To whom it may concern: 9/29/2021

I have lived on Silver Lake since 1975. I immediately fell in love as I noticed the unusual amount of wildlife that visited the lake/lake wetlands/lake wooded areas. Especially noticeable were the number of waterfowl and raptors.

Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkeys, Possums, Racoons, Skunks, American Minks (a pair have been living here for about 6 – 8 years), a Beaver every so often, River Otters every so often, and many other animals use the lake for varying reasons---drinking water, food sources (such as fish, crustaceans, insects, and vegetation to name a few). The varieties of fish living in the lake that I am aware of are, Crappies, Bluegills, Gizzard Shad, Carp, Catfish, Smallmouth Bass and Largemouth Bass. Largemouth Bass are the biggest population, but every so often you will see Smallmouth.

When Silver Lake freezes during the winter people come from all areas to ice skate and play ice hockey. They are able to access the lake from a small public area on Silver Lake Road. During these times when I look out the window, I feel like I am looking at a Norman Rockwell painting.

Getting back to the waterfowl and raptors, you will see from the list below what I call visitors to Silver Lake. I started this list almost immediately after moving here because I found that there were far too many species visiting and residing at this lake to be a coincidence. Silver Lake is on the migratory path of the Eastern Flyway. I am convinced of this because regarding the Eastern Flyway, in the movie Fly Away Home, (a 1996 movie about a young girl leading mother-less geese in an ultralight plane from Canada to North Carolina), there is a brief scene of a map of Pennsylvania and the route they use - it’s directly over Silver Lake!

I used to be a hunter, but in 2005 I put down the guns, picked up a camera and began using my hunting skills in another medium: photography. I wondered how close I could get to these different species of waterfowl and raptors to capture their real beauty? Well, it turns out, with a lot of patience, I could get pretty close at times. My reason for telling you this is that I can back up, with photos taken on Silver Lake, the majority of species on the list of Waterfowl and Raptors that I have provided. If you look in the gallery section of the Silver Lake website, you will see many of these photos.

Over the years, I began sending out emails, to friends, family and anyone interested in the photographs I had taken of nature in action. This has been my way of sharing with everyone the gift that nature has provided to all of us who live on the lake. It gives visitors, residents and others the chance to observe the real habitat of nature and the opportunity to see nature in action.

Silver Lake is one of nature’s special places. All of us who live here know this.

By living on Silver Lake, I have observed the different types of waterfowl and raptors that have passed through here on their migratory travels. It has been an education that I value. It is my sincere hope that we can preserve this lake for future generations.

Ken Boyer

**Waterfowl & Raptors that use Silver Lake, Lewisberry, PA**

**ES**---Every Spring **EF**---Every Fall  **EM**---Every Year Migration **MF**---Migratory Flocks

**RR**---Rare but seen **SSF**---Spring, Summer, Fall **YR**---Year Round **PT**--Protected **EE**---Endangered

**Herons, Bitterns** **Egrets**

1.. Great Blue Herons YR 1. Great Egrets EM, MF, **EE**

2. Black-crowned Night Herons SSF, EM 2. Snowy Egrets RR

3. Yellow-crowned Night Herons RR 3. Little Egrets RR

4. Green Herons SSF, EM

5. Little Blue Herons RR

6. Tri-colored Herons RR **Grebes**

7. Least Bittern SSF, EM 1. Pied-billed Grebe SSF, EM

8. American Bittern SSF,EM 2. Horned Grebe ES, EF, EM

3. Eared Grebe ES, EM

**Loons** 4. Red-necked Grebe RR

1.. Common Loons EM

2. Red-throated Loons RR

**Cormorants** **Ibises**

1.. Great Cormorants EM 1. Glossy Ibis RR

2. Double-crested Cormorants SSF, EM, MF 2. White Ibis RR

**Swans** **Geese**

1.. Tundra Swans ES, EF, EM, MF 1. Canada Geese YR

2. Black Swans RR 2. Greater White-fronted Geese EM

3. Mute Swans EM 3. Snow Geese EM

4. Trumpeter Swans RR, **EE** 4. Brant Geese RR

**Dabbling Ducks** **Pochards**

1.. American Black Ducks SSF, EM, MF 1. Redhead Ducks RR

2. Mallard Ducks YR, EM , MF 2. Canvasback Ducks ES, EM

3. Green-winged Teals ES, EM, MF 3. Greater Scaups ES, EM

4. Blue-winged Teals EF, EM, MF 4. Lesser Scaups ES, EM

5. Gadwall Ducks ES, EM, MF 5. Ring-necked Ducks SSF, EM

6. Northern Pintail Ducks ES, EM, MF

7. American Wigeon Ducks ES, EF, EM, MF **Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys**

8. Northern Shovelers ES, EM, MF 1. Ring-necked Pheasants YR

2. Ruffed Grouse YR

3. Wild Turkeys YR

**Mergansers** **Sea Ducks**

1.. Common Mergansers SSF, MF 1. Black Scoters RR, MF

2. Hooded Mergansers ES, EF, MF 2. Bufflehead Ducks SSF, MF

3. Red-breasted Mergansers ES, MF 3. Common Goldeneye Ducks ES, MF

4. Harlequin Ducks RR

**Coots** 5. Oldsquaw Ducks ES, MF, **PT**

1.. American Coots SSF, MF 6. Surf Scoters RR

**Stiff-tailed Ducks** **Exotic Waterfowl**

1.. Ruddy Ducks ES, MF 1. Domestic Geese RR

2. Ruddy Shelducks RR 2. Greylag Geese RR

3. Ruddy Shelducks RR

**Perching Ducks** **Vultures**

1.. Muscovy Ducks RR 1. Black Vultures YR

2. Wood Ducks SSF, MF 2. Turkey Vultures YR

**Hawks, Kites, Eagles** **Accipiters**

1.. Bald Eagles YR, **PT** 1. Coopers Hawks YR

2. Golden Eagles RR 2. Northern Goshawks YR

3. Northern Harriers SSF 3. Sharp-shinned Hawks YR

4. Ospreys SSF

**Buteos** **Woodpeckers/Sapsuckers**

1.. Broad-winged Hawks YR 1. Downy Woodpeckers YR

2. Red-shouldered Hawks YR 2. Hairy Woodpeckers YR

3. Red-tailed Hawks YR 3. Northern Flickers YR

4. Rough-legged Hawks YR 4. Pileated Woodpeckers YR

5. Red-bellied Woodpeckers YR

6. Red-headed Woodpeckers YR

**Falcons** **Cranes**

1.. American Kestrels YR 1. Sandhill Cranes RR

2. Peregrine Falcons RR

3. Merlins RR **Kingfishers**

1.. Belted Kingfishers ES

**Owls** **Owls--Continued**

1.. Barn Owls YR, **EE** 5. Great Horned Owls YR

2. Barred Owls YR ↗ 6. Snowy Owls RR

3. Eastern Screech-Owls YR ↗

4. Short-eared Owls RR ↗

**Species Endangered: Great Egrets, Trumpeter Swans, Barn Owls**

**Protected Species: Oldsquaw Ducks (long-tailed ducks), Bald Eagles**

Updated and Prepared by Ken Boyer 12/19/2021