



North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring

Bruce M. Beehler

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The story of an ornithologist's journey to trace the spring migration of songbirds from the southern border of the United States through the heartland and into Canada.

In late March 2015, ornithologist Bruce M. Beehler set off on a solo four-month trek to track songbird migration and the northward progress of spring through America. Traveling via car, canoe, and bike and on foot, Beehler followed woodland warblers and other Neotropical songbird species from the southern border of Texas, where the birds first arrive after their winter sojourns in South America and the Caribbean, northward through the Mississippi drainage to its headwaters in Minnesota and onward to their nesting grounds in the north woods of Ontario. In *North on the Wing*, Beehler describes both the epic migration of songbirds across the country and the gradual dawning of springtime through the U.S. heartland--the blossoming of wildflowers, the chorusing of frogs, the leafing out of forest canopies--and also tells the stories of the people and institutions dedicated to studying and conserving the critical habitats and processes of spring songbird migration. Inspired in part by Edwin Way Teale's landmark 1951 book *North with the Spring*, this book--part travelogue, part field journal, and part environmental and cultural history--is a fascinating first-hand account of a once-in-a-lifetime journey. It engages readers in the wonders of spring migration and serves as a call for the need to conserve, restore, and expand bird habitats to preserve them for future generations of both birds and humans.

North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring Details

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From Reader Review North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring for online ebook

Brenda says

Sooo glad I read this book. Many of the birds he finds along the way were familiar to me. But I also looked up and listened to the ones I wasn't familiar with (thanks Merlin Bird ID app for helping with that!). If you like birds, or books about how nature is affected by changes in the world around us, this would be a great read.

Leslie says

I have been birding for many years and am familiar with most of the warbler species and many of the places the author discussed in his account of his travels. It is an extended journey I would love to take, but probably will never have the opportunity to do, so I enjoyed going on the road through reading about his experiences.

I had intended to read this during spring migration, which is the time period that the author's journey takes place. From March until July he attempts to document as many warblers as he can, beginning in the Texas Gulf and heading north towards Ontario. Instead, I found myself picking the book up here and there and in between other books, or whenever I felt the need to connect with the birding world. It's that kind of book. You don't need to read it quickly, but rather savor the journey.

Besides discussing each of the warblers (accompanied by a cute illustration), the author talks about migration in general; the relationship between birds, the environment, and things that affect bird populations; a little history; and it's also a bit of a travel diary of his experiences along the way.

This is an easy read that anyone can enjoy. It is not heavy on technical or scientific information, but it is definitely aimed at those interested in nature and birds.

Adria says

Interesting book, very interesting to those enamored of warblers, wildlife, butterflies and natural writing. Occasionally preachy, but digressions are few. Worth the read. Great book for those looking for hotspots or wanting to get away.

Sue Myers says

Account of Bruce Beehler's travels through Texas, Louisiana, the Mississippi flyway, Ontario, Michigan and northern New York to locate all 32 wood warblers in nesting habitat. Fascinating description of his trip and the habits and sightings of many birds, not just warblers. Learned about some fun productive spots to bird in the coming years. Listened as a CD.

Ryan Mishap says

While the prose doesn't exactly sparkle, this is chock full of ornithology, observations, history, and a deep knowledge base that Beehler shares with us as he follows the migratory route north. So jealous of all the birds he got to see! Dare I ever go to Texas?

Stephanie says

This book was a great blend of history, travel log, ecology, and obviously birding. Most of the birds discussed in this books were not from my geographic region but it was still interesting. The maps on the front and back coverlet pages were helpful.

Polly says

I really enjoyed this book. Bruce Beehler clearly loves nature, birds, butterflies, trees, seasons etc. It was a very interesting saga of his trip following warbler migration from their landing back in North America and working their way north to Canada, the Adirondacks etc. His trip was fun to follow - southern red-neck towns with diners, Midwest places, Indian territory in Canada etc. He threw in lots of interesting facts about conservation, bird research, threats to the environment and parts of the country. I especially enjoyed this because Bruce grew up in Baltimore and was a good buddy of my brother.

A says

Not being a birder, many of the birds described in this book are not familiar to me. Still, the journey to observe birds in their natural habitats, and the description of these habitats is compelling enough for me to want to know more. The terrain that Beehler covered is varied and his descriptions of the seasons and the landscapes make me want to go camping. Moose flies? Yikes!
