

## Harvard Recycling Update, Fall 2020

### REMOTE LEARNING CHANGES HARVARD TRASH

The global pandemic has had dramatic effects on Harvard and its trash. Dorms have been de-populated; residential population of FAS, for example, is less than 25% of the 2019 count. Most classes are offered only virtually, and the majority of office staff works from home now. The net effect is that Harvard's recycling and trash tonnage has dropped considerably. Tonnages for April, May and June 2020 were about one third of those the previous year. Ironically, the Covid lockdown may enable us to meet the Sustainability Plan's goal of cutting our waste by 50% of 2006 levels by the end of this calendar year.

Since FAS admonished students to bring only the minimum personal possessions to school this year, we anticipate a smaller Move-out. As we go to press, the College is requiring all freshmen to leave their dorms for the year by Sunday, 11-22-20. So not as many rugs, pillows, lamps and appliances will be donated as at a typical Move-out this fall.

The pandemic is accelerating the trend towards on-line shopping, with its bulky box and plastic packaging. We are trying to promote those on-campus to empty, flatten, collapse and recycle all boxes for recycling. Cardboard is still a desirable recyclable commodity. In fact, with box generation down at restaurants and retailers, the industry demand has brought the price of cardboard up a small amount. Resilience is key to how we are going to beat this scourge, and flattening cardboard recycling boxes is a good way to accommodate the growth of this important element of our recycling stream.

Finally, since all meals are to-go, with no group dining indoors, students on campus are generating far more take-out ware. See related "Dining Service-Ware" graphic put together by the Zero Waste Team for instructions on how to recycle and compost the to-go ware.

Thanks for all your help to reduce, reuse and recycle, whether you are here on campus or at home this semester!

## ROB GOGAN RETIRES

At the end of October, I will retire from Harvard. I am moving on after 30 years as Recycling & Waste Services Manager, three years as Recycling Intern, six years as a doctoral student and recycling advocate, and four years as a Teaching Fellow at Harvard Extension starting in 1980. Giving the opportunity to recycle to members of the Harvard community has been extremely gratifying. Not many of us have much say in where our electricity comes from, but everyone at Harvard can recycle or compost. In my time on campus, we have recovered over 100,000 tons for recycling. That is the equivalent of filling Blodgett Pool to overflowing five times with papers, bottles, cans and boxes. Our compost collection programs to recover food scraps—which we pioneered in the Boston area—and landscape trimmings have kept over 30,000 tons of organics out of landfills and incinerators.

A special thrill for me was being Harvard's Robin Hood, taking surplus donations from the wealthiest university in the world and re-distributing them to needier corners of our campus, the local community including over 200 charities, and beyond. We raised over \$1 million for Harvard Habitat for Humanity over 22 Stuff Sales, recovering about 250,000 cubic yards of clothing (400 tons), books (100 tons), rugs, couches, mirrors and lamps for reuse. This is the equivalent of 1,300 Red Line T subway cars, enough to stretch bumper-to-bumper covering every foot of the rails from Alewife Station, through Harvard Square, all the 13 miles to Ashmont Station.

None of these achievements would have been possible without you. I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the blood, sweat and tears of you drivers, staff, students, faculty, contractors, and volunteers. Over the years, thousands of you have actively supported us. We have partnered with members of every School of the University and Department of Campus Services to achieve these goals. Our contractors have changed the Harvard refuse service model from “pick it all up and put it into a hole in the ground” to “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” before disposal. At the same time, we have centralized the piecemeal recycling that went on in over 90 separate paper and bottle collection programs on campus in 1990, serviced by four different vendors, to one program for all 13 faculties and over 1,000 buildings in Cambridge, Allston and the Longwood Medical Area.

In my remaining days, I plan to stay active in the world of recycling, reuse and repair. I serve on the MassRecycle Board of Directors, the Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee, and FixitClinic.org. I hope to do a lot of nature

watching, and I serve as a CoCoRAHs for the National Weather Service, a supporter of the Hudson River Sloop ClearWater, and an iNaturalist BioBlitzer. I want to be a better citizen of my town, state and nation. I hope to continue to explore our glorious coastal waters in our zero-emissions cruising sailboat the “Blue Moon,” 100% wind and solar powered.

We still have a lot of work to do. Urgent environmental, social and economic problems beset our campus and nation. The scale of the problems can be overwhelming. Somehow it helps to make the challenge more manageable when we can at least recycle a can, box or paper. Recycling alone is hardly sufficient, but it is necessary in order to face the bigger efforts we need to make to keep our planet healthy for us. We owe this continued effort not only to all current members of the Harvard community, but to all the generations of students, faculty and staff yet to come. So again I say for the final time here at Harvard, “Thanks for reducing, reusing and recycling!”



## NEW “TO-GO” WARE RECYCLING & COMPOSTING GUIDE

Our stellar Zero Waste Team of College undergraduates faced a new challenge this fall. Though there were only one quarter as many residents on campus, all



their meals were served in single-use containers, generating lots of trash. Some wares were recyclable, some compostable, and some neither. Working with HUDS and Harvard Recycling, the ZWT put together this guide. Please feel free to print and post. We also have this image in a higher-resolution PDF if you'd prefer.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BREAKS \$3,000

Although there was no Stuff Sale, Harvard Habitat for Humanity has raised significant funds this year. We hope to save the goods we recovered from the emergency March Move-out until there is another Move-in sale. Progress in controlling the pandemic will determine when this will be. This summer, sales of clothing and other household goods donated through the “Pink Bags” program of Simple Recycling totaled \$2,746. In addition, a freezer donated by Northwest Labs was sold for \$500 thanks to volunteer Amy Wrigley. Good job to our stellar crew of volunteers who received, sorted and bagged loose goods. Kudos to Juliet Collins and Laurie Chronney of PBHA, Connor Bond and Kilee Holmes of HHH for their help as well.

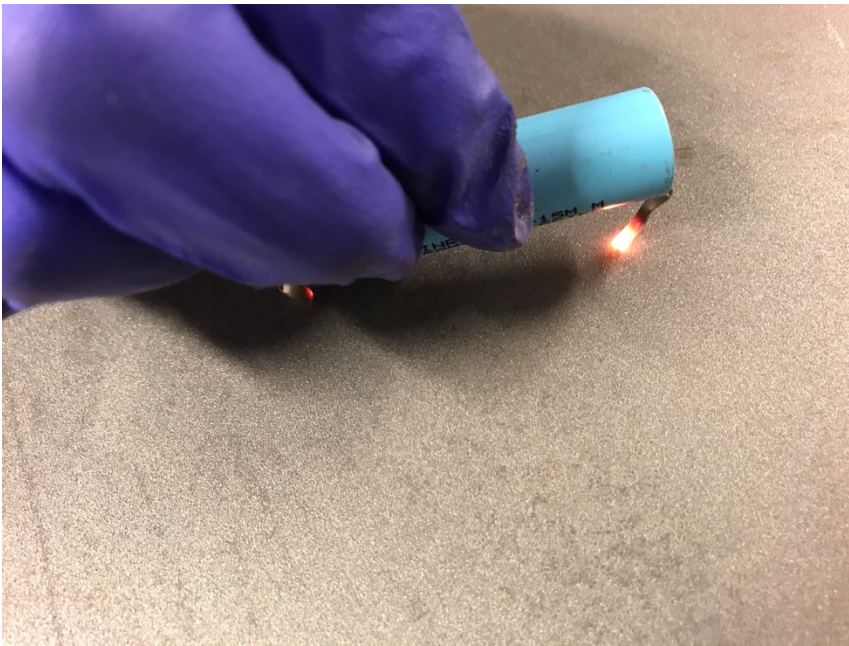


## VALENTINE'S DRIVE ON FOR 2021

Save your surplus toiletries and cosmetics! The Valentine's Cosmetics Drive to benefit the Cambridge Family Shelter of the YWCA will run again in 2021. Thanks to the ever-resilient help of Harvard Mail Services, you can inter-office mail bagged and boxed cosmetics to Harvard Recycling at 28 Travis Street, Allston. For in-person drop-offs, Devorah Sperling of "Outings and Innings" is hoping that by January, her office at 44R Brattle St will be able to receive them. Check with O & I at 617-495-2828.

## TAPE UP or BAG YOUR BATTERIES

When preparing rechargeable batteries for recycling, please tape up the terminals or bag them to prevent short circuits. This can cause fires. Kieran Clyne of Harvard Recycling discovered that an unbagged Lithium-Ion Samsung 3.7V battery had welded its terminals onto the walls of the steel bucket in which it was recycled. We think the battery came from a virtual reality headset.



See attached photo showing how rechargeable batteries can spark and cause red-hot temperatures within one second of being touched to steel. We depend on you to keep our drivers, battery sorters, trucks and warehouse safe. Please spread the word to your occupants and residents.

## KNOCK THOSE BOXES DOWN

Harvard Recycling asks you to open your cardboard boxes twice, once from the top and again from the bottom. This will better enable you to empty and flatten them for recycling. See the terrific poster prepared by RecyclingWorks.



We could also send you laminated print-outs of this sign, customized for Harvard. Or you can visit RecyclingWorks here:

<https://recyclingworksma.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Flatten-Cardboard-Boxes-Graphic.pdf>

## HARVARD SURPLUS DISTRIBUTION

We regret that Surplus Distribution is closed until further notice. Many Harvard venues formerly open to the public have been closed to help depopulate the campus and to protect the health of those who must be here. It is likely that we will not open until the Covid-19 outbreak is controlled. A good clue as to when we might reopen is whether or not the Harvard Museums of Art and Culture are open to the public. Check their website here to find out: <https://hmsc.harvard.edu/programs>. We hope to open Surplus again soon to help connect surplus Harvard furniture, supplies and equipment with Harvard departments, organizations and neighbors that need them.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MassRecycle, the Commonwealth's recycling advocacy coalition, is hosting its annual conference virtually this year. Learn about dozens of programs, opportunities and vendors this Wednesday and Thursday, 10-27-20 and 10-28-20. <https://massrecycle.org/events/conference/>

Harvard Waste Talks hosted by Sakiko Isomichi, MDiv student:

10/30: [Designing Waste](#)

11/6: [Reducing/Eliminating Plastic Waste at HKS](#)

11/13 12-12:30pm: [Multimedia Communication for Waste Reduction and Education](#)

11/20 12-12:30pm: [Rachel Perlman PhD, MIT](#)

12/4: [Recycling and the Commodities Market: How Everything is Connected](#)

Thanks for Reducing, Reusing and Recycling!

## CAMPUS NATURE WATCH

We have compiled all 20 years of the Harvard Campus Nature Watch into one 100-page document, with observations sorted by month. We also have a slide deck of some of the most compelling photos. Please let us know if you'd like to receive either of these documents. Pasted below we present the October, November and December collated observations. After that, we list over 200 of you who have sent nature watch observations over the years. Of course, the #1

Nature Watcher, who submitted sightings for almost every issue, is Sonia Ketchian, Ph.D., Independent Scholar of the Davis Center. Thanks so much! If you would like to continue the Nature Watch beyond my tenure, please contact me. You can also send your sightings to Rob Gogan's Instagram page, @robogogan. This may be a good way to continue sharing sightings after my retirement!

## **OCTOBER**

October 2002: MOCKINGBIRD perches on Barker Hall gate, then finds something of interest in the street before flying to the front of Lamont. . . busy adult mocker feeds young with short tail on the lawn of the Barker Center between Prescott and Harvard Street while siblings clamor close by . . . young RED TAILED HAWK seen perched on the gold weathervane on top of Memorial Church, MCZ Labs, Jefferson Labs, Langdell Hall, Holyoke Center, Harvard Epworth Church and Harvard Hall, crying out every few seconds for several minutes at a stretch (Pierce Lawn chick hatched this May?). . . Where have all the GRAY SQUIRRELS gone? one keen observer has seen only three young squirrels in the Yard (next to Weld Hall) in seven days' observations; last fall they were scampering over the entire Yard for seeds and acorns every daylight hour; could red taileds be to blame?... lots of HOUSE SPARROWS (also CARDINALS) bathe vigorously in water and dust in Busch Hall's courtyard every day... Polistes dominulus (PAPER WASP) colony is evicted from outside the building at 1230 Soldiers Field Road and a ground-nesting Vespula maculifrons (YELLOW JACKET) nest was eliminated at the entrance to Holden Chapel. See stunning photos of these and other insects at <http://www.massinsects.com/>

October 2003: GRAY SQUIRREL on lawn between Boylston and Grays dines on a mushroom cap in the grass; later, a squirrel darts down the SWEET BAY tree with big red fruit pod in its mouth...SHREW scampers across cadmium-yellow parking stripes on asphalt at cinder block base of 175 North Harvard Street, dodging pedestrians and vehicle tires without slackening its quick little steps...RED-TAILED HAWK soars above Charles near Blackstone Steam Plant stacks; another red-tailed perches on the weather vane on Memorial Church for some time before deciding to show it was an adult by screeching as it flies down and away toward the Faculty Club; mature red-tailed sits in the rain on Cambridge Common, then flies up towards some trees, losing the bird (pigeon?) it was clutching...An albino HOUSE SPARROW flashes by the Engineering Science Labs on Oxford Street...Once-familiar



MOCKINGBIRDS vacate Lamont during renovations...CHICKADEE near Pusey calls and tries to drink water from a littered coffee cup cover but succeeds only sometimes because it keeps slipping...chickadees also chirp in the KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE at the base of the stairs there... birds construct nests beneath both of the cast-iron "flowers" that decorate the pediment atop the massive cast-iron gate at the Mass Ave entrance to Widener Library... medium-sized butterfly--purple with buff borders--flies up to a secure nook on the side of Boylston Hall... white butterfly flies the length of the Barker Center...a few HOVER FLIES seen in sunny patches by Loeb Theatre (linked to massive rainfall this summer which reduced the aphid population on the huge maples there?); near-frost bloodies SOURWOOD leaves, while PORTULACA, PHLOX, DAISIES, AND ASTERS bloom at Herbaria; Seen behind OEB Glasshouse: pair of white butterflies forms mating vortex; CICADAS buzz, MORNING GLORIES bloom and fruit; CRICKETS hasten their pulse in move-in heat wave; blooming PEONIES, LADIES' THUMB, QUEEN ANNE'S LACE, RED CLOVER, DAISIES, MULLEIN, DUTCHMEN'S BRITCHES, HYDRANGEA abuzz with bees, flies & wasps; ants also harvesting nectar busily, large black beetles with yellow-jacket like stripes on butterfly bush; pears swell to ripeness; WATER LILIES undulate in the Charles near 1 Western Avenue, mimicking the textured brick on Harvard's newest space-efficient building; TURKEY TAIL fungi as big as a dinner plate festoon Elm stump on Mount Auburn Street opposite Claverly Hall; bronze Rhinos fly out of Biology! See <http://www.mcb.harvard.edu/Intro/Tour/Tour24.html>.

October 2004: mated MALLARD DUCKS wing down the river towards the Weeks Footbridge and land underneath it, settling in for the night without seeming to be bothered one bit by crowds of people, amplified music, giant puppets, or the newly installed lights on the bridge for the annual RiverSing! (see antlered bipeds on the Weeks Footbridge here: <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2004/09.30/28-riversing.html>)... RED- TAILED HAWK flies very low from the Barker Center to Lamont Library across Quincy Street just over the heads of oblivious Harvardians waiting for the Longwood Shuttle bus... (the same?) red-tailed perches on the weather vane on Memorial Chapel, overseeing the preparations for the re-dedication of Widener... GRACKLE lands on the top of the handicapped elevator canopy at the back of Grays Hall to peek in at the students who had drawn their shades; next day, it perches in a tree behind Wadsworth... BLUE JAY shrieks behind Sever in alarm.... CHICKADEES sing their "chick-a-dee-dee" song among the CRAB APPLE TREES above Pusey... flock of HOUSE SPARROWS feasts on the ripe red berries of the KOUSA DOGWOOD in the

corner of Wigglesworth and Wadsworth; soon, female DOWNY WOODPECKER joins them, hanging upside down to taste a succulent berry; downy leaves to hop up and down the bark of a WHITE OAK next to Boylston Hall... rampant rot dooms to chainsaw ancient ENGLISH ELM beloved of squirrels on the side of Massachusetts Hall; landscapers also cull several nearby TULIP TREES which succumbed to last winter's cold (one still survives near Johnston Gate)... small yellow BUTTERFLY flits from the crabapples over Pusey to the larger KENTUCKY COFFEE trees near Lamont... Pale lilac AUTUMN CROCUS blooms outside Dunster House courtyard...ENGLISH IVY entwining the peaked, locked gate on the south side of Lamont turns a crimson red... other trees culled because of disease include a HONEY LOCUST by the John Harvard statue and the only 3 WILLOW OAKS in the Yard, two of them in front of Matthews Hall, and one on the west side of Thayer... tidy pile of WALNUT HUSK fragments attests to squirrel's industry near Gannett House... BUCKEYE nuts and husks, hurricane-soaked, slick sidewalk on Massachusetts Avenue to west of Straus Hall.

October 2005: GRAY SQUIRREL in front of Robinson nibbles a white mushroom...PEREGRINE FALCON perches on top of Mather House waiting for lunch to go by...BLUE JAY calls in the Sever Quad [claiming all those acorns?]. . .WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH hop-climbs up and down the WHITE OAK behind Sever...Male CARDINAL, male GOLDFINCH, and female GOLDFINCH hunt for seeds in the abandoned and overgrown garden at the corner of Akron and Banks Streets... Large flocks of HOUSE SPARROWS and STARLINGS feast on grubs in Busch Hall courtyard grass, taking dust baths in the gravel of the paths there followed by dips in the two bird baths. Busch Hall staff accommodates avian hygiene needs by emptying and re-filling baths each morning... Hawks scream over Science Center and Law School. One makes diving attack on another while perched on Austin Hall [adolescent hawks at play?]. . . Hawk gives warning shriek, then flies 10 feet over jogger's head along Soldiers Field...DOWNY WOODPECKER inspects tree bark surface on patrol for insects in the Yard just west of Sever...Stow-away slender BROWN SCORPION crawls from the suitcase of a startled student returning from Costa Rica. EH & S crew successfully captures the creature. See photo of this exotic import here: [http://www.ub.ntnu.no/scorpion-files/c\\_gracilis.php](http://www.ub.ntnu.no/scorpion-files/c_gracilis.php)... Large CROP OF ACORNS peppers sidewalks of Harvard Yard and the Law School this year. Good news for squirrels—and hawks...Early AUTUMN SQUALL flattens mature trees on Memorial Drive and Oxford Street <http://www.thecrimson.com/index.aspx?issdat=9/30/2005>...Residents decry

plan to cut BRADFORD PEAR trees on Holyoke Street:  
<http://www.thecrimson.com/today/article508748.html>

October 2006: Young COTTONTAIL RABBIT camouflaged in the brush freezes when walker approaches on the river bank on Soldiers Field Road...GRAY SQUIRREL chases the famous WHITE SQUIRREL down a large maple tree in the MCZ courtyard. He lingers atop one of the picnic benches right behind Tozzer, then dashes off again, chased by the gray squirrel. Witness reports that our white friend has grown bigger and the ginger coloring is more noticeable, and expresses relief that he hasn't yet become hawk food! Meanwhile, outside Holworthy, a black-coated gray squirrel tastes the Yard's abundant crop of acorns...BROWN BAT flies over parker's head inside the Everett garage at dusk...RED-TAILED HAWK coasts over Gutman toward American Repertory Theater, screaming continuously for almost three minutes-perched atop antenna on roof of ART. Red-taileds also seen (and heard) on Church Street, on top of the movie theatre, Weld Hall roof, and at 79 Garden Street...Two BLUE JAYS fly from the Yard to the tall tree in front of the Fogg...A white-breasted nuthatch in an elm between Widener and University Hall calls out loudly to the students enjoying the delightful summer-like Columbus Day to make the most of their last day of freedom from classes...Flock of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES sings "Phoebe" in dogwoods outside Chemistry and Chemical Biology at 12 Oxford Street...Yard Birds: Chickadee calls from tall tree in front of Loeb House. Blue Jay calls near Widener. Many birds flock to the ripe berries on the KOUSA DOGWOOD on the corner of Wigglesworth K and Wadsworth House. ROBIN flies down from UMBRELLA MAGNOLIA by the basement entrance to Grays Hall. MOCKINGBIRD flies out of the colorful flower garden in front of Loeb House into a tree. A robin frolics gleefully in the puddle in the Sever Quad...MOURNING DOVE struts along the circular brick pavement at the entrance to Loeb House...HBS campus rings with the sound of cicadas through late August and early September. Loud buzzing, rattling, and hissing sounds represent mating calls between the males and females. One is seen atop a tree on the south side of Baker Library. Cicadas also buzz high in an oak tree between Phillips Brooks House and Stoughton Hall...The maple on the Quincy side of Robinson Hall is turning red on top, and red oaks in Tercentenary Theatre begin their crimson symphony...Pale lilac autumn crocus bloom outside of Dunster House.

October 2007...River-bound SKUNK skitters through the intersection of Plympton and Mill Streets by Leverett House in the early morning dark...

GREY SQUIRRELS busily harvest abundant acorns near WHITE OAKS near Hollis Hall... Dead BROWN BAT lies on the path between Sever and Widener...PEREGRINE FALCON atop Mather House tower screeches and scans the skies for prey... Graceful MOCKINGBIRD walks the green lawn at the side of 17 Sumner (Davis Center offices) and enters the bushes of the next house...Large hawks' nest grows, high up but easily visible, in the ENGLISH ELM near the entrance of Mass Hall facing the John Harvard statue...WILD TURKEY flies 30 feet into a tree near Weeks Footbridge...On the Quincy side of Lamont, the HOUSE SPARROWS' sand spa of at least three holes has two that are so deep you can't see the sparrows when they go inside...HONEYBEES feast on LAVENDER blossoms in front of new 7 Cowperthwaite building...MONARCH BUTTERFLY flits across Cambridge Street from the School of Design. Another flies west (Mexican Sierra-bound?), high above the Ukrainian Center and over the green toward CGIS-North... The low trees (Castor Aralia) in front of CGIS-South bloom in whitish clusters...RED OAK leaves begin their shift to crimson in time for President Faust's Installation in Tercentenary Theater...Plump green pods of LIQUID AMBER trees fall into Old Yard grass...Enormous harvest moon sets over the Business School, brightening one commuter's morning as the sun rises more tardily in autumn skies...See Ryan Lynch '03's fabulous website mapping and identifying (nearly) every Harvard Yard tree! Ryan's map was based on data prepared by Peter Siebert, CAD/GIS Applications Developer for the HU Planning Office. Thanks again to Ryan and Peter for making this fine resource available.

<http://www.crimsoncanopy.com/>

October 2009:TAKE THE HARVARD YARD TREE WALK 10-31! RYAN LYNCH, tree connoisseur who personally identified and mapped all 130 species of trees in Harvard Yard back when he was a freshman in 2003 or so, is hosting a Halloween Tree Walk at 11 AM on Saturday, 31 October 2009. Meet at the John Harvard statue in front of University Hall at 11. To prepare for this arboreal treat, check out Ryan's extensive map and history of the trees of Harvard Yard at this website:

<http://www.crimsoncanopy.com/harvardyard/index.html>

RED-TAILED HAWK screeches from the roof of Larsen Hall on Appian Way. [The same?] hawk calls from the roof of Widener, blending in with the roof decorations...Immature red-tailed hawk gives his pouting call in the Old Yard, and another answers; a passing professor joins witnesses and suggests they are about to have an "AD HAWK" meeting...Screech of a juvenile hawk over Massachusetts Hall hastens the bounding leaps of a quick, young GRAY SQUIRREL with a short, bushy tail dashing up a slim, leafy oak tree with a

long, ripe acorn...Two WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES call while feeding in elm tree at the corner of Emerson and Pusey, while a BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE sips the sap at the big round opening left from the removal of a branch...Energetic white-breasted nuthatches chirp noisily outside 7 Ware Street...Nuthatch at the very bottom of the TULIP TREE trunk by the gate facing the Fogg climbs up in circular fashion, keeping human admirers in suspense, and then flies off to Robinson...For the second day, an immature mockingbird alights on the handlebar of a bike at the rack in front of Robinson; a sibling joins him on the rack and they "communicate" silently before taking off...BLUE JAY in the tall pine in front of Robinson intersperses his own calls with those of the whining immature Red-tailed Hawk and nearly fools admirer. Also a GRACKLE feeds near the bicycle rack. DOWNY WOODPECKER chops away at the pine tree outside Conant Laboratory window on Oxford Street...Dunster Garden hosts a MOCKINGBIRD and a calling BLUEJAY, while a BUMBLEBEE is busy at a small flower...On the Pusey rooftop another mockingbird joins the ROBINS and HOUSE SPARROWS in the CRABAPPLE to dine on the abundant fruit. White BUTTERFLY flits quickly along the front of Robinson past Sever. Yardlings rue loss of one of the Austrian Pines on the roof of Pusey by Loeb House, where robins, bluejays, STARLINGS, and House Sparrows once fed. High volume of WHITE OAK acorns bombards the Yard and Holmes Field. Nuts "ping" off the new Common Space chairs and tables, especially at the Holworthy end of the Old Yard...HORSE CHESTNUTS spread their dazzling woodgrain shells around Radcliffe Yard; staffer builds a row of these beauties on her desk and she keeps a couple in her pocket as "worry stones." Two pristine-white bushes of "Bride of Christ" flowers still bloom next to CGIS-South...Medium-sized brown mushroom manages to live on Tercentenary Theater lawn under a BLACK LOCUST in front of Widener. YELLOW CALENDULA blooms behind Loeb House, while a big gorgeous apricot-colored ROSE graces the side alongside a small deep red rose and the front is a profusion of flowers--yellow, purple, white, etc...Squirrels toss fuzzy casings down from SAWTOOTH OAK next to Robinson Hall.

October 2010

COYOTE walks up the ramp onto North Harvard Street from Soldiers Field Road just before first light of dawn...FOX takes an afternoon doze in the Softball Field dugout; when humans approach, s/he ambles over to the warning track in the outfield to stretch out on the sun-warmed gravel. When landscaper walks into field, the fox saunters into the bushes. The next day, fox is seen sleeping in the pipe at the core of the big rolled-up tarp while Varsity



Softball team pitchers warm up in the adjacent bullpen. When witness reports sighting fox, Coach asks landscape workers to rouse and evict fox. Clapping and marching, pair of landscapers startles fox, who trots away, peering back at chasers. When chasers stop, fox stops; when they resume walking, fox walks to favored sunny warning track, lies down and watches landscapers. When chasers step forward again, fox gives up occupancy of Softball Field and crawls through hedge and fence into O'Donnell Field, where it stays for the remainder of the afternoon...Eviscerated corpses of EASTERN COTTONTAIL RABBITS, as many as four per night, show up in Athletic fields, perhaps victims of predators described above...HARBOR SEAL slips through the Charles River Locks near Harvard Sailing Center and spends a week in the lower Charles basin before wisely returning back through the locks into Boston Harbor on the first day of the Head of the Charles Regatta. Perhaps it didn't like all the extra traffic! Watch videos by New England Aquarium and Matt Lindblad, MIT Sailing Coach:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8KWWDwew-I>

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/10/22/harbor\\_seal\\_slips\\_into\\_river/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/10/22/harbor_seal_slips_into_river/)

ALLIGATOR, four feet long, no doubt an abandoned pet that had outgrown its owner's fish tank, is captured in the Charles River in Dedham:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/2010/09/alligator\\_captu.html?p1=News\\_links](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2010/09/alligator_captu.html?p1=News_links)

RED-TAILED HAWK captures GREY SQUIRREL in the Memorial Hall horseshoe drive and flies north, its broad wings providing ample lift to carry the prey... [another] red-tailed leaves perch on the top of Harvard Stadium flagpole to capture and dine on a young rabbit... Near North Hall, low-flying hawk glides with wriggling rat in its talons, gliding towards the middle of a yellow woodframe house on the west side of Mass Ave. Just in time, the hawk veers upward, releasing the rat to crash into the clapboards high over the sidewalk. Clearing the house, the hawk then swoops down to pick up the now-still rodent...On a sunny October day a red-tailed hawk lazily flies from Prescott Street over the Faculty Club's Rose Garden ...young hawk stands proudly over the squirrel it killed in Radcliffe Yard in this Harvard Crimson photo:

<http://www.thecrimson.com/gallery/2010/10/20/photographs-october-20-edition/...>

Murder of 12 CROWS torments a GREAT HORNED OWL in the pines at the Academy of Arts and Sciences behind 5 Bryant Street on the Friday before Halloween weekend...ROBINS feed on the ground and on the deep red fruits of the crab apple trees on Pusey's green roof, along with STARLINGS, HOUSE SPARROWS, a MOURNING DOVE and a male HOUSE FINCH...Leaves of SOURWOOD trees on the Mass Ave side of Wigglesworth flame with spectacular shades of crimson, orange, gold and

purple...Facing the Business School at the beginning of the upstream side of the Larz Anderson Bridge, nearly a dozen WINTERBERRY TREES show off their captivating clusters of red berries, ready to feed passing flocks. In an ELM between Widener and Weld, a WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH keeps calling and foraging from branch to branch... A juvenile JUNCO feeds on the grassy roof of Pusey and two big fat dragonflies circle overhead... On the Quincy side of Emerson Hall, a CHICKADEE calls out its name... GRACKLE by the entrance to Wadsworth House gladly accepts bread intended for the sparrows...The Faculty Club's Rose Garden has bees busily feeding in the various flowers and a medium-sized butterfly with orange base and black and white spots on outer wings... PRAYING MANTIS delights Leverett House students. See photo from the Crimson: [http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2010/10/22/leverett-praying-sunday-upon/LIQUID AMBER](http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2010/10/22/leverett-praying-sunday-upon/LIQUID%20AMBER) Trees on the Mass Ave side of Wigglesworth display spectacular greenish-golden hanging pods and maroon-rust leaves. On the side entrance to Loeb House, roses show beautiful blossoms of deep crimson, pink, and apricot-pink...On the sunny Friday before the Columbus Day weekend, students in the Old Yard string a flat web belt between two young PAGODA TREES and take turns trying to walk across it without falling off. Spectators enjoy watching their attempts without fearing for their safety.

October 2012: KOUSA DOGWOOD berries drop onto sidewalk in front of Langdell Library and other locations across campus, getting crushed into red ovals under pedestrians' feet...Two little girls gleefully roll HORSE CHESTNUTS down the steps of Byerly Hall in Radcliffe Yard on an unusually warm October afternoon...BRACKET FUNGUS the size of half a dinner plate erupts from the base of a HONEY LOCUST tree on JFK Street near Eliot House...Autumn breezes create chop at the Head of the Charles regatta; millions of golden honey locust leaves ripple in long strips in the wakes of boats and in the smoother waters downwind of the Larz Anderson Bridge pilings...Visit Cambridge Public Library's guidebook to 25 trees at Joan Lorenz Park, next to the Main Library. Download the PDF here: [http://www.cambridgetrees.net/uploads/1/2/4/1/12417552/knowing\\_the\\_trees.pdf](http://www.cambridgetrees.net/uploads/1/2/4/1/12417552/knowing_the_trees.pdf) (The Awesome Foundation provided the funding for the guide!)

October 2013: The week before the Head of the Charles Regatta, thick fog rolls downriver towards a synchronized pair of scullers with oars at rest; a pair of CANADA GEESE slowly swims in the same direction...On the Sunday afternoon of the Regatta, six BLUEJAYS persistently call and harass a perching barred owl on a low branch of a tree behind Soldiers Field Park. The flock of noisy jays do not stir the owl, but prevent it from sleeping... Yard BLUEJAY

flies to the crab apple trees on the Pusey roof to see if the fruits are ripe enough to eat...Male DOWNY WOODPECKER swoops outside the Widener Library into a tree outside the window facing Weld Hall, then moves into the adjacent tree before flying off toward Grays.

October 2014: Female “WILD” TURKEY jumps down from a berry tree near Wadsworth House to feed in the grass...[the same?] “wild” turkey pecks in the grass between the Faculty Club and Warren House... three “wild” turkey primary feathers decorate Kirkland House lawn adjacent to JFK Street. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER takes a pre-migratory flight past Northwest Labs...High on the crenellated rooftop of Larsen Hall at the Graduate School of Education, a young RED-TAILED HAWK continuously screeches for its parents...two young red-taileds perching on top of Memorial Hall call for attention from their parents early one evening... (Young?) WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH flies calling from one tree to the WHITE OAK on the side of Sever...HOUSE SPARROW sand-bathes in the Faculty Club garden.

October 2018: GARTER SNAKE hides among the grass in front of Gordon McKay on Oxford Street on a warm summer night...Spiral-shaped HONEY LOCUST SEED PODS corkscrew along JFK Park next to Kennedy School of Government in front of bicyclist on gusty fall morning...At least 200 CANADA GEESE graze on Ohiri Field as full Beaver Moon rises above Morgan Hall cupola...Two DOWNY WOODPECKERS forage together in a very tall tree facing Widener's front steps and also call to each other...Rain-swollen Charles currents curl and tumble lazily around rocks and roots at bank by Lyman Bridge. Small fish breaks water at silty surface beside ripe apple flooding by from upstream tree.

“For every problem there is a species with a solution . . . thus it is imperative that we protect and learn about all of them. One of humanity's greatest challenges is to explore, save, and use biological diversity for the benefit of all generations to come.”—E. O. Wilson

## **NOVEMBER**

November 2002: RED-TAILED HAWKS battle above the Radcliffe Quad, plummet to the ground and keep fighting; contractors try to break them apart by yelling and kicking dust at them, but they continue mauling each other despite human interference; more dominant hawk sinks his beak in to the other

bird's breast a final time, and then flies off; loser also is able to fly away; meanwhile, a third hawk sits up on the weather vane at Pforzheimer House, watching in safety... HAWKS also seen on Lowell House belltower, decorative wrought iron bar next to the front clock face on Busch Hall clock tower, Hemenway Gym, Weld Hall, and over Weld Boat House... BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES in tree by Austin Hall. . . olive-colored immature male ORCHARD ORIOLE hops along the branches and chirping in the larch near the entrance to Science Center; another is seen on the "roof" of Pusey in the crabapple trees... male DOWNY WOODPECKER chirps away in Radcliffe Yard... flock of 200 CANADA GEESE grazes on the football practice field on Soldiers Field Road. ... meanwhile after weather calms and cools, lonely goose glides up the Charles with no comrades in sight... STUNNING FALL FOLIAGE reported: SUGAR MAPLE at 10 Ware St., IVY on Harvard Stadium, SOURWOODS along south wall of Wigglesworth Hall on Mass. Ave., young MAPLE east of University Hall... ancient trees sprout new specimens in Quad: GINKGOS at Jordan and REDWOOD at Eliot Hall on Shepard St... north of Porter Square, two RACCOONS scamper up tree as car approaches; one comes back down soon but other stays in tree... MICE warm up in Harvard buildings: see <http://www.thecrimson.harvard.edu/article.aspx?ref=255095...>

November 2003: RED FOX hides among shrubs at Mellon Hall and is flushed out by superbly-trained Belgian Sheepdog, who first discovers scent of fox's cache of eight partly-buried GRAY SQUIRRELS; dog then scents and sees the fox itself, dashing over the Business School green to a stand of bushes; dog hunts down fox's well-hidden lair; fox abandons lair and runs to another hiding space at foot of Weeks Footbridge to make its escape, as sheepdog's master restrains him from running near Memorial Drive cars... luckier gray squirrels bury abundant WHITE OAK acorns in sand of new volleyball court beside Hoffman... RED-TAILED HAWKS or perhaps the same hawk scream near Austin Hall (and a squirrel parks under an evergreen for the duration); hawk also perches on the Memorial Church weathervane and noisily on Old Cambridge Baptist Church... great blue heron flies right over Larz Anderson Bridge, startling pedestrians, and lands in the Charles ... flying formation of around 30 immature DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANTS flaps over Harvard College Observatory Annex in Porter Square, headed in the direction of the Charles...BLUE JAY calls as it flies over Pusey, joins its mate and they fly together over Carpenter Center... two MOCKING BIRDS sit on the wall in front of Lamont and then fly to the Inn at Harvard... MONARCH butterfly and a white butterfly each flit across the top of Pusey... DRAGONFLY flies across Pusey... RAVENEL'S STINKHORN mushrooms thrust black caps 6

inches above wood mulch at 175 North Harvard Street... slippery LINDEN and ELM leaves cling to bricks in autumn rain near Johnston Gate.

November 2005: SKUNK takes a lunch-time stroll on handicap walkway and down the steps of 5 Bryant Street, sending most residents running inside, but two smokers refuse to put out their cigarettes and puff defiantly as "Pepe" saunters away...CHESNUT-SIDED WARBLER forages on the ground beneath the Kousa Dogwoods outside the Geological Lecture Hall at 24 Oxford Street...Majestic HAWK perches on weathervane of Cabot Hall, surveying drizzle-soaked Radcliffe Quad...RED-TAILED HAWK circles low around Boylston and Weld Halls, lets out its piercing shriek, and flies across Mass Ave... another red-tail flies out of Lowell School park across the street to the low pine on Mt. Auburn Hospital grounds with a squirrel, to sighing dismay of pedestrian... another alights on Memorial Hall weathervane just above gargoyles in dim rainy-morning light and shakes excess water from wings as it takes its hunting observation post...MOCKINGBIRD sings its many songs in the maple at the corner of Lamont Library...MALE BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER shines among the shade trees at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences...BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE sings its signature name song next to Emerson... flock of chickadees calls and flits high among the tops of the Old Yard elms...MOURNING DOVE calls out from a pine at the back entrance to Lamont Library...BLUE JAY calls as it flies across Broadway to land on the Fogg Museum roof...DOWNY WOODPECKER "whinnies" in front of Widener...DARK-EYED JUNCO makes frequent visits to the Busch Hall courtyard along with usual house sparrows, starlings, and occasional mourning doves...WHITE OAK on the side of Boylston Hall drops acorns well into November. The two SOURWOOD trees on the Mass Ave side of Wigglesworth are deep red with hanging green-gold tassels...ROSES bloom again in Busch courtyard Indian Summer. An especially beautiful and large pink rose opens Nov 1...HONEY LOCUSTS shed their purple pods in slippery piles along the sidewalk of 46 Blackstone Street...SUGAR MAPLES on the Quincy Street side of Robinson Hall turn crimson and the young maple next to Emerson is red and losing its leaves, though Yardlings rue the tardiness and dullness of the foliage color this year...Take an autumn TREE WALK on Friday, 11-11-05. We will meet at the John Harvard statue at 3 PM. Starting in the Yard, we will work our way north to finish at the Radcliffe Quad. This Veteran's Day walk will stop at Radcliffe's memorial garden for Scott Sandberg, distinguished U.S. Navy veteran and devoted friend of recycling, who died on Mt. Washington on Thanksgiving Weekend 2002. Please RSVP to us if you're interested < rob\_gogan@harvard.edu >.



November 2006: Litter barrel traps foraging GREY SQUIRREL many times over several days in Busch Hall courtyard; squirrels fleeing litter barrel confinement also surprise bag-changing landscape workers near Harkness Commons at the Law School... Migrating OSPREY soars southward high over Memorial Church... MOCKINGBIRD sings atop crimson-tinged WHITE OAK on Dawes traffic island as oblivious pedestrian whistles "Listen to the Mockingbird;" Yard mocker pours out the calls and arias of absent birds; [same?] mocker flies from bush to low tree behind Grays Hall... GRACKLE walks past Wadsworth's entrance to hide beneath azalea bush... at least 10 HOUSE SPARROWS at a time bathe ecstatically in the Busch Hall courtyard bird bath while an equal number enjoy dry "sand" baths in the courtyard gravel paths; Yard house sparrows bathe in muddy sand in the work enclosure behind Widener where the removal of the green construction fence scrim now allows passersby to see their joy... On the side of Lamont, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES sing their signature song in the AUSTRIAN PINES above a WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, which explores fissured bark and calls loudly, much to the glee of a couple of students... large DRAGONFLY flies from one crabapple to another over Pusey, while two others circle the tree inside the sub-grade courtyard in the middle of Pusey; a fourth dragonfly flies the length of Quincy followed by a little yellow butterfly with light brown border... Multi-colored ROSES bloom again, stretching summer all through the month of October into November in the Busch Hall courtyard... AZALEA behind Wadsworth House delights the eye with over a dozen pink-clustered blossoms... Pusey CRABAPPLE displays bright red autumn blossom... sparse harvest of acorns this year follows heavy-light annual pattern.... on the Mass. Ave side of the Wigglesworth building next to Wadsworth, NORTHERN CATALPA holds onto huge green leaves... also on the Mass Ave side of Wigglesworth E, two magnificent SOURWOOD tree leaves glow a sharp red crimson with light greenish-yellow hanging "tassels"... red-tailed hawk juveniles (siblings?), prominent in the Yard all summer, have been absent since September... Read "The Wild World around Harvard" by John Stilgoe, Harvard Professor in the History of Landscape! Sign into Harvie <[www.harvie.harvard.edu](http://www.harvie.harvard.edu)> and click on October Resource.

November 2007

SKUNK ambles across Adams House upper terrace and roots around for grubs after dark.

Two RED TAILED HAWKS circle the newly painted Dunster House tower; then one settles on the weather vane for a brief rest.

Female DOWNY WOODPECKER works along the branches of a tree on the Brattle Street side of the Cronkhite Center.

Lone TURKEY gobbles up the grass on Baker Library's lawn in the early morning hours. [The same?] strutter passes by the above-ground entrance to the Receiving Dock, and was photographed there for the Harvard Community Resource:

< <http://harvie.harvard.edu/working/resource/myharvard/> >

CHIPMUNK hops across Prescott Street to find some refuge from the motor vehicle traffic in the Otto Hall grounds, surprising at least one passer-by (who speculated it might have come as stowaway on a truck).

A MARSH HAWK alights atop a light post next to Baker Library; all the birds in the adjacent Peterson Park trees screech in fear and warning.

For several hours, half a dozen RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS and another half dozen YELLOW-CROWNED KINGLETS busily feed and call in the Austrian Pines between Houghton and Lamont. An immature YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER joins them briefly, along with a GRACKLE and some BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES.

ROBIN'S NEST nestles in a young oak beside 17 Sumner Road.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS forage on the ground with House Sparrows beneath the big thick bush in front of Houghton.

Vibrant male CARDINAL greets passerby (tsuk-tsuking) from his perch in a small tree in front of the Barker Center.

Graceful MOCKINGBIRD avails herself of the CRAB APPLES on the tree in front of Houghton. A BLUE JAY flies from a tree near the Sackler across Cambridge Street to a tree by Gund Hall.

November 2009

NEW GENERATION WHITE SQUIRREL graces the lawns of 5 Bryant and the Divinity School. Its bushy tail shows a slightly warmer tone than its ancestor last seen in 2006.

RED-TAILED HAWK flies up to the medallions on the front-side roof of Widener to perch while human groundlings admire him... Another red-tailed skins and eats a small rodent on the limb of a crabapple tree near Botanic Gardens; see photos above.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE calls as it flies across Quincy Street to a fir tree near Robinson, while a second one remains in a fir between Carpenter Center and the

Fogg... Chickadees in the tree at Loeb House call as others cross Quincy Street to the tree tops at the Carpenter Center.

DUDLEY GARDEN LUNCHTIME REVERIES: Lovely bird song in the bush mimics long-gone songbirds; suddenly a Mockingbird emerges from shrubbery to perch on the back of the semi-circular bench. Soon after that he flies off to a tree and to his other duties... the next day, a small WASP keeps

moving about the Hawthorn tree and the Mockingbird in the dense green bush by the bench mimics a cardinal's tick-tick, a bluejay's call and later on, the shrieking of a red-tailed hawk..

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH calls between Memorial Chapel and Widener. A small wasp flew across Quincy Street.

A chipping CARDINAL camouflages his brilliant crimson coat among the clusters of red berries on the crabapple tree on the Mass Ave side of Wigglesworth by the back gate of Widener.

Pairs of HOUSE FINCHES and ROBINS feed on the crab apple fruit on the roof of Pusey, both from the red-fruited and the yellow-fruited trees.

Two CRAB APPLE TREES at Loeb House bear yellow fruit.

The Mass Ave side of Wigglesworth features trees with long, narrow, oval crimson leaves and hanging clusters of yellow-green narrow pods...

The small maple in front of Widener is aglow in crimson and tourists take turns photographing themselves in front of it...Faculty Club's Rose Garden still shows blooms of red and pink roses, as well as crimson and pink

SNAPDRAGONS. A sluggish HONEYBEE gathers its last nectar from a big pink rose. The low bushes in the garden have lost their leaves so the little red berries growing in clusters stand out...Glistening HORSE CHESTNUTS

falling near Lehman Hall are all gone, picked up by tourists looking for a botanical souvenir of Harvard Yard...The IVY on the renovating Fogg turns orange on the left and cordovan on the right side of the building.

November 2011: BARRED OWL rests in a birch tree outside New College Theater office next to (fittingly) the Owl final club this fall before leaf drop.

November 2012: PEREGRINE FALCON sweeps over Widener, then pauses to soar between the Library and Weld Hall, scanning Boylston Plaza carefully in search of lunch...RED TAILED HAWK swoops down from Holyoke Center roof to hunt unseen prey on Holyoke Street...WILD TURKEY roosts several nights in the old crab apple over the little picnic table in the gully below the Museum of Comparative Zoology courtyard; (the same?) wild turkey visits UHS, taking refuge in a concrete niche on the ramp down to the parking garage underneath Holyoke Center...HERMIT THRUSH lives up to its name by skittering carefully underneath some VIBURNUM bushes bordering a patio at Harvard University Press at 79 Garden St. Though well-hidden, the bird nonetheless is unable to avoid detection by a vigilant Campus Nature Watcher...In the acre between Sever and Emerson, WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH climbs up and about the big WHITE OAK, then flies to the oak closest to Emerson where unidentifiably fast-moving birds dart. Soon, birds

including ROSE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES and other white-breasteds visit the large RED PINE with open cones nearby...Pair of silver HORNETS zoom in perfect synchrony 1,000 feet over the heads of 31,123 attendees of Harvard-Yale game at 400 MPH, roaring a 100-decibel final note to the "Star Spangled Banner."

November 2013: Eastern COYOTE trots back and forth along the fence between Ohiri Soccer Field and North Harvard Street early one November morning...Roses white, pink, yellow, red bloom well into November even through mild frost. The side of Loeb house facing Lamont now has only three pink-apricot roses; the larger deep crimson roses are gone...Flaming SUGAR MAPLES in the Old Yard, by Emerson in the Sever Quad, and behind Robinson on Quincy Street delight the eyes and cameras of visitors, as children and others pick up and admire colorful leaves at close range... Large catkins of CEDAR of LEBANON next to Lehman Hall fall off tree and sprinkle the walkway after brisk autumn rain.

November 2015: [Thanks to Harvard College Conservation Club for these observations:] Christian Perez spots a northern raccoon on November 11th on a fence outside of Lowell House. It has some difficulty navigating the pointy bars on top, but Christian reports that after about 30 minutes it finds its way down...Thomas Lingner watches and photographs one of the regular campus red-tailed hawks catching lunch—a mouse—outside Memorial Hall...The Harvard WILD TURKEY still patrols the Mass Ave sidewalk and in the Southern part of the yard, visiting Grays on the 2nd, outside Gato Rojo also on the 2nd, and behind Boylston on the 11<sup>th</sup>...A double-crested cormorant flies high over the MAC quad on November 13th... WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH climbs oak in front of Matthews...Tristan Wang reports a *Peziza varia* cup fungus, a type of ascomycete, next to the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

November 2018: Yardlings take advantage of early wet snow to roll up hundreds of WHITE OAK autumn leaves into a 5' snowball.

## **DECEMBER**

December 2002: Stars of wonder: from the north bank of the Charles, gorgeous Venus shows high in the southeast on cloud-free mornings over the Business School long after all the other stars have winked out, along with her dim mate Mars to her right; above to their right, Jupiter reigns next to Leo; every cloud-free evening, Saturn shows his rings in the brightest display in 30 years in the constellation Taurus...

December 2004: RACCOON falls into Langdell Hall window pit 15 feet deep and eventually escapes, climbing Cambridge Animal Control's exit ladder; the next day, a small DOMESTIC CAT falls into the same pit and is taken out by CAC... PEREGRINE FALCON lurks atop Leverett F-tower... two RED-TAILED HAWKS fly low beneath tree branches one after the other between Sever and Memorial Chapel and out the Yard; [one of the same?] red-tailed perches on the golden weather vane of Memorial Church watching students depart for Thanksgiving Break... another red-tailed perches atop Mather House tower... red-tailed chases pigeons over 625 Mass Ave in Central Square... MOCKINGBIRD alights on the side steps of Emerson then moves to a low tree; [the same?] mockingbird busily relishes the berries on the brick wall in front of Lamont... STARLING takes over the area between Lamont and the Inn at Harvard... female CARDINAL hop-flies from crest to crest on the long row of European Linden trees in front of WGBH on Western Avenue, chipping with each hop... WITCH HAZEL trees behind Widener near Houghton retain some leaves and show yellowish forsythia-like "blooms" ...to the right of Lamont, three or four bushes among the others have still retained their green leaves and show bright red small berries ... phallus impudicus FUNGI erupt from mulched stumps of cherry trees near 175 North Harvard St... season's first snowfall transforms Yard: small tree at Wigglesworth K, with narrow green leaves growing parallel along the stem and still in fall color, bends under the weight of the snow; a big snowman with dried leaves and pine branches for hair faces the entrance to Wigglesworth K; between Straus and Mathews, Yardlings construct snowfort complete with a white flag, enticing a father and his little children to play inside.

December 2005: RED-TAILED HAWK perches with prize PIGEON on the stout branch of a RED OAK tree outside the second floor of Harvard University Health Services in Holyoke Center; HUHS physician snaps quick digital photo and emails it widely, sending Holyokers high and low to their windows... Trio of red-taileds soar above treetops near John Harvard, keeping GRAY SQUIRRELS close to oak trunks as they forage for this year's abundant acorns... (the same?) three red-taileds ride thermals over 1 Western Avenue and



Soldiers Field Park... (the same?) red-tailed hawks circle and screech above Cambridge Common before moving over to Radcliffe Yard. AMERICAN WOODCOCK flies up from the wooden walkway at the 52 Oxford Street Garage...BROWN CREEPER forages in the leaves in front of 26 Oxford Street...WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH calls and forages up a tree near Loeb House, then flies at a pair of spectators, narrowly missing one's hat...Also near Loeb, two BLUE JAYS keep company with each other (mates?), one in a tall tree, the other in a low bush with almost black berries. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES nimbly peck in the cones of the pine at the back entrance of Lamont...ROBIN moves about high in the WHITE OAK behind Sever Hall...AVIAN OBITS: two JUNCOES and a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER fatally crash into the glass pagoda on Quincy House roof... red-tailed hawk floats dead in Busch Courtyard pool. MCZ Ornithology staff, which received all the birds for study, speculate that the hawk was pursuing another bird, then collided with the side of Busch Hall, breaking its neck...JAPANESE MAPLE in the lower courtyard of Pusey library flames red into December. Abundant WINTERBERRIES redden the corner of Houghton Library (between Widener and Lamont)...FALLEN LEAVES reveal a tattered trash bag that had been snagged in high tree limbs since last winter; Landscape Services removes debris and wins gratitude for restoring professor's office view...Center for Astrophysics contractor protects wildlife in "MUSKRAT MARSH" near Alewife Brook in North Cambridge! Bullfinch Companies, contractor for the new CFA center due in 2010, has pulled up concrete from an old parking lot and agreed to restore four acres of marsh to its pre-industrial condition. See <  
<http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=509869> >. WITCH HAZEL along walkway between Peabody Museum and the Bauer and Naito Labs shows its spidery golden-yellow blooms, which share limb space with last year's seed pods only now opening up to release seeds.

December 2007: EASTERN COTTONTAIL rabbit makes tracks in the season's first snow along the fence at the Webster Athletic Fields. OPOSSUM takes Christmas morning stroll in front of Wigglesworth Hall. GREY SQUIRREL at the very top of the CRAB APPLE in front of Houghton dines on ripening little apples. Carnivorous squirrel kills a sparrow on the path between Grays Hall and Wadsworth House...Large female WILD TURKEY pecks for seeds and grubs on the shady grass near the Spengler Center. Turkey trots after male Business School student around several buildings, finally stopping when the student runs into the Baker Library for cover. The turkey is not interested in chasing HBS females. See coverage of the popular gobblers in the HBS "Harbus News:"

<http://media.www.harbus.org/media/storage/paper343/news/2007/11/19/ViewpointsHumor/Two-Parables.Of.The.Wild.Turkey-3108601.shtml>

CHICKADEE sings away in a bare tree on the Quincy side of Robinson Hall. Mostly white RED-TAILED HAWK with a brown head perches its 18 inch frame regally on the flag pole above the Lehman Hall door, then flies to the very top of the larger CEDAR OF LEBANON between Lehman Hall and Wadsworth House...Male CARDINAL chirps in a low young tree, then is chased away by a HOUSE SPARROW at the entrance side of 17 Sumner Road...Two BLUE JAYS pick up food left for them under the bushes of the Middle Eastern Center...MOCKINGBIRD flies across Quincy Street to one of the two crab apples in front of the Carpenter Center to partake of the little yellow fruits...DOWNY WOODPECKER calls from high up in a maple on one side of 17 Sumner Road and is answered by another high in a WHITE BIRCH on the other side...Solitary CAROLINA WREN hops about out in front of the Harvard Museums of Natural History...Sparrow behind Greys Hall jumps into a rain puddle, moved about as if the cold were no matter and then takes a drink...Scores if not hundreds of STARLINGS congregate in the trees between Lamont and Loeb House and by the Barker Center. The collective ruckus is immense. Another giant flock collects in the MAPLE trees near 1 Western Avenue.

December 2008: Harvard Crew Coaches spot EASTERN COYOTE swimming across the Charles River in the vicinity of the Arsenal Bridge in Watertown... [The same?] Eastern Coyote passes in front of a car's headlights as it circles back toward the river at 1270 Soldiers Field Rd., opting not to cross the road...Over 400 RING-BILLED GULLS feed in Soldiers Field and all around the Stadium, enjoying all the scraps left over from tailgaters and fans from "The Game."...Also feasting at the morning-after avian tailgate party, 36 MOURNING DOVES forage in the fields next to Dillon Field House... BLUE JAY calls in the tree on the side of Dunster House...Another Blue Jay flies from Robinson to the tree on the side of the Fogg where a melodious call seems to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving...The much-fruited crabapple on top of Pusey Library hosts ROBINS, well over half a dozen HOUSE FINCHES, and STARLINGS feasting on its tiny red apples...In front of Widener a WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH climbs an elm as it calls... Hanging from one of the low trees at the corner of 17 Sumner Road, a vacant Paper Wasp's nest exposes its hexagonal comb ... the next day, the work of nature's architects is moved to become inspiration for human designers at the Loeb Library at the Graduate School of Design.

December 2009: RED-TAILED HAWK seizes squirrel in Harvard Yard and flies away to consume it... another red-tailed perches atop Harvard Hall, not far from its golden eagle cousin atop the tall flagpole in the Cambridge park across from Johnston Gate... Pair of HOUSE SPARROWS balances at either end of the same weathervane atop Harvard Hall, gazing westward, hoping for warmer weather... Striking scarlet CARDINAL flies into the red crab apple tree on the side of Loeb House where it is well-camouflaged. Male HOUSE FINCH also forages in those trees near him... Numerous ROBINS fly in and out of the crab apple tree on the Widener-side corner of Houghton to have a deserved post-Thanksgiving feast... Charles River freezes over in front of Newell Boat House.

December 2010: EASTERN COTTONTAIL RABBIT pauses for a calm and collected moment on the small gravel terrace behind 7 Ware Street... Two FOXES in fluffy red winter coats appear occasionally on the lawn at Harvard Divinity School, probably living in the naturally landscaped berm below the former Cyclotron. NORWAY RAT population becomes scarce in the neighborhood... Business School foxes dine on GRAY SQUIRRELS, leaving the heads behind... COYOTE tracks lead across the snow-covered Charles to a 10-foot open water area next to the Weld Boat House dock, which is the only drinkable water in sight; prints indicate that after its drink, the canid trotted down the frozen river... In the tree by the Lehman Gate facing the Harvard COOP, an adult RED-TAILED HAWK perches with a PIGEON in its talons. Displeased with two chatting onlookers, the raptor flies to a tree between Straus and Matthews before flapping away out of sight... red-tailed hawk perches on the sunny letters of The Charles Hotel's sign mounted on the brick wall facing the Harvard Kennedy School... SHARP-SHINNED HAWK flies low past Holyoke plaza, across Massachusetts Avenue and into the Yard and disappears; soon, two BLUE JAYS in the CEDAR OF LEBANON tree at the side of Lehman Hall begin screeching in alarm. Suddenly there is a ruckus in the bare low bushes by Wadsworth (facing Grays Hall) and the raptor chases the sparrows feeding there, flying through the low bushes. After sparrows narrowly escape, the unsuccessful hunter rests in the tall Magnolia by Wadsworth to catch its breath... Handsome red male CARDINAL calls in the crab apple on the earth roof of Pusey Library... Several BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES try to fend off the cold while feasting on the crab apples on the roof of Pusey, while at least four MOURNING DOVES and a few ROBINS keep them company... Another day in the crab apples on the roof of Pusey Library, at least half a dozen pairs of HOUSE FINCHES feed on the fruit, and are often harassed by the numerous STARLINGS... Male cardinal flies from a tree on the Quincy Street side of the Cambridge Fire Station into the Yard. The next day, its female partner forages by Canaday in a

nearby red- fruited crab apple tree...Abundant snow unleashes creativity: visiting ART dramatist and his two children busily build an igloo while landscapers prune a tree near Matthews; the next day, a large SNOW POLAR BEAR stands guard near the Arctic-inspired structure...SNOW DOG next to Emerson at the corner with Sever sports a bushy branch of pine for a tail; its ears are small branches of leaves...Join President Faust's Harvard Community Running and Walking Program! The inaugural walk is Tuesday, 2-1-11 at 12 noon at the John Harvard statue. As we stroll, we may notice migrating raptors high overhead, and possibly witch hazel blooming behind Widener.

December 2011: On the sunny side of Loeb House, three dark red ROSES defy the season and two large apricot-colored roses and purple lavender compete for attention to their right...Abundant CRAB APPLES at the corner of 1746 Cambridge St. across Prescott St. from CGIS-South attract a Mockingbird, which perches with HOUSE SPARROWS gleefully feasting among the abundance... Skinny EARTHWORM squirms midway up the winter wooden stairs of Widener in December thaw...ACORNS CRASH as region's oaks yield a tiny fraction of the 2009 and 2010 nut drops. By some estimates, 2011's autumn acorn drop was 1/500th of previous years. See thoughtful blog by Paul Roberts of the Arlington Birds group on what this will mean to campus's booming population of prey (squirrels and rabbits) and predators (red tailed hawks).

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arlingtonbirds/message/9482>

Thanks to Campus Nature Watchers:

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