

Bird Watching





a



b



c

You have now before you representations of
some of the most richly colored of our birds,
and one(s) whose history is in some degree peculiar.

*-John James Audubon
Ornithological Biography*

Bird Watching

Name	Summer Tanagers
Location	Southern Oregon Coast
Date	July 2003
Size	7 inches
Markings	Red all over
Remarks	One of the few monochromatic passerines



Name	Western Bluebird
Location	Southern Oregon Coast
Date	July 2003
Size	7.5 inches
Markings	Dark blue head, orange breast
Remarks	Western bluebirds have twice the girth as their eastern cousins





Name	Orange Tree Thrush
Location	Albuquerque, NM
Date	August 2003
Size	7 inches
Markings	Orange head and back brown tail feathers
Remarks	Bright orange feathers reflect the flames that formed this bosque



Name	Orange Throated Phoebe
Location	Upstate New York
Date	October 2003
Size	7.5 inches
Markings	sky blue crown orange throat
Remarks	This bird's coloring blends with fall foliage

Name	Blue Hooded Cuckoo
Location	Yosemite Park, CA
Date	November 2003
Size	10 inches
Markings	White beak and dark blue head
Remarks	Sleek and good looking





previous page

Name	Pink Tailed Gnatcatcher
Location	Olathe, Kansas
Date	January 2004
Size	5 inches
Markings	Rust colored crown, pink tail
Remarks	Raised tail signals an alertness to my presence

Name	White Breasted Oriole
Location	Pensacola, Florida
Date	May 2004
Size	9.5 inches
Markings	White breast and black primaries
Remarks	A rare spotting in the sub-tropical area of the Florida panhandle



Name	California Wren
Location	San Francisco, CA
Date	June 2004
Size	5.5 inches
Markings	Red crown, white beak
Remarks	This wren grew plump on summer fennel





Name	Grassland Sparrow
Location	San Francisco, CA
Date	August 2004
Size	6 inches
Markings	Grey crown and white wing bands
Remarks	Flank Feathers grow dense in summer



next page

Name	Blue Jays
Location	Northern Michigan
Date	November 2004
Size	11 inches
Markings	Blue crest, dark necklace
Remarks	Two attentive sentinels of the northern woods

Name	North western Vireo
Location	Northern California
Date	September 2004
Size	5 inches
Markings	Short light beak brown body
Remarks	Briefly sighted perched on a branch in Yosemite Park



Name	Winter Blue Birds
Location	Interlochen, Michigan
Date	January 2005
Size	7 inches
Markings	Medium blue body white belly
Remarks	Despite heavy snowfall, these birds frolick on bare winter branches



Notes: Fall 2003

This adventure began in the summer on a driving trip from San Francisco up along the Oregon coast. Having stopped in the woods, I was instantly attracted to how the bright red tanagers contrasted richly with the lush green foliage. I loved how the birds were posed just so, and was compelled to photograph them. Later that day I documented another bird, a Western Bluebird, which was perched on a broken tree in a pine forest.

I was enthralled by the resulting images from my trip, and decided to keep this journal to record how I see different birds in their many varied environments. I realize I am not content to only briefly view the birds in their habitats, but need to document these passerines so I can continuously relive the idealized scenes. These experiences are a much needed respite from the complexities of city life. In the woods, with the birds, I find beauty and balance.

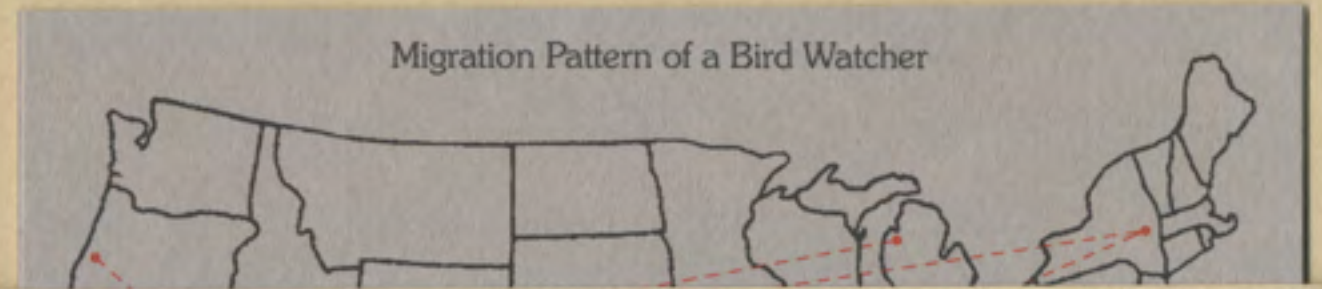
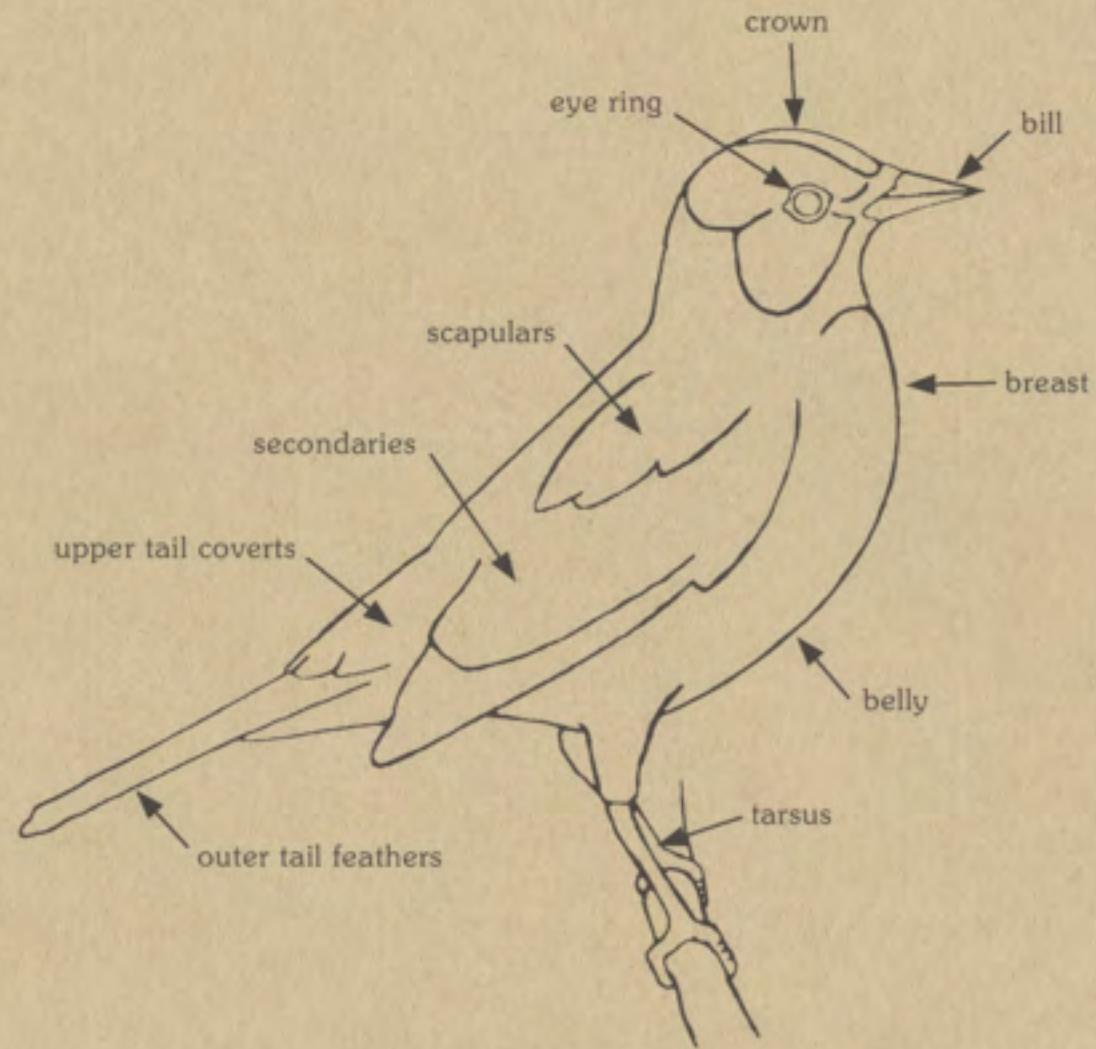
Notes: Spring 2004

Sometimes the birds are where I least expect them, like a gnatcatcher in the winter woods of Kansas or an oriole in the Florida panhandle. I take such joy in these sightings and relish the rare world I am experiencing. I am amazed, if I'm patient, how closely I can watch my birds and how in some instances they seem to be also watching me. I feel I am truly interacting with them in the landscape.

Winter 2005, Interlochen, MI

I'm ending this journal with my favorite sighting; two winter Blue Birds, which were jauntily perched in the trees outside my cabin one frosty day. They were two of the few birds I saw during the long snowy winter. They will always serve as a reminder that it is possible to create these idealized scenes whenever I want.

parts of a passerine



field notes

Bird Watching
© 2006
Paula McCartney

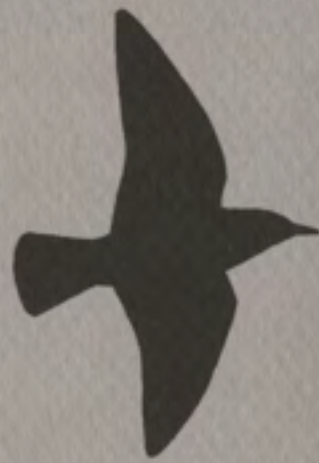
Bird Watching was published by the artist and Women's Studio Workshop in Rosendale, NY. WSW is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts. Additional support was provided by the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis, MN. The book is comprised of twelve chromogenic photographs mounted on Rising Stonehenge 100% cotton paper. The printed text is in Souvenir Lt BT and the written text is in the artist's handwriting on Zerkall Nideggen sand paper, and the endsheets are printed on Canson Mi-Teintes flannel gray paper. The book is covered in olive and brown Iris bookcloth.

ISBN no. 1-893125-47-5

edition 1/1 of 40 Paula McCartney



d



e



f

