

Gottlieb Mittelbergers
Reise
nach
Pennsylvanien
im Jahr 1750.
und
Rückreise nach Deutschland
im Jahr 1754.

Enthaltend

nicht nur eine Beschreibung des Landes
nach seinem gegenwärtigen Zustande, son-
dern auch eine ausführliche Nachricht von den
unglückseligen und betrübten Umständen der meisten
Deutschen, die in dieses Land gezogen sind,
und dahin ziehen.



Stuttgard,
gedrukt bey Gottlieb Friderich Jenisch. 1756.

TITLE PAGE of Gottlieb Mittelberger's *Reise nach Pennsylvanien, Journey to Pennsylvania*, Stuttgard edition, 1756.
From copy in the Library Company of Philadelphia.

GOTTLIEB MITTELBERGER'S PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Gottlieb Mittelberger did not like life in Pennsylvania. So, after a four-year stay from late 1750 to 1754, he returned to his home in what was then the Duchy of Württemberg in southwest Germany. His distaste for Penn's Woods is embodied, in part, in the title of the book which he immediately set about writing upon his arrival in Europe, "... Containing ... a Detailed Account of the Sad and Unfortunate Circumstances of Most of the Germans That Have Emigrated or are Emigrating to that Country." The work completed, he wrote a lavish dedication to the Duke of Württemberg, published his book in 1756, and passed the remainder of his life in obscurity.

But his book, *Reise nach Pennsylvania* ... (Journey to Pennsylvania) ... , continues to interest historians and naturalists due to its descriptive richness, historical references and allusions to wildlife. Its qualities are summarized by Oscar Handlin and John Clive, two of his later editors and translators:

Mittelberger's narrative was written in a simple but lively style. He himself warns the reader not to expect too rigid an organization of the book. His method of telling about his observations and adventures could almost be called stream of consciousness. He is led from one subject to another by associations that come to his mind. This weakens the structure of the account, but adds to its charm. Statistics, geographical information, comments on institutions, anecdotes, and personal experiences follow each other helter-skelter. But the author's shrewd common sense, his powers of observation, his ingenious humor, his curiosity, and his genuine love of nature combine to lend a unique and attractive character to the story of his travels. (page xvi)

The book appeared in two German editions (differing only in the design of their title pages) in Stuttgart and in Leipzig/Frankfurt. No subsequent German editions were printed.

Mittelberger's work was first noted by Jacques Philibert Rousselot De Surgy (1737-1772), a French translator, who synthesized Mittelberger's book with that of Peter Kalm's to compile the *Histoire Naturelle et Politique de la Pensylvanie* ... in 1768. Kalm, the distinguished Swedish botanist, naturalist and student of Linnaeus, had had his *Travels into North America* ... translated from the Swedish (1753) into German from 1754-1764. Rousselot De Surgy apparently used Mittelberger's original and Kalm's German editions.

Carl T. Eben made the first complete English translation of Mittelberger's "Journey ..." It appeared in 1898. Some sixty years later, Oscar Handlin and John Clive made a second translation of the entire work (1960). Meanwhile, William J. Rupp utilized Mittelberger's commentary in his definitive work on Pennsylvania German bird names in 1946.

Despite this apparently thorough treatment of Mittelberger's work, the translations relating to birds are sometimes inaccurate, often misleading and never put into their regional or ornithological context. This paper proposes to remedy, as far as possible, those deficiencies.

BACKGROUND

Gottlieb Mittelberger was neither ornithologist nor naturalist. He taught German and music, as organist, at the local Lutheran church.

Soon after his arrival at Philadelphia in October, 1750, during the great wave of German emigration to America in the mid-1700's, he made his way to Trappe in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The region around Trappe, some twenty-five miles northwest of downtown Philadelphia, at that time still had remnants of its pristine and primitive quality. Towns like nearby Norristown were small by today's standards, and Trappe was nothing more than a tiny village. Even today it still retains its rural, small-town quality.

Although some alteration to the surrounding land had occurred—sections of the original forest had been cleared for farming—Mittelberger still had the opportunity to experience American wildlife before the major environmental changes of the early 19th century were to change the face of southeastern Pennsylvania for good.

Mittelberger noted, with pleasure it seems, the diversity and abundance of Pennsylvania's wildlife. He must have had a special affection for birds inasmuch as he devotes more space to their various descriptions than to any other group of animals.

His list and random observations of birds are unusual in a number of ways. His is one of the few lists from the period that emphasize non-game birds. He totally ignores raptors, with the single exception of a second-hand report of a Golden Eagle from somewhere west of Pennsylvania. Most writers of the colonial period who referred to birds were likely to prominently include game birds and raptors. Other birds, with the exception of the hummingbird, which fascinated all who saw it, were rarely noted by others.

While commenting on the abundance of game, birds and otherwise, he, unlike nearly all his contemporaries, includes a number of passerines, apparently for their own sake and not for their utilitarian or economic uses. This trait in Mittelberger's writing distinguishes him from the few others who noted birds in the early annals of Pennsylvania's natural history.

Mittelberger's list is the earliest compilation of birds in Montgomery County. As such it gives us a glimpse of the avifauna in the area in that period and, by extension, to the whole of southeastern Pennsylvania. Moreover, Mittelberger tends to emphasize the colorful and vociferous summer breeding birds, another unusual aspect of his observations. Thus we have a limited, but useful look at the earliest breeding records for selected species in the county, indeed, the whole state.

Mittelberger's bird names and descriptions are presented here for each species first in the original German. Apparently, the teacher/organist knew little of the local American names for many of the birds he notes. He did seem to know, however, a number of the European names of similar-looking American birds. When he thought them the same, he utilized the German name. We shall make use of this name transference in our analysis. And, as we shall see, some of Mittelberger's descriptions, even without names, are so revealing that even now we can make reasonably accurate attempts to identify the birds by species or family.

Next we shall present the translations as done by Eben, Rupp and Handlin and Clive (hereafter H&C). Since Rupp attempted a number of identifications, his IDs will, when different from his translations, be noted.

Finally, the writer will attempt to identify the bird under discussion and make comments, if necessary. When useful, Rousselot De Surgy's French commentary of 1768 will be introduced into these comments.

As quoted earlier from H&C, Mittelberger's material was disorganized. Although the author presents a list of ten numbered birds on one page, various other species are mentioned throughout the text. All will be noted in the following analysis.

All page references to quoted material are in the Bibliography unless noted in the text. Extended English quotations are from the H&C edition because of the more ready accessibility of their translation as compared to Eben's.

MITTELBERGER'S BIRDS

Gottlieb Mittelberger's major section on birds from his Journey to Pennsylvania begins, "American birds are quite different from those in Europe." But, he then names three which are "the same" as those in Europe.

Mittelberger: Raben

Eben, Rupp, H&C: ravens

Rupp ID: probably meaning the crows

Identification: American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchus*).

Comments: All translators, including Rousselot De Surgy, translate "Raben" into ravens. Rupp, however, suggests, correctly, it seems to me, the American Crow. While it is safe to assume that the Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*) was more widespread in Mittelberger's Pennsylvania than now, it is more likely that the noisy, ubiquitous American Crow would have caught the school-teacher's attention than the occasional Northern Raven that might have wandered from its usual haunts in the northern Allegheny Mountains to the Piedmont where Mittelberger taught.

The current German for the all-black form of the Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) is, Rabenkrähe. Mittelberger most likely knew this bird from his native Württemberg. His "Raben" could quite simply have been a shortening

of Rabenkrähe in the same way we might shorten Hummingbird to Hummer. His readers would have known he meant the Carrion Crow. He mistakenly thought it was the same bird as the American Crow. Thus, it seems that Mittelberger was probably more nearly correct than all his translators. Casell's German Dictionary defines "Rabe" (singular) as "raven" or "crow."

Currently, it is an abundant breeding bird in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: Schwalben

Eben, Rupp, H&C: swallows

Identification: Hirundinidae inclusive of the Tree, Bank, Northern Rough-winged and Barn Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*, *Riparia riparia*, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, and *Hirundo rustica* respectively).

Comments: While only the Bank and Barn Swallows are known in central Europe, Mittelberger probably lumped the four common summer swallows of eastern Pennsylvania into his "Schwalben."

All are common to abundant in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: Grasmücken

Eben, Rupp, H&C: hedge-sparrows

Rupp ID: most likely the house wren

Identification: Any of, or collectively, the New World warblers, Parulinae.

Comments: Mittelberger writes that the sparrow, "Spazen," is not to be found in Pennsylvania. This statement is inexplicable unless he was making reference to the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), which was not introduced into Pennsylvania until the 1860's. Although the Hedge Sparrow, or Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), Heckenbraunelle in contemporary German, is not strictly speaking a sparrow, it is still unfathomable why all the translators made Mittelberger's "Grasmücken" the "hedge sparrow."

Rupp illustrates his uneasiness about this translation by suggesting the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). But this too is hardly credible. Mittelberger may have known the Winter Wren (*T. troglodytes*) in Germany. If so, he could have confused the miniscule, all brown, tiny-tailed wren for its American cousin, but certainly not for the larger, brown and white, long-tailed Dunnock.

There seems no reason to suggest that Grasmücken meant something different in Mittelberger's day than it does today. The word is now defined as a bird of the Old World warbler family, Silviidae. Apparently, the straightforward Trappe schoolteacher did no less than sophisticated bird students did for many years, he combined the Old and New World warblers into one family. Mittelberger most likely noticed the similarities of Pennsylvania's warblers to those of Württemberg, considered them the same, and, logically gave them the same name, Grasmücken—warblers.

Rousset De Surgy had no difficulty in his translation. Mittelberger's Grasmücken became De Surgy's, "fauvettes"—warblers (p. 117).

Having informed his readers which birds were "exactly" like those in Germany, Mittelberger goes on to introduce the distinctly American, that is, Pennsylvanian, ones. He writes, "American birds are very wonderful. It is impossible to overpraise their beautiful colors and their lovely songs . . ." At this point Mittelberger begins to enumerate ten different birds, as follows:

Mittelberger: welche gelb sind, und schwarze Fittige haben

Eben: yellow and have black wings

H&C: yellow birds with black wings

Rupp ID: the goldfinch

Identification: American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*).

Comments: Only the fall-plumaged male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) could challenge the American Goldfinch for this identification. Given the brilliant colors and open-area habits of the Goldfinch, it seems more likely that Mittelberger meant this bird rather than the woodland-prefering Tanager, whose yellow and black plumage only lasts, if at all, a short time in September while preparing to leave Pennsylvania for its southerly migration.

The American Goldfinch breeds regularly in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: rothe mit schwarzen Fittigen

Eben: red with black wings

H&C: red birds with black wings

Rupp ID: the scarlet tanager

Identification: male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).

Comments: Unmistakable. A bird sure to make an impression on even the most casual observer. Breeds regularly in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: ganz gelbe

Eben: altogether yellow

H&C: completely yellow birds

Rupp: altogether yellow ones

Rupp ID: perhaps the yellow warblers

Identification: Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*).

Comments: It is perfectly conceivable that Mittelberger did not make distinctions among the array of olive- and brown-backed warblers with yellow underparts. However, the singularly yellow impression of the Yellow Warbler and its probable commonness as a breeding bird in the area where Mittelberger lived makes this the most likely choice for his "completely yellow birds."

The Yellow Warbler is currently a common breeding bird in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: Staaren, welche grösser als unsere, ganz blau sehen, und rothe Fittige haben

Eben: starlings which are larger than ours, look quite blue and have red wings

H&C: starlings, bigger than ours, blue all over with red wings

Rupp: starlings, larger than the European

Identification: male Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).

Comments: Mittelberger's starlings, the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), became "American" sometime in the 1890's. They are still called Staren in Germany. In this case, Mittelberger's description clearly distinguishes between the two species despite his use of the same name.

Red-winged Blackbirds commonly breed in Montgomery County wherever marshy conditions allow.

Mittelberger: ganz hochrothe mit Püschchen auf den Köpfen
Eben, H&C: brilliantly red ones with plumes on their heads

Rupp ID: the cardinal

Identification: Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).

Comments: Unmistakable. A common resident breeder in the county.

Mittelberger: ganz blaue

Eben, Rupp, H&C: entirely blue ones

Rupp ID: either the indigo bunting or the blue bird or both

Identification: male Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).

Comments: The only "entirely" all-blue bird that inhabits Montgomery County and prominent enough due to its color and all-day territorial singing; must have been the Indigo Bunting. Other candidates for this identification are, as Rupp suggests, the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), and also, the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), male Black-throated Blue (*Dendroica caerulescens*) and male Cerulean (*D. cerulea*) Warblers, and the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiracea caerulea*). The bluebird, jay, and warblers, despite their prominent blue plumage, must be rejected because none is "entirely" blue. The male Blue Grosbeak, although mostly blue, is rarely met with in the area, a fact which makes it most unlikely that Mittelberger meant this species.

Mittelberger: weisse mit schwarzen Fittigen

Eben, Rupp, H&C: white ones with black wings

Rupp ID: the snow bunting, a downy or hairy woodpecker or what?

Identification: Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).

Comments: We can safely eliminate Rupp's "snow bunting" (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) because it is rust- and white-colored except for black wing tips when it occasionally visits Pennsylvania in winter. Given Mittelberger's tendency to recall and describe prominent colors of summer birds, he probably had in mind the Eastern Kingbird. However, an arguable case for the Hairy and/or Downy Woodpeckers (*Picoides villosus* and *P. pubescens* respectively), residents, and the Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), a winter visitor, could be made.

Mittelberger: allerhand färbichte

Eben, Rupp: many-colored ones

H&C: multi-colored ones

Identification: Not identifiable.

Mittelberger: ganz graszgrüne mit rother Köpfen
Eben, Rupp, H&C: grass-green ones with red heads
Rupp ID: very likely the Carolina parakeet

Identification: Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*).

Comments: There are very few colonial period records, and as far as I know, no specimens, of the now-extinct Carolina Parakeet, from Pennsylvania. Despite William Bartram's (1791:301) assertion that these birds never reached Pennsylvania, the accumulated evidence is so persuasive the American Ornithologists' Union (1983:268) lists Pennsylvania within the Parakeet's former range. One of the earliest records of this bird in the Keystone State is this one of Mittelberger's.

Although his description lacks some important details—he leaves out the mostly yellow head—it is complete enough to determine that it is, indeed, a Carolina Parakeet. Forshaw (1977:413) describes adult birds, in part, "... general plumage green, paler on underparts; forehead, lores, periorbital region and upper cheeks orange; remainder of head and upper part of neck yellow..." Others have alluded to the forehead as "pale brick red" (Baird 1860:67), "orange red" (Wilson 1811:89) and even "bright scarlet" (Audubon 1842:310). Mittelberger was impressed, evidently, by this "red forehead" and remembered it when describing the bird.

Later in his book (p. 104), while describing several parrot species on board ship during his return to Germany, Mittelberger notes that a third species "was actually a pair—one female, one male—neither bigger than quail, grass-green with red heads. They could call out a great many things in English. Many kinds of such marvelous and beautiful birds are to be found in Pennsylvania." Here Mittelberger, while confirming the bird's description and presence in Pennsylvania, either exaggerates the Parakeet's linguistic abilities or confuses them with the other parrots on board ship. None of the classic authors of North American ornithology, Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon or Thomas Nuttall (1832:549), all of whom knew the bird in life, had much opinion of its "talking" abilities.

And yet, there seems little doubt that the "grass-green" parrots on board ship were the same species as the ones Mittelberger listed among his Pennsylvania birds. This important reference definitely establishes the Carolina Parakeet in southeastern Pennsylvania. Now, extinct.

Mittelberger: welche schwarz, weisz und scheckicht ist. Diese Vögel können allen Vögeln nachsingen un pfeiffen.

Eben: which is black, white and pied. These birds can imitate the singing and whistling of all birds...

H&C: a pied species colored black and white. These birds can imitate the song and whistling of all other birds.

Rupp ID: the true mocking-bird

Identification: Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*).

Comments: Self-evident. The Northern Mockingbird is a common breeding bird and year-round resident in Montgomery County. The notion that the

Mockingbird is only a twentieth-century colonizer of Pennsylvania needs re-evaluation in light of this, and other, early records.

At this point, Mittelberger ends his enumeration, but he is not by any means finished introducing his readers to the "very wonderful" American birds. He continues:

Mittelberger: welche zur Sommerszeit den ganzen Tag recht deutlich ruffen: Mach doch fort, mach dach fort . . . (p. 64) So könnte man den Vogel, der in fast gleichem Tact, wie unsere Wachteln rufen sein 'Mach doch fort' schreyt, für eine Wachtel halte, aber er hat ein Kleines Schwänzlein, das unsere Wachteln nicht haben. (p. 65)

Eben: (these) call in summer all day long quite plainly: 'Get you gone! Get you gone!' . . .

Thus we might consider the bird that calls out his "Get you gone!" in almost the same measure in which our quail calls, as a quail; but it has a small tail, such as our quails do not have. (pp. 75, 76)

H&C: (a kind of bird which) during the summer calls very clearly all day long: "Get you gone. Get you gone." It is conceivable that one might take for a quail the Pennsylvanian bird who cries "Get you gone!" in almost the same cadence in which our quails call. But he has one thing our quail does not have, a little tail. (pp. 57, 58)

Rupp ID: Bob-white quail . . . accurately reproduces (its) calls.

Identification: Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*).

Comments: Rupp, while correctly identifying the bird, mistakenly believes that Mittelberger "accurately" articulated its call. The traveler's recall evidently was less than perfect, and he must have confused the New World bird's "bob-white" with the call of the Old World Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*). Cramp (1980:501) describes it as a "staccato, far-carrying . . . 'whICwhic-whIC' or 'quikqu-ik' repeated usually 3-10 times in close succession; well-known 'wet-my-lips' vocalization." Mittelberger's "Mach doch fort" and Cramp's "wet-my-lips" are sufficiently close in syllables and rhythm to conclude that the German music teacher lost a beat when he tried to recall the American bird's call.

Mittelberger's peculiar remark about the "little tail" of the Bobwhite as a distinguishing mark from the Quail is only explicable in terms of the same memory lapse. Both birds have similarly shaped and sized tails. Despite these lapses, there seems little doubt that Mittelberger was making reference to the Northern Bobwhite.

Bobwhites still are resident in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: lässt sich mehrentheils bey Nacht hören, und rufft: Wipperwill, Wipperwill; derselbe wird auch so genennt.

Eben (H&C): heard mostly by night, calls 'Wipperwill' (Whip-poor-Will), Wipperwill. It is called (known) by that name.

Rupp ID: the whip-poor-will.

Identification: Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*).

Comments: Unmistakable. The Whip-poor-will is no longer known in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: Vögelein ist nicht einmal so gross als ein Mayenkäfer, sondern nur wie ein Goldsvogel. Es glänzet wie Gold, und manchmalen scheint es grün, blau und roth . . . Es kostet nur den Honig aus denen Blumen, dahero hats den Namen Zuckervögelein.

Eben: a little bird is not quite so large as a May-bug, but only as large as a gold-bird. It glitters like gold, and sometimes it appears green, blue and red . . . It sips only the honey from the flowers, hence it has the name sugar bird.

H&C: a little bird rarely to be seen. This little bird is not even the size of a Maybug. It is no bigger than a gold-crested wren. It glitters like gold, and sometimes it appears to be green, blue and red . . . It sips nothing but honey out of flowers, and that is why it is known as the sugar bird.

Rupp ID: humming-bird, probably the ruby-throat

Identification: Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).

Comments: Mittelberger's description of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is remarkably accurate and complete. He continues his description: "Its beak is a little long, and as sharp as a needle; its feet are like very fine wire." And Mittelberger's comparison of the Ruby-throat's size, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, to that of the Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, is particularly accurate. In fact, Mittelberger's description of the hummingbird is his most thorough.

Ruby-throats commonly breed throughout the county.

Mittelberger goes on to describe fish, snakes and other "beauties of Pennsylvania." Scattered throughout are references to birds. Despite his unusual emphasis on passerine and non-game birds, he does mention a few game birds here and there. In one passage (p. 103) he lists the most abundant game species in southeastern Pennsylvania. "Haasen, Schnepfen, Fasanen, wilde Enten, wilde Tauben, wilde Welschhüner kan man täglich noch die Menge schiessen." "Hares, snipe, Pheasants, wild ducks, wild pigeons and wild turkeys can also be shot in great quantity every day."

Mittelberger: Schnepfen

Eben, H&C: snipe

Rupp ID: snipe or woodcock (or both!)

Identification: Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and/or American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*).

Comments: Cramp (1983: 403, 444) uses the contemporary German, Bekassine for snipe, and Waldschnepfe for woodcock. In Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* (1954: 116, 117) he uses the same words. And Cassel's dictionary translates "snipe" into die Schnepfe, and "woodcock" into die Waldschnepfe. But Schnepfe can be used, according to the same authority, for snipe or woodcock.

Mittelberger surely knew these common game birds from both his native Württemberg and their American cousins in Pennsylvania, and he appar-

ently considered them conspecific. Although he certainly knew these distinctly marked scolopacidae apart, we cannot determine from the evidence whether he meant "Schnepfen" collectively or specifically.

Both are still known in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: Fasanen

Eben, Rupp, H&C: pheasants

Rupp ID: grouse

Identification: Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).

Comments: Throughout the entire colonial period and well into the 1800's, the Ruffed Grouse was called "pheasant" in Pennsylvania. (See Alexander Wilson's and John James Audubon's accounts of this bird.) The Ruffed Grouse now is rarely reported in Montgomery County.

Mittelberger: wilde Enten

Eben, Rupp, H&C: wild ducks

Identification: *Anas* species.

Comments: Mittelberger here probably makes a reference in general to any or all varieties of the "dabbling" ducks that are common to southeastern Pennsylvania. It should be noted, however, that the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) was known as *the* Wild Duck in colonial Pennsylvania. Current German for Mallard is *die* Stockente, but Cassell also gives "wilde Ente" as one of the definitions of Mallard.

Mittelberger: wilde Tauben

Eben, H&C: wild pigeons

Rupp ID: passenger pigeons

Identification: Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*).

Comments: Mittelberger makes several references to "wild pigeons" in addition to the above. He notes, for example, that "lots of wild pigeons can be shot twice a year, that is spring when they migrate north, and late in the fall when they return to migrate south." These "pigeons that have been shot are salted in the same manner (as fish) and brought to the table in winter time." (p. 60) Here we have a description of the Passenger Pigeon's migration through southeastern Pennsylvania and its importance as a game bird. Now, extinct.

Mittelberger: wilde Welschhüner

Eben, Rupp, H&C: wild turkeys

Identification: Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallapavo*).

Comments: The Wild Turkey, extirpated from southeastern Pennsylvania by the 1850's, was reintroduced in the twentieth century. Based on Mittelberger's commentary, however, it was still common in the 1750's.

Mittelberger makes note of 21 birds from the vicinity of Trappe, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Of these, with reasonable certainty, we can now identify 16 species and four families. One remains unidentified. He inadvertently establishes the earliest Pennsylvania, and definitely Montgomery County, breeding records for at least five species (strictly summer residents), and, if we were less conservative, as many as nine more. He added to our knowledge of two extinct species and establishes the only record of Carolina Parakeet in southeastern Pennsylvania.

All this was quite unintentional. His goal was to discourage possible German settlers from going to Pennsylvania. Despite his professed motives, a certain ambivalence is injected into Mittelberger's narrative. This uncertainty was due, it seems, at least in part, to the lasting impression American birds made upon him. Fortunately, he did not suppress these feelings in his journey . . . , and, thus, left us with this small but valuable glimpse of early Pennsylvania ornithology.

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Errors in judgment, interpretation and identification, however, are, of course, my own.

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