over
* @1349 Still pretty calm. Some random birds talking here and there but overall not much to report
* @1355 Jay talking somewhere behind the house. Cardinal singing way off to the S. Hear a super high pitched sound almost like the hawk alarm for robins then it goes quiet.
* @1356 WP hollers to my S
* @1400 Quiet locally except for WP still chattering a little. Cardinal way off singing and titmouse back to the piping call.
* @1406 Titmouse souds closer to the SW with a little fuss. Chickadees talking a lot to the N and NE behind the house
* @1410 DONE

April 6, 2017 Floated the Caney Fork. River Observations (not a work trip). **7 HOURS**

* Counting 5 hours floating and 2 hours of river observation after. Notes completed after b/c of rain all day.
* Windy, cold (40s) and rainy. River running a little over 8000 CFS. Some shad coming through the dam. Fish busting, mostly from the wooden steps downstream. Cardinals singing everywhere up and down the river. 1st time this year I have seen lots of swallows feeding right on the water’s surface. Good midge hatch so that is probably what they are eating. Around 3 PM, starting river observation by watching some crows chasing a bald eagle. Spot tons of fish moving up the W bank in the bottom end of the upper Lancaster Hole. They look like carp so I assume they are buffalo on their spawning run.

April 7, 2017 @1320 In Field **1 Hour 10 minutes**

* Did not seem to upset baseline as I entered my sit spot
* I have shifted my sit spot a bit further S about 30’ from the usual so the bluebirds feel safe in their nesting hole if such it is.
* Very quiet, temperatures in the low 50s but the sun is warm
* @1328 I hear one “chip” out of a sparrow but not even sure where it was coming from. Grasshoppers buzzing around.
* @1331 Ttimouse making its piping sound to my W. Robin making its chip chip noise (or sparrow).
* @1332 I hear a chipmunk shriek a very short warning in the same area I heard one before and then go silent (S). Immediately 2 hawks (I think w Coopers Hawks) come flying out of the woods form my S and then turn W. One makes the “kik” call as they come out of the woods. Super cool!
* @1333 A titmouse or wren starts scolding a little to my S
* @1337 Cardinal singing to my NW way off. Nuthatch also calling
* @1341 Titmouse I think whistling and piping to my WNW. Another stars up a little lwer. Nuthatch calling off to the S.
* @1352 Chickadee to my S
* @1353 Titmouse with a classic Peter Peter to my SW. Still no bluebirds and no sparrows close enough to confirm
* @1400 Going looking for the chipmumk and little birds behind and S of me. Not much to stir up.
* @1417 Vulture flies over. Very quiet overall now. Only an occasional titmouse or nuthatch.
* @1424 Owl calls off to the W far away but sounds like a Barred Owl. Hear a Pileated in the same direction
* @1428 Walking back to the house I heard a really strange sound. Sounded a lot like black birds of some type. I saw the birds and quickly identified 4 brown-headed cow birds sitting up high in a tree in the woods. @1430 Done

April 9, 2017 @1755 In Field **1.5 HOURS**

* @1756 As I was walking to my sit spot, a Pileated WP called off to the N. Then, right before I entered the field it flew WSW to somewhere on the W side of the field and called again around @1750. I investigated @1802 around in the field and found wild pig tracks on the game trail just S of my sit spot. One of them was from a LARGE hog. Other tracks could be deer or smaller hogs. Hard to tell. Probably some of both.
* @1810 A titmouse started the piping call to my N. Another answered to the NW. Still not sure about the significance of that call.
* @1813 WP flies over but not certain what kind. Maybe a Hairy
* @1822 A tree frog starts up to my N. Overall Quiet
* @1830 Jet flies over at high altitude from E to W
* @1833 I hear a dove fly and look up to see it fly out of the N end of the field heading E
* @1839 Crows calling to my S. Getting close to sundown
* @1840 WP calls to my NW
* @1843 Move back into the woods a little to gain a different perspective. Notice some rooting from the hogs
* @1846 Going for a quick walk to see what I can rouse up
* @1905 Found a Downy WP nesting spot probably. It popped out of a hole in a small dead tree and nervously scampered higher. It scooted higher and then jumped a few feet to another tree nearby, clearly not wanting to leave/abandon the spot, but not really wanting to stay too close to me either.
* @1915 As I reentered the field, a cardinal was singing happily near on o fthe holly bushes that it favors in the middle of the field. As I got closer (headed N on the W side of the field), it sang until I was due W of it and then it went to the cardinal warning chirps @1918.
* @1920 Done

April 10, 2017 @1110 In Field **1 HOUR**

* As I approached, I noticed a lot more sounds than usual. Singing, little chirps, chips, etc
* @1116 Sitting now and something is singing across from me to the W. Not sure what. Little gray bird flying around in trees to my WNW about 20’ up before flying on.
* @1123 A Blue Jay flies in to the small clump of 3 cedars to the southernmost one. Lands almost on the ground. Something is making some strange sounds almost like coos or low chirps. Not sure if it is the jay.
* @1124 Titmouse scolds a little S or SW of where the jay is. Jay flies on to the S after snooping around.
* @1128 A new call. Then several titmice start up with their usual calls (slurred Peter Peter). At least 304 separate ones probably more. One way to my NNE. 304 from SW to W in the far woods line.
* @1131 Gray bird flying around appearing to catch bugs. White eye or ring around it. Dark tail with a white tip. White and black or dark gray bars on wings when folded. Almost a blue hue like a female bluebird but not quite. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher…
* @1133 Cardinal singing behind me to the E
* @1137 Stil lots of sound from titmice. Mostly from the N or NE now. Tons of bugs, butterflies, grasshoppers, etc around
* @1206 Chased this little bird all over. Could not figure out what it was but in the process stirred up the pair of gnat catchers and learned their calls a little beter. Maybe what I heard was their song?
* @1212 Done

April 10, 2017 @1218 Front porch **1 HOUR**

* @1218 A titmouse flies through front yard from N to S.
* @1220 Some small bird really chattering to the S. No idea what it is. Last time birds were chattering down there it was the cat but not sure what the problem is today.
* @1221 Something making a really tiny high pitched sound that way. Redheaded WP makes a little noise NW.
* @1223 Something starts singing to my W. Not sure if cardinal or what
* @1224 Still high pitched sounds. Almost enough to make me sick
* @1228 Titmouse mutters a little to my NW, hopping around 3-5’ above ground level in small trees
* @1233 The singing bird from @1223 has moved a little and is now WNW or NW. I had a brain wave and thought it might be the Carolina Wren and sure enough. Started to think it was Not a cardinal because it was moving around too much.
* @1237 Pileated WP floats across the front yard going S and lands on dead stub just behind the woodpile. Works its way up the stub, taps on a small branch, moves farther up and taps the main trunk.
* @1241 The Pileated flies off to the E after tapping another time. Dogwood close to blooming
* @1255 been quiet except for random singing off in the distance and grasshoppers.
* @1301 Titmouse NW making the piping call. Moving around some.
* @1302 Nuthatch talking to my SW. Titmouse switches to variation on Peter Peter
* @1304 Titmouse to my S starts scolding in front of the shed
* @1305 Carolina Wren making trilling calls. Titmouse sings Peter Peter to the NW. Wren starts scolding some.
* @1309 Cardinal singing a little to my W
* @1314 Bird Titmouse singing to the W
* @1317 WP drumming S. Something (Wren? Titmouse?) scolding to the S around behind the shed
* Cardinal singing again to my W. A little S of its last spot
* @1318 DONE

April 11, 2017 Stream and Bird Observations in Smokies on Middle Prong of LR upstream of Tremont @0820 **4 HOURS**

* Arrived on the water before the sun hit. A few random bugs coming off including Little Black Stoneflies (#14-#16), various caddis (Little Black #18 and Tan #14-#16). Saw an occasional mayfly and Little Yellow Stonefly. Fish sitting deep in the current and only an occasional rise, mostly in calm back eddies. Lots of birds singing. Saw one with a long slender body and long bill. Looked grayish but couldn’t’ get a good look to be certain @1015. Fish primarily ate a bead head caddis pupa or a bead head soft hackle Hares Ear Nymph.
* Wild Iris blooming. Still a few red buds. Dogwoods blooming well just upstream of the one lane bridge over the stream but not as much at the end of the road. Done @1215.

April 12, 2017 Front Porch @1825 **1 HOUR**

* @1830 Bird was singing around back I have wanted to positively identify. Grabbed binoculars and went to take a look
* @1839 Jay screaming to my N. Chickadees chattering a little same direction but in closer.
* @1844 Jay now calling from SW. Bird singing again around back so going to look again.
* @1903 Too many people moving around the house. It kept the bird too worked up. It would move around a lot.
* Interesting interaction with the chickadees. Dad put out seed and I was standing within 10-15’ of the bird board. Chickadees had very clear companion calls. One would fly in, then call. One back in the woods would answer. Then the one in the woods would fly closer. Then the 1st would fly down and grab food and fly quickly away to a nearby tree. Then they would talk again. They would fly to about 20’ off the ground in a tree and look me over, then fly down for some food.
* @1907 Cardinal singing WNW
* @1710 Done
* This morning I watched birds waiting on a client from 0800-0820. Was at the Holiday Inn Express in Farragut. Mocking bird was singing in a tree to my S when all of a sudden it flew N across the parking lot to the side of the building and grabbed a big (huge!) bug off the wall somewhere around 20’ up. Had a tree to my SW full of birds. A robin was chilling there and a Blue Jay kept flying back and forth from somewhere W of the building. I was SE corner. To the tree S of the middle of the building. Cardinal was singing in tree off to my S

April 13, 2017 Caney Fork Back Eddy on W side of the river during lunch **1 HOUR**

* Anchored boat there for lunch. When we arrived, a male cardinal was singing on the bank above us. He soon started “chirping” nervously. He flitted along and then moved down the bank to the base of a big tree at the water’s edge to our N. He got a drink. Then a female cardinal started fussing at us. Both cardinals chirped and fussed and I finally concluded that maybe they had a nest. At minimum it was their home space and they didn’t like us invading.

April 15, 2017 @1800 Walk on Old Tanner Road with Binoculars **1 HOUR**

* Spotted a cowbird fly in to feed near a big bull. Had a brown head, etc
* AT the creek below the pond, 2 redheaded WPs were calling up in the trees going crazy. They spooked a little by us.

April 16, 2017 River/Trout Observations from 0800-1400 **6 HOURS**

* Floated Happy Hollow to Bettys Island on the Caney Fork River. Fish fed heavily until about 11:00 AM when the bite slowed down with MUCH softer hits. Some good holdover fish on the shoal below the railroad bridge. Did not see any really big fish below 2nd Interstate Bridge but did have a BIG fish hit just above the BIG log jam between 2nd and 3rd intersteate bridge in the striper hole. Ran like a big brown trout. Threw the hook.

April 16, 2017 Evening Walk/Jog **1 HOUR**

* Ran over to Old Tanner Road Red Barn. On the way back I had two very obvious/distinct alarms. The first was a red-winged blackbird sitting in a tree above the road. As I ran by, it was alarming, but when I was about 30’ past it went back to singing cheerfully.
* The second was a meadow lark perched above a dense thicket on the N side of Hidden Drive by a big field. It was singing until I got close and then started scolding. When I was about 20’ past it went back to singing.

April 18, 2017 Float on Low Water. River/Trout Observations **9 HOURS**

* Launched around 0730, started with a BH soft hackle #14 caddis pupa with a black micro tubing midge w Silver tungsten bead underneath. We used those two flies the entire day and caught a TON of fish.
* Lots of recent stockers at the boat ramp. We did not see too many larger fish in that area. Just above the 1st shoal though we did start to see some. Shoal #1 have to hit FAR left to get over it in the boat. The next shoal almost required dragging and the third did. Saw a good rainbow trout just below the big dead tree off of river left bank. Some fish over the deep shoal entering the upper Lancaster Hole.
* Caught a few fish through middle of the upper Lancaster Hole on the hidden shoal. Fish in Channel River right.
* Logs near back river right of that hole produced a big 23.5” brown trout. That upper Lancaster shola was SKINNY. Caught some down all the way through the next hole. By this time was around 11 AM and the bite got really soft just like a few days prior. Started pushing to reach Happy Hollow by 1 PM. Hard bend where river turns left about 1 mile above Happy had a big brown on the very last shoal dumping into the deep pool at the Ice Box. Pushed through to Happy with just a few more fish. Up and Dam on 2 Generators, caught browns, crappie, and white bass after the storm came through. Action slumped and pulsed which was interesting. Same flies and technique/retrieve.

April 19, 2017 @1000 At Home **15 minutes**

* When I got out of my truck, I heard a new bird call. Looking up, I saw a bright red bird. I ran in and grabbed my binoculars. I think it was a male Summer Tanager. Did not see dark wings like the scarlett tanager although this one was a super bright red. By the time I grabbed my camera it was gone.

April 18, 2017 @1240 In field **45 minutes**

* @1248 Bird calling to my WNW. Spot it and see an Eastern Towhee. More brown that usual so assume it is a female.
* @1301 Started hearing thunder
* @1308 Cardinal singing to my NE
* @1209 Frog calling to my N
* @1229 Hear a new call. When I move into position to see the bird, I find…a titmouse
* Done @1225

April 19, 2017 @1630 Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* Usual calls happening. One bird that I think is the cowbird calling in the tree tops, etc
* @1643 Two squirrels spotted to my S crawling up a big tree that appears to have died over the last few months but not sure. Clouds starting to move in
* @1644 See first hummingbird of the season buzzing back and forth like crazy also to the S
* @1657 Cardinal singing to the NW
* @1708 See first that I have seen hummingbird of 2017 come to the feeder on the front porch
* @1709 Some bird fussing to the N with loud chirps. Sounds upset.
* @1713 WP calls to the S
* @1714 Titmouse moves in to a low branch to my NW. It is making tiny little sounds. Just muttering away.
* @1715 Two hummingbirds show up and one promptly chases the other
* @1716 Hummingbird back to drink @1717 I glance over and the titmouse seems to be gone
* @1717 I glance over and the titmouse seems to be gone
* @1718 3 titmice start calling back and forth. One NW, one N or NE behind the house, and one solitary call to my S
* @1720 One joins from way to the W
* @1722 Sun trying to come out
* @1729 Sun getting brighter. Titmouse calling NW
* @1730 Done

April 19, 2017 @1750-@1355 Short walk to sit spot and back looking for migrants. **1 HR**

* Found a TON of birds, most of which I couldn’t identify. One was solid yellow underneath and I think solid gray or dark on top. Tail was a subtle V.
* Another was black and other colors with just a little yellow underneath. Maybe Yellow-throated Warbler?
* Best one was an Oven Bird which took me a while to identify. Finally I found it on Audubon and played the song and it went nuts. It was very concerned about the Oven Bird song coming from me, but finally it flew off and continued its own singing.
* Saw and heard a few more I didn’t recognize before heading back. Didn’t get a good look at anymore though.

April 20, 2017 @1545 Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* Immediately spot a small solid gray bird with a white eye ring. When I first see it, the bird is high in a tree eating some big worm or caterpillar. It flies in a triangle. W to SW to NW. Finally find it on Audubon with “similar” tab. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher which I saw a while back.
* @1552 Carolina Wren starts trilling happily to my NW
* @1554 Gnat Catching calling occasionally in Dogwood tree. A frog or two croaking SW.
* @1557 WP talking NW. Clouds departing. Super bright and sunny
* @1601 Gray Gnatcatcher in edge of woods near driveway foraging
* @1605 Wren comes down to hop around base of dogwood tree in the front yard, feeding. Shortly after around @1609 it hops up in the trees in the woods and starts singing and super cheerful song. Super bright and sunny. Appears to be strong subsidence behind the band of showers/convection/clouds that just moved through
* @1612 Titmouse calling to my SSW. Peter Peter call…
* @1620 Wren starts trilling off to my N around the house somewhere
* @1621 Two cardinals dive down into the brush from up high (40’). Shortly after, the female starts tweeting/chirping and jumps back up in progressively higher limbs. Male starts singing nearby. Both chilling about 20’ up around @1623. Then male flies down to redbud in front yard then onto the ground. Next back up to low branch around 2’ off the ground @1624. Female cardinal flies off over the house headed E. Male jumps back to the ground, grabs something, then follows her around the N side of the house also heading E.
* @1626 Ruby-Throated Hummingbird stops by the nearest feeder 5’ away.
* @1630 Pretty Quiet. Some frogs, wasps, distant mower running, light breeze, a few clouds returned.
* @1633 Two hummingbirds meet at the northernmost feeder and immediately chase/fight each other away. Something (I think a nuthatch) calling incessantly just W.
* @1638 Hummingbird back at the northern feeder. Clouds thickening and the shade is back.
* @1640 Hummingbird calls several times from perch about 15’ up in 1st tree to my NW (30’ away)
* @1642 Crow calls almost directly overhead
* @1645 Done

April 20, 2017 @1745 Evening Walk/stroll to sit spot and back **1 HOUR**

* I start at the front porch, head up the driveway and into the field where I have my sit spot. Did a slow clockwise circuit of the field and then back home.
* As I started down the driveway, I heard a rustling down along the creek to the south. I started walking very slowly and scanning the area but also scanning all of the trees around so I didn’t miss any birds. Finally, I saw some movement and about the same time the gray squirrel spotted me and jumped up in a small tree. It went up to around 6-8’ high and stopped on a branch to watch me and see what I was up to.
* I meandered on to the field, hoping to catch the bluebirds or something, but overall it was quiet. There wasn’t even any of the usual discernible deer or wild hog tracks. Finally on the far side of the field I heard some familiar chirps. One of the birds stopped long enough for me to recognize one of the sparrows I’ve been watching for a while. This one was one of the Field Sparrows. The remainder of my stroll was uneventful right until I was almost home.
* I heard a new (or relatively new to me) call. By some careful maneuvering, I spotted the responsible bird way off through the woods at the far edge that overlooked our neighbor’s pond. With my binoculars I quickly identified the singer as a gorgeous Eastern Towhee.

April 21, 2017 @1330 on Front Porch **1 HOUR**

* Just after a storm. We had heavy rain and small hail. The birds are going crazy welcoming the sun back and feeding. Titmouse, woodpeckers, chickadees, a wren, and other birds talking/singing. Started checking different birds looking for something different and found one rather quickly.
* @1341 See a bird hopping around. Yellow underneath and a whitish wing bars but not a Gold Finch. Start with warblers and get close with a Pine Warbler but the call is not right. Use the “similar” tab on my app to figure out it is a Yellow-Throated Vireo and when it sings it is easy to confirm.
* Bird started out foraging high in the trees to my W on the N side of the driveway and worked its way down just a little and finally perched and started singing.
* @1350 The vireo finally quit singing for the most part. I can hear it working o to the S through the woods with occasional calls. Sets up to my SW and starts singing again @1351.
* @1356 Vireo singing again. Nuthatch calling from my SW. Clouds thickening again and frogs starting to sing like it will rain.
* @1407 First rumble of thunder off to the SSW. Otherwise we are at baseline. Nothing unusual going on.
* @1408 Hummingbird stops by.
* @1409 Wren to my W trilling and some sort of hawk or jay type call. Wren starts singing.
* @1413 Sprinkling a little. Thunder rumbling to the S.
* @1420 The woods have gotten fairly still and quiet. The threatening storm has slowed things down.
* @1428 Cardinal to the NW singing. Rain getting heavier. Really interesting smell just came by. Almost like super strong Play Dough. No idea what that smell is but I smelled it a few times.
* @1439 Steady but still relatively light rain now.

April 24, 2017 @1540 Front Porch **2 HOURS**

* @1544 A titmouse pops up in the low branches to my NW near the NW corner of the house and starts scolding and watching me. Works S across the front yard to near the woodpile and keeps fussing a little. Another bird or two joins it. One almost acts like a young one @1546.
* @1549 Still some small birds talking off to the S including one nuthatch to the SSW
* @1554 Some really high pitched sounds coming from the S. Goes silent after a minute.
* @1557 Titmouse speaks up quietly near the woodpile. I see it begin slowly making a trip across the yard towards the NW. It is carrying a big piece of something soft so I assume it is helping construct a nest somewhere. It enters the woods and soon thereafter goes quiet around @1600. @1558-@1559 Hummingbird comes to the northernmost feeder a couple of times
* @1603 Wren singing off to my S
* @1608 Titmouse calls “peter peter” call to the WNW or NW. I notice someone walking up on the road at the end of our driveway. Maybe it is an alarm type call. Chickadees chattering a little to my SSW.
* @1609 Dogs barking now up the road to the NW
* @1610 Car comes down the road and then down the driveway. Probably it is what got the dogs going.
* @1616 Titmouse in dogwood in front yard. I think on its way to find more nesting material.
* @1623 I see a squirrel jump from a tree on the N side of the driveway to a tree on the S side of the driveway.
* @1630 Titmouse talking down low to my NW not far away. Scolding about 10-15’ up.
* @1633 Still fussing. Cannot tell what is bothering it. Bird has popped up higher in the tree about 30’ up.
* @1634 Titmouse flies into big tree in front yard on its way to the S side of the yard. Chickadee talking to my W.
* @1636 Titmouse back foraging close to and on the ground to my NW near the conrner of the house. It hops down and grabs a worm or caterpillar and then hops up in the low branches of a bush to eat it.
* @1638 Titmouse calling to the NW. Hear that really high-pitched calling.
* @1639 Hummingbird stops by
* @1641 An Eastern Towhee comes to forage under the bush the titmouse was under a few minutes ago.
* @1646 Titmouse back foraging around old play wagon and the dogwood
* @1648 Big flock of birds move along from S to SW. They are talking, fussing, scolding, after a minute, a Blue Jay pops out of that area and hops up in the big tree in the front yard.
* @1650 Cardinal singing from trees to my NW at house corner.
* Large group of birds moving through. Appears to be warblers etc. One maybe Yellow-throated or Magnolia. One either the worm eating warbler or Swainsons Warbler. Looked more like the Swainsons to me but on the distribution map they aren’t supposed to be here so I don’t know. They are close so maybe this one just got slightly off course.
* @1702 Sun is out at least for now. Still plenty of clouds around.
* @1709 Last several minutes watching a bird up high that looked the same as the first warbler described above. Strong yellow shoulders. I think Yellow-rumped Warbler.
* @1713 Titmouse calling a short distance to my W. Just above cat walking down the driveway.
* @1717 Hummingbird stops by again. WP talking a lot to the N somewhere. Something singing a nice song to the W up the driveway.
* @1718 Hummingbird back.
* @1719 Crow hollering as it flies just to my S from E to W. Flies off into the distance squawking the whole way.
* @1721 Dove lands to my NW on the ground under the dogwood. It quickly wanders out past my car and walks around it.
* @1722 Crow still off to my W squawking. Jay hollering NW. Two jays, one very close and one far off. Cardinal singing off to the NW.
* @1723 Jay down in the dogwood. Clearly up to no good. Probably hunting nests.
* @1725 Jay flies in from the W. Cardinal still singing off to the NW.
* @1726 Titmouse giving the Peter Peter call again to my W. Cat finally disappeared in the woods down that direction. The birds are going nuts. Sun is now mostly out after days of rain and clouds. Sounds almost like the morning chorus.
* @1728 Titmouse still calling but moved N just a hair I think. Another joins in, then a third. All generally WSW, W or WNW.
* @1731 Red-bellied WP moves through checking several different trees.
* @1732 Starting to calm down a little after the 1st burst of happiness when the sun came out. Still plenty of noise though.
* @1734 Hummingbird stops by again
* Just noticed tons of what I assume is pollen coming down. Looking up at the sun, I can see little flecks, specks, particles, etc filtering down on the light breeze.
* @1735 Titmouse now to my SW calling Peter Peter
* @1740 Done

April 25, 2017 @1810 Front Porch and Yard **30 MINUTES**

* A cardinal or something is chirping incessantly to the S.
* @1815 A redheaded WP starts chattering up a storm to my S
* @1816 Bird still chirping so I go looking. It ends up being around behind the house to the E. I find a male and female cardinal that are NOT the culprit. I don’t want to push them too much so I don’t investigate further.
* @1822 On my way back to the porch sit spot, I see two gray squirrels chasing each other up high in the big dead oak tree S of my sit spot
* @1823 The cardinal to the NW of my sit spot starts singing.
* @1826 Hummingbird stops by the northernmost feeder. Cardinal still singing
* @1827 Something chirping to my NW. Then WSW and SW. It is moving along apparently. Starts singing @1829. NO idea what it is.
* @1829 Hummingbird back. Cardinal still signing as well as mystery bird to my SW.
* @1832 Bird singing again SW
* @1833 Bird chirping again SW. People walking up driveway for a walk.
* @1840 DONE

**92 HOURS** plus 3-4 hours spent typing notes