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T. Scott Sillett
Editor-in-Chief, *The Auk*

Dear Dr. Sillett,

Please consider the enclosed manuscript, "The recent expansion of Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) breeding range into the northeastern United States", for publication in *The Auk*. This original work, which is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, provides a concise summary of an interesting yet undescribed distributional shift in this widespread and relatively common species of boreal and montane forest. I document through a literature review and analysis of eBird records that Fox Sparrows have become, in the past 2 decades, a regular breeding species of the northeastern U.S., a region in which they were historically a passage migrant only. Although birders have noted this change, most general ornithological references and field guides still show the southern limit of the species' breeding range occurring in the boreal forest of Canada. Although the cause of this ongoing range expansion is unclear, I believe that the phenomenon itself is of sufficient interest and importance to warrant publication as a short Research Article in *The Auk*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lloyd".

John Lloyd, Ph.D.
Vermont Center for Ecostudies