



JAY T. BIRDER JOURNAL

ENTRY FOR MAY 3, 2016 • LOCATION: HOMETOWN, U.S.A., EASTERN U.S.

6:45 a.m.

Location: edge of the forest, observing a large pile of fallen tree limbs and bramble bushes

What an incredible morning! Not a cloud in the sky, and a cool breeze blowing in from the east. I heard what sounded like the busy call of a House Wren—chattering, chattering all the time. What an incredible sound from such a small bird! Well, maybe it's not a House Wren. . . . I just spotted it. It looks just like a House Wren but its eye stripe is sooooo much brighter white. Its body is a little redder too!

QUESTION #1. What was that bird? _____

7:30 a.m. Location: edge of the forest, observing high in a tree top

Holy cow! I can't believe the color of this bird. It's the brightest red I have ever seen! It's shaped like a robin but not as big. Its wings are black and the rest of its body is bright, bright red. It really seems to like hanging out high up in the tops of the trees. I have been watching it for a long time—what an incredible red!

QUESTION #2. What was that bird? _____

10:00 a.m. Location: in the forest

Okay, I know it's definitely a warbler from its shape and size. Cute little guy! It's black and white and totally striped. What is it? It seems to prefer hanging out in that old hemlock tree, and seems to be climbing up its trunk and looking for insects in the bark.

QUESTION #3. What was that bird? _____



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11:00 a.m. Location: edge of the forest, Hometown Meadow

Well, it appears that the birds are not as active any longer. It's getting late. I am sitting quietly at the edge of the forest on my favorite rock. I am going to see what's happening in the meadow. I just spotted a robin. Note: Learn the Latin name for robin (serious birders, like me, need to know such things!). Bingo! Wow! I just spotted another bird—the most incredibly blue bird! When the sun catches that guy, he appears to be the brightest blue imaginable. It's the size of a sparrow, and is completely blue except for a little brown on its wings.

QUESTION #4. What was that blue bird? _____

QUESTION #5. What is the Latin scientific name for robin? _____

11:45 a.m. Location: heading towards home by way of Hometown Swamp

I am ready for some lunch and a little nap. My hand is tired of writing, so I'll turn on my audio recorder as I get closer to the swamp. What a great day for birding!

JAY'S RECORDING FOR THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

TIME: 11:56 a.m. LOCATION: Edge of the Tall Timbers Forest near Hometown Swamp

This is Jay, and I am ready to spot a couple more birds before calling it a day. All that rain last week has really got this swamp swamped! (Laugh. . .) Better head for higher ground so I can observe the swamp without getting too wet. Okay, tons of insects, but very little bird action. There goes Mr. Catbird popping in and out of the raspberry bushes. Wait a minute. . . wait a serious v. I cannot believe my eyes, I must be seeing things. . . no, it's true! I had to drop my binoculars to scratch my legs and administer a little justice to that mosquito feasting on my neck! Lost my bird. Wait, here it is again. I have just spotted a bird I have never seen before. It has a super long tail, it's about the size of a crow (maybe 12 inches), but much slimmer than a crow. It's a pretty brown color, with a white breast. The tail is what is special. It looks patched together—black, white, and black, white. Did I say patched? Well, to be more scientifically precise, it is patterned. Does that make sense? Let me see if I can get a closer look. Patience, Jay, patience. . . there it is again. It just landed in a tree, 15-20 feet in front of me. It is munching on a berry. Wow! Its beak is kind of a yellowish color. Ouch! I am being seriously harassed by the entire insect population! I am out of here! Listen to the strange noise it's making! (A chuckle sound. . .)

QUESTION #6. What bird did Jay describe in her recording? _____



JAY T. BIRDER JOURNAL

ENTRY FOR MAY 3, 2016 • LOCATION: HOMETOWN, U.S.A., WESTERN U.S.

6:45 a.m.

Location: edge of the forest, observing a large pile of fallen tree limbs and thickets

What an incredible morning! Not a cloud in the sky, and a cool breeze blowing in from the north. I heard what sounded like the busy call of a House Wren—chattering, chattering all of the time. What an incredible sound from such a small bird! Well, maybe it's not a House Wren. . . . I just spotted it. It looks just like a House Wren but its eye stripe is sooooo much brighter white. Its tail has a little white in it too!

QUESTION #1. What was that bird? _____

6:50 a.m. Location: open forest, observing high in a tree top

Wow! I can't believe the colors of this bird. Its body is a bright, bright yellow and it has two very distinctive wing bars. Its head is an amazing red. The red and yellow contrast in this bird is like nothing I have ever seen! It's shaped like a robin but not as big (maybe 7 inches). Its wings are black. It really seems to like hanging out high up in the tops of the trees. I have been watching it for a long time, what a colorful bird!

QUESTION #2. What was that bird? _____

10:00 a.m. Location: edge of the forest near Hometown Stream

Okay, I know it's definitely a warbler from its shape and size. Cute little guy! It's mostly yellow; in fact it's yellow all over but with reddish orange stripes on its belly. What is it? It seems to prefer hanging out in the bushes along the stream.

QUESTION #3. What was that bird? _____



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11:00 a.m. Location: edge of the forest, Hometown Meadow

Well, it appears that the birds are not as active any longer. It's getting late. I am sitting quietly at the edge of the forest on my favorite rock. I am going to see what's happening in the meadow. I just spotted a robin. Note: Learn the Latin name for robin (serious birders like me, need to know such things!). Bingo! This is my day for yellow birds! It's a largish, chunky bird, about 9 inches in length. It has a brown back, and a bright yellow chest. On the chest is a black Y shape. It also has a bigger, heavy looking black beak. Every single time I come to this meadow I see this bird; it must love meadows. I wonder if this bird eats seeds. Note: Find out why this bird loves meadows.

QUESTION #4. What was that bird? _____

QUESTION #5. What is the Latin (scientific) name for robin? _____

QUESTION #6. Does the brown and yellow bird eat seeds? _____

11:45 a.m. Location: heading towards home by way of Hometown Marsh

I am ready for some lunch and a little nap. My hand is tired of writing, so I'll turn on my tape recorder as I get closer to the marsh. What a great day for birding!

JAY'S RECORDING FOR THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

(Note: If possible, include the sound of ducks in the background.)

TIME: 11:56 a.m. LOCATION: Edge of the Tall Timbers Forest near Hometown Swamp

This is Jay, and I am ready to spot a couple more birds before calling it a day. All that rain last week has really got this swamp swamped! (Laugh. . .) Better head for higher ground so I can observe the marsh without getting too wet. Okay, tons of insects, but very little bird action. There goes Mr. Robin popping in and out of the raspberry bushes. Wait a minute. . . Wait a serious minute. I cannot believe my eyes, I must be seeing things... No, it's true! I had to drop my binoculars to scratch my legs and administer a little justice to that mosquito feasting on my neck! Lost my bird. Wait, here it is again. I have just spotted a bird I have never seen before. It's a duck that is bright orangish brown, almost completely this color, except its wings are a bit browner. (Duck quacking in background) Patience Jay, patience. . . there it is again. It just went under, but its back end is sticking up. So, it would be a dabbling duck. Wow! Check it out. It's surfaced again and now I can see a bright blue patch on its wing. Ouch! I am being seriously harassed by the entire insect population! I am out of here!

QUESTION #7. What bird did Jay describe in her recording? _____