

# Additions to the birds known from Hutcheson Memorial Forest

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**Abstract.** Recent field work has continued to add to the known avifauna of Hutcheson Memorial Forest. Observations are included for thirty-nine species not previously recorded.

The first review of birdlife at Hutcheson Forest reported 41 breeding birds with a total of 110 species (Swinebroad, 1962). Leck (1971) added seven species, three of which were nesting at the forest. At that time numerous species were predicted as future additions and most of these have now been realized. The records below are collated from the observations of three researchers (John Kricher, Jon Moulding, and Bert G. Murray, Jr.) in addition to myself. Both Kricher and Moulding have been residents at the Hutcheson Forest house as graduate students, and they have contributed greatly to our current knowledge of the local birds. Of the thirty-nine new species, there are at least nine that could be breeding although actual nesting has not yet been confirmed. I would particularly encourage other field workers at the forest to report breeding birds. We need nest observations for a future review of the status of all nesting birds at HMF, with particular attention to changes since the Swinebroad report.

## Species Additions

- Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) — May 5, 1972 (C. Leck & J. Moulding); one bird overhead.
- Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*) — May 16, 1971 (C. Leck and class); circled and landed in a tall oak.
- Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) — summer 1969 (J. Kricher); bird repeatedly seen along Spooky Brook. Also recent records.
- Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) — April 29, 1971 (C. Leck and class) one bird overhead.
- American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) — April 26, 1974 (B. Murray) at wet western area of the property.
- Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) — regularly seen overhead as a fall migrant, most numerous in October.
- Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) — first reported November 7, 1971 (C. Leck with a tour group); one bird overhead. Now semi-feral black ducks and mallards are nesting in nearby parks, and Spooky Brook would be suitable for a nesting pair.
- Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) — November 1974 (J. Moulding); an immature bird flying over.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) — May 1976 (B. Murray); one bird. The species should be regular in fall migration.
- Marsh Hawk (*Circus Cyaneus*) — January 1972 (J. Moulding); also subsequent records of birds foraging over the fields.
- Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) — November 14, 1971 (J. Moulding); also subsequent records, especially of males calling in the spring. These birds may have been released game stock, as at least one was rather tame.
- Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) — May 7, 1969 (J. Kricher); two birds in a field near the house, an excellent record.
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) — May 5, 1972 (C. Leck and J. Moulding); several birds overhead.
- Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) — several records (J. Kricher); all in spring migration.
- Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) — December 1971 (J. Moulding). A small flock formerly nested within a mile of HMF, but there are now no recent records from the area.
- Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) — May 4, 1972 (J. Moulding); a bird calling in the early morning.
- Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — August 10, 1971 (J. Kenny); a bird flushed in the forest. This is a most interesting date of occurrence as nesting is a possibility.
- Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) — various dates by many observers; usually single birds in flight.
- Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) — October 26, 1969 (J. Kricher); an immature on the feeder at the HMF house.
- Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) — May 28, 1975 (C. Leck); a bird calling at the edge of the forest. This species could be expected as a breeding bird.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*) — May 24, 1976 (B. Murray); an unusual spring record.
- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — summer 1973 (J. Moulding).
- Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) — recorded (J. Kricher) but no data available.
- Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — several spring migration records (J. Kricher, J. Moulding, C. Leck).
- Tennessee Warbler (*Verivora peregrina*) — May 12, 1972 (J. Moulding). This species must be a regular migrant at the forest, but it escapes attention by canopy foraging.
- Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) — September 8, 1972 (J. Moulding). Also an early summer 1976 record (B. Murray).
- Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — this species is now a summer resident along Spooky Brook and should be a proven nester.
- Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) — May 26, 1976 (B. Murray); a single record of this rare migrant.
- Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) — two undated reports (B. Murray, and J. Kricher) and a male on September 11, 1976 (C. Leck).
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — undoubtedly an error of omission from previous lists. Now regularly seen about the house and lawn.
- Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — May 11, 1972 (J. Moulding); probably a flock. I have seen migrant flocks in the forest on subsequent May walks.
- Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — May 4, 1969 (J. Kricher); a first-year male that remained near the house for much of the summer. This scarce species was also present in the summer of 1976 and could be a breeding bird in the future.
- Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) — November 11, 1969 (J. Kricher); and October 1977 (C. Leck)
- House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) — first recorded in April 1972 (J. Moulding) but now common. This introduced species should soon be established as an HMF breeding bird.
- Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) — December 25, 1969 (J. Kricher); one bird near the house.
- Savanna Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — reported as a common transient (J. Kricher). He banded several in the fields during the fall of 1969.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — late fall of 1969 (J. Kricher); an adult and an immature at the feeder. I mist-netted two on October 12, 1974.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — first recorded on October 12, 1974 when I netted two on a bird-banding demonstration (Trenton Naturalists Club). In 1976 I also mist-netted one with the ornithology class (May 6) and Bert Murray banded one on May 23.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — May 1972 (J. Moulding). A pair might be expected to breed along Spooky Brook in a section of dense vegetation.

#### Literature Cited

- Leck, C.F. 1971. Recent records on the avifauna of Hutcheson Memorial Forest. William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest Bull. 2:25.
- Swinebroad, J. 1962. An annotated list of the birds of Hutcheson Forest. Bull. N.J. Acad. Sci. 7:1-6.