

The Birds of Five Mile Woods

David B. Long

The Five Mile Woods Preserve covers 302 acres of woodlands and forested wetlands in southwestern Lower Makefield Township and northwestern Falls Townships in Bucks County. The Preserve is in the Piedmont uplands physiographic province and is located on the Langhorne Ridge, which is a Chickies geologic formation. The soils are Pre-Illinoian glacial deposits and are chemically and structurally similar to coastal plain deposits further to the south, and therefore the Preserve has coastal plain-like vegetation.

The Preserve provides nesting habitat for many native bird species, some of which are declining in southeastern Pennsylvania. Large undisturbed woodland tracts of land like Five Mile Woods are rapidly disappearing from Bucks County and so are many of the birds that rely on them for feeding and breeding territories. A reduction in the size or quality of a

woodland area will reduce the total number of birds that can hold breeding territories as well as increase the likelihood of nest predation by house cats, squirrels and raccoons or of nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds (e.g., Weinberg and Roth, 1998).

This list (the first for the Preserve ever assembled) was compiled from the following sources: the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, the Southern Bucks Christmas Bird Count, local birders Rick Mellon and Ed Stanton, as well as Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* book.

If you observe an unusual or accidental bird species or witness the breeding of an unconfirmed bird inside the Preserve, please send that information to the Preserve naturalist John Heilferty at 215-493-6652 or fivemilewoods@yahoo.com.

The Bird List

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS

Snow Goose – ACC/MI
Canada Goose – CON
Mute Swan – MI
Tundra Swan – MI
Wood Duck – MI
Mallard – PROB
Hooded Merganser – MI

PHEASANTS

Ring-necked Pheasant – POSS
(non-native)

TURKEYS

Wild Turkey – POSS

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNs

American Bittern – ACC
Great Blue Heron – MI
Green Heron – POSS

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Black Vulture – MI
Turkey Vulture – MI

OSPREY

Osprey – MI

HAWKS AND EAGLES

Bald Eagle – MI
Northern Harrier – ACC/WIN
Sharp-shinned Hawk – MI/WIN

Cooper's Hawk – MI/WIN
Red-shouldered Hawk – MI/WIN
Broad-winged Hawk – MI
Red-tailed Hawk – POSS

FALCONS

American Kestrel – MI
Peregrine Falcon – MI

PLOVERS

Killdeer – MI

SANDPIPERS

Spotted Sandpiper – MI
Solitary Sandpiper – MI
American Woodcock – POSS

KEY TO SYMBOLS

POSS Possible Breeder – Species seen or heard in Five Mile Woods in the proper breeding season as set by the safe dates in the PA breeding Bird Atlas (late May to late July).

PROB Probable Breeder – same as above, but includes the display of courtship, territorial, or agitated behavior.

CON Confirmed Breeder – species meets the above two requirements plus either nest building, distraction display, fledged young, or an occupied nest has been observed.

MI Migrant – These bird species use Five Mile Woods for resting or feeding during the spring (March – May) or Fall (Sept. – Nov.) migration.

WIN Winter Resident – These bird species use Five Mile Woods as their wintering grounds during the winter season (Dec. – Feb.).

ACC Accidental – These rare bird species have been seen in Five Mile Woods only once or twice over the past thirty years.

The Bird List *(continued)***GULLS**

Laughing Gull – MI/WIN
 Ring-billed Gull – MI/WIN
 Herring Gull – MI/WIN
 Lesser Black-backed Gull – MI/WIN
 Great Black-backed Gull – MI/WIN

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Rock Pigeon – POSS
 Mourning Dove – CON

CUCKOOS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – POSS
 Black-billed Cuckoo – MI

OWLS

Eastern Screech-Owl – PROB
 Great Horned Owl – CON
 Barred Owl – ACC/MI
 Northern Long-eared Owl – WIN
 (probably extirpated)

NIGHTJARS

Common Nighthawk – MI
 Chuck-will's-widow – ACC

SWIFTS

Chimney Swift – POSS

HUMMINGBIRDS

Ruby-throated Hummingbird –
 PROB

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher – MI/POSS

WOODPECKERS

Red-bellied Woodpecker – CON
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – MI/WIN
 Downy Woodpecker – PROB
 Hairy Woodpecker – PROB
 Northern Flicker – PROB
 Pileated Woodpecker – POSS

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Eastern Wood-Pewee – CON
 Acadian Flycatcher – MI/POSS
 Alder Flycatcher – MI
 Willow Flycatcher – MI
 Least Flycatcher – MI
 Eastern Phoebe – CON
 Great Crested Flycatcher – CON
 Eastern Kingbird – MI
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – MI

VIREOS

White-eyed Vireo – CON
 Yellow-throated Vireo – MI
 Blue-headed Vireo – MI

Warbling Vireo – CON
 Red-eyed Vireo – CON

CROWS AND JAYS

Blue Jay – CON
 American Crow – POSS
 Fish Crow – POSS

SWALLOWS

N. Rough-winged Swallow – MI
 Purple Martin – MI
 Tree Swallow – MI
 Bank Swallow – MI
 Barn Swallow – MI
 Cliff Swallow – MI

CHICKADEES AND TITS

Carolina Chickadee – CON
 Black-capped Chickadee – WIN
 Tufted Titmouse – CON

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch – WIN
 White-breasted Nuthatch – CON

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper – WIN/MI

WRENS

Carolina Wren – CON
 House Wren – CON
 Winter Wren – MI/WIN

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet – WIN
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet – WIN/MI

GNATCATCHER

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – CON

THRUSHES

Eastern Bluebird – POSS
 Veery – CON
 Gray-cheeked Thrush – MI
 Swainson's Thrush – MI
 Hermit Thrush – MI
 Wood Thrush – CON
 American Robin – CON

MOCKINGBIRDS AND**THRASHERS**

Gray Catbird – CON
 Northern Mockingbird – CON
 Brown Thrasher – CON

STARLINGS

European Starling – CON

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing – MI/WIN/POSS

WOOD WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler – MI
 Golden-winged Warbler – MI
 Tennessee Warbler – MI
 Nashville Warbler – MI
 Northern Parula – MI
 Yellow Warbler – CON
 Chestnut-sided Warbler – MI
 Magnolia Warbler – MI
 Cape May Warbler – MI
 Black-throated Blue Warbler – MI
 Yellow-rumped Warbler – MI
 Black-throated Green Warbler – MI
 Blackburnian Warbler – MI
 Prairie Warbler – MI
 Palm Warbler – MI
 Bay-breasted Warbler – MI
 Blackpoll Warbler – MI
 Cerulean Warbler – MI
 Black-and-white Warbler – MI/POSS
 American Redstart – CON
 Worm-eating Warbler – CON
 Ovenbird – CON
 Northern Waterthrush – MI
 Louisiana Waterthrush – CON
 Kentucky Warbler – CON
 Mourning Warbler – MI
 Common Yellowthroat – CON
 Hooded Warbler – POSS
 Wilson's Warbler – MI
 Canada Warbler – MI
 Yellow-breasted Chat – MI

TANAGERS

Scarlet Tanager – CON

SPARROWS, TOWHEES, JUNCOS

Eastern Towhee – CON
 American Tree Sparrow – WIN/MI
 Chipping Sparrow – CON
 Field Sparrow – CON
 Fox Sparrow – WIN/MI
 Song Sparrow – CON
 Swamp Sparrow – MI
 White-throated Sparrow – WIN
 Dark-eyed Junco – WIN/MI

CARDINALS AND ALLIES

Northern Cardinal – CON
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak – CON
 Indigo Bunting – CON

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES,**GRACKLES**

Red-winged Blackbird – POSS
 Rusty Blackbird – POSS

(continued on next page)

The Bird List (*continued*)

Common Grackle – POSS	FINCHES, SISKINS, CROSSBILLS	Pine Siskin – WIN/ACC
Brown-headed Cowbird – CON	Purple Finch – WIN	American Goldfinch – CON
Orchard Oriole – MI	House Finch – CON	OLD WORLD SPARROWS
Baltimore Oriole – CON	Common Redpoll – WIN	House Sparrow – CON

Literature Cited

Kitson, K. 1998. *Birds of Bucks County*. Bucks County Audubon Society.

Weinberg, H. J., and R. R. Roth. 1998. Forest area and habitat quality for nesting Wood Thrushes. *The Auk* 115, 879–889.

Wilson, A. M., Bishop, J., and M. Brittingham. 2012. Habitats and Habitat Change. In *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (A. Wilson, D. W. Brauning, R. S. Mulvihill, eds.). Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, PA.

David B. Long
3 Beechwood Lane
Yardley, PA 19067



Osprey. Watercolor © Howard Eskin