

# Bringing Back the Birds



## American Kestrel

Pesticides, toxins and the lack of suitable nesting cavities above open fields has limited the American Kestrel. Protected watershed lands offer the specific open habitat required. Kestrel nesting boxes have been installed in open grassland areas to increase population.



## Eastern Meadowlark

Listed as a Species of Special Concern, the meadowlark requires large open patches of tall grasses for ground nesting. Areas of suitable habitat in the watersheds where grasses are allowed to grow are protected from development. Mowing schedules are delayed to allow time for fledging.



## Pileated Woodpecker

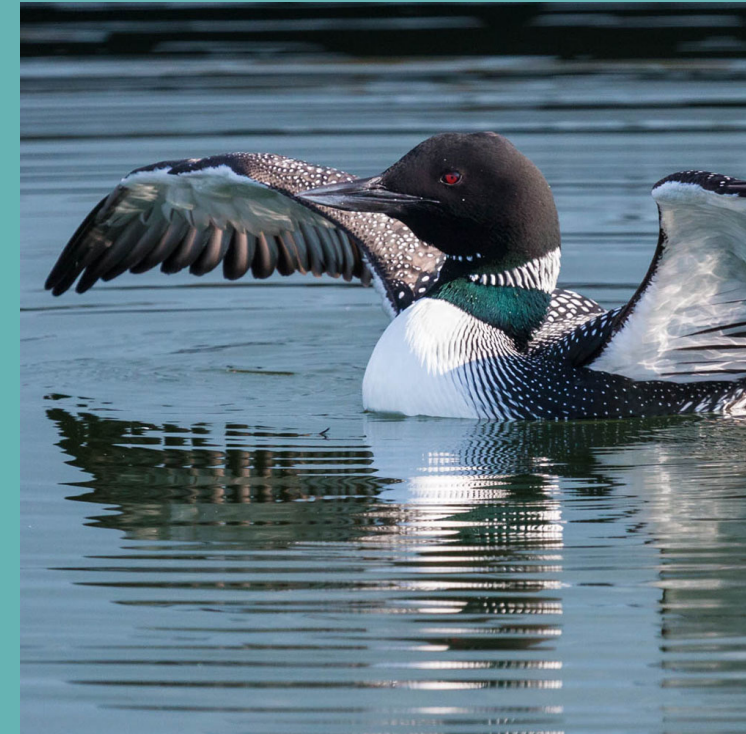
Pileated Woodpecker populations declined greatly with the clearing of the eastern forests. The species rebounded mid- 20th century, and is increasing slowly but steadily. This crow sized bird prefers large trees for nesting.

## Bald Eagle

The largest raptor in the state has a status of Special Concern, upgraded from Endangered.

Bald Eagles were reintroduced to Quabbin Reservoir in 1982. They now breed successfully in DCR's Water Supply Protection Watersheds and beyond.

Watershed protections of prohibiting development along the reservoir shorelines, protecting nesting habitat, and preventing contaminants in the foraging habitat are the basis for this grand success story.



## Common Loon

Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoir are the largest bodies of water in the state. The pristine bodies of water have welcomed nesting loons back to Massachusetts. Wildlife biologists have been successful in their efforts to encourage nesting pairs.



## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT FOR WILDLIFE

DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection Manages over 100,000 acres of land to protect the water supply. Watershed lands provide habitat for a diverse species of wildlife.

The protected spaces have offered a safe haven for species that were scarce after the threats of habitat loss and environmental toxins. Healthy watersheds include forests, open land, and pristine water to support and welcome future generations of these species.