At-a-Glance Seasonal Abundance for Some Commonly Seen Birds

The following line charts attempt to show as accurately and clearly as possible the seasonal abundance patterns of some of the bird species most often seen in central and eastern Ontario. Each bird has been given a status based on my judgement of how easily it would be found by someone searching in appropriate habitat. The charts are most accurate for inland locations along the edge of the Canadian Shield but do apply to the region as a whole. Waterfowl and shorebird (e.g., sandpipers) abundance varies considerably, depending on the migration route the birds follow and the availability of appropriate habitat. Snow Geese, for example, tend to migrate along the Ottawa River corridor where they are often abundant. They may, however, be completely absent elsewhere. Note, too, that not all species are seen every year. Please refer to the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario: 2001 – 2005 for detailed information on the breeding range of a given species.

Common - likely to be seen every day; may be present in large numbers *(e.g., American Robin)* OR in lesser numbers but throughout the area *(e.g., Common Loon)*

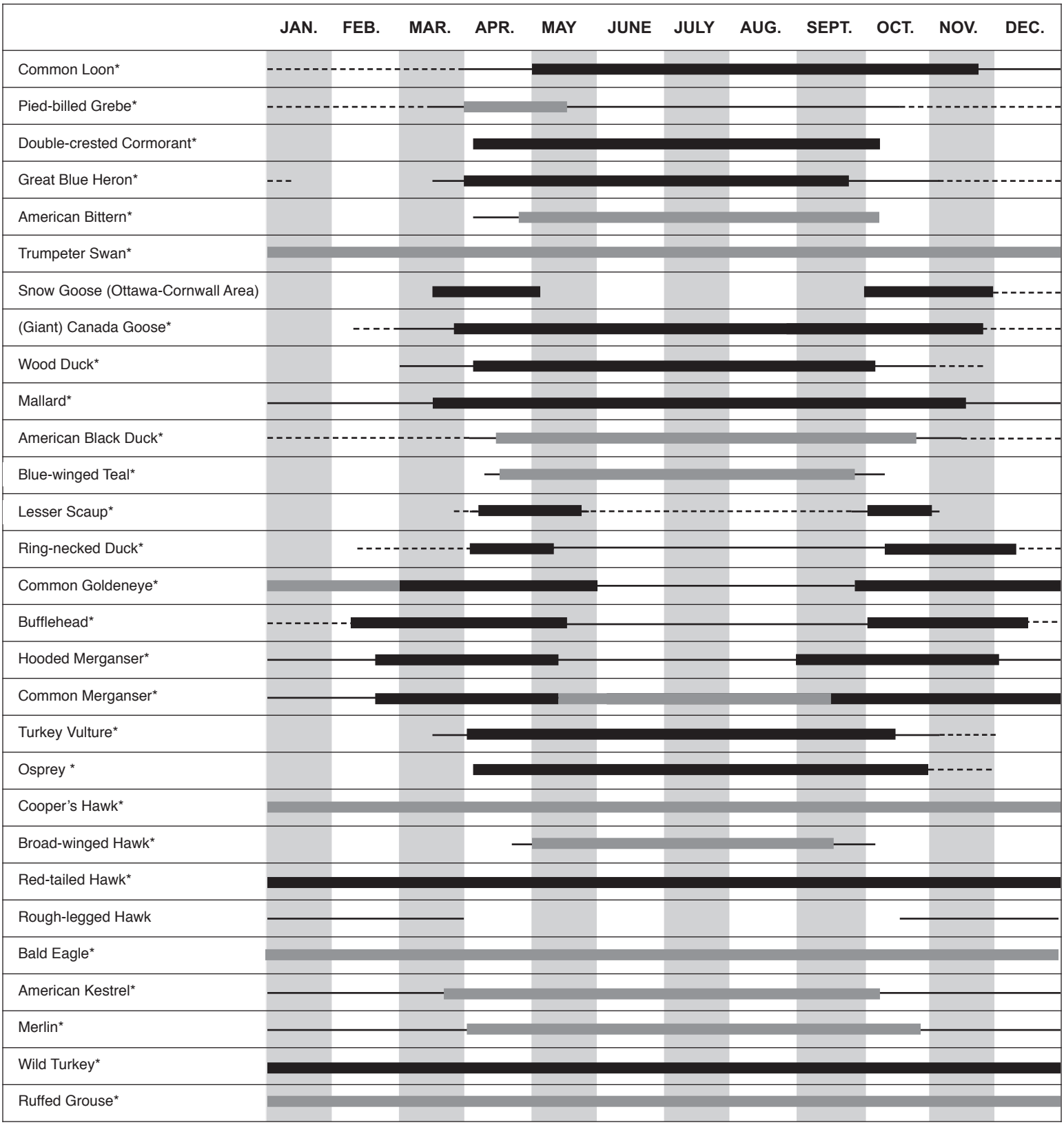
Uncommon - not expected daily, but seen with repeated visits *(e.g., Pileated Woodpecker)*. May be secretive *(e.g., Brown Creeper)*

Rare - if present, always in low numbers and usually hard to find

Irregular - present irregularly, varying from absent to common *(e.g., Common Redpoll)*

(Ottawa area) Restricted range - generally restricted to specified region, although occasionally turns up elsewhere

* Breeding - nests in central and/or eastern Ontario *(e.g., Bald Eagle)*



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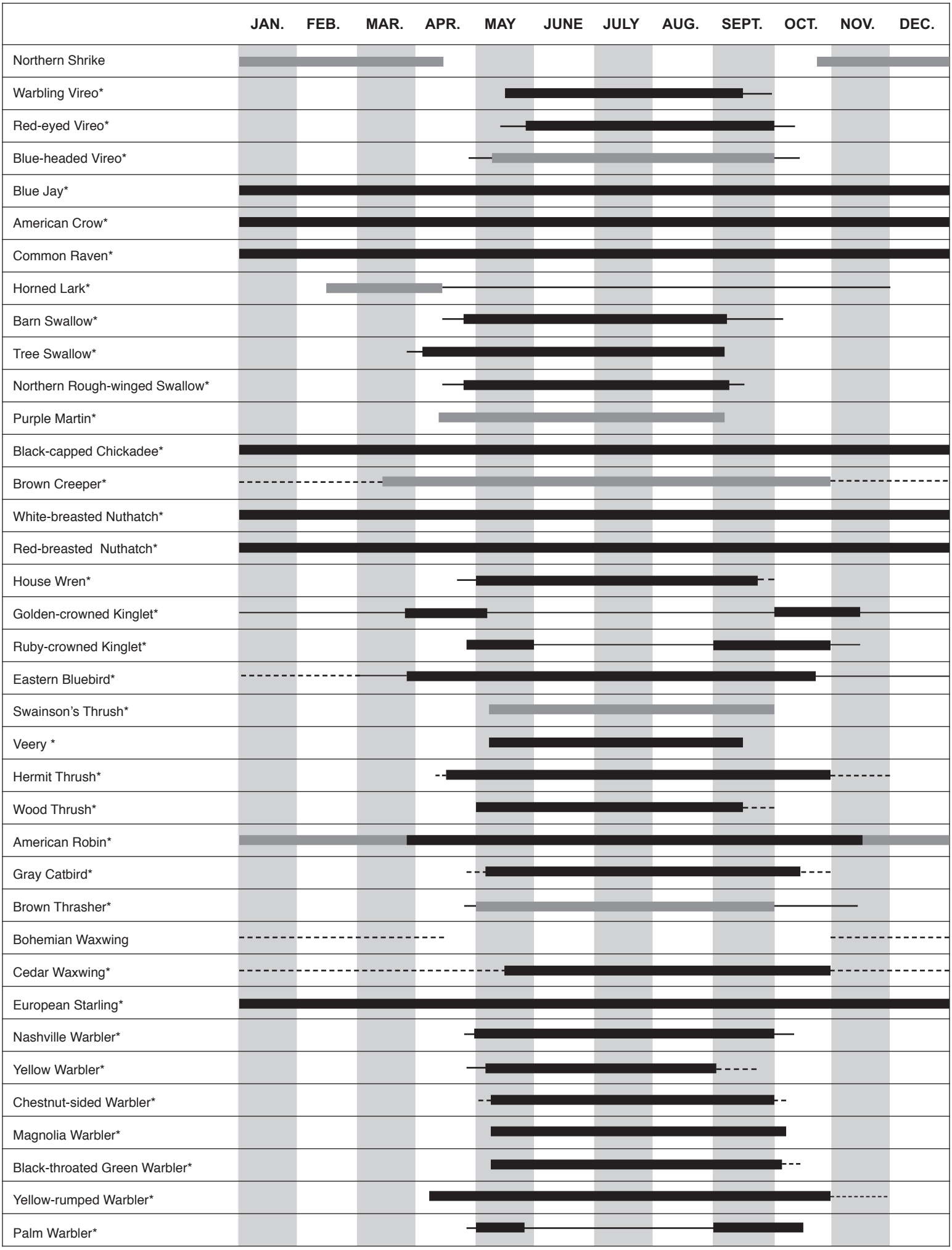
Virginia Rail*
Sandhill Crane*
Killdeer*
Greater Yellowlegs
Spotted Sandpiper*
Semipalmated Sandpiper (Great Lakes)
Least Sandpiper (Great Lakes)
Wilson's Snipe*
American Woodcock*
Ring-billed Gull*
Herring Gull*
Caspian Tern*
Common Tern* (Great Lakes)
Rock Pigeon*
Mourning Dove*
Black-billed Cuckoo*
Great Horned Owl*
Snowy Owl
Barred Owl*
Northern Saw-whet Owl*
Common Nighthawk*
Eastern Whip-poor-will*
Chimney Swift*
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
Belted Kingfisher*
Red-bellied Woodpecker*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*
Downy Woodpecker*
Hairy Woodpecker*
Northern Flicker *
Pileated Woodpecker*
Eastern Wood-pewee*
Alder Flycatcher*
Least Flycatcher*
Eastern Phoebe*
Great Crested Flycatcher*
Eastern Kingbird*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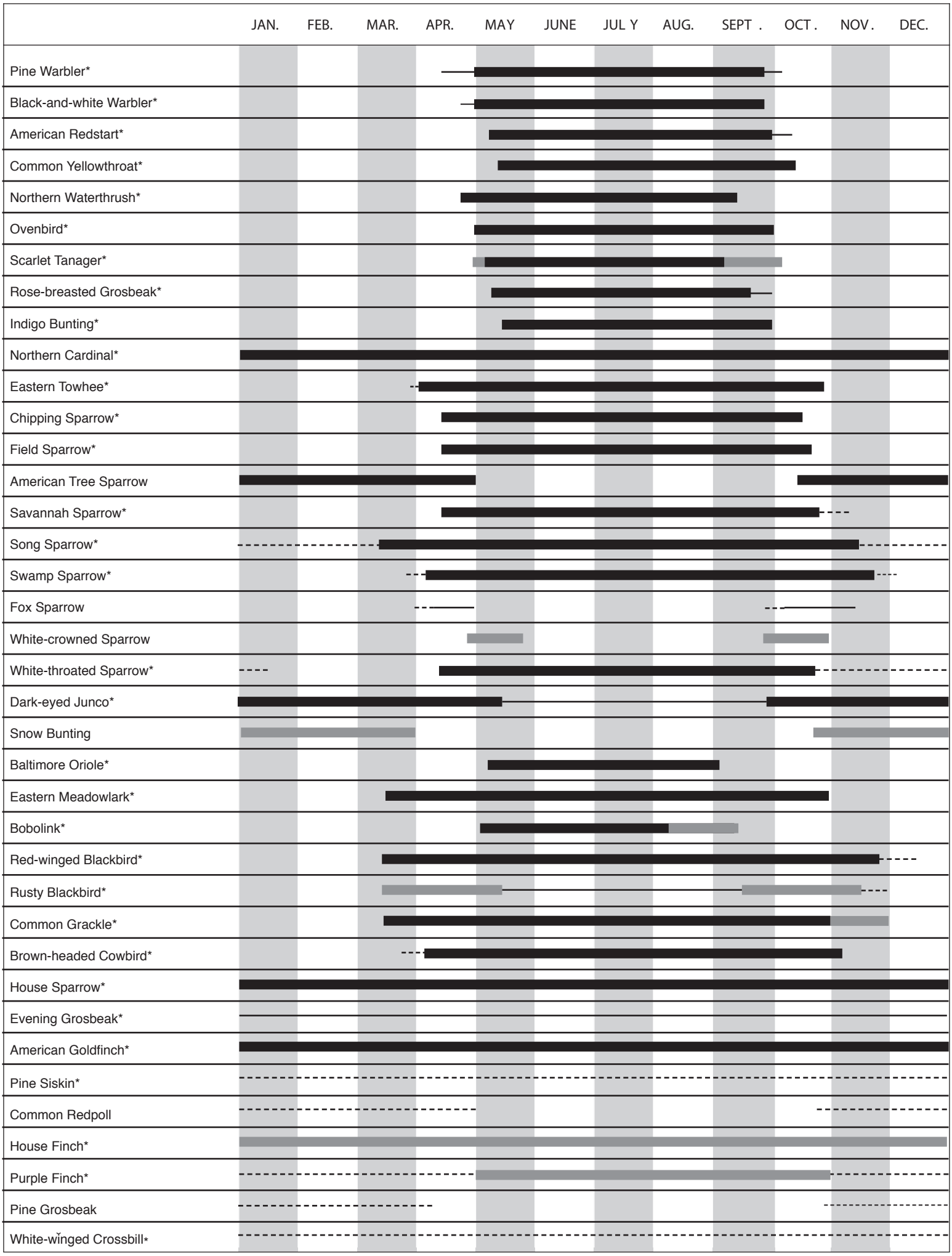
Northern Shrike
Warbling Vireo*
Red-eyed Vireo*
Blue-headed Vireo*
Blue Jay*
American Crow*
Common Raven*
Horned Lark*
Barn Swallow*
Tree Swallow*
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*
Purple Martin*
Black-capped Chickadee*
Brown Creeper*
White-breasted Nuthatch*
Red-breasted Nuthatch*
House Wren*
Golden-crowned Kinglet*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet*
Eastern Bluebird*
Swainson's Thrush*
Veery *
Hermit Thrush*
Wood Thrush*
American Robin*
Gray Catbird*
Brown Thrasher*
Bohemian Waxwing
Cedar Waxwing*
European Starling*
Nashville Warbler*
Yellow Warbler*
Chestnut-sided Warbler*
Magnolia Warbler*
Black-throated Green Warbler*
Yellow-rumped Warbler*
Palm Warbler*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Pine Warbler*
Black-and-white Warbler*
American Redstart*
Common Yellowthroat*
Northern Waterthrush*
Ovenbird*
Scarlet Tanager*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak*
Indigo Bunting*
Northern Cardinal*
Eastern Towhee*
Chipping Sparrow*
Field Sparrow*
American Tree Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow*
Song Sparrow*
Swamp Sparrow*
Fox Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow*
Dark-eyed Junco*
Snow Bunting
Baltimore Oriole*
Eastern Meadowlark*
Bobolink*
Red-winged Blackbird*
Rusty Blackbird*
Common Grackle*
Brown-headed Cowbird*
House Sparrow*
Evening Grosbeak*
American Goldfinch*
Pine Siskin*
Common Redpoll
House Finch*
Purple Finch*
Pine Grosbeak
White-winged Crossbill*