

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Historic Record

Species: Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*

Date of Sighting: 16 December 1984 to 10 January 1985

County : CARBON

Location : BELTZVILLE LAKE

Observer(s): Rick Wiltraut et al.

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: Historic Record

Written Description: No

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut								
A. Guarente	x							
T. Johnson	x							
E. Witmer	x							
N. Pulcinella	x							
J. Heller	x							
G. Malosh	x							
TOTALS	6							
DECISION	x							

Comments: Reviewed at 2007 Annual Meeting. Voice Vote

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

2/22/07

at least two Parasitics and one Pomarine (m.ob.). Elsewhere, single Parasitic Jaegers were at Indian R. Inlet, Del., Dec. 22 (GKH, BR) and at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., Dec. 29 (J. Biderman), and a Pomarine Jaeger made the Cape May C.B.C.

Four **Franklin's Gulls** were reported by 2 observers at Brig., Jan. 2 (C. Wonderly, SLa), but were not found again. Little Gulls were scarce, except for a few on Long Island. There, three were seen on C.B.C.s, and up to four were at Shinnecock Inlet in January-February (A. Cooley *et al.*). A single bird was at Manasquan Inlet, Pt. Pleasant, N.J., Jan. 12, but there were no reports from Delaware. Four Com. Black-headed Gulls in New Jersey and eight in New York were a bit above par. An ad. Thayer's Gull, a species whose status in this Region is unclear, was reported from Belmar, N.J., Jan. 6, with plausible details by 2 observers familiar with the species (BMo, BSt). Iceland and Glaucous gull numbers were low, reflecting the mild season, but the increasing Lesser Black-backed Gull continued to be much in evidence. More than a dozen individuals were noted, mainly along the coast; but, as noted last year, sightings of this species have become so routine that many observers do not bother to report them.

As usual, Forster's Terns lingered along the coast through December, but a concentration of 500 at Indian R. Inlet, Del., Jan. 10 was a bit out of the ordinary (WWF). They left as soon as the weather turned cold, the last being seen Jan. 19. Alcids were very scarce on shore, and no offshore trips were reported. A Com. Murre was at Montauk Dec. 30 (R. Roth, T. Battaly, C. Hartel); single Thick-billed Murres were on the Sandy Hook and Barnegat C.B.C.s; and a Razorbill was at Shinnecock Inlet Feb. 3 (B. Kolodnick).

OWLS THROUGH RAVENS — Snowy Owls made a modest showing, but with a single exception they were all near the coast. The exception was one found along the Delaware R. in Camden, N.J., in early December that remained throughout the period. Elsewhere there were 3 early reports from s. New Jersey in December, two birds that wintered along the Hudson R. in Bayonne, and about eight found along the s. strip of L.I. from Ft. Tilden to Jones Beach. The other winter owls, Long-eared, Short-eared, and N. Saw-whet, were all in very short supply and missing from some of their usual haunts.

S.A.

Numerous observers have commented over the past few years on the apparent decline in some of the hole-nesting species, but especially Hairy Woodpeckers. Data from the C.B.C.s seem to support this general impression, especially in Pennsylvania, where the number of Hairy Woodpeckers tallied has declined from 0.26/party-hour in 1974 to 0.15/party-hour in 1984. During the same period, the decline in Downies was from 1.24/party-hour to 0.88/party-hour. Similar, but less dramatic, declines are seen for New Jersey C.B.C.s. Stephenson notes that the ratio (calculated as a 10-year moving average) of Downies to Hairies on Perry, Pa., C.B.C.s has increased to over 16 since 1978 after remaining constant at 6-7 for the previous 30 years (OKS). Reid has found a dramatic decline in numbers of the 2 woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch on a Breeding Bird Survey as well as on the C.B.C. in s.e. Bradford, Pa. (WR). He feels that increased cutting of standing dead timber for firewood may be responsible for the decrease of these species in this sparsely-populated area. Similar concerns have been published elsewhere. Whether this trend is general and widespread can probably best be determined from long-term Breeding Bird Census and Survey data; in any event, it is a situation that bears watching.

An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** discovered at Assunpink W.M.A., Monmouth, N.J., Dec. 9, did not hit the hot-line for 2 weeks. Fortunately it stayed until Jan. 9, was seen by scores of observers, and was well-photographed in color (D. Jenkins, m.ob., ph. SLf). The only other documented account of this species in New Jersey was from Cape May in September 1981 (see AB 36:161), but the black-and-white photo of that bird (back view) is ambiguous. Other flycatchers also lingered in the balmy weather. A well-described Great Crested Flycatcher provided a highlight on the Oceanville, N.J., C.B.C. Numerous W. Kingbirds



Ash-throated Flycatcher at Assunpink W.M.A., N.J., Jan. 5, 1985. Photo/Serge LaFrance.

remained from the big fall influx and were tallied on various C.B.C.s; none was found after the beginning of the year, however. Most remarkable were well-documented E. Kingbirds found on C.B.C.s in s. Nassau, L.I., and s. Lancaster, Pa.; the latter bird was present for over a month prior to the count.

A ♂ Purple Martin at Brig., Jan. 2 was unprecedented (SLa). Whether he was a late fall migrant or an early spring scout, he was 3 months off in his timing. Two Com. Ravens at Slide Mt., Ulster, N.Y., Dec. 1 (FM) were not surprising, as the species is regular there now, but one at Butler Sanctuary, Westchester, N.Y., Dec. 7 was an outstanding find (FN).

CHICKADEES THROUGH SHRIKES — For the first time in many years, not a single Boreal Chickadee was reported. Many more reports of wintering Winter Wrens were received than in the recent past, with a high of six at Trenton Marsh, N.J. (RJB). The mild weather was presumably responsible for the increased presence of this species, which has declined drastically during the past decade. Sedge Wrens were found on 3 New Jersey C.B.C.s, including the Cape May C.B.C., where three were present Dec. 24, the day after the count (RBa, JDo). Two were at Manahawkin W.M.A., N.J., Jan. 13 (JDa). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were present at several spots in December and at least six were tallied on C.B.C.s; an ad. female found dead in Wilmington Jan. 16 is now a specimen in the Delaware Mus. of Natural History (*file DMN*).

One of the outstanding finds of the season was a ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** discovered by Wiltraut at Beltzville L., Carbon, Pa., Dec. 16



Male Mountain Bluebird at Beltzville Lake, Pa., Dec. 26, 1984. Second Pennsylvania record. Photo/Rick Wiltraut.