

BIRDS OF THE POCONO MOUNTAINS

1975 - 1985

PHILLIPS B. STREET
RICHARD E. WILTRAUT

This report updates the status of bird life in the Poconos and supplements Street's "Birds of the Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania" (*Cassinia* 41:3-76,1954) and "Birds of the Pocono Mountains, 1955-1975" (*Cassinia* 55:3-16,1974-75). Many of the earlier records were from summer visitors to the mountains, occasional winter field trips, and a few permanent residents. There is now a solid hard core of year-round observers, either residents or nearby residents, especially from the Lehigh Valley. Much of the quickened interest is the attraction of the three large bodies of water in eastern Carbon County which have added an aquatic dimension to birding in the area — Beltzville Lake, Wild Creek and Penn Forest reservoirs. Some of the most consistent coverage of this sector over the past ten years has been by Stephen Boyce, Brad Silfies and Richard E. Wiltraut. It is for this reason that Wiltraut has been asked to co-author this paper.

The southeastern part of the Pocono area also is receiving consistent coverage from Dr. Larry Rymon and his students at East Stroudsburg University, Warren Bielenberg and his associates at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) and John Padalino, his staff and visitors at the Pocono Environmental Education Center at Dingmans Ferry. Many competent amateur ornithologists are participating in Christmas bird counts, breeding bird surveys and other field work which contribute to our knowledge of the status and distribution of the Pocono avifauna.

Two Christmas counts are centered in the Pocono area. One, Wild Creek-Little Gap, is centered on the Carbon-Monroe County line just northeast of Little Gap and includes Beltzville Lake and the two reservoirs. This count, begun in 1978, originally had its center north of Penn Forest and was totally within the Pocono area. The center was shifted to its present location in 1982; now the southern part of the circle is south of the Blue Mountain and beyond our territory. The other, Pocono Mountain, organized in 1980, extends from Mt. Pocono in the north to Sciota and Stroudsburg to the south and is entirely within the Pocono study area. The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC) takes annual winter field trips to the Poconos, usually in January. There is some participation in the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and it is expected that coverage will be expanded in the future. There are many blocks where coverage to date is very light or totally missing.

Developers are continually building new summer homes and new communities, and traffic is increasing. When the Lehigh Tunnel is increased to

four lanes, development and traffic will be further accelerated. A fine habitat was lost when LaBar's nursery at Stroudsburg was developed as a retirement community. Pocono residents have overwhelmingly voted against the introduction of gambling, but the powerful gambling interests will continue trying to muscle in. One may draw one's own conclusions as to what prompts legislators from far outside the Pocono area to push for gambling legislation when the local population so heartily disapproves!

Many of the records herein have been taken from the seasonal accounts and Christmas bird counts in *American Birds* and from the excellent *Birds of the Lehigh Valley Area*, published in 1984 by the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society, and from that organization's newsletter, *The Osprey*. A useful checklist of birds of the Pocono Plateau, 1983, is available from the Biology Department of East Stroudsburg University. It lists 274 species which occur or might occur with tables of their relative abundance, nesting status, seasonal occurrence, and habitat.

Our thanks go to all who have furnished information for this paper with special appreciation to Bielenberg for his copious notes from the Delaware Water Gap area and copies of the Wintering Eagle Survey Project reports, to Rymon for reporting on the status of the Osprey hacking program, to Barry Reed for his detailed contributions from southeastern Carbon County and to Daniel Brauning for furnishing us with copies of the Breeding Bird Atlas summaries.

New species, not reported in the two previous papers, are denoted by an asterisk.

ANNOTATED LIST

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One and two were observed by Silfies and Wiltraut at the Beltzville Lake during the period November 15-18, 1978.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Common spring and fall migrant and occasional in winter when there is open water. Winter records from Beltzville include several December sightings from 1981 through 1985 by Wiltraut and Gordon Yoder, one on January 1, 1986 by Reed and three on January 11, 1986 by many observers. Rymon found adults with young still unable to fly at Penn Forest Reservoir in the summers of 1981 and 1983 and adults in 1982, 1984 and 1985. Reed found adults on Wild Creek Reservoir on June 28 and July 2, 1984.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Regular spring and fall migrant. Lingering birds were found on Beltzville in December 1978, 1979, 1983 through 1985, and January records include one at Beltzville on January 10, 1985 by Wiltraut, one, perhaps the same bird, on January 18 by Reed and two on Wild Creek Reservoir on January 1, 1986 by Reed.

Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*). Regularly noted in spring and fall on Beltzville Lake and Penn Forest reservoir and occasionally in winter when there is open water. High counts include 20 at Beltzville on December 30, 1983 by Boyce and Silfies and 24 there on March 29, 1985 by Boyce and Wiltraut. One bird remained at Beltzville from December 22, 1985 to at least January 11, 1986.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps griseigena*). One was present on Beltzville on December 18, 1983 and observed by Wiltraut and Yoder, and another was seen on Wild Creek reservoir on January 1, 1986 by Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). There are five recent records. Frank Gill saw one at Pocono Lake in July 1981, James Gibson had two at Beltzville on September 21, 1982, Brian Hillegass one at Lehigh Gap on October 19, 1982, Boyce and Silfies an immature on Wild Creek on September 26, 1984 and Bielenberg one on the Delaware River at Milford on September 21, 1985.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Wiltraut flushed one from cattails at Beltzville on April 25, 1985. One was reported by Kenneth Johnson from Trout Lake at Reeders in July 1985, and there are occasional summer sightings at Long Pond, where it probably nests.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). Lingering birds are occasionally found into December and January. Wiltraut and William Winkelman found five at Beltzville on December 24, 1977. Reed had one at Wild Creek on January 1, 1980 and one feeding below the breast of the Beltzville Dam on January 7, 1981. The DVOG winter field trip group noted one at Penn Forest on February 7, 1976. Curiously, while there are many spring and summer sightings throughout the Pocono area, we know of no nests having been found.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). The most interesting record is that of Joseph Devlin, an employee at Beltzville, who observed one there on January 1, 1983 which remained for a week. Summer sightings include one at Penn Forest in July 1985 by David DeReamus, one flying over Stemlersville, just south of Beltzville, on August 7, 1984, three at Beltzville on August 15 and two on August 18 of that year by Reed. Rymon has seen Great Egrets on his Breeding Bird Atlas surveys at Shawnee, Tobyhanna and Stroudsburg. Bielenberg noted them in late summer along the Delaware. Peter Saenger noted one in the fall of 1980 at Lehigh Gap.

***Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*). Bielenberg reports that they are regularly seen along the Delaware during the boating season, usually in late summer.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). An immature was noted at Beltzville on April 30, 1982 by Silfies.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). Reed photographed one at Beltzville on May 18, 1978, his only Carbon County record. Street observed one at Pocono Lake on September 13, 1980. It spent the entire day perched upon a rock near the shore, leaving occasionally when flushed by a passing boat only to return immediately to the same spot. One was reported by Karl Thuene from his farm in Cherry Valley and from Smithfield Beach in May 1985. More frequent sightings can be expected in the future as this species extends its range.

Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*). Common summer resident throughout the area. Wiltraut noted one at Wild Creek on April 19, 1975, an early date. Boyce has a remarkably late observation of one at Beltzville on December 28, 1980.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Rare summer resident. There is one December record.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). During the Pennsylvania invasion by this species in 1977, Bernard Kita observed a flock of nine flying over Little Gap on November 4.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Bielenberg noted a group of four flying out from the back channel of Poxono Island on July 17, 1984.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*). Two were seen at Beltzville on November 18, 1978 by Bernard Morris, Silfies and Wiltraut. Four were found on a pond near Jonas on December 28, 1980 by B. Kita. One seen at Beltzville on December 28, 1983 by Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut was found dead on January 4, 1984. David DeReamus and Lisa

Masterson had one at Penn Forest on November 19, 1985. The only spring record during this period is a flock of five noted at Beltzville on March 9, 1981 by Silfies and Wiltraut.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). The Pocono Mountain Christmas counts reported a single individual on December 19, 1982, December 18, 1983, and December 16, 1984 on a pond in Cherry Valley and an additional four on the 1984 count on a lake near Paradise Valley.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). Often noted migrating over the hawk lookouts in the fall. B. Kita counted a total of 220 passing over Little Gap in the fall of 1977. Wiltraut saw a flock of about 100 passing Wild Creek on November 8th of that year. Reed counted 31 over Beltzville on November 29, 1983 and 125 going north on April 1, 1984. A blue morph was found on Wild Creek on March 23, 1975, and another was observed in a pasture near Brodheadsville at Weir Lake and photographed during the period December 20-26, 1985.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*). Silfies noted a flock of 25 flying over Little Gap on October 22, 1981.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). Small flocks now winter in the Delaware River valley. Wiltraut had a high count of 600 migrants resting on Wild Creek reservoir on April 19, 1975.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). Breeds in suitable habitat throughout the region. On the late date of December 16, 1984 two males in Cherry Valley near McMichaels Bridge were observed by Conrad Decker and Jeff Wilkins and a female was seen along the Aquaschicola Creek by Reed and Jan Sosik. Reed's count of 13 at Wild Creek on April 4, 1981 is the highest number seen at one time.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*). Three were found at Long Pond by D. and R. Wiltraut on May 26, 1982, a very late date if a migrant. Silfies has a spring record of one at Beltzville on April 19, 1980. Fall and early winter records include two at Kitchen's Pond, Pocono Lake, by Lendall Warriner and Street on October 7, 1984, one at Penn Forest on November 7, 1984 by Boyce, two at Wild Creek on December 14, 1985 by Wiltraut and Yoder, a male on Cherry Creek on December 16, 1984 by Decker and Wilkins, five on the Pocono Mountain Christmas Count on December 20, 1981 and two at Beltzville on December 20, 1985 by B. and Christopher Kita.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). A less common breeding bird than formerly but the most abundant wintering species on Wild Creek and Penn Forest reservoirs, where numbers often reach 200-300.

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*). Spring records include one on Wild Creek on March 8 and six on March 23, 1975 by Wiltraut, two on Penn Forest on March 27, 1985 by Wiltraut, and two on Beltzville Lake on April 19, 1980 by Silfies. Early winter sightings are of one at Weir Lake near Brodheadsville on December 22, 1985 by Wiltraut and two at Beltzville on December 23, 1979 by Wiltraut.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). Boyce had three at Beltzville on April 20, 1985 and Wiltraut two there five days later. Street, Warriner and others noted a flock of 16 on Kitchen's Pond on August 30, 1978. The Pocono Mountain Christmas Count on December 21, 1980 listed two, but no details are given to substantiate such an unusual record.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas chlypeata*). Five were observed at Penn Forest on October 14, 1978 by Wiltraut, one there on April 5, 1985 by Boyce and Silfies, and one at Weir Lake on December 14, 1985 by Wiltraut and Yoder.

***Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*). All records are fall and winter sightings. Street had one at Kitchen's Pond on September 26, 1981, Silfies had five at Wild Creek on October 22, 1981, and he and Boyce found two on Penn Forest on October 8, 1983. Wiltraut saw two on Penn Forest on October 14, 1978, and he and Yoder found one on Weir Lake on December 22, 1985 which was still present on January 11, 1986.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*). Wiltraut observed five at Wild Creek on October 14 and one on November 8, 1978. He found two on Beltzville on December 22, 1979, and he and Yoder saw two at Weir Lake on December 22, 1985.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). There are eight records from Beltzville, with a high count of 12 on December 22, 1979 by Wiltraut. Most records are from November and December, but four birds were noted by Boyce and Silfies on January 26, 1985 and five by Wiltraut and Yoder on March 31 of that year. DeReamus and Masterson saw three at Wild Creek on October 2, 1985, an early arrival date.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*). There are seven fall records from the three reservoirs, usually of one or two individuals, with the earliest date being October 14, 1978 by Wiltraut and the latest being January 4, 1984 when Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut saw 12.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). Winter records include 19 on Beltzville on December 18, 1983 by Wiltraut, three seen there on January 9, 1982 on the DVOC field trip, 15 on Wild Creek on January 10, 1985 by Wiltraut and 23 on Beltzville January 23, 1985 by Boyce. Spring sightings include 125 at Wild Creek on March 9, 1985, 18 on Long Pond on March 14, 1977, 100 at Penn Forest on March 27, 1977 and 40 on Wild Creek on March 31, 1984, all by Boyce, Silfies or Wiltraut.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*). There are eight records of this, the rarer of the two scaups. The only spring sighting was of one individual at Wild Creek on March 31, 1984 by Boyce and Silfies. The earliest fall and early winter observation was of 13 on Penn Forest on October 23, 1977 by Wiltraut. The latest was of eight seen on Beltzville Lake by Wiltraut on January 13, 1986. All records are from the three reservoirs.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). Wiltraut and Yoder found 18 on Beltzville on March 31, 1985, the only spring records. The species is common in November, with 55 at Penn Forest on November 16, 1977, seen by Wiltraut, 70 on Beltzville on November 28, 1981, by C. Kita and Silfies, and 50 there November 29, 1985, by Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder. There are two December sightings at Beltzville of three birds each time and one in January when, on January 4, 1984, Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut found a single bird. An unidentified scaup was photographed there by Silfies on July 24, 1980.

***Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). *American Birds* 33:268, 1979 cites the observation of a female Harlequin Duck in the Delaware River at the Water Gap by Fred Tilly on December 23, 1978 while canoeing, a remarkable record by a good observer.

Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*). There have been 15 observations between 1977 and 1986 on the three reservoirs, usually of one to four birds. An exception was the flock of 13 seen by Boyce on Wild Creek on November 15, 1984. He noted three there on October 20 of that year, our earliest occurrence. Two at Penn Forest, seen by Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder, were the latest. Spring records are from March 29 to April 20.

Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*). Street and Warriner found a flock of seven on Pocono Lake October 16, 1983. Wiltraut had 70 at Penn Forest and one at Wild Creek on October 23, 1977. Mark Collie counted 200 on Beltzville on October 29, 1984, and Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder had a single female there on November 29, 1985. DeReamus and Masterson saw a flock of 30 at Penn Forest on October 29, 1985.

***Surf Scoter** (*Melanitta perspicillata*). A flock of eight was observed on Wild Creek on November 19, 1982 by Gibson, Douglas Gross and Lorraine Weidner.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Wiltraut saw a single bird at Penn Forest on October 14, 1978. Reed counted 63 in a flock on Beltzville on October 29, 1984. Spring

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). Wiltraut saw a single bird at Penn Forest on October 14, 1978. Reed counted 63 in a flock on Beltzville on October 29, 1984. Spring sightings were of five photographed at Beltzville on April 25, 1985 by Wiltraut and one noted at Penn Forest on May 1, 1985 by Boyce and Wiltraut.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*). Goldeneyes winter in considerable numbers in fast moving open water portions of the Delaware between Milford and the Water Gap. They are also present in lesser numbers on the three Carbon County reservoirs as long as there is open water. Observations there include 15 seen on Wild Creek by Wiltraut on November 17, 1978, 15 at Penn Forest on November 18, 1979 by B. Kita, 35 there on November 24, 1984 by Boyce, 18 on Beltzville on December 24, 1985 by Silfies, Wiltraut and Yoder, 10 there on January 11, 1986 by the DVOC and 13 two days later by Wiltraut. Reed had as many as 10 on the Lehigh River during most of March 1983, one at Beltzville on March 25, 1984, and Edward Altemus, Winston Sheppard and Street found a single male at Penn Forest on May 8, 1977.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*). Regular spring and fall migrant on the Delaware, reservoirs and lakes. Spring records include 21 seen on Penn Forest April 19, 1980 by Silfies and three on April 4, 1981 and two on March 30, 1984 at Wild Creek by Reed. Fall and winter dates at Wild Creek and Beltzville are from October 28 to January 11 in numbers up to 25.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). Regular fall and spring migrant, found in numbers up to 35 on the reservoirs, where they remain until ice forces their departure. The DVOC field trip group enjoyed watching 18 of them in the open portion of Wild Creek reservoir on January 11, 1986. J. Hohenleitner observed an adult with young on Promised Land Lake, Pike County, in late June 1983.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). This species is making a comeback as a breeding bird in the Poconos. P. Verbyla counted five broods on the Delaware between Milford and Dingmans Ferry in the summer of 1979 (*Amer. Birds* 33:849,1979). Altemus, George Clark, Sheppard, Street and Henry Webster found a pair on the Brodhead Creek near the Water Gap on May 18, 1980. Some 50 birds, including at least 15 young, were counted on the Delaware between Dingmans and the Water Gap on July 13, 1980 (fide Rich Kane). Rymon and Barbara Wilke reported fledged young at Bushkill and Penn Forest respectively on their 1985 Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. Other summer observations include Peter Saenger's of a summering bird at Little Gap in 1980, and 16 seen on Penn Forest on July 11, 1983 and 12 on July 11, 1984 by Silfies, who photographed them. Birds winter commonly on the upper Delaware and on the three reservoirs as long as they remain unfrozen. High counts of about 70 were made by Wiltraut at Wild Creek on March 8, 1975 and December 31, 1981.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). While inland observations of this species are relatively scarce in Pennsylvania, Boyce, B. Kita, Silfies, Wiltraut and Yoder recorded a remarkable 16 instances of its appearance at the three reservoirs during the ten-year period covered by this report. The earliest fall arrival was November 8; the last spring departure was April 8. The highest one-day count was of 23 on Wild Creek on April 5, 1985 by Boyce and Silfies.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Wiltraut noted one on Beltzville on November 18, 1978 and another on November 19, 1979.

***Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*). Increased sightings in recent years are part of a general northward range expansion. No nests have been reported.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). Early season records are of single individuals seen on February 10, 1981 at Stemlersville and another there on February 7, 1982 by Reed. His sighting at Bowmanstown on December 30, 1985 is the latest.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Regular spring and fall migrant, often numerous in the fall along the Blue Mountain. B. Kita counted 42 passing over Little Gap on October 6, 1979. One noted at Beltzville on March 31, 1985 by Wiltraut and Yoder was an early migrant.

The Osprey hacking program, commenced in 1980 by Rymon, Charles Schadt and their many assistants, brought 105 nestlings to northeastern Pennsylvania hacking towers

through 1985. Three returnees in 1984 and six in 1985, all 1982 releases, are a hopeful harbinger of success in making the Osprey a breeding bird of the region. Four nests were constructed in 1985, two of which were in our Pocono area. A male built a fully lined stick nest atop a 50-foot white oak at Hell's Cove, Penn Forest Reservoir, and this solo bird raised five fledglings that summer. An incomplete nest was built atop a concrete high-tension utility pole in the swamp at the head of Pocono Lake, about a mile from the two hacking towers there. The other two nests were just south of the Pocono area at Portland and Martin's Creek. 1986 is looked forward to with justifiable optimism.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Sightings in the Penn Forest and Beltzville area include adults noted in January 1981 and 1983, February 1982, May 1984, June 1981, and an immature in January 1983. An immature was seen at Pocono Lake in September 1983. The DVOC winter field trips have consistently found from one to three eagles along the river near Dingmans Ferry, where Padalino has been observing them regularly. Records show that the number of wintering eagles in the DWGNRA has been steadily increasing, but it was not until censusing them was commenced in 1983-1984 and continued in 1984-1985 that the magnitude of the invasion was realized. The project reports, prepared by Jacqueline Katzmire, Project Coordinator, show that the sightings commence in December and peak in February when winter weather is at its worst and the fast-moving, shallow open stretches of the river attract birds which have been frozen out farther north. Many eagles are believed to come from the Rio Reservoir system on Lower Mongaup River in New York. Sightings decline sharply by late February, and most birds have departed for the north by mid-March. Eight individuals were identified among 10 or 12 wintering birds in the 1983-1984 study. Thirteen individuals were identified in 1984-1985, and regular visitors were believed to number 15 to 20. The "search for eagles weekend," January 11-12, 1986, produced 14 identifiably different individuals.

An interesting event was the discovery of a roost tree approximately two miles south of the Wallpack Bend on February 18, 1985 with four adults. The roost was used 24 times by adults and 14 by immatures. Five birds roosted together on one occasion and four on three other occasions.

There were numerous sightings by Park employees from April through October 1984 with at least two immatures and one adult identified. An adult was present in July and August 1983, and there were only three summer sightings in 1985.

If the reintroduction of Bald Eagles into the Poconos were to be attempted, the vast and well protected Penn Forest Reservoir area would be an ideal place for the operation.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Rare breeder. Silfies and others made a high count of 54 fall migrants passing Little Gap on October 16, 1980. They are frequently seen in winter hunting over the fields around Beltzville. Wiltraut and Winkelman counted seven there on December 24, 1977.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*). One thousand and ninety-four were counted at Little Gap on October 13, 1979 (fide B. Kita).

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Birds nested at Penn Forest in 1984 and 1985 (Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut), and Reed noted a female on several occasions in June and July of 1985 at Stemplersville. This species breeds sparingly throughout the region, and a few winter. Sixty-seven were counted passing Little Gap on October 13, 1979 (fide B. Kita).

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). Rare breeder throughout the area and occasional in winter. While actual nest sites are understandably not accurately described, there are recent nesting indications from as far west as the Beltzville area (John Krutsick, photographs), as far north as the Long Pond area (Rymon), and as far east as the Milford-Dingmans area (Padalino). An early migrant was noted at Little Gap on September 9, 1978 by B. Kita. Nine were counted there on October 26, 1979 (fide B. Kita). Summer records other than the nesting birds mentioned above include one near Beltzville on May 3, 1982

by Reed, one at Promised Land State Park on July 23, 1981 by John Ginaven, and one at Pocono Lake on September 15, 1977 by Robert Lewis.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). Silfies and others counted 9,000 birds at Little Gap on September 19, 1981.

***Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*). An immature was banded at Wind Gap by Paul Karner on September 19, 1982.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Silfies and others counted 834 at Little Gap on November 2, 1980.

Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). Winter visitant almost annually, in some years quite abundant. The DVOC winter trip group saw seven individuals in a ten-minute period on the slopes behind Dingmans on February 8, 1976. Morris had a high count of 13 at Beltzville on January 20, 1979. Last winter three were at Beltzville and one at Kresgeville on December 20, 1985.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Regular but uncommon fall migrant along the Blue Mountain and occasional in winter along the Delaware. B. Kita reported a high one-day count of five passing Little Gap on October 14, 1979 and a total count of 17 during the season. Karner reported that 32 were counted at the Wind Gap during the fall of 1980. Wintering bird reports include Rymon's two birds near the Delaware Water Gap during February 1983, two noted along the upper Delaware in the fall of 1984 (*Amer. Birds* 39:151,1985), and an immature found south of Bushkill by Padalino and Fred Tetlow on December 21, 1985 and still present in mid-January, 1986.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). B. Kita reported a high count of 24 at Little Gap on September 23, 1979. Reed counted 12 on poles and wires at Beltzville on January 3, 1979.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Regular fall migrant along the Blue Mountain. The earliest date at Little Gap was September 11, 1984, when Silfies and Wiltraut observed one. The high count was three on October 22, 1979 by B. Kita. A Merlin is listed on the Pocono Mountain Christmas Count of December 20, 1981, but no documentation is given. DeReamus and Masterson saw one at Beltzville on September 17, 1985.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Rare but regular fall migrant along the Blue Mountain. B. Kita reported a total of seven during the fall of 1979. There is an interesting account of the observation by Daniel Klem, Jr., Brian Hillegass and Diane Peters (*Wilson Bull.* 97,2:230-231,1985) of a Peregrine capturing and carrying off a Sharp-shinned Hawk near the Lehig Gap on October 13, 1982.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). As is true throughout the Delaware Valley, populations are way down in the valleys north of the Blue Mountain. While birds are regularly stocked by the Game Commission, there seem to be few that are breeding.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). In contrast to the above, Wild Turkeys are increasing dramatically throughout the region. Reed sees many flocks in excess of 20 birds near Beltzville. Bielenberg and Padalino note large numbers feeding in the corn fields along the river in the DWGNRA. While one car of DVOC birders was watching some 25 near the Dingmans bridge on January 15, 1985, another car was observing a similar sized flock a few miles down the road. There are widespread reports of Turkeys on the Breeding Bird Atlas surveys.

***Virginia Rail** (*Rallus limicola*). DeReamus and Masterson found one near Indian Mountain Lake, about five miles northeast of Penn Forest, on August 12, 1985.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Probable rare nester and uncommon spring and fall migrant; some linger as long as there is open water. Two were found at Beltzville on January 4, 1984 by Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut, and the single bird seen there on January 10, 1985 by Wiltraut was also seen on the 12th by the DVOC.

***Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). One was observed and photographed near Palmerton on October 13, 1978 (*Amer. Birds* 33:161,1979).

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*). One was seen and photographed by Reed at Beltzville on May 18, 1978 which he believes is the first Carbon County record. Boyce and Silfies had one other, on the flats at Penn Forest on August 25, 1985, the year of the drought.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*). Lewis found two on August 26 and one on September 1, 1979 at Pocono Lake. Four were seen on the mud flats at Penn Forest on August 25, 1985 by Boyce and Silfies. A late individual was seen at Beltzville on November 5, 1983 by B. Kita and Silfies.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Reed saw two at Beltzville on May 18, 1978 which may be the first Carbon County record.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*). Gibson found two on the beach at Beltzville on September 21, 1982, one of very few records for the region.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). Street, Warriner and others found a flock of 10 on Kitchen's Pond, Pocono Lake, on August 29, 1980.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). Street, Warriner and others found one at Kitchen's Pond on August 29, 1980, and this is perhaps the second area record.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*). Two noted on the flats at Penn Forest on August 25, 1985 by Boyce and Silfies also may be a second Pocono area record.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). A bird flushed at Hell Creek, Penn Forest by Silfies and Wiltraut on December 8, 1980 constitutes a very late date for the region.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). There are two reports of wintering birds. Mark Collie found one on the Penn Forest Christmas Bird Count on December 22, 1979, and there is a late January 1982 record from near Beltzville (fide Armas Hill).

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). The only fall observation is Wiltraut's of seven on Beltzville November 17, 1978. Silfies' record of two at Penn Forest on January 5, 1982 is notable. There are several other records from both reservoirs, all in April.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). There are scattered winter records and a few summer non-breeders, but the majority of the sightings are during the spring migration. Winter records include seven at Palmerton on the Lehigh River on January 9, 1983 seen by Reed, 11 at Beltzville on January 24, 1985 by Wiltraut and 12 there on February 23, 1980 by the DVOC. Some of the notable spring concentrations are 110 at Palmerton on March 14, 1981 and over 100 at Beltzville on March 18, 1984 by Reed, 70 at Penn Forest on March 27, 1985 by Wiltraut, and 160 passing over Pocono Lake in one big flock on May 12, 1985 by Altemus, Clark and Street.

***Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*). In early November 1982, Bielenberg noted one over the river at the Delaware Water Gap. Reed and Jan Sosik had one on the Lehigh at Lehigh Gap on December 18, 1982.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). Leonard Kucinski observed one at Beltzville on June 26, 1980.

***Royal Tern** (*Sterna maxima*). Street and others observed one well on Pocono Lake on August 7, 1977 which arrived after a northeast storm. This is the first record for the area.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). On November 17, 1978 Morris, Silfies and Wiltraut noted a *Sterna* tern at Beltzville which was puzzling. It had dusky wingtips and appeared to have a dark nape. It was definitely not a Forster's, which is typically the latest migrant in the fall, and so it was probably this species.

***Forster's Tern** (*Sterna forsteri*). Reed noted one at Beltzville on September 4, 1985 accompanying a flock of Ring-billed Gulls.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). Reed saw one on two occasions around May 6-8, 1977 at Beltzville. Lewis and Street had an immature at Pocono Lake on August 26, 1979.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). One evening in August 1977 two boys were fishing for bass with a plug on Pocono Lake when a Great Horned Owl swooped down and struck it, getting caught. They reeled it in and threw a blanket over the bird, but the hook became disengaged and the owl flopped away.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). One was seen at Beltzville on April 5, 1975 by Wiltraut and another on December 24, 1977 by Wiltraut and Winkelman.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). A winter visitant to Beltzville where it is often noted from December to March. Reed had a high count of five there on January 8, 1979. Silfies watched two of them locking their talons in midair while uttering calls on January 8, 1978.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). Rare breeder at Pocono Lake. A young bird just out of the nest was found in early July 1982. A fledged young was found near Penn Forest in 1985 and taken to the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (fide D. Brauning).

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*). Ten were counted around Wild Creek and Penn Forest on May 25, 1978 by Morris and Wiltraut and 13 in the same area on June 24, 1985 by Wiltraut and Yoder. Raymond Farber had calling birds during the summers of 1984 and 1985 near his home at Tott's Gap, but the species has been declining in abundance as more scrub land turns into forest.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). A regular but very uncommon migrant along the Blue Mountain, where Wiltraut noted one on September 24, 1982. Records away from the mountain include single birds at Henryville on May 16, 1976 by Altemus and Street, at Pocono Lake on August 5, 1977 by Lewis, at Kitchen's, Pocono Lake on September 1, 1977 by Lewis, Street and Warriner, at Smithfield Beach in the DWGNRA on September 10, 1983 by K. Amitrani and at Cherry Valley on December 18, 1983 during the Pocono Christmas Bird Count.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). Now well established as a breeding bird along the Blue Mountain and in the valleys to the north of it. Rymon found it nesting near Shawnee in 1985, Wiltraut noted one at Long Pond on May 26, 1982, and Silfies saw one at Promised Land on June 24, 1984.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). This species breeds very sparingly and locally in the Poconos. There is still a breeding colony at Paupac Lake, and on the Breeding Bird Atlas in 1985 Don Miller reported a pair at Buck Hill Falls and Rymon found one bird west of Bushkill. There are several records of wintering birds.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*). A record of one seen February 8, 1964 near Kresgeville by George Hitchner was inadvertently omitted from the 1955-1975 supplement.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*). This widespread but uncommon resident is more often heard than seen. Reed had a notable sighting of a pair with three young in June 1985 near Harry along the Pohopoco Creek.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*). Street and Warriner heard one calling at Long Pond on June 15, 1980, and this is a very suitable breeding habitat. Other observations seem to be of migrants. Bielenberg saw and photographed one at Smithfield Beach on May 17, 1984, Silfies had one at Little Gap on July 26, 1978, and Lewis saw single birds at Pocono Lake on August 27 and September 5, 1977, but in different localities, and another on September 3, 1979.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*). Gill observed one at Locust Ridge near Pocono Lake on October 10, 1981, a late date.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*). There are four recent records of individual migrating birds - at Pocono Lake by Lewis on August 19, 1979, at Pocono Pines by Lewis, Street and Warriner on September 6, 1981, at LaBar's nursery in Stroudsburg on May 15, 1983 by Altemus, Clark, Sheppard and Street, and at Little Gap on September 4, 1985 by Wiltraut.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*). A nest was found at Wild Creek July 23, 1979 by Wiltraut, the first for that area, and Boyce found three singing birds along nearby Hell Creek in June 1985. Wilke found one on territory in the same area during the 1985 Atlas survey.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*). Splitting Trail's Flycatcher into two species in 1973 has made an assessment of the distribution of the new forms necessary. Alder Flycatchers seem to be the predominant species in the higher portions of the Poconos. Mark Robbins and Street found Alders at Thornhurst in June 1984, and Street had two singing at Pocono Lake that summer. They are common at Long Pond where D. and R. Wiltraut counted 10 on May 26, 1982. One was heard singing at Beltzville on June 3, 1985.

***Willow Flycatcher** (*Empidonax traillii*). Wiltraut finds this species to be the common one at Beltzville where they reside in brushy areas around the lake. He has found two nests. One containing four eggs was photographed on June 14, 1985. Reed had singing males along the north shore of Beltzville Lake in June and July of 1984 and 1985. Street found a bird singing the "fitz-bew" song in the peat bog at Locust Ridge on June 17, 1979.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). A sharp decline in the breeding population in recent years has yet to be explained.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*). Breeding colonies have decreased markedly in the last ten years, and many houses are now unoccupied.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*). Nests commonly in bluebird boxes. Boyce and Wiltraut noted one at Beltzville on March 29, 1985, an early arrival date.

Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*). Widespread scattered breeder under bridges and on barns. Silfies counted a total of 66 active nests on a bridge at Beltzville in June 1984.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). A late migrant was noted at Little Gap on November 1, 1981 by Catherine Elwell.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*). Nesting along the Delaware near Shawnee has been documented for years, but there are increasing reports of their occurrence elsewhere, with scattered spring observations from the Beltzville-Wild Creek area, Brodheadsville and Pocono Lake.

***Carolina Chickadee** (*Parus carolinensis*). There are now several records from the Delaware River valley just north of the Water Gap. Terry Master found them at Poxono Island in 1979-1980, and Victor Polus and Rymon have seen them near the confluence of the Brodhead and the Delaware. Rymon observed one at Indian Mountain Estates near Effort on June 15, 1985.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). It breeds regularly at Pocono Lake with considerable variation in abundance from year to year. Other summer records include two found in the spruces at Wild Creek on July 7, 1983 by Wiltraut, although nesting was not observed, one seen at Little Gap on June 27, 1983 by Silfies and another at Wild Creek on June 18, 1985 by Wiltraut. In the fall and winter of 1981-1982, a big invasion year, Lewis and Street counted at least 50 on a walk at Pocono Lake, and Silfies had 20 at Wild Creek on January 8, 1982.

***Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*). There is a record (Aud. Field Notes 10:14, 1956), which was not included in the 1955-1975 report, of a Bewick's Wren being seen at Little Gap on October 23, 1955 by "Mr. and Mrs. Wasson, R. and C. Miller."

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). Probable breeding was indicated when Wiltraut observed a juvenile at Hell Creek, Penn Forest on July 30, 1979. B. Kita and Silfies had a singing male at Mt. Pocono on June 22, 1978, and Bielenberg heard one at Silver Thread Falls along the Dingman Falls trail on April 24, 1984. The DVOC field trip saw a wintering bird at Wild Creek on January 15, 1977.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*). Seldom noted in the Poconos. Boyce and Wiltraut found one singing in a clump of cattails at Beltzville April 20-22, 1985, and Rymon reported finding it at Long Pond during his 1985 Atlas survey.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*). The vast spruce plantings around the Wild Creek Reservoir now attract this species as a summer resident. Wiltraut found juveniles there on July 7, 1983, and Reed heard a singing male there on June 29, 1984.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*). A lingerer was observed at Beltzville on December 26, 1978 by Wiltraut.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*). This southern species is continuing its northward march and now breeds regularly, although uncommonly, in all but the highest portions of the Pocono area.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). A regular breeder wherever nest boxes or natural cavities are available. Winter flocks are observed along the Delaware and at Beltzville. Nineteen birds wintered at Beltzville in December and January 1984, and 26 were counted by Wiltraut and Yoder on December 22, 1985. A great flock of 79 birds was found in a field below Little Gap, just south of our region, on December 16, 1984 by Sally Roth.

***Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*). A male Mountain Bluebird was discovered in a flock of Eastern Bluebirds at Beltzville Lake on December 16, 1984 by Wiltraut and Yoder, the second record for Pennsylvania. It remained until January 10, 1985 and was observed by many birders and photographed in color. It subsisted mainly on the large supply of berries in the area, supplementing its diet with insects during mild weather. The bird reappeared on March 19, 1985, was seen by Boyce and Wiltraut, and was last seen by Boyce on the 22nd.

Remarkably, Yoder and Wiltraut found a male Mountain Bluebird, presumably the same bird, at the exact same place on December 22, 1985, and it remained in the area into at least early January, 1986.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). A very late individual was noted by Bernard, Chris and Timothy Kita at Jonas on December 23, 1978.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*). Singing birds were found at Penn Forest in the summer of 1980 by George Franchois, Gary Freed and Wiltraut and in 1984 by Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut. A pair feeding two fledged young was found in the spruces at Wild Creek on June 18, 1985 and photographed by Boyce and Wiltraut, probably the southernmost nesting in eastern Pennsylvania. There are many records of wintering birds throughout the Pocono region.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Robins regularly winter along the river road north of Shawnee where flocks of 100-200 are not uncommon and at Beltzville in the plantings which afford a large supply of berries. The flock counted there in early January 1986 was estimated to contain 1,000 birds.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). We have two winter records—one seen at Beltzville by Wiltraut on December 26, 1977 and one seen by the DVOC near Smithfield Beach in the DWGNRA on January 12-13, 1985. Bielenberg reported seeing it regularly into March.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Bielenberg had one wintering near Smithfield Beach in 1984-1985.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*). Spring records include two seen at Long Pond on March 14, 1977 by Wiltraut, a flock of 40 in a field south of Effort Mountain on Jonas Road seen by Altemus, Clark, Sheppard and Street on May 13, 1978 and six seen by the same group at Wild Creek on May 10, 1984. Fall observations, all by Wiltraut at Beltzville, include three on October 9, 1975, four on November 16, 1975, 10 on October 13, 1983 and one on December 4, 1985.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). The greatest concentrations in winter are at Beltzville where the berry crop is so plentiful. Elsewhere they are more irregular. Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder estimated that there were 250 in the flocks there on December 26, 1985. Stephen Smith, two weeks later, estimated that the flock contained close to 1,000 birds.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). The Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count of December 21, 1980 reported finding three birds but gave no supporting details. Franchois, Greer Saunders and Street discovered one at Beltzville on December 23, 1985, and it was subsequently seen by several other observers.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). Fritz Brock and Wiltraut observed one at Beltzville on May 17, 1975.

Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*). This species may soon be found to be breeding at Wild Creek where singing birds were observed by Wiltraut on June 20, 1979 and July 15, 1983 and by Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder on June 24, 1984. Migration dates at Penn Forest are from April 12 to October 18.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). This species appears to be increasing along the southern edge of the Pocono area. Street's May roundup group has found them regularly at Stroudsburg, the Water Gap and along the river road in the DWGNRA north of Shawnee. They had a high count of eight singing birds on May 11, 1984. A pair was nest building at the Water Gap. Wiltraut has found them nesting at Penn Forest, and Bielenberg notes them regularly at East Stroudsburg and in the DWGNRA.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*). Altemus, Clark, Sheppard and Street observed one at LaBar's nursery in Stroudsburg on May 18, 1980, and Street found one at the upper end of Pocono Lake on September 26, 1981.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Diminishing as a breeder as the scrub matures but still found uncommonly on the plateau and its slopes where pitch pines predominate. It is still regularly found in the Delaware River valley north of the Water Gap. Bielenberg has consistently had more than a dozen singing birds around the Meesing Nature Center at Marshalls Creek, he has found them near Smithfield Beach, and he and Padalino found them breeding in numbers at the Pocono Environmental Education Center at Dingmans Ferry. They breed at Penn Forest, and a bird which appeared to be a Golden-winged x Chestnut-sided hybrid was studied near Mt. Pocono in Wolf Swamp on June 1, 1981 by Silfies, an area where both species are common breeders.

Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera* x *V. pinus*). One singing a Blue-winged song was seen and photographed near Wolf Swamp on June 11, 1978 by Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut. Another, resembling a Blue-winged but having yellow wingbars, was present in the Blue-winged habitat at Beltzville on May 12-14, 1985 and seen by Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder. This bird sang a Golden-winged type song.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*). Wiltraut and Winkelman withdraw their report of seeing one at Promised Land on October 1, 1970 which was published in the 1955-1975 supplement.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*). This is an uncommon breeder in scattered locations on the plateau and a probable breeder in the Penn Forest-Wild Creek

area where one was found singing by Silfies on June 14, 1981 and another by Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut on June 26, 1984. A high count of four singing birds was heard at Long Pond on May 26, 1982 by the Wiltraut brothers.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). Summer records are so few that much more information must be gathered to determine its status as a breeding bird.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). Breeds throughout the area, diminishing in abundance as the scrub matures. An immature closely studied by Wiltraut was observed at Beltzville on the late date of November 19, 1979.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). Street finds this to be the commonest breeding warbler in the spruce forests around Pocono Lake, and Wiltraut has found them numerous in the spruces at Promised Land. An indication of probable breeding at Wild Creek was the discovery of two singing males on June 26, 1984 by Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut and their presence there again in 1985.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*). At times this species is the commonest spring and fall migrating warbler in the spruces at Wild Creek and the spruces and tamaracks at Pocono Pines, often being noted in numbers up to a dozen or more. The Promised Land spruces also attract them. An interesting late season record is Armas Hill's observation of one at Beltzville on December 26, 1984.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). A singing male was present at Hell Creek during June 1985 and observed by Boyce and Wiltraut. No evidence of nesting was observed.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). A range extension from the Pocono Lake region, where it breeds commonly, was indicated when Morris found a male singing in the spruces at Wild Creek on June 26, 1982 and confirmed when Wiltraut observed a female feeding two or three fledged young on July 7, 1983, making this the southernmost breeding location in eastern Pennsylvania. A singing male was found in the same location on June 25, 1984 by Boyce and Wiltraut. Small numbers are occasionally noted in winter in scattered areas, especially where there is a good supply of poison ivy berries.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). Silfies noted one at Wild Creek on June 14, 1981, and two singing males were seen in hemlocks there on June 24, 1984 by Boyce, Wiltraut and Yoder.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*). Wiltraut found singing males in the Penn Forest-Wild Creek hemlocks on June 20, 1979, June 7, 1980 and May 30, 1985.

***Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica dominica*). Street's May roundup group found a singing male at Shawnee on May 20, 1979 and another at the Delaware Water Gap overlook parking area on May 12, 1985. Robbins had one at the Thornhurst Picnic Area Park during the first week of June 1983.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). It breeds sparingly in pitch pine stands throughout the Pocono area. Early singing birds at Beltzville, Wild Creek and Penn Forest on March 29, 1985, were seen by Boyce, Silfies and Wiltraut.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*). An early arrival was April 22, 1985 when Wiltraut and Yoder found four at Beltzville. An exceptional late record is that of James Wycoff, who observed one near Snydersville on December 15, 1984.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*). Common at times on migration, especially in the spruces at Wild Creek and at LaBar's nursery in Stroudsburg, where Street's roundup group saw 20 or more on May 18, 1980.

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*). Records of summer resident birds are becoming increasingly frequent. Nesting was reported at Tott's Gap in 1984 by Boyce and Silfies. Altemus, Clark, Sheppard and Street found a pair on territory at Shawnee on May 11, 1984, and the birds were present at the same location on May 12, 1985. Singing birds

were heard near Penn Forest on July 1, 1984 by Boyce and Silfies and at Hell Creek on May 21, 1985 by Boyce. They were noted on Breeding Bird Atlas surveys by Wilke at Penn Forest and Big Pocono State Park and by Rymon along the Delaware near Walpack bend in 1985.

***Prothonotary Warbler** (*Protonotaria citrea*). This species of the southern swamps occasionally wanders northward up the Delaware River valley, and Rymon found a pair nesting in a cavity of a willow on DePue's Island near Shawnee on June 22, 1985. He found an earlier nest near Mt. Bethel, just south of the Water Gap, on June 15, 1983, and a pair was in the same area in 1984.

***Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*). A singing bird was discovered by Wiltraut and Winkelman in a laurel thicket on the Blue Mountain near Kirkridge, just over the county line in Northampton County on June 4, 1978. It was carefully observed for at least an hour and sketched. This is believed to be the second sighting of the species in Pennsylvania.

On June 17, 1985 Eugene R. Brown carefully observed and described the markings of a bird at Mont Lawn Camp, Bushkill, which he identified as this species. It was in habitat similar to that in which Swainson's Warbler breeds in the southern Appalachians. Brown, who was alone, watched the bird for 10 to 15 minutes with 6x binoculars in good light. The record is included here because of the competence of the observer and because there are several extralimital records, including one from Baer Rocks, a few miles west of the Lehigh Gap, in September 1982, from New Jersey and even Central Park!

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). Wiltraut found it nesting at Hell Creek in 1979, and singing birds were heard there in 1980 and 1984. Wilke found them on territory in the same area in 1985.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). This species is rarely seen north of the Blue Mountain. Wiltraut found two singing on the south slope near Kirkridge on June 7, 1978. William and Naomi Murphy had two individuals at the Meesing Nature Center at Marshalls Creek on May 12, 1982 and one at the same location the following May. Altemus, Clark, Sheppard and Street heard two along the river road just north of Shawnee on May 17, 1981. There are two records from the top of the plateau. Street and Warriner had a singing male north of Thornhurst on May 25, 1980, and Street had another on the hillside at the bridge over the Lehigh River just south of Thornhurst on June 12, 1983. It was still singing there when Lewis and Street were taking a breeding bird census on June 24.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). Two were seen by Silfies at Little Gap on September 22, 1980 and another there by Wiltraut on October 3, 1983.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). This species is a summer resident along the Blue Mountain and in the Delaware River valley but is rarely seen on the plateau. Boyce counted 11 singing birds along the mountain between the Water Gap and Fox Gap on May 25, 1985 and six singing birds along Hell Creek on June 2nd.

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*). There are 14 observations of this uncommon migrant, usually single individuals, by various birders during this ten-year period, all of them in May and from late August to September 20.

***Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*). Padalino reports that a bird in immature plumage made its appearance at the Pocono Environmental Education Center at Dingmans Ferry on May 16, 1984 and was present until September. An adult male, presumably the same bird, reappeared in May 1975 and again summered there.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). Wintering stragglers are occasionally seen at feeders. Bielenberg had one wintering in heavy brush near Zion Church in the Park from January-March 1985. Although still common, Street has found their numbers down by 50 percent in the last ten years of his breeding bird counts.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*). The DVOC at Beltzville on January 7, 1978 found an extraordinarily large concentration of Tree Sparrows numbering perhaps as many as 1000 birds. They were everywhere.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*). Winter records include one at Wild Creek on January 30, 1982 (fide A. Hill), three seen south of Snydersville on the December 19, 1982 Pocono Mountain Christmas Count, and an occasional bird found at East Stroudsburg or in the Park each winter from 1983 to 1985 by Bielenberg.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). One was closely studied and photographed by Wiltraut at Beltzville Lake on May 9, 1985.

Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*). Local summer resident in suitable fields north of the Blue Mountain but becoming increasingly rare.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). Often found in large numbers around Beltzville in the fall, where Wiltraut counted about 60 on October 13, 1983. He found three there on December 19, 1982 and two on December 18, 1984.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Local summer resident in uncut fields around the Beltzville-Wild Creek area and McMichaels, moving from spot to spot as fields are mowed or developed. A remarkable 25 were counted in a field at Wild Creek on July 10, 1985 (fide A. Hill).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). There are no recent sightings of this former local breeder.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*). Street found one at Pocono Lake Preserve on September 8-9, 1979, and he, Lewis and Warriner saw another at Pocono Pines on September 6, 1982. William and Naomi Murphy had a high count of seven at Tom's Creek along the Delaware south of Bushkill on October 12, 1981. They also saw single individuals at the Meesing Nature Center, Marshalls Creek, on May 12, 1982 and May 11, 1985 and at Beltzville on October 13, 1985.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). This rare migrant is usually seen passing through in small numbers in May and October, with a high count of 16 noted by Wiltraut at Beltzville on October 13, 1983. There is a January 14, 1982 observation by Silfies of two winter lingerers there.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Breeds regularly around Pocono Lake and winters in considerable numbers throughout the area. Wiltraut counted 220 in a flock at Beltzville in April 5, 1975. Street found an odd plumaged Junco building a nest at his cottage at Pocono Lake Preserve on May 25, 1985. The head, which looked dirty white from a distance, was on close inspection found to be mottled gray and white, almost like pepper and salt.

***Lapland Longspur** (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Karner has two records—November 18, 1980 at Wind Gap and November 18, 1982 at Kirkridge.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). These winter visitors often appear on the shores or along the dam breast of the Penn Forest reservoir and at Beltzville in years when the shoreline is exposed. Some of the larger concentrations noted were 50 at Penn Forest on November 12, 1978 by Wiltraut, 80-100 at Beltzville by Gibson on November 15, 1982 and 50 there by the DVOC on January 8, 1983. Reed finds flocks of from 15 to 80 every winter near Lehighton.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). Reed's earliest sighting was on February 13, 1983 at Beltzville, and he and Wiltraut have the latest, also at Beltzville, with three birds seen on December 18, 1984.

***Western Meadowlark** (*Sturnella neglecta*). One singing the typical song of this species was observed in a field near Greentown by B. Kita and Kenneth Niewoehner on June 18, 1977.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Fall and winter records include 15-20 seen at Long Pond on November 1, 1975 by Wiltraut and Winkelman, and 20-25 seen in a pasture near Weir Lake on December 20, 1985 by Wiltraut and Yoder. Spring records include three at Long Pond by Wiltraut on March 14, 1977, six at Canadensis by Thomas Dolan and Street on March 21, 1981, and seven photographed in Franklin Township by Reed on April 8, 1982 just after a spring eight-inch snowfall.

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*). The winter of 1981-1982 was a great invasion year, with lesser ones in 1977-1978 and 1985-1986. Wiltraut saw one at Palmerton on December 7, 1977, and he and Winkelman had two at Hell Creek on December 24. The great flock which visited Beltzville in 1981-1982 arrived in December and grew to over 120 birds, some estimated 300, by early January. They remained until the end of March, and Silfies heard them in song on the 28th. Street counted over 70 in just two trees when the DVOC visited the multiflora hedgerows there on January 9th. They counted 68 at Dingmans Ferry the next day. Silfies saw a flock of 30 at Sun Valley, a few miles northeast of Penn Forest on February 14th. The minor invasion of 1985-1986 began at Beltzville on December 7 when Wiltraut and Yoder found four. Numbers increased to a high of 35 at Penn Forest in late December, and scattered small numbers were seen at Beltzville in January. A few appeared at Dingmans Ferry at the same time.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). Reed first found them nesting at Lehighton and Beltzville in 1977. An indication of the magnitude of their population explosion is evidenced by the 658 recorded on the 1984 Pocono Mountain Christmas Count, seven times as many as were counted four years earlier.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). A flock of 19 appeared in the red spruces near the dam at Pocono Lake Preserve on September 2, 1981 and remained there in steadily decreasing numbers until at least October 10, when six were found. A single bird was heard calling on December 13. Silfies noted eight at Wild Creek on January 8, 1982, and Street and Frank Windfelder found a great flock of 100 there the following day.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). Seven were seen at Beltzville on December 24 and 27, 1977 by Wiltraut and Winkelman, 20-25 at Hell Creek on January 1, 1978 by the same observers, two at Dingmans Ferry on January 8, 1978 by the DVOC, 40 at Beltzville on February 6 and 62 at Stemlersville on February 27, 1982 by Reed, and a flock of 25 at Beltzville on January 11, 1986 by many observers.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). The DVOC found four at Pocono Lake on February 7, 1976. Brock and Wiltraut had 15-20 at Wolf Rocks on the Blue Mountain on October 29, 1977 and Wiltraut 13 at Beltzville on the 31st. Altemus, Clark, Sheppard and Street observed six in the Wild Creek spruces on May 13, 1978, and John LaVia and his sons saw two at Dingmans on May 27, 1979. The winter of 1981-1982 was a good invasion year, with Wiltraut finding 15 at Wild Creek on December 21, the DVOC having 50 at Dingmans on January 10, and Silfies having 25 at Sun Valley on February 14 and 50 at Beltzville on the 26th.

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*). This, the most regular of the wintering northern finches, has been seen every winter, usually in spectacular flocks, but their numbers were way down in 1984-1985 and 1985-1986. Some of the higher counts made on DVOC winter visits to Beltzville were 200 on January 3, 1981, 100 on January 8, 1983 and 200 on January 14, 1984. They had 150 at Dingmans on January 10, 1982, and Silfies had 150 at Beltzville on February 24th. Altemus and Street found eight present as late as May 16, 1976 at a Pocono Lake feeder.

— Phillips B. Street, Lionville Station Road,
R.D. 3, Chester Springs, PA 19425

— Richard E. Wiltraut, 54 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall, PA 18052