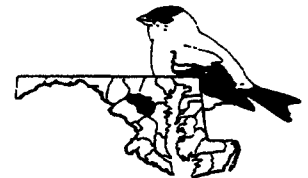




THE GOLDFINCH



A CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2002

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1

SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 2002 BY JOANNE SOLEM

The first spring of the second Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas found Howard birders investigating corners of the county that often receive little attention. There were some extremely early arrival dates, perhaps as a result of unusual heat and strong southerly airflows in early spring; however, below average temperatures in May slowed the migration of other species. Breeding discoveries were headed by the county's first Spotted Sandpiper nest, and a Hooded Merganser female (f) with five ducklings for the second verified county record. Among other highlights were nesting Great Blue Herons in two places and Cooper's Hawks nesting or courting in a number of spots, migrating ~~Soras in two locations~~, ~~American Bitterns~~ at five sites, a f Eurasian Wigeon, a f Dickcissel, and a possible Mississippi Kite. Definitely an exciting spring.

Common Loons numbers peaked over Schooley Mill Park (SLMLP) on 4/20 with 310+ (DOH+), while 1 on 5/11 at Duckett Reservoir (DUKRS) was the last (JC,JS). The season's high of 5 Pied-billed Grebes was at Centennial Park (CENPK) 3/29 (KS). Horned Grebes on 3/16 were found at Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) (1-J&CW) & Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) (5-SAR+). An all-time high of 87 Double-crested Cormorants rested on TRIRS 4/9 (JS,KT)

American Bitterns were spotted from 3/8 University of MD Central Farm (UMDCF) (1-BO+) to 4/27 David Force WMA (1-BO). A Great Egret appeared 3/15 at Meadowbrook (MDBRK) (EH). An ad. Little Blue Heron was present at a wetland on Race Rd (RACRP) 4/15-22 (JMa). Cattle Egrets can no longer be counted on to appear annually so the bird at Fulton Pond 5/23-24 (HH) was a treat. Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen on 5/5 Lake Kittamaqundi (LKKIT) (MJ) & 5/31 Wilde Lake (WILLK) (1 ad.-HZ). Yellow-crowns showed up in Allview (ALLVW) 4/22 (1 ad.-MZ,ph, ES) & at Orange Grove, Patapsco Valley State Park (ORGPV) 5/22 (SAR). A first year bird was

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 301-725-6037. THE BOARD HAS REQUESTED THAT A DIGEST OF THE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

seen 5/4 at Font Hill Wetland Pk (JTv) & 5/8 at CENPK (BB,PN). Great Blue Herons did well. A single active nest was found at RACRP—thanks to atfasing (JMa). The herons at the wildlife end of LKKIT & at nearby Vantage Point (VANPT) were undoubtedly undercounted because vegetation prevented some young from being seen. LKKIT had at least 6 nests and 11 young. The original VANPT location in dead trees was deserted, but a new site in live trees had at least 9 nests & 6 young (MC,HZ).

Tundra Swans moved north 3/11 Manahan Drive (MANHN) (12-BO) to 3/21 CENPK (53-BO), with a 3/17 peak of 95 at Alpha Ridge Pk (JW) & 85 at UMDCF (BO,JS,RC,EH,HZ).

Duck migration was generally unremarkable. The most Gadwalls were counted on 3/15 with 10 at RACRP (SAR) & 1 at the Daisy Rd Pond (SAR). A pair of Blue-winged Teal on 4/27 at Rt. 108/Centennial Lane were the last (MW). Two Northern Shovelers were present on TRIRS 3/16 (EH) to 4/6 (HH,RH). A m. Northern Pintail was detected at VANPT 3/19 (HZ). Green-winged Teal were last reported 4/26

UMDCF (4-BO,EH,JS). A m. Canvasback lingered on DUKRS until 5/21 (JS). Ring-necked Duck numbers were modest with a high of 60 on 3/10 Union Chapel Rd (MW). Long-tailed Ducks visited TRIRS from 3/16 (1-SAR+) to 3/25 (4-KT). Buffleheads & a Common Goldeneye rewarded field trip participants to TRIRS 3/16 (SAR+). A f Eurasian Wigeon was reported 3/3 at Maple Dell Farm on Daisy Rd (JSt,MHa). It could not be relocated after the initial sighting. Hooded Mergansers reached a peak of 17 on 3/22 at Waterford Farm (MW). A f with 5 ducklings at RACRP 5/1 was just the second verified county nesting & a welcome atlas record (JS). The last 3 Common Mergansers were noted 4/9 on TRIRS (JS,KT), after having reached a seasonal high of 212 on 3/6 at Brighton Dam (KS). Red-breasted Mergansers were reported twice: 3/3 CENPK (1-BO) & 3/15 LKELK (1 m.-EH).

An Osprey appeared over CENPK 3/23 (MWR); the last of the season was at LKKIT 5/25 (SN). The TRIRS Bald Eagles nested again. A few Northern Harriers were sighted from 4/18 WILLK (1-CN) to 5/3 Alpha Ridge Landfill (ALRGL) (2-RC). Atlas observers were alert to possible breeding Cooper's Hawks. Nesting was noted in Font Hill (GA) and Hammond Village (JS). Courtship flights were observed in three other locations. This large accipiter is increasing in the Piedmont and is showing a willingness to live close to people. The earliest Broad-winged Hawks were on 4/17: 40 over Johns Hopkins APL (JHAPL) (JWi) & 1 at Woodstock, PVSP (J&TDC). Two Peregrine Falcons were reported: 3/22 Emmaus Rd (MW) & 4/4 at Rts 100/108 (EMe). An intriguing report was that of a possible Mississippi Kite 4/11 over JHAPL (DH). If accepted, it would be the

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third county record.

Three Wild Turkey sightings were nicely scattered: 4/19 Woodstock (L&LH), 4/21 Hall Shop Rd (ES), & 5/19 Hugg-Thomas WMA (HTWMA) (DH+). A Northern Bobwhite was heard 4/18 on Sheppard La. (LK). It is sad that hearing or seeing this species has become a notable event in the county. Up to 2 Soras at UMDCF 4/14-6/1 raised hopes that they might be breeding; however, despite careful watching, the species could not be confirmed (BO+). Certainly the most bizarre Sora report in some years came from ALLVW 4/5 where the rail temporarily used a forsythia shrub as a stopping place (RSt). (A drawing and careful description accompanied the report.) Six American Coots were the high, counted at LKELK 3/9 (JS), with the last 2 on 4/8 at the same location (SN).

An early Greater Yellowlegs arrived at UMDCF 3/8 (BO), but a significant shorebird season never developed. KT's 3 G. Yellowlegs 4/22 at Larriland was high; the last 2 were present on May Count (MAYCT) 5/11. Three Dunlin showed up at UMDCF 5/19 (BO,EH). Low water levels at the reservoirs, which usually produce attractive mudflats, could not be exploited through lack of access (the Pigtail & Triadelphia Lake gates were closed). By far the most exciting shorebird news and a highlight of the season was the discovery of a Spotted Sandpiper nest, a first for the county (RC). The ALRGL site was documented with a photograph. Although atlasing does not emphasize finding nests, some are found in the course of field work. In this case, discovery was a fortunate accident.

Bonaparte's Gulls moved through the county in a brief period 4/2-4/10. The majority were present on 4/2. In the morning, 25 were on TRIRS (JS,KT) and 150 on WILLK (HZ). By late afternoon, only 25 remained on the lake (EH). The last of the season was spotted 4/10 on TRIRS (SAr). A Great Black-backed Gull appeared on WILLK 3/10-12 (HZ). Caspian Tern migration was abbreviated with reports from 4/6 (HH,RH) to 4/14 (BO+). Four was the meager peak, seen on LKKIT 4/8 (HZ,MC). This was the lowest high and most limited migration in more than a decade.

Four Black-billed Cuckoo reports were received. The initial Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen on 5/1 at Talbot's Lndg. (R&JG). The first Common Nighthawks were 10 over MANHN 5/7 (BO). Whip-poor-wills were

first reported 4/20 at Hipsley Mill (2-K&DT) & Sheppard Lane (1-NM). Chimney Swifts arrived on 4/15 with 1 on MANHN (BO) & 4 on 4/16 over the Columbia Mall (CN). Ordinarily a 3/30 arrival date for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds would be weeks ahead of any other (Woodwick [WDWCK], *vide* MWr), but a second early hummer was noted on 4/3 Hickory Ridge Vill. Ctr. (HH). The Red-headed Woodpecker that wintered at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPENV) was last seen 4/27 (SAr+).

Five Least Flycatchers reports were from 5/4 Wincopin Neck, Savage (SAr+) to 5/18 LKELK (JW). The MPENV proved to be an exceptional location for flycatchers with a Willow seen & heard 5/8 (HH). Least, Alder, and Yellow-bellied flycatchers were reported from that location on 5/9 (HH). The following day an Olive-sided Flycatcher was spotted there (BO,EH,JS,HZ,MC). An unusually early Olive-sided had shown up on MANHN 4/28 (BO). The first Great Crested Flycatcher was rather tardy on 4/26 at VANPT (HZ). Eastern Kingbirds dawdled until 4/18 when the first appeared at CENPK (GA).

Vireos arrived in April as expected: an early White-eyed 4/13 Mariottsville, PVSP (MARPV) (J&TDC); an early Yellow-throated 4/19 ORGPV (SAr); Blue-headed 4/16 Timbers of Troy G.C. (ES,MWr), & Red-eyed 4/21 Dunloggin (DNLGN) (KS). Warbling Vireos outdid themselves with a new county early arrival date of 4/20 when at least 5 were found at UMDCF (BO,NM,JS). Apparently they had been present for some time before that as a pair was feeding young at the farm on 5/13 for a state early breeding date (BO,EH).

Horned Larks were noted at 4 locations: BO+, WE; JSh; KS. The middle of March brought the earliest swallows: an extremely early 3/15 Barn Swallow (*vide* MW), 3/16 Tree Swallow (SAr+, HZ) as well as a Purple Martin (J&CW), and an early 3/17 No. Rough-winged Swallow (KS+). Cliff Swallows were noted 4/6 (HH,RH). Late-arriving Bank Swallows were seen at 4 locations from 4/25 (JS) to 5/4 (J&TDC; BO,NM+). The last Red-breasted Nuthatch was at MARPV on 4/17 (J&TDC). Despite atlasers' desire to find a nesting Brown Creeper, the last one detected was 4/15 DNLGN (KS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found on MAYCT, but no one spotted any after that. The first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was 4/5 at Plum Tree Path (BO,EH,JS). A Veery appeared in Worthington (WORTH) 4/26

(E&JMe). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were detected between 5/10 MPENV (HH) and 5/19 HTWMA (DH+).

Although a Gray Catbird was reported 4/2 WILLK (CN) (might this have been a wintering bird?), most observers remarked on the absence of the species until May. American Pipits departed early—the last 4 were at UMDCF 4/14 (BO+). Cedar Waxwings wander in flocks until late spring. A flock of 150 was present in Font Hill 4/11 (GA).

Warbler migration was mediocre. A single Golden-winged Warbler report came from MPENV 5/1 (TFe). Tennessees were detected in a 3 day period beginning 5/8 VANPT (MC,HZ). Normal March arrivals were Pine Warbler 3/8 (GA), Palm 3/30 (BO), & La. Waterthrush 3/29 (RC). April arrivals included Blue-winged 4/19 (RC), Nashville 4/30 (TDC), No. Parula 4/7 (RT+), Yellow-throated 4/7 (BO), Black-and-white 4/8 (J&RS), Am. Redstart 4/20 (DHo), Prothonotary 4/29 (SSa), Worm-eating 4/17 (JMa), No. Waterthrush 4/16 (ES,MWr), Hooded 4/27 (SAr+), and Ovenbird 4/17 (WEb; J&TDC). MAYCT turned up 2 Mourning Warblers (TDC,JTv, JSh). Wilson's were reported during just one week 5/7 (JS) to 5/15 (J&TDC). While Bay-breasted were seen only 5/11 (MAYCT) to 5/15 (J&TDC), other May migrants were present for several weeks: Black-poll 5/7 (BO+) to 5/26 (JS), Magnolia 5/1 (HZ) to 5/22 (JS), Blackburnian 5/4 (BO,JS+) to 5/22 (JS), Canada 5/7 (JS) to 5/25 (JS). MAYCT proved to be a day of peak warbler migration in the eastern part of the Patapsco Valley where SAr had one of his best migration days ever.

Two Summer Tanagers were noted along the Middle Patuxent River: 5/7 Kindler Rd. (JS) & 5/8-10 MPENV (HH).

The last Am. Tree Sparrows departed 3/8 UMDCF (BO), and the first migrant Chipping Sparrows arrived 3/31 Manor Woods E.S. (BO,EH). Vesper Sparrows were noted for a month with the earliest 3/31 Douglas Rd. (BO,EH) & the latest 4/20 UMDCF (BO,NM,RC,JS). A high of 25 Savannah Sparrows moved through UMDCF 4/26 (BO,EH,JS). The first Grasshopper Sparrows were present at Western Reg. Pk. 4/18 (JS,KT). The last 2 Fox Sparrows were 4/6 at MPENV (BO,EH,JS). Spring Lincoln's Sparrows are usually scarce, but this spring they were reported from 4/1 UMDCF (1-BO,JS) to 2 on MAYCT. The last White-throated Sparrows were spotted at 2 locations on 5/15 (J&TDC; JS). Dark-eyed Juncos disappeared

(Continued on page 3)

**YOUR BIRD SEED SALE PROCEEDS
AND DONATIONS AT WORK**

The proceeds and donations raised by the Howard County Bird Club's Annual Bird Seed Sale since its inception through 2000 have totaled \$48,744. These funds have been invested in numerous domestic and international habitat conservation projects. The funds have been raised through the efforts of Eileen Clegg, Seed Sale Chairman, and numerous volunteers.

The 2001 sale returned \$1936.76 in proceeds. Once again, Eileen is to be thanked, as well as MaryJo Betts, who stood in for Eileen on the Sale date, and all the volunteers who hefted seed, helped at check-out, or worked at the book table. With additional donations made along with seed purchases, the Bird Club Board has decided to invest \$2200 in habitat conservation. Numerous proposals for the funds were received by the ad hoc committee of Kurt Schwarz, Kate Tufts, and Dave Holyoke. Proposals came in from Kurt, Kate, Eileen, John Schwierjohann, Susan Buswell and Jay Sheppard. Since the past two Seed Sale's proceeds and donations have been spent on Maryland projects, the Board decided to devote the 2001 funds to an international project.

The project ultimately selected by the board was the El Chorogo Refuge in Panama. A prime reason for choosing El Chorogo was it provided crucial stop-over habitat for migrating Baltimore Orioles and Golden-winged Warblers, species in decline, and the former, at least, being dear to Maryland residents! In addition, the site is home to 9-10 species endemic to Panama's Pacific slope.

The program is run by the Panama Audubon Society, a chapter of the Florida Audubon Society. Panama Audubon seeks to establish a formal reserve at El Chorogo of 1000 hectares. They have already acquired 83 hectares of land, and expect the Panamanian Government to declare the entire 1000 hectares as a preserved area. Current priorities are surveying to establish the refuge's boundaries and value. They are also engaged in stewardship, by developing management plans, hiring guards, developing sustainable agriculture, and education.

The funds raised by the Howard County Bird Club will be sent to the American Bird Conservancy's Conservation Counterparts program. The ABC will funnel 100% of the funds to Panama Audubon for El Chorogo.

CONVENTION KEYNOTE

At the MOS convention at Wisp, author and artist David Sibley gave the keynote address. In this picture he is shown receiving a copy of *Birding Howard County, Maryland* from Jo Solem.



E-MAIL ADDRESS NOTICE

If you have an email address, PLEASE complete that line on the membership application blank when you send in your dues. There are about a dozen people who have not been receiving the email notices that we send out BECAUSE THE EMAIL ADDRESS THAT YOU ORIGINALLY PROVIDED IS NOT LONGER VALID AND THE MESSAGES ARE BEING RETURNED.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

After a number of years as editor for the Howard County Bird Club Newsletter, I will no longer be able to continue in this capacity. I have enjoyed editing the newsletter and working with everyone who has made contributions through the years. I will continue as editor for one or two more issues. Anyone wishing to volunteer as newsletter editor, please call me or see me at a meeting. My phone number is 410-312-9165.

**HOWARD COUNTY FAIR THANKS
BY SUZANNE PROBST**

Sue Probst would like to thank all of the folks who very graciously volunteered their time to help staff the club's booth at the Howard County Fair in August. Thanks so much for continuing to make this venture a success each year.

Dick Tufts, KT - Kate Tufts, JTV - June Tveekrem, MW - Mark Wallace, JWI - Jordan Wilkerson, CW - Carol Wilkinson, JW - Jim Wilkinson, MWR - Michele Wright, HZ - Helen Zeichner, MZ - Mary Ziemann. MAYCT - May Count (incomplete data), f. - female, m. - male.

4/13 (WEb). A choice sighting was a f. Dickcissel 5/13 UMDCF (BO, EH).

An early m. Rose-breasted Grosbeak which made an appearance 4/8 west of ELLCY (fide BO) continued the pattern of a few unusually early migrants and then retarded or limited migration during a chilly May. A Bobolink appeared 4/26 at UMDCF (BO). Eastern Meadowlarks were reported from 4 sites including 6 on 3/25 at MDBRK (DFa). Rusty Blackbirds stayed until 4/13 FORBY (JW). A flock of 45 was at Fairway Hills G.C. 4/3 (HZ). An Orchard Oriole arrived 4/22 at LKELK (BO+), while an early Baltimore was noted 4/16 at WDWCK (MWr).

Winter finches showed up in April. As many as 6 Purple Finches visited WORTH feeders 4/4-5/8 (E&JMe). Despite numerous reports, most observations were of 1 to 3 birds. Pine Siskins made an appearance 4/20 ELLCY (3-4 KH) & 4/21,24 & 5/2 MANHN (3-BO). An Evening Grosbeak dropped in at feeders in Swansfield 4/23 (JTV) & ELLCY 4/26 (KH). Both sightings were of an im. or f.

Observers: SAR - Stan Arnold, GA - Glenn Austin, BB - Brenda Belensky, MC - Martha

2002-2003

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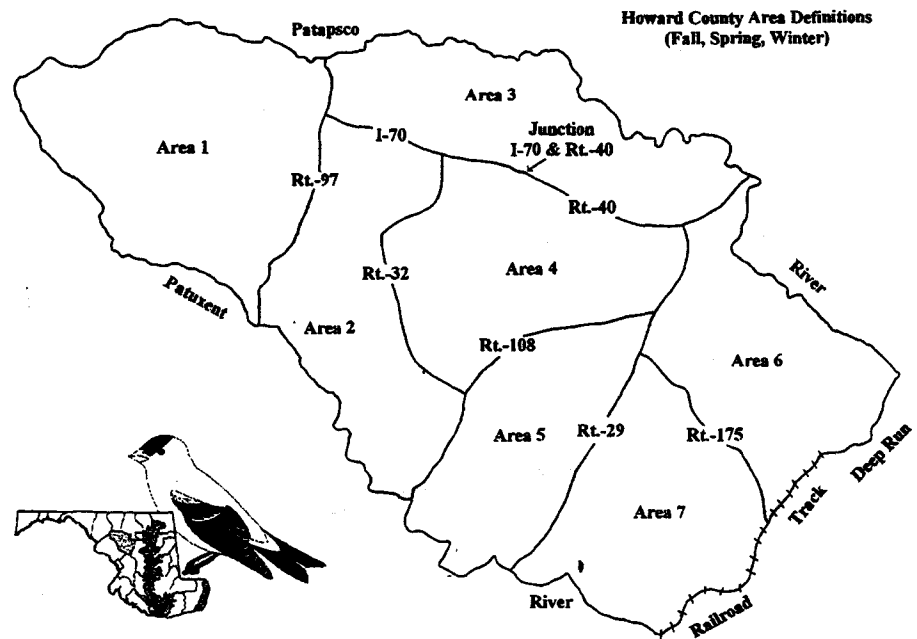
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NINTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT BY MIKE MCCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

The Howard County Bird Club's annual Fall Count, scheduled to be held each year on the third Saturday of September, will be held on September 21st. Mike McClure 410-531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat 410-531-2417 are the county co-coordinators. Prior years have set an average of 127 species of birds identified on the count. Spend the day birding with us and help raise the average! Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. Ask to be put with an experienced individual if you do not wish to have your own territory. The county is divided into seven areas (shown below) which are used for all annual counts. A fall season tally sheet for Howard County is included in this newsletter. Species that require a writeup include those identified with a double asterisk (**), as well as any writeins. Others that may require a writeup or oral amplification (*), as well as those that are early or late dates (@), are indicated.

The following area coordinators have been named: Area 1) Mark Wallace 301-725-6370; Area 2) Ron Polniaszek 410-531-6658; Area 3) Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731; Area 4) Bill & Karan Blum 410-489-9197; Area 5)



Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643; Area 6) Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361; and Area 7) Eva Sunell 410-995-0029. You may call an area or county coordinator to volunteer, or check at the September meeting. Martha and Don Waugh will host the tally rally at 9522 Angelina Cir-

cle, Columbia, MD, 410-381-8841. The pot luck dinner will be served at approximately 7:00 pm, call them by Sept. 21st, to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

SUMMARY OF 2002 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

BY PAUL A. ZUCKER

The 2002 Howard County May Count was held on May 11, 2002 from 5:00 AM to 9:05 PM. The total species count of 144 was an average result, but the party hours (especially 245.5 on foot) were at near record levels. The total number of birds seen (over 21200) was likewise a near record. There were a remarkable 30 species that had high counts (over a span of 15 years). Several of these high counts were for species that migrate through our area. It appears that the count date was close to a peak in the migration (especially for Black-throated Blue Warblers, which were everywhere). In contrast to the high number of party hours, the total number of participants was 64, down several from the last couple of years. Two years ago the high temperature was an unbearable 95. Last year it reached only 85, and this year it struggled to reach 75. So much for global warming. The weather was quite pleasant except for the first couple of hours, which hovered around a very chilly 40 degrees.

We did have a number of unusual sight-

ings (recorded fewer than five times in the last 15 counts, including this one). These included Pied-billed Grebe (2nd time in the 15 year interval), Canvasback (2nd time), Whip-poor-will (4th time), Olive-sided Flycatcher (3rd time), and Horned Lark (4th time). Two other species previously considered unusual were seen again this year: Gray-cheeked Thrush (7th time in the 15 year interval!) and Mourning Warbler (5th time).

There were also some interesting misses. This was the first of the last 15 counts to miss Ring-billed Gull. Now we have gone five straight years without the Ring-necked Pheasant, and the Northern Bobwhite has been missed five out of the last six years. Both of these species were regularly seen before 1997. Another notable miss was the Bank Swallow. Record low counts for the 15 year period occurred for Mourning Dove and for Eastern Meadowlark (only two were sighted).

Very special thanks go to the Randles for hosting yet another great tally rally and to

Chuck Stirrat for helping with the numerical tabulations and for producing special checklists for use in the field and for the tallies. The efforts of the participants and area coordinators are also appreciated: Stan Arnold, Mary Jo Betts, Karan and Bill Blum, Joe Byrnes, Marty Chestern, Lisa Colangelo, Jane and Dennis Coskren, Ralph Cullison, Karen Darcy, Joan DeCarli, Ward Ebert, Erin and Tracy Eve, Jeff Friedhoffer, Maureen and Dave Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Emy Holdridge, Dave Holyoke, Dave Kubitsky, Mike Laumas, Brigitte Lund, John Maloney, Joel Martin, Grazina and Mike McClure (area 4), Diane Mechem, Elayne and Jeff Metter, Sue Neri, Carol Newman, Jeanne and Doug Odermatt (area 5), Daryl Olson, Peter Oser-ton, Bonnie Ott (area 6), Susan Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, Tim Ray, Nanine Rhineland, Chan Robbins, Clyde Robinette, Kurt Schwarz, Jay Sheppard, Romayne Smith, Jo and Bob Solem (area 7), Hank Stanton, Chuck Stirrat (area 3), Ralph Stokes, Tom Strilwarda, Eva Sunell, Robin Todd, Kate Tufts, June Tveekrem, Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace, Carol and Jim Wilkerson, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, and Paul Zucker (area 2 and county compiler).

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 11, 2002

SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL
COMMON LOON	2	DOWNY WOODPECKER	92	AMERICAN ROBIN	449	EASTERN TOWHEE	248
PIED-BILLED GREBE	2	HAIRY WOODPECKER	36	GRAY CATBIRD	806	CHIPPING SPARROW	193
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	6	NORTHERN (YLV-SH'D) FLICKER	72	NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	270	FIELD SPARROW	96
GREAT BLUE HERON	70	PILEATED WOODPECKER	42	BROWN THRASHER	39	SAVANNAH SPARROW	17
GREEN HERON	26	OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	4	EUROPEAN STARLING	779	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	25
BLACK VULTURE	113	EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	110	AMERICAN PIPIT	25	SONG SPARROW	208
TURKEY VULTURE	215	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	188	CEDAR WAXWING	570	LINCOLN'S SPARROW	4
CANADA GOOSE	801	WILLOW FLYCATCHER	2	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	27	SWAMP SPARROW	15
MUTE SWAN	1	LEAST FLYCATCHER	2	TENNESSEE WARBLER	10	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	306
WOOD DUCK	73	EASTERN PHOEBE	77	NASHVILLE WARBLER	4	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	3
MALLARD	182	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	86	NORTHERN PARULA	216	NORTHERN CARDINAL	974
CANVASBACK	1	EASTERN KINGBIRD	159	YELLOW WARBLER	153	ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	44
OSPREY	7	WHITE-EYED VIREO	181	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	43	BLUE GROSBEAK	14
BALD EAGLE	4	BLUE-HEADED VIREO	8	MAGNOLIA WARBLER	92	INDIGO BUNTING	252
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	3	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	47	CAPE MAY WARBLER	1	BOBOLINK	655
COOPER'S HAWK	3	WARBLING VIREO	17	BLK.-THRTD. BLUE WARBLER	303	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	531
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	58	RED-EYED VIREO	684	YEL.-RUMPED (MYRTLE) WARBLER	377	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	2
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	11	BLUE JAY	497	BLK.-THRTD. GREEN WARBLER	67	COMMON GRACKLE	483
RED-TAILED HAWK	42	AMERICAN CROW	525	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	8	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	196
AMERICAN KESTREL	13	FISH CROW	58	YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER	3	ORCHARD ORIOLE	54
KILLDEER	42	CROW SPECIES	28	PINE WARBLER	8	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	164
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	3	HORNED LARK	3	PRAIRIE WARBLER	56	HOUSE FINCH	270
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	1	PURPLE MARTIN	40	PALM WARBLER	3	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	550
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	65	TREE SWALLOW	162	BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	5	HOUSE SPARROW	333
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	55	N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	59	BLACKPOLL WARBLER	71	TOTAL BIRDS	21206
LEAST SANDPIPER	17	CLIFF SWALLOW	65	CERULEAN WARBLER	4	TOTAL SPECIES	144
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	4	BARN SWALLOW	281	BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	72		
ROCK DOVE	201	CAROLINA CHICKADEE	391	AMERICAN REDSTART	219	START TIME	5:00 AM
MOURNING DOVE	319	TUFTED TITMOUSE	487	WORM-EATING WARBLER	20	STOP TIME	9:05 PM
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	2	WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	98	OVENBIRD	297	FOOT HOURS	245.5
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	13	CAROLINA WREN	456	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	34	CAR HOURS	19.2
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	1	HOUSE WREN	147	LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	50	OTHER HOURS	.5
GREAT HORNED OWL	2	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	12	KENTUCKY WARBLER	85		
BARRED OWL	7	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	260	MOURNING WARBLER	2	FOOT MILES	181.8
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	4	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	227	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	448	CAR MILES	258.5
WHIP-POOR-WILL	2	VEERY	80	HOODED WARBLER	42	OTHER MILES	2.0
CHIMNEY SWIFT	376	GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	1	WILSON'S WARBLER	8	HOURS OWLING	1.3
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	31	SWAINSON'S THRUSH	85	CANADA WARBLER	35	MILES OWLING	2.0
BELTED KINGFISHER	22	HERMIT THRUSH	4	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	27	OBSERVERS	65
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	332	WOOD THRUSH	485	SCARLET TANAGER	220	TOTAL PARTIES	36

lot of park and ride at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361

October 6, Sunday 1.5-2 hours. Birding for Beginners at Font Hill. Learn the basics of how to identify birds, using and choosing binoculars and field guides. Easy walking on paved paths, boardwalks and mown grass. This is a wonderful little wetlands park. Meet at park sign off Font Hill Drive 9:00 a.m. Leader: Mike McClure 410-531-2780

October 8, Tuesday 2 hours Weekday Walk at Gwynn Acres. Easy walking on paved path through the woodlands. Good chance of Barred Owl. Great for beginners. Meet at split rail fence on Columbia Rd across from Ram's Horn Row 8:00 a.m. No facilities. Call Bonnie Ott for info 410-461-3361

October 12, Saturday All day Spectacular Sparrows. (Bonnie's favorite spots) The ULTIMATE trip for sparrow lovers. How many sparrows can we find in one day? Over 1000? Can we hit 12 species? I'll take 10 people that want to sparrow from dawn till we drop and count as many individual sparrows as we can. Be prepared for hours of VERY difficult walking through every type of habitat. Call Bonnie if you are interested to sign up. 410-461-3361

October 13, Sunday All day The Big Sit at Centennial Park. Join us for the 4th annual BIG SIT. Originated by the New Haven bird club with the objective of counting as many species as possible in 24 hours from one spot. We circumscribe a 17 foot circle and any bird heard or seen from within our chosen area is fair game! Past highlights are Sora, Merlin and Bald Eagle. Can we top our previous high of 55? Great for beginning birders. Bring a chair and sustenance and join us for a little while or all day. Meet at the wildlife end of Centennial Park on the Rt. 108 side. Facilities available. Leader: Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643

October 19, Saturday All day Hawk Watch at Mount Pleasant. Join the group for just an hour or all day to sit and watch the hawks fly. Bring a chair and sustenance for a relaxing day of raptor watching. Great for beginning birders. Meet at the shed on the entrance road at 9:30 a.m. Facilities available. Leader: Ralph Geuder 410-788-3764

October 20, Sunday 3 hours Fall's Final Fling at Schooley Mill Park. Moderate to difficult walking along field edges and through woodlands. A beaver created wetland area rounds out the variety of habitats. Sparrow migration in full swing with late warblers and hawks expected. Paths may be muddy, facilities available. Meet at upper parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Leader: TBA. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

October 25, Friday 2 hours Weekday Walk at David Force Park. Moderate walking through the varied habitat of this county open space. Woodland, fields and streams. Paths and grass may be wet. Great for beginning birders. No facilities. Meet at split rail fence off Pebble beach drive at 8:00 a.m. Call Bonnie Ott for info 410-461-3361

October 26, Saturday Seed Sale *[we meet in Wis]*

November 3, Sunday 3 hours Annual Fall Foray at Centennial Park. Walk the paved path around the lake for waterfowl and woodland birds. Great for beginning birders. Looking for lingering migrant passerines. Meet at west end lot at 8:00 a.m. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361 Leader: Ralph Cullison

November 7, Thursday 2 hours. Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake. Easy walking on the paved path along the lake and along the wooded stream. Migrant waterfowl and gulls, woodland birds. Great for beginners. Meet at the boat dock at 8:30 a.m. No facilities. Call Bonnie for information. 410-461-3361

November 10, Sunday 3 hours Annual Fall Foray at Centennial Park. Walk the paved path around the lake for waterfowl and woodland birds. Great for beginning birders. Waterfowl migrants expected along with raptors. Meet at the west end lot at 8:00 a.m. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

November 16, Saturday Half day Waterfowl of Howard County. After checking the lake expect to carpool to check the area lakes and ponds for migrant waterfowl. Meet at concession stand of Centennial Park at 8:00 a.m. Facilities available. Scopes useful. Leader: Jane Coskren 410-381-7344

November 17, Sunday 3 hours Fall Foray at Centennial Park. Walk the paved path around the lake for waterfowl and woodland birds. Great for beginning birders. Ducks and grebes likely along with late migrant raptors. Meet at the west end lot at 8:00 a.m. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361. Leaders: Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan

November 24, Sunday 3 hours Fall Foray at Centennial Park. Walk the paved path around the lake for waterfowl and woodland birds. Ducks and Grebes expected. Meet at west end lot at 8:00 a.m. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361. Leader Richard Orr

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, September 12 "Deer Management in Howard County: Concerns and Conflicts," by Phil Norman, Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Thursday, October 10 "Caribbean Birding on the Greater and Lesser Antilles," by Gail Mackiernan.

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. The page numbers refer to the book "Birding Howard County" which gives maps and directions. All trip lengths are approximate. FOR INFORMATION, CALL BONNIE OTT, at 410-461-3361 or e-mail at bonnie1163@home.com.

September 1, Sunday 2 hours. Butterflies Through Binoculars at Centennial Park. An easy walk on paved pathways around the wildlife area of the lake. Learn to identify butterflies on the wing. Great for beginners. Meet at the west end parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Will be canceled if raining or overcast. Binoculars recommended. Facilities available. Leader: Dick Smith 410-997-7439

September 8, Sunday 2 hours Birding For Beginners at Wilde Lake. Easy walking along the lake and wooded stream. Learn the basics on bird identification, choosing and using binoculars and field guides. Meet at the boat dock at 9:00 a.m. Leaders will have spotting scopes. No facilities. Leaders: Jeff Friedhoffer 410-997-5366 and Dave Holyoke 410-531-1355

September 11, Wednesday 2-3 hours. Weekday Walk at Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Migrants will be moving and the combination of woods and water should host many species. Meet at the west end lot at 8:00. Facilities available. Contact Bonnie Ott for info. 410-461-3361

September 14, Saturday 1.5 hours. Winged Wonders of Bon Secours. A leisurely nature walk to observe the natural beauty of this lovely private property. Will be looking at birds, butterflies and flora. Great for beginners. Meet at the visitor parking lot 8:30 a.m. Facilities available. Leaders: Michele Wright 410-465-6057 and Eva Sunell 410-995-0029.

September 15, Sunday 3+ hours. Confusing Fall Warblers at Rockburn Branch Park. Rigorous walking along field edges and hilly woodland trails focusing on confusing fall warblers. Woodlands and field edges may produce a wide variety of species. Good view of the sky for flyovers. Barred Owl possible and Olive sided flycatchers turn up here infrequently. Hiking boots recommended. Meet at parking lot of Rockburn Elementary at 7:00 a.m. Facilities available. Leader: Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361

September 21, Saturday. Fall Count

September 23, Monday 2-3 hours Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Woodlands and marshy areas provide the possibility of many surprises. Warbler and hawk migration should be in full swing. Meet at the Broken land Parkway lot 8:00 a.m. No facilities. Leader: John Maloney 301-317-4961

September 28, Saturday 3+ hours. Migrant Hike at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate to rigorous walking along hilly wooded paths and along the river. Field areas provide nice edge habitat so expect some sparrows. Warblers, vireos (Philadelphia has turned up here in former years), hawks and possible Red-headed woodpecker. Meet at Trotter road parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Grass may be wet, hiking boots recommended. No facilities. Leader: Stan Arnold 410-768-7339

September 29, Sunday 3 hours. Lincoln's Sparrow Search at Mount Pleasant. Moderate to difficult walking through the extensive fields of this Howard Conservancy property. Sparrow hotspot with high probability of Lincoln's sparrows. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Hiking boots suggested, facilities available. Meet at 8:00 a.m. by the shed on the entrance road. Leader: Robin Todd 410-313-8154

October 5, Saturday 2 hours. Introduction to Sparrows at Meadowbrook. Confused by those beautiful brown birds? Learn the basics on sorting out those stunning sparrows by sight and sound. Easy walking but possibility of high grass and wet areas. High boots recommended, no facilities. Meet in parking

(Continued on page 6)

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.

September 26, TBD *B. Ott*

October 24, TBD *Jeff's (with his wife)*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2002 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL IS DUE SEPTEMBER 27, 2002. 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>.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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COLUMBIA, MD 21044

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SPRING BIRD RECORDS
SEED SALE & DONATIONS AT WORK
E-MAIL ADDRESS NOTICE
FALL COUNT ANNOUNCEMENT
MAY COUNT SUMMARY
PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS
NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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CONSERVATION COLUMN BY BOB SOLEM

Remember seeing all of those pictures of deformed frogs found in the United States and Canada? The Washington Post had an article in the Science section giving results of a study that begins to explain the process. But, like so many things in nature, it is more complicated and potentially ominous that it first appeared:

Frogs showing these deformities were infected with small aquatic parasites but also were in wetlands with traces of pesticides. Now the findings of Joseph Kiesecker of Penn State suggest that, at least for some outbreaks, both factors could be involved. Kiesecker tested whether agricultural pesticides make developing frogs more susceptible to infection by a parasite known as a trematode. The trematodes tunnel under the skin of developing tadpoles and become encysted, usually at the base of their growing hind legs. "Kiesecker now thinks pesticides significantly amplify the process by weakening the frogs' immune systems and making them less able to resist parasitic infections. That, say scientists who have

looked at the findings, might be a much greater concern than any yet raised in the investigation."

David Gardiner of University of California at Irvine said, "If it's true that commonly used pesticides compromise the immune system of a vertebrate organism, which is what these findings suggest, then we're looking at a much bigger problem than deformed frogs."

But another study by Pieter Johnson of University of Wisconsin at La Crosse (who had previously identified a parasite as the cause of the frog deformities) found no connection between pesticides and the incidence of deformities.

If you want more information on the effects of human alterations of ecosystems, go to the web site for the Rachel Carson Trust: <http://members.aol.com/rccouncil/ourpage/> (Even if it has not been updated recently, it has other links and information worth pursuing.)

So what is the bottom line of this story? **IT'S NOT THE CHEMICAL OR THE VIRUS OR BACTERIA THAT GETS YOU,**

IT'S THE SYNERGY!

Another article concerns Mute Swans. The Washington Post on July 24, 2002 reported the following: "Former health and human services secretary Margaret Heckler is laid up with a swollen left leg and a serious infection--the result of a ferocious attack three months ago by her late ex-husband's pet swan Fred." On April 15 she visited the Middleburg farm of her ex-husband, and "she was driving away from the house, past a pond... She spotted Fred, a so-called 'mute' swan with a seven-foot wingspan, swimming toward the car... When Fred came out of the pond, I decided to get out of the car and 'talk to the swan.' I went over to him and without warning he hit me very hard in the back of my leg with his wing. I was completely shocked. It was extremely painful." The rest of the article details the trip to the emergency room and subsequent medical complications. So what is the bottom line of this story? **IT'S NOT THE NATIVE SPECIES THAT GET YOU, IT'S THE FERAL ONES!**