

Recent records on the avifauna of Hutcheson Memorial Forest

Charles F. Leck
Rutgers University

Leck, Charles F. (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.) Recent records on the avifauna of Hutcheson Memorial Forest. Hutcheson Memorial Forest Bull. 2(4): 25. 1971. Seven species of birds not previously reported from Hutcheson Memorial Forest are listed. New information on the status of five others is also recorded.

Since the first annotated list of the birds of Hutcheson Memorial Forest (Swinebroad, 1962) there has been continued interest and research on its avifauna. It is only natural then that these recent years have added new information, that is briefly summarized with this note. The mature oak forest (described by Buell, 1957) is surrounded by fields and located in central Somerset County, New Jersey.

Species list of significant records

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) — a new species for HMF; rare visitor.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) — a new species for HMF; recorded on the forest edge several times.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) — breeding at the forest now verified.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) — a new species for HMF; only 1 record.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — a new species for HMF; occasional along Spooky Brook.

Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) — a new species for HMF; may breed.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) — breeding at forest now verified.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*) — has regained its status as a permanent resident in recent years.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) — a new species for HMF; probably a regular but uncommon transient.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) — a new species for HMF; a western accidental (16 May 1970).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) — has continued breeding at the forest since 1961.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — has now become a nesting summer resident.

In addition to the above records, it is possible to make predictions of species that should be recorded at HMF in the near future. These would include the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), and several finches (*Hesperiphona vespertina*, *Carpodacus mexicanus*, *Spinus pinus*).

Thus, while the forest is essentially a stable habitat, there continue to be changes and additions to the avifauna. Some of the additions simply fill gaps in our earlier knowledge, while others reflect broader changes in the status of the species within the State, such as the northward expansion of the Red-bellied Woodpecker. A continued surveillance of the forest is anticipated with future research.

Acknowledgments are extended to the Wincote Bird Club, records in the doctoral dissertation of John Kricher, and the observations of other field workers.

Literature cited

Buell, M. 1957. The mature oak forest of Mettler's Woods. William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest Bulletin. 1: 16-19.

Swinebroad, J. 1962. An annotated list of the birds of Hutcheson Forest. Bull. (N.J. Acad. Sci.). 7: 1-6

1971. William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest Bulletin 2(4):25.