**Indefatigable, bachelor males advertising for a mate.** For a week or two during early spring, get to know a singing male by documenting his singing effort to attract a mate to his territory. Males typically return from migration before females; each male establishes his territory and then, until a female joins him, he is a bachelor and typically sings all day long. Enjoy all-nighters? Find a local nightjar. Don’t limit yourself to whip-poor-wills, but consider their relatives, such as a chuck-will’s-widow or a common poorwill. Or choose a songbird just returning from migration; warblers are fascinating, because many species use different songs in advertising for females and in fighting with males (e.g., yellow warbler, p. 115). If you don’t want to choose a particular species, you could document the decline in singing for all species in an area by simply counting the number of songs or singing birds that can be heard during a selected time period each morning (e.g., a 15-minute block of time each day beginning at 9 a.m.).

Among some species, each male attempts to attract several mates (a mating system known as “polygyny”), and as a result his singing (or “displaying”) can continue unabated throughout the nesting season. He is, in effect, always seeking a mate to father more young. Below are three examples, in addition to nine mentioned elsewhere in other con­texts in the book: ruffed grouse (p. 141), Anna’s hummingbird (p. 69), broad-tailed hummingbird (p. 22), American woodcock (p. 130), sedge wren (pp. 48, 91, 144, 159), marsh wren (pp. 34, 60), bobolink (p. 68), red-winged blackbird (pp. 18, 70, 117), and great-tailed grackle (pp. 109, 166).