



THE GOLDFINCH



A CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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SUMMARY OF THE 2001 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT BY MIKE MCCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

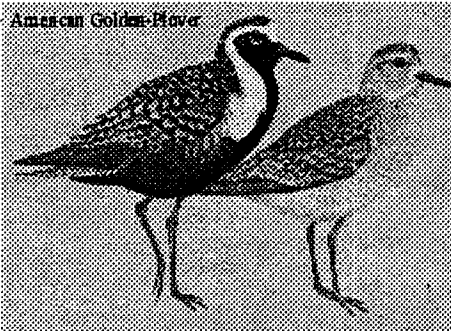
The eighth annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 15, 2001. In spite of what was agreed by all to have been a very slow day of birding, a total of 128 species were observed. Comparison totals for the prior 7 years are: high, 136 on 9/19/1998; low, 113 on 9/20/1997; average, 127 species, respectively. The number of participants and parties (57 and 37) were down from last year's (68 and 39). The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the tally sheet. The participants covered about the same number of miles and hours counting as were recorded last year. The total of individual birds tallied to 16,702 compared to prior years (high, 26,651 on 9/17/1994; low, 14,600 on 9/16/2000; average, 20,712 birds, respectively).

Saturday's temperature ranged from the high 30's to the mid 70's with variable light breezes. The humidity was comfortable thanks to the recent passage of a cool front which finally pushed out the southerly flow of humidity which had been present for several weeks. Most areas were dry due to the below normal rainfall (1.16 inches) during the 30 proceeding days (30 day average 3.80 inches). Apparently we missed the presumed influx of birds that the cool front should have produced.

The accompanying table presents the count data. There were 29 fall warbler species identified compared to prior years (high, 30; low, 18; average, 27 species, respectively).

Four new species were added: American Golden-Plover, Dunlin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Hermit Thrush. Six species were seen for the 2nd time: Black-billed Cuckoo, Red-headed Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper, Cerulean Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Five species recorded new high counts (new high/previous high): Canada Goose (1,988/997), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (32/29), Tree Swallow (39/21), White-breasted Nuthatch (134/112), and Chipping Sparrow (139/62). Three species recorded new low counts (new low/previous low): Chimney Swift (159/275), Northern Flicker (101/114), and Song Sparrow (44/52). And finally two species, Veery and Yellow Warbler, were missed for the first time in 8 years.

Thanks to all participants and those who acted as area coordinators for the count: Stan Arnold, Mary-Jo Betts, Bill and Karan Blum (Area 4), Joe Byrnes, Marty Chestern, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis and Jane Coskren, Wes Earp, Ward Ebert, Darius and Paula Ecker (Area 3),

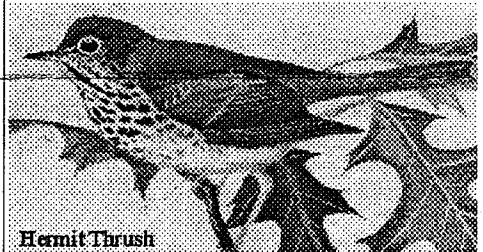


John Finedore, Jeffrey Friedhoffer, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Enny Holdrige, Dave Holyoke, Mike Kerwin, Dave Kubitsky, Mike Leumas, Nancy Magnusson, John Maloney, Grazina and Mike McClure (County Coordinator), Elayne and Jeff Metter, Sue Neri, Carol Newman, Doug and Jeanne Odermatt, Daryl Olson, Bonnie Ott (Area 6), Karla Pearce, Ron and Susan Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, Nanine Rhineland, Clyde Robinette, Kurt Schwarz (Area 5), Philip Smith, Romayne Smith, Bob and Jo Solem, Hank Stanton, Chuck Stirrat (County Coordinator), Tom Strikwerda, Eva Sunell (Area 7), Robin Todd, June Tveekrem, Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace (Area 1), Don Waugh, Michelle Wright, Helen Zeichner, and Paul Zucker (Area 2). A very special thanks to Don and Martha Waugh who hosted the evening tally.

This eighth fall count, as always, provided an enjoyable time in the field for the participants, and, of course, there was a fun-time at the evening tally. Although the tragic events of

September 11 were not far from anyone's mind, many felt a sense of relief and normalcy in being outdoors "birding", away from the non-stop television coverage of the aftermath of the terrorist "Attack on America". Quoting one individual, "This is the first time I have ever been glad to hear planes flying over Schooley Mill Park (except for the F-16)".

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and if possible attend the tally as well. Next year the fall count will be held on the 3rd Saturday of September which will be the 21st.



MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD

On Sunday, September 30, friends of Marjorie Mountjoy, a long-time club member who died on May 25, gathered to remember her. Neighbors, former coworkers, North American Blue Bird Society members, friends, and birders exchanged anecdotes about Marjorie and shared their love for her and their admiration for the way she lived her life. A quote from Marjorie's mother was appropriate: "Someone has said that we have in old age only what we have brought with us along the way. When I open my old age trunk, I hope that I shall find it filled with faith, contentment, adaptability, tolerance, and a sense of humor." Marjorie's trunk was overflowing.

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HOWARD COUNTY FALL BIRD COUNT - September 15, 2001

Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Double-crested Cormorant	B	2				5		5	12
Great Blue Heron	A	4	4	3	3	7	3	5	29
Great Egret	B				1	1			2
Green Heron	A	3	2	1	9	1		7	23
Black Vulture	A	14		128	7	5	50	5	209
Turkey Vulture	A	43	12	63	30	18	49	20	235
Canada Goose	A	949	44	131	168	403	178	115	1,988
Mute Swan	A					1			1
Wood Duck	B	5	1	1	1	6			14
Mallard	A	8	5	28	71	50	3	55	220
Green-winged Teal	B					1			1
Osprey	B		4	1	1	2	1	1	10
Bald Eagle (ad/im/junk)	B		1					1	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	B	2	1	6	3	1	5	3	21
Cooper's Hawk	B		1	1		1	3		6
Scrub-wren species					2	2			4
Red-shouldered Hawk	A	4	3	6	6	7	7	8	41
Broad-winged Hawk	B	7	21	17	8	146	33		232
Red-tailed Hawk	A	7	1	1	5	1	5	2	22
American Kestrel	A	3	4	5	4		1	2	19
Merlin	C	1		1					2
American Golden-Plover	** C					1			1
Killdeer	A	43	10		4	16		1	74
Lesser Yellowlegs	B	2							2
Solitary Sandpiper	B		1					1	2
Dunlin	** C					1			1
Ring-billed Gull	A			2		2	9	22	35
Herring Gull	A					1		3	4
Rock Dove	A	99	25	124	85	4	43	28	408
Mourning Dove	A	80	8	61	26	47	40	146	408
Black-billed Cuckoo	B	1							1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A	1	1						2
Eastern Screech-Owl	B						1		1
Barred Owl	B	1				1			2
Chimney Swift	A	5		58	12	6	56	22	159
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	1	1	3	5	3	9	10	32
Belted Kingfisher	A	3		9	1	1	5	4	23
Red-headed Woodpecker	C			1				1	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	A	28	15	36	10	85	42	22	218
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	@ B				1				1
Downy Woodpecker	A	16	9	11	9	32	37	23	137
Hairy Woodpecker	A	6	1	2	2	12	8	2	33
Northern (Yellow-sh'd) Flicke	A	6	11	16	8	22	21	17	101
Pileated Woodpecker	A	6	2	9		3	8	1	29
Eastern Wood-Pewee	A	14	1	9	3	12	6	5	50
Acadian Flycatcher	* A				1	1	2		4
Scrub-wren species			12	4	1	5	2	3	25
Eastern Phoebe	A	6	4	1	5	6	7	7	36
White-eyed Vireo	A	10				7	3	6	26
Blue-headed Vireo	B					2			2
Yellow-throated Vireo	B	1	1						2
Warbling Vireo	@ B					1			1
Philadelphia Vireo	C		1	1					3
Red-eyed Vireo	A	6	1	2	1	13	9	8	40
Blue Jay	A	106	46	72	123	105	92	143	687
American Crow	A	107	44	250	75	135	144	44	799
Fish Crow	A	5	1	17	2	4		1	30
Scrub-wren species		184		84	115	105		116	602
Horned Lark	C	5		5					10
Tree Swallow	A			37				2	39
N. Rough-winged Swallow	A	3					1	2	6
Barn Swallow	A		1	3			1	2	7
Carolina Chickadee	A	56	26	56	67	106	110	102	523
Tufted Titmouse	A	36	10	29	48	84	92	45	344
Red-breasted Nuthatch	C							1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	19	8	16	10	39	31	11	134
Brown Creeper	@ A						1		1
Carolina Wren	A	27	32	25	16	71	44	42	257
House Wren	A	3		3	2	3	9	7	27
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	@ A	3	3	1			2	1	10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	A	1		1			1	1	4
Eastern Bluebird	A	29	24	41	7	12	46	13	172
Swainson's Thrush	B			1					1
Hermit Thrush	* B						1		1
Wood Thrush	A	1	1			4	4	1	11
American Robin	A	75	6	20	22	49	77	57	306
Gray Catbird	A	66	16	54	91	94	50	139	510
Northern Mockingbird	A	21	20	29	10	58	19	111	268
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals

Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Brown Thrasher	A	2	2	1				5	12
European Starling	A	99		394	73	158	174	1006	1,904
Cedar Waxwing	A	27	8	12	5	9	10	51	122
Tennessee Warbler	B		1	2					4
Nashville Warbler	B		1	3	1	2	5	1	13
Northern Parula	A	2		1	2	2	4	1	12
Chestnut-sided Warbler	A	2	1		1	4	10	3	21
Magnolia Warbler	A	10	7	6	9	31	23	25	111
Cape May Warbler	B							1	1
Blk.-thrd. Blue Warbler	A	1	1		1	4	5	2	14
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warble @	A							1	1
Blk.-thrd. Green Warbler	B	18	8	11	2	15	15	4	73
Blackburnian Warbler	B					1	1	1	3
Pine Warbler	B	1					1	2	4
Prairie Warbler	A	1			1				2
Palm Warbler @	A		1	5	3				9
Bay-breasted Warbler	B					2	1	2	5
Blackpoll Warbler	B	1			1	1	1		4
Cerulean Warbler @	B							1	1
Black-&white Warbler	A	1	1	1	4	7	7	4	25
American Redstart	A	6		1	1	5	6	8	27
Worm-eating Warbler @	B	1					1		2
Ovenbird	A	3	1		1	1	3	1	10
Northern Waterthrush	B				1				1
Kentucky Warbler @	A							1	1
Connecticut Warbler **	C							1	1
Mourning Warbler **	C	1							1
Common Yellowthroat	A	14		13	4	11	13	15	70
Hooded Warbler	A					2			2
Wilson's Warbler	B				1	1	1		2
Canada Warbler	B				1		3		4
Yellow-breasted Chat	A					1			1
Scrub-wren species		25						4	33
Scarlet Tanager	A	1		1		1	3		6
Eastern Towhee	A	12	1	7		21	17	12	70
Chipping Sparrow	A	12	6	40	2	22	53	4	139
Field Sparrow	A	1	16	4		2		3	26
Savannah Sparrow *	B				8				8
Grasshopper Sparrow @	B	2							2
Song Sparrow	A	9	3	6	7	2	5	12	44
Lincoln's Sparrow **	C						1		1
Swamp Sparrow @	B	1				1			2
White-throated Sparrow @	A			1					1
Scrub-wren species			7						7
Northern Cardinal	A	76	28	53	106	128	94	152	637
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B	2	3	4		1	3		13
Blue Grosbeak	B	2		1	2			2	7
Indigo Bunting	A	123		2			1		126
Red-winged Blackbird	A		55		4	4	4	457	524
Common Grackle	A		350		19	119	31	11	530
Brown-headed Cowbird	A	633			38				671
Scrub-wren species									30
Baltimore Oriole	B	1						1	2
House Finch	A	4	11	21	37	69	60	160	362
American Goldfinch	A	135	7	146	131	102	170	145	836
House Sparrow	A	40	17	110	31	55	56	112	421
Area Total Birds:		3422	963	2342	1588	2583	2161	3643	16,702
Area Total Species:		84	66	74	71	83	83	82	128
Area No.:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals

Supplemental Data									
Time Start:	7:00 a	8:30 a	7:00 a	7:00 a	4:45 a	6:15 a	8:20 a	4:45 a	
Time Stop:	8:00 p	7:30 p	8:00 p	4:30 p	8:00 p	3:00 p	5:30 p	8:00 p	
Hours on Foot:	25.5	6.8	21.1	20.2	36.7	22.0	25.0	157.3	
Hours by Car:	6.8	2	3.1	8	2.1	6.5	9.0	28.5	
Miles on Foot:	20.0	6.0	22.0	10.0	24.5	25.0	18.3	125.8	
Miles by Car:	68.0	6.5	35.0	12.0	33.5	25.0	74.0	254.0	
Hours Feeder Watching:					5			5	
Hours Stationary:	4.5					2.0		6.5	
Hours "Owling":						1.5		1.5	
Miles "Owling":						7.0		7.0	
Total Observers in Area:	6	6	9	8	11	8	11	57	
Total Parties in Area:	5	3	7	5	8	4	5	37	
Total Feeder Watchers in Area:									
Total Party-Hours (Reg.):	32.3	7.0	24.2	21.0	38.8	28.5	34.0	185.8	
Total Party-Hours (Feeder):					5			5	
Tot. Party-Hours (Stationary):	4.5				2.0			6.5	
Total Party-Hours (Owling):					1.5			1.5	
Total Party-Hours:	36.8	7.0	24.2	21.0	42.8	28.5	34.0	194.3	
Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	

SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 2001

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Herons and egrets were the highlights of this season with a Snowy Egret & Yellow-crowned Night-Heron the best of that group. A male Prothonotary Warbler on the Patapsco River in late June raised hopes of attempted breeding. Also notable was a large colony of Grasshopper Sparrows at Western Regional Park.

A Double-crested Cormorant was seen 6/16 (DPe) and 6/25 (SAr) on Wilde Lake (WILLK) and 6/20 (SN) on Lake Kitamaquidi (LKKIT). The Great Egret reports were all the last week of July: 7/26 Centennial Park (CENPK) (KS), 7/27-7/30 Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) (SN;J&CW;KS), 7/31 LKELK (SAr) & LKKIT (MC). Snowy Egrets are not annual in the county so 1 at Univ. of Md Central Farm (UMDCF) 7/30-31 was a fine sighting (SAr+). Although a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is spotted in the county almost every year, it is usually an immature bird. A cooperative adult at LKELK 7/28 (SN+)-7/31 (SPe,KBo) offered many birders the chance to admire it. Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported from WILLK 6/16 (DPe), LKELK 7/3 (J&TDC), & LKKIT 7/9 (SAr).

Wood Ducks breed in wooded wetlands & floodplains in the county. They were reported 6/8 from Sisters of Bon Secours (SBSCR) in Marriottsville (1 pr-ES,MWr); 7/8 Fore Bay Pond (1 f.-SN); and 6/26 Marriottsville, PVSP (MARPV) (1 f. & 5 ducklings-SAr).

An im. Osprey was noted 6/19 at LKELK (JC) & was reported until 7/17 (SN). One of the pair of adult Bald Eagles at Triadelphia was seen from Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 7/5 (SAr). Increasing numbers of breeding-season Cooper's Hawks in the Piedmont were reflected in two reports: 7/2 at least 2 fledglings present in a yard north of CENPK (GA) & 7/28 1 im. at Pigtail (PIGTL) (KS). An im. Broad-winged Hawk was spotted just north of the intersection of Rts. 29 & 32 on 7/25 (KS). A Dunloggin Red-shouldered Hawk's nest fledged 4 young in mid June (KS).

Wild Turkeys were seen in late June on Old Roxbury Rd (1 ad.--fide BO) & 6/30 on Cavey La (1 ad., 1 juv.-L&LH).

Shorebirds were unremarkable. The first 2 fall migrant Lesser Yellowlegs were at UMDCF 7/11 (SAr), while the Fulton schools ponds produced a Solitary Sandpiper 7/7 (JS). Spring Spotted Sandpipers lingered in June with 1 on 6/10 LKELK (JC). It's difficult to know whether the 1 on 6/26 at Henryton, PVSP (HENPV) (SAr) was coming or going. By 7/28, when KS had 2 Spotted at LKELK & 2 at Big Branch, it was apparent that southbound shorebird migration was well underway. The first 3 Least Sandpipers

EACH SEASON HOWARD COUNTY BIRD SIGHTINGS ARE COMPILED AND SUBMITTED TO **MARYLAND BIRDLIFE AND FIELD NOTES**. BECAUSE BOTH PUBLICATIONS PROVIDE OVERVIEWS FOR LARGE AREAS, ONLY A FRACTION OF HOWARD COUNTY SIGHTINGS ARE PUBLISHED. THE RECORDS ARE NOT LOST, HOWEVER, FOR THEY ARE THE BASIS FOR COUNTY RECORDS. ALL RECORDS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED. ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO TURNS IN SEASONAL SIGHTINGS RECEIVES A COPY OF THE COUNTY COMPILATION. TO REQUEST A FORM ON WHICH TO LOG DATES, PLEASE CALL 301-725-5037. THE BOARD HAS REQUESTED THAT A DIGEST OF THE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS APPEAR IN THE NEWSLETTER. OBSERVERS ARE REFERRED TO BY THEIR INITIALS (SEE THE LIST AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE).

appeared 7/17 UMDCF (SAr) with 5 as the maximum there on 7/21 (NMJS). Three Pectoral Sandpipers 7/24 at UMDCF (SAr) were the only ones reported.

A Ring-billed Gull over Rt. 40 & Centennial Lane on 7/18 marked their return (BO). Although Yellow-billed Cuckoos were widespread, there were no Black-billed Cuckoos noted.

The 3 breeding owls were all reported with Eastern Screech-Owls heard 7/18 Daniels, PVSP (DANPV) (SAr) & 7/23 Duvall Rd. (KT). By mid July young have fledged & there is an upsurge in calling. It is a prime time to listen for their quavering call. A Whip-poor-will was heard along Hipsley Mill Rd on 6/8 (KS,JFr). Fledgling Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers appeared in an Allview (ALLVW) yard 6/3 (ES).

Willow Flycatchers were spotted at known breeding sites at CENPK 6/17 (JWi) & Meadowbrook (MDBRK) 7/24 (SAr,JHa). They were also located at Western Regional Park 6/9 (NMJS). Finding Horned Larks in summer usually requires patience in scanning extensive grassy areas. Sod farms turned up 1 ad. & 3 juv. 7/19 on Jennings Chapel Rd (JNGCH-SAr); then on 7/27 he had 12 on Daisy Rd & 15 at JNGCH.

Rough-winged Swallows are regular nesters along steep river banks in the county, but their burrow entrances are not always easy to spot. On 6/12, while wading the Patapsco River for odonates, RS watched an ad. entering a horizontal slit near the top of a 10' embankment in the Avalon section of PVSP. The Cliff Swallow colony at BRDAM numbered at least 47 on 6/26 (SAr). A White-breasted Nuthatch juv. 6/9 was present in ALLVW (ES). Although Cedar Waxwings nest in the county in small numbers, they attract attention mostly when seen in flocks. Thirty were observed 6/30 at SBSCR (ES,MWr).

Blackpoll Warblers are late spring migrants so they are to be expected in early June. On 6/1 there were 4 at LKELK (DE) & 1 in ALLVW (ES); the last 2 were 6/2 at LKELK (DE). A singing male Ceerulean Warbler was reported from Middle Pat. Env. Area 7/20 (J&TDC). Several decades ago they were regular breeders there as documented on Chan Robbins' Breeding Bird Census plots, but in recent

years the species has not been detected during the breeding season. A lone male Prothonotary Warbler was spotted 6/23 along the Patapsco River west of Woodstock (J&TDC). Unfortunately, no evidence of breeding was observed. On 7/4, also in the Woodstock area of PVSP, an Ovenbird was feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird (KS). The county's Louisiana Waterthrush population appeared to be healthy judging from their presence at almost every riffle/rapids along the Patapsco, Middle & Little Patuxent rivers (J&RS) during June & July. On 7/7 at Mt. Pleasant, 3 Yellow-breasted Chat males were seen (1 had a fledgling with it) (BO).

A thriving colony of Grasshopper Sparrows was discovered at Western Regional Park. On 6/9, 50-75 ad. were found in several adjoining fields (NMJS). On 7/4, 40+ juv. were noted at the same location (BO). On 6/26 this species was heard or seen in a number of fields in western HOWCO (SAr).

Blue Grosbeaks were reported on 7/5 from MDBRK 1 (SAr) & Warfield's Pond Park 2 (KT); 7/7 at MTPLT 1 (BO); & 7/23 at Gateway 1 (JS). Although Eastern Meadowlarks are not as easy to locate as they once were, SAr found 1 on Roxbury Rd 7/12 & 1 on Mullinix Rd 7/30. Orchard Orioles are consistent nesters at Alpha Ridge Park. On 7/11, 1 m. & 6 f./im. (including 2 first year males) were seen (SAr).

Observers: SAr - Stan Arnold, GA - Glenn Austin, KBo - Ken Board, MC - Martha Chestem, JC - Jane Coskren, TDC - T. Dennis Coskren, DE - Darius Ecker, JFr - Jeff Friedhoffer, JHa - Joe Halpin, L&LH - Lynn & Linda Holley, NM - Nancy Magnusson, SN - Sue Neri, BO - Bonnie Ott, DPe - Dave Perry, SPe - Sherry Peruzzi, KS - Kurt Schwarz, JS - Jo Solem, RS - Robert Solem, ES - Eva Sunell, KT - Kate Tufts, JWi - Jordan Wilkerson, J&CW - Jim & Carol Wilkinson, MWr - Michele Wright. + - many observers; HOWCO - Howard County; PVSP - Patapsco Valley State Park; im. - immature; f. - female; m. - male; juv. - juvenile.

CONGRATULATIONS BOB AND JO!!!!

Our very own dynamic duo, Bob and Jo Solem, were honored by The Wildlife Society (TWS) with the prestigious Conservation Award on October 10. The Wildlife Society is an organization of professional wildlife managers and academic researchers. Their Conservation Award is dedicated to honoring non-professionals who have contributed significantly to wildlife causes. According to the president of the Maryland/Delaware Chapter, Philip Norman, Bob and Jo have distinguished themselves by the breadth of their interest in conservation and wildlife issues and by the extent of their involvement in education and dissemination of information about these areas. They have made significant contributions in flowers, birds, odenata (dragonflies and damselflies), and conservation. Jo contributed to the Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and D.C. and was a member of its Editorial Board; Bob has put together a Wild Flower Checklist for Howard County; together they have produced an illustrated list of Howard County odenates that will soon be available to you. Bob is a long-time member of the Howard Soil Conservation Committee and chair of the Conservation Committee for the Howard MOS Chapter. We have all found Jo's book, *Birding Howard County, Maryland*, an invaluable resource for information about prime birding spots, birds one can expect to see when and where. In addition, it has been a money maker for the club. Bob did many of the site guide maps. We know that Jo and Bob have led innumerable field trips over the years to help all of us appreciate flowers, birds, and, yes, those lovely odenates. Bob for years was the "fall-back" flowering slide-show man in case weather or other misadventure prevented a speaker from showing up at a monthly meeting. The Solems are known through out the county as the people to call with any "dead bird in the yard" or "what is it" question. Bravo to Jo and Bob!

CONGRATULATIONS DIANE AND ANDY

Dianne Deputy and Andy Aguilera, intrepid county bird counters and Blue Bird trail monitors, tied the knot on Saturday, June 16, in a restored barn at the Cedar Ridge Community Church. The next day they flew to Anchorage, Alaska for five days aboard a small cruise ship through Prince William Sound followed by a train ride to Denali National Park for a couple of days. Diane reports that "We had gorgeous views of Mt. McKinley with no cloud cover on a few separate occasions. We went sea kayaking, whitewater river rafting, and horseback riding. We saw lots of wildlife, including Harbor Seals, Stellar Sea Lions, Black-legged Kittiwake rookeries, moose, caribou, wolves, Gyrfalcon, Golden Eagles, etc.! It was a wonderful trip to a beautiful place." Their email address echoes our sentiments: they make a "Dandy Team."

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION'S PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food

clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND DISTRIBUTE AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Meeting is canceled if schools are closed for any reason. Hospitality session at 7:30 pm. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 pm. Club bookstore opens at 7:30 pm.

- ✓ **Thursday, November 8** - "What a Wonderful Bird is the Pelican...Brown Pelicans in Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay," by David Brinker
- ✓ **Thursday, December 13** - "2001: A Birdwatching Odyssey," by Hank Kaestner

Field Trips meet as described for each trip. Carpooling is encouraged; riders share the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for the field trip with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow paths. NO pets. Leaders may cancel due to inclement weather or fewer than three participants. FOR INFORMATION, CALL BONNIE OTT, at 410-461-3361, e-mail bonnie1163@home.com. Page numbers refer to Birding Howard County, Maryland by Joanne K. Solem

November 3 Saturday - Kinder farm Park-1/2 day - David Farmer. 7:30 - 32 and Broken Land Parkway to carpool to AA county. This varied habitat should yield an assortment of birds. Facilities available, call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

November 4, Sunday - Centennial Park - 3 hours - John Maloney. 8:00 West end lot (pg. 5). Walk around the lake for a wide variety of land and water birds. Migrant raptors still moving. Facilities available, call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

- ✓ **November 8, Thursday** - Weekday Walk Lake Elkhorn - 2 hours. 8:30 Broken Land Pkwy. lot. (pg. 43) Walk around the paved path of the lake to look at waterfowl and woodland birds. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

- ✓ **November 11, Sunday** - Centennial Park - 3 hours - Darius Ecker. 8:00 West end lot (pg. 5). Walk around the lake for a wide variety of water and woodland birds. Facilities available, call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

- ✓ **November 18, Sunday** - Centennial Park - 3 hours - Mike Kerwin. 8:00 West end lot. (pg. 5) Walk the paved path around the lake to look for migrating waterfowl. Very small possibility of Oldsquaw. Facilities available, Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

November 19, Monday - Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake - 2 hours. 8:30 Boat dock (pg. 47) Walk along the lake and through woodlands in search of winter birds and waterfowl. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info- 410-461-3361

November 25, Sunday - Centennial Park -3 hours - Richard Orr. 8:00 at West end lot. (Pg. 5) Looking for migrant waterfowl and any lingering oedates. Facilities available, Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

December 1, Saturday - BLACKWATER - all day - Stan Arnold. All day at this eastern shore refuge to look at waterfowl extravaganza. Dress very warmly, bring food and drink for the entire day. Scopes useful. Facilities available. Call Stan for info 410-768-0155

New Years Day Start your 2002 list! Details in next newsletter.

Martin Luther King Weekend. Delaware 3 day event. Kate Tufts is in the process of putting together a new birding adventure.

Board of Directors meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

November 15, Thursday, Sue Probst, 5413 Killingworth Way, Columbia, MD 21044, 410-992-3489

December, None

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2002 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due NOVEMBER 23, 2001. Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Call or mail to Paula and Darius Ecker, 9270 Crazyquilt Court, Columbia, MD 21045, Phone 410-312-9165 or e-mail to Paulae2156@aol.com. Also, please visit the club's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.howardbirds.org>.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

When doing your Holiday shopping, why not consider a few purchases from the club's bookstore? If you have something in particular you are searching for, contact Ann Marie Raterman and ask if she can get that perfect item for you.

RENEW, RENEW, RENEW

Don't forget, if you have not already done so, it is time to renew your membership. Please complete and return the membership application that was included in the last issue of the newsletter. If you need another copy of the application, contact Paula and Darius Ecker, 410-312-9165.

2001 ANNUAL LISTS DUE BY JANE COSKREN

A list of all the birds seen in the county during the 2001 calendar year is being compiled for the 23rd consecutive year. Did we break any records this year? Only you can help us decide. Assemble your sightings for the year (even if the list was compiled in your neighborhood or your yard) and mail to Jane Coskren, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia MD 21045 any time after December 31, but not later than March 3, 2001. The length of the list isn't important, because your list may contain the bird that will make 2001 a year for the record books.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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COLUMBIA, MD 21044

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GIVING TO THE ENVIRONMENT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER BY BOB SOLEM

The Environmental Fund for Maryland (EFM) raises money for Maryland's environmental community. EFM is a federation that represents twenty diverse environmental organizations from across the state—including Maryland Ornithological Society. EFM's mission is to raise awareness and funds for its member groups by gaining participation in public and private workplace giving campaigns so that donors can support Maryland's environment through payroll deduction. Most of the campaigns are in the fall, including the Combined Federal Campaign, the State of Maryland, and Baltimore City campaigns. Last year employees pledged over \$100,000 to EFM and its member organizations through workplace giving.

Donations to the Fund support environmental programs that protect and conserve the Chesapeake Bay, beaches and coastal bays, for-

ests and mountains, wetlands and streams; work for clean air and water; and promote biological diversity through advocacy, citizen action, natural resource preservation, pollution prevention and the education of Maryland's youth and citizens.

MOS has been a member of EFM since 1994. Monies raised through workplace giving can be used to support any of our worthwhile programs, including our sanctuaries, education, and research. You can elect to give directly to MOS, or you can designate EFM in your workplace campaign.

Workplace giving is an easy and cost effective way to support the tireless work going on across the state to ensure a safer, cleaner environment and continuing habitat for migratory songbirds.

WHAT EMAIL ADDRESS?? WHAT SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE HOWARD BIRD CLUB??

On November 1, the Howard Bird Club will send a special email to all members who have provided an email address. This special message is to verify that we have your correct email address in our files. A separate email will go to members who are on the Rare Bird Alert to verify their email addresses.

If you receive the email(s), you need to do nothing; the system works. But if you want to receive these emails *and did not receive one*, send an email to ODE-NATA@MSN.COM and ask to have your email address added (or corrected). *Remember, this service is only available to members.*

But remember: **THIS ONLY APPLIES TO HOWARD BIRD CLUB MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2001-2002, DO IT NOW!!**

