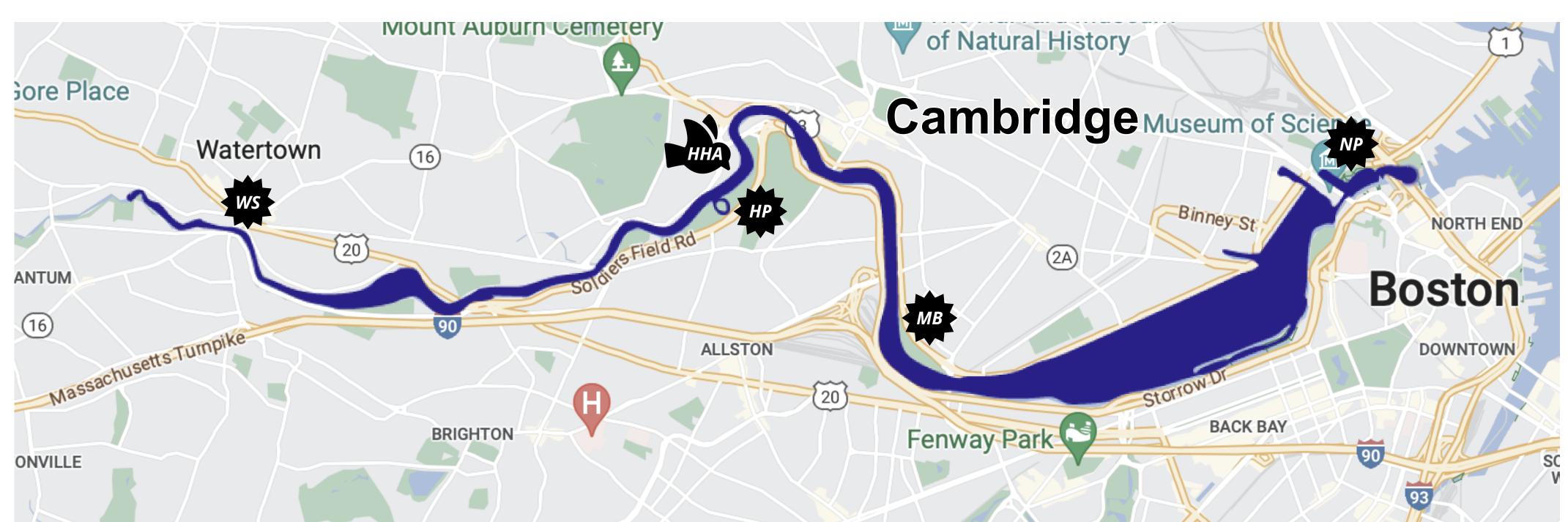
# Birding in Hell's Half Acre



## This guide...

covers 21 of the 80 bird species known to frequent Hell's Half Acre and have also been spotted in other areas along the Urban Charles River. The birds in this guide are attracted to one or more of the following native plant species: Elderberry, Flowering Dogwood, Pokeweed, Staghorn Sumac, and Wild Cherry, which you can learn more about on the final page of this guide.









## HHA Hell's Half Acre

This 7.5 acre undeveloped zone along Greenough Boulevard has provided a refuge for Cambridge's human and wildlife populations alike for decades. The CRC is part of a joint restoration effort with DCR to return more native plants (including those listed above) to the area and create a more robust ecosystem that can support native species.

### **American Goldfinch Spinus Tristis**



#### **Seasons in New England**



Spring







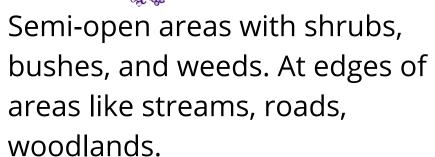
Fall



#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

### **Habitat**



#### <u>Diet</u>



Seeds, Insects, Flower Buds, Twig Bark, Maple Sap

#### **Climate Threats**

Fire Weather

Heavy Rain

Spring Heat Waves

### **American Robin Spinus Tristis**



#### **Seasons in New England**









#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

### **Habitat**



Semi-open areas with shrubs, bushes, and weeds. At edges of areas like streams, roads, woodlands.

### <u>Diet</u>



Insects, flower buds, twig bark, maple sap, fruits

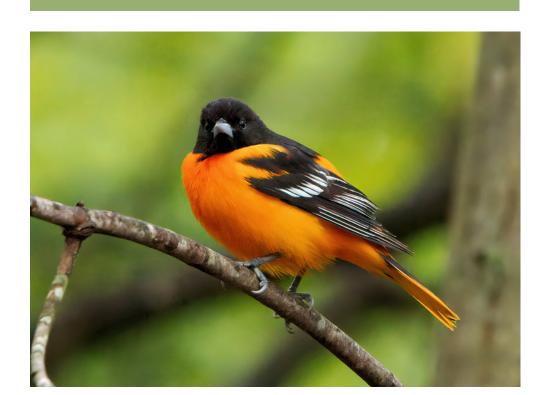
#### **Climate Threats**

Fire Weather

Heavy Rain

**Spring Heat Waves** 

### **Baltimore Oriole** Icterus Galbula



#### **Seasons in New England**





Summer

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Open woods or forrest edge, typically elms, deciduous and mixed woods. Can be found in trees in towns

### Diet 💮



Insects (Hairy Caterpillars, Beetles, Grashoppers, Wasps, Bugs, Spiders), Fruit (Berries, Nectar) Snails

#### **Climate Threats**



**1** Fire Weather



Heavy Rain



Sea Level Rise



**Spring Heat Waves** 

Urbanization

### **Black-capped Chickadee** Poecile Atricapillus



#### **Seasons in New England**



Spring







#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### Habitat

Open woods or forrest edge, typically willow thickets, birch, deciduous groves, suburbs if nesting areas are available

#### <u>Diet</u>



Open woods or forrest edge, typically willow thickets, birch, deciduous groves, suburbs if nesting areas are available

#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather



Spring Heat Waves



### **Blue Jay** Cyanocitta Cristata



#### **Seasons in New England**









Summer Spring

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

### **Habitat**

Oak and pine woods, low forest suburban gardens, well-wooded suburbs or city parks.





Seeds, Grain, Berries, Small Fruits, Nuts, Acorns Insects (Caterpillars, Beetles, Grasshoppers, Spiders), Small Animals (Snails, Bird Eggs, Small Rodents, Frogs, Baby Birds)

#### **Climate Threats**



Spring Heat Waves

Urbanization

### **Cedar Waxwing** Bombycilla Cedrorum



#### **Seasons in New England**







Fall

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Open woods with fruiting trees and berries. At edges of areas like streams, forests, swamps, and suburban yards







Berries, Small Fruits, Insects, Flowers, Sap

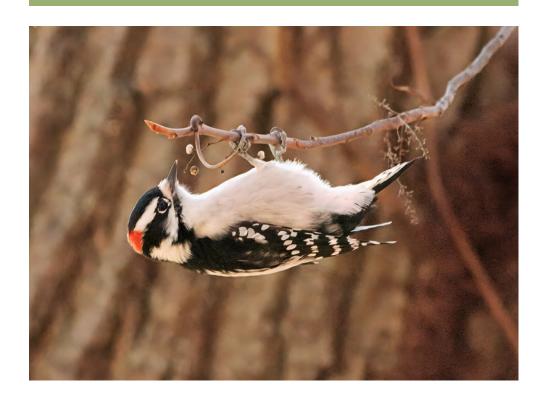
#### **Climate Threats**

Fire Weather

**Spring Heat Waves** 

Urbanization

### **Downy Woodpecker Dryobates Pubescens**



#### **Seasons in New England**









Winter

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

A wide variety, wildreness areas to suburban yards, deciduous trees, orchards, river groves.

### Diet &



A wide variety, wildreness areas to suburban yards, deciduous trees, orchards, river groves.

#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather



Urbanization

### **Eastern Towhee** Pipilo Erythrophthalmus



#### **Seasons in New England**



**Spring** 

#### Seen at

- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Open woods, brush areas, forest understory

### <u>Diet</u>

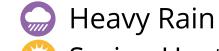


Insects (Spiders, Snails, Millipedes) Small Animals (Small Salamandars, Lizards, Snakes) Seeds, Acorns, Berries, Small Fruits

#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather



Spring Heat Waves



Urbanization



### **Gray Catbird Dumetella Carolinensis**



#### **Seasons in New England**







Summer Spring

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Areas with dense low growth, leafy thickets, overgrown brush fields, garden hedges







Insects (Beetles, Ants, Caterpillars, Grasshoppers, Crickets), Berries, Small Fish

#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather Heavy Rain



Sea Level Rise



**Spring Heat Waves** 

Urbanization

### **Hermit Thrush Catharus Guttatus**



#### **Seasons in New England**







Spring

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

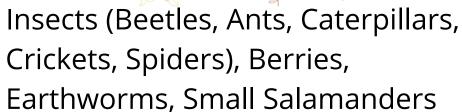
#### **Habitat**

Mixed woods, forest floor, thickets, parks, bogs, second growth in burn areas





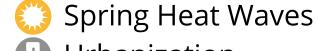




### **Climate Threats**



Shift out of Contiguous 48 States



Urbanization

### **House Finch** Haemorhous Mexicanus



#### **Seasons in New England**



Spring







Winter

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Dry brush, citys, suburbs, canyons, farmland, lawns, weedy areas

### **Diet**



Seeds, Berries, Flower Buds, Small Fruits, Aphids

### **Climate Threats**



**M** Fire Weather

**Spring Heat Waves** 

### **Mourning Dove** Zenaida Macroura



#### **Seasons in New England**







Fall Winter Spring

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Open and semi-open areas, edge areas with trees and open ground, forest clearings, farmland, suburbs, prairies, roadsides.

#### **Diet**



Seeds (Grains, Grasses, Weeds), Snails, Insects

#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather **Spring Heat Waves** 



Urbanization



### **Northern Cardinal Cardinalis Cardinalis**



#### **Seasons in New England**









Spring Summer

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### <u>Habitat</u>

Brushy and semi-open habitats, forest clearings, swamps, city parks, areas with dense bushes, tall brush, streamside thickets, suburban gardens









Seeds, Insects (Beetles, Grasshoppers, Ants, Flies, Spiders, Centipedes), Berries, Snails

#### **Climate Threats**

Fire Weather

Spring Heat Waves

Urbanization

### **Northern Flicker** Colaptes Auratus



#### **Seasons in New England**









#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Open forests, towns, semi-open country, requires open ground foraging







Insects (beetles, termites, caterpillars), Fruits, Berries, Seeds, Nuts

#### **Climate Threats**

Fire Weather

Spring Heat Waves

Urbanization

### **Northern Mockingbird** Mimus Polyglottos



#### **Seasons in New England**



Seen at

Herter Park

Magazine Beach

• North Point Park

Watertown Square









- Herter Park

#### **Habitat**

Thickets, brushy areas with dense low shrubs and open ground. Suburban hedges and open ground, second growth







Berries, Fruits, Insects (Beetles, Grasshoppers, Caterpillars, Wasps, Spiders Ants), Animals (Snails, Earthworms, Crayfish, Lizards)

### **Climate Threats**

**M** Fire Weather

**Spring Heat Waves** 

Urbanization

### **Red-bellied Woodpecker** Melanerpes Carolinus



#### **Seasons in New England**









#### Seen at

- Magazine Beach
- Watertown Square

#### Habitat

Woodlands, towns, deciduous forest along rivers and in swamps. Open areas like forest edges and clearings, groves in farm country.

### **Diet**



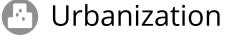


Insects, Acorns, Nuts, Fruits, Seeds, Small Animals (Tree Frogs, Eggs Of Small Birds, Sap, Small Fish)

#### **Climate Threats**



Spring Heat Waves





### **Red-eyed Vireo** Vireo Olivaceus



#### **Seasons in New England**





Fall

Summer

#### Seen at

- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Open woods with saplings, areas along streams in solid forest, wellwooded sububrs and parks







Insects (Caterpillars, Moths, Beetles, Wasps, Bees, Ants, Bugs, Flies, Walkingsticks, Cicadas, Treehoppers, Spiders), Snails, Berries, Small Fruit

#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather

## Spring Heat Waves

### Veery Catharus Fuscescens



#### **Seasons in New England**







Fall

Seen at

**Spring** 

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Deciduous woods with damp understory







Insects (Beetles, Ants, Small Wasps, Caterpillars, Crickets, And Others, Also Spiders, Centipedes), Berries, Small Fruit, Small Frogs, Salamanders, Snails

#### **Climate Threats**



Shift out of Contiguous 48 States

### Wilson's Warbler Cardellina Pusilla



#### **Seasons in New England**





Fall

Spring

#### Seen at

- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

### **Habitat**



Dense understory of tall coniferous forest, during migration: deciduous shrubs and low trees.

### Diet 😻

Insects (Bees, Wasps, Beetles, Caterpillars, Aphids, Spiders), Berries, Protein Corpuscles

### **Climate Threats**



Heavy Rain



Sea Level Rise



**Spring Heat Waves** 

Urbanization

## **Yellow Warbler** Setophaga Petechia



#### **Seasons in New England**



Summer

#### Seen at

- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

#### **Habitat**

Conifer forests, thickets, gardens, sometimes beaches.

#### Diet



Insects (Caterpillars, Mayflies, Moths, Mosquitos, Spiders), Berries

#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather



**Spring Heat Waves** 



### **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** Setophaga Coronata



#### **Seasons in New England**





Spring

Fall

#### Seen at

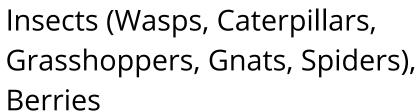
- Herter Park
- Magazine Beach
- North Point Park
- Watertown Square

### **Habitat**



Woods and thickets along water bodies, typically in damp plants, semi-open country, woodland edges, and towns

#### Diet \*\*\*



#### **Climate Threats**



Fire Weather



Shift out of Contiguous 48 States



Spring Heat Waves

#### Urbanization

## **Bird Species by Season**

## **Spring**

American Robin Blue Jay **Gray Catbird** Hermit Thrush Northern Cardinal Northern Flicker Northern Mockingbird Red-bellied Woodpecker American Goldfinch Black-capped Chickadee Downy Woodpecker House Finch Mourning Dove Veery Wilson's Warbler Yellow-Rumped Warbler

Fall

**Gray Catbird** 

Blue Jay

American Robin

Northern Cardinal

Northern Mockingbird

American Goldfinch

Downy Woodpecker

House Finch

Cedar Waxwing

**Baltimore Oriole** 

Red-eyed Vireo

Hermit Thrush

Mourning Dove

Wilson's Warbler

Yellow-Rumped Warbler

Veery

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Black-capped Chickadee

Northern Flicker

## Summer

American Robin Blue Jay **Gray Catbird** Northern Cardinal Northern Flicker Northern Mockingbird Red-bellied Woodpecker American Goldfinch Black-capped Chickadee Downy Woodpecker House Finch Veery **Cedar Waxwing** Yellow Warbler **Baltimore Oriole** Eastern Towhee Red-eyed Vireo

### **\*\*Winter**

Blue Jay Northern Cardinal Northern Mockingbird Red-bellied Woodpecker American Goldfinch Black-capped Chickadee Downy Woodpecker House Finch Mourning Dove

All bird photos in this guide courtesy of Mike Bryant @naturemanmike

## Birds in this guide are attracted to...



### **Elderberry**

The Elderberry shrub is a popular nesting location for birds. It attracts insects with its tiny white flowers in the spring, and birds in the early fall with its dark clumps of berries. In Hell's Half Acre, Elderberry is sprinkled throughout the area.

### Flowering Dogwood

The tall Flowering Dogwood tree attracts insects with its showy white flowers, and supports butterflies and moths. Its red fruit is a favorite snack among many birds. In Hell's Half Acre, it's rare but can be found between road's edge and the wetland.



## Pokeweed

Pokeweed, a herbaceous plant, blooms small white flowers that attract insects, these flowers later become deep purple berries, which are eaten by a number of species. In Hell's Half Acre, Pokeweed is found mainly at the rivers edge and in the successional upland forest.



### **Staghorn** Sumac

The deciduous tree or shrub, Staghorn Sumac is known for it's fuzzy bark and red, coneshaped fruit. Sumac hosts insects and nesting birds in it's thickets. In Hell's Half Acre, Staghorn Sumac is found at the rivers edge and in the successional upland forest.



### **Wild Cherry**

Wild Cherry trees and shrubs host nesting birds and caterpillars. Their white flowers attract insects in the spring, and cherries attract many birds in the summer. In Hell's Half Acre, Wild Cherry can be found at the rivers edge and in the successional upland forest.

