

# The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club • A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



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Dave Holyoke, *Editor*  
Suzanne Probst, *Graphic Artist*  
Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be mailed, or e-mailed to: Dave Holyoke  
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Please visit the Club's website at [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org)

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

BY KURT SCHWARZ

I would like to welcome all new and renewing members to the Howard County Bird Club's thirty-first anniversary season. I expect this to be a very rewarding season.

Autumn migration is already well underway, with all the excitement that that brings. I hope you all will be able to join in the club's activities as we get out and enjoy those birds. A full schedule of field trips is planned, to help you in finding some of Howard County's more unusual residents and migrants, and to hone your identification skills.

We have just completed the second year of data collection of Howard County's third Breeding Bird Atlas, with three more years to go. If you haven't already signed up for a block, there are still some available for anyone who desires to participate.

And please consider taking part in one of the club's seasonal counts. Fall Count is a great opportunity to get out in the field and make a contribution to science.

And there's another way you can contribute to the welfare of birds on several levels—the annual Bird Seed Sale. The birds get to enjoy the seed you purchase, while the proceeds go toward habitat preservation right here in Maryland, and abroad.

So dust off those binoculars, dig out your field guide, lace up your boots, and join the club and its members as we scour the countryside for Howard County's familiar residents, as well as its regular migrants, and even that once-in-a-decade rarity. It's fun, and good exercise. I hope to see you all at upcoming events.

## SPRING BIRD RECORDS MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 2003

BY JOANNE SOLEM

The first of March may be the beginning of spring on the birding calendar, but this year it was still winter. The heavy snow of late February took weeks, not days, to melt. On March 10, one observer described the scene from Brighton Dam as "ice as far as the eye can see." Not until the third week of the month were most ponds and lakes ice-free. To complicate matters, an orange terrorism alert was declared closing the reservoirs to the public. The alert was raised to red on March 19; fortunately, by early May it had been reduced to yellow allowing

access again. Winter's snow and cold was followed by almost continuous chilly, rainy weather. The end of May brought the dispiriting news that there had not been a full day of sunshine since April 28; the average May temperature was 7° F below normal; and 20 days in May had measurable rain which equaled the record last tallied in 1904.

Did these conditions make for one of the worst spring seasons ever? Far from it. Howard birders persevered and were amply rewarded. As usual,

*(Spring Bird Records continues on page 2.)*

there were some early records set as well as some late dates. Warbler migration was judged better than that of the last few years, some unusual species made an appearance, and a new species was added to the county list. Not bad for a highly challenging season!

After numerous winter reports elsewhere in the state, Red-necked Grebes finally showed up in the county, although the closed reservoirs meant only three were recorded here: Stone Lake 3/16 (NL) to 5/10 (POs), Lake Elkhorn\* 3/22 (SAr+) to 4/12 (MSt), and MD 29 bridge over Duckett Reservoir in early April (HH).

With ample rains filling wetlands and producing lush vegetation, Least Bitterns were reported. One was retrieved from a warehouse on Red Branch Rd (not exactly prime habitat) 5/19 (PW); another appeared at UMDCF 5/21 (BO,EH,JS). A Snowy Egret made a brief appearance on Fore Bay Pond 5/10 (R&JG;JW). A Cattle Egret stopped at the Fulton turkey farm 4/27 (J&CW+). Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at Lake Elkhorn 3/27 to 5/20 (MSt; SN+), Wilde Lake 4/12 to 5/31 (HZ+), and Centennial 4/14 (GA) to 4/18 (BO).

The county's lone free-flying Mute Swan continued at Lake Elkhorn throughout the season (SN+). A second Mute Swan appeared at Centennial 3/15 (JS) and stayed until 4/4 (KS). Overall, waterfowl numbers were low. Eight Northern Shovelers arrived at Centennial late on 4/7 (BO) and left early the following morning (EH). A pair of Ring-necked Ducks spent the entire period at Lake Elkhorn (m. obs.). A female Greater Scaup was at Lake Elkhorn 3/29 (MHa) and another appeared at Centennial 4/24 (LN) staying until 4/29 (BO). For the second consecutive spring, a Hooded Merganser nested at the Race Rd wetlands (female and 2 ducklings, 4/28-JMa).

Atlasers continued to find an increasing number of Cooper's Hawks county-wide including nests at Rockburn 5/3 (RC+), Dunloggin 5/10 (KS), and Waterford Farm 5/10 (MW).

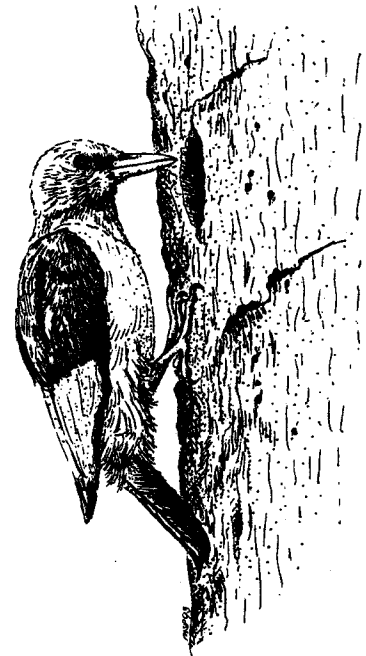
Wild Turkey reports came from UMDCF 4/14 (Tfr) & 4/15 (BO,EH,JS), Roxbury Rd 4/26 (K&BB), and Fulton 5/8 (KM). It appears that a corner of the county still harbors a few Ring-necked Pheasants. A hen was seen along Shaffer's Mill Rd 4/17 (IN), and a cock was spotted in a field on the same road 5/8 (MBr). Let's hope they found each other! A Common Moorhen (distinctly UNcommon here) dallied on the island in the large pond at Font Hill Wetland Park from 5/10 (K&BB,SS,MV) to 5/14 (SPe,SPr; HH).

High water levels reduced or eliminated shorebird habitat at lakes and reservoirs so flooded fields became prime resting and feeding areas. Four Semipalmated Plovers were present in a damp Fulton field 5/26 (BO,EH); a Pectoral Sandpiper flew over an Underwood Rd field 3/9 (BO); and an Upland Sandpiper called as it flew over Mt. Pleasant 5/4 (BO,DH). The most memorable shorebird sighting was a flock of 70 Whimbrels flying silently over UMDCF on the chilly rainy morning of 5/21 for a new county record (BO,EH,JS).

Bonaparte's Gulls started to migrate early with 184 at Wilde Lake on 3/24 (both the second earliest date and second largest number ever) (MC,HZ+). The Forster's Tern at Centennial 4/8 was just the fourth spring record (BO,EH). Caspian Terns began moving 4/1 (earliest county record) with 4 at Lake Kittamaqundi and 1 at Wilde Lake (MC,HZ).

Although May Count on 5/10 turned up 5 Black-billed Cuckoos (JSh; BO,EH; TE,EE), few seem to have stayed. Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce with 2 sightings: Furrow Ave 4/26 (*vide* BO) and Wynfield Dr 5/11 & 19 (RC).

The night skies over central Maryland must have been crowded with flycatchers in mid-May. Willow Flycatchers dawdled until 5/10 when 6 were detected countywide. Least Flycatchers were spotted at Orange Grove, PVSP 5/10 (SAr,CK,BE); Font Hill Wetland Park 5/11 (BO,EH), Elkhorn 5/11 (JS;KS); and MPEA 5/14 (HH). Olive-sided Flycatchers were



*Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce this spring, with only two sightings in the county.*

noted at Old Frederick Rd, PVSP 5/10 (KH, KD) and MPEA 5/11 (BO,EH). The only Alder Flycatcher announced its presence along Manahan Dr 5/11 (BO).

Horned Larks can begin breeding locally in early March. Although the flock of 75 on Underwood Rd 3/9 could be migrants or even residents not yet ready to breed (BO+), the 53 on 5/10 in the same location is the latest county date for so large a flock (D&MH). The only spring report for Red-breasted Nuthatch. was from Swansfield 3/13 (JTv). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher spotted at Vantage Point 3/28 established an early arrival date (HZ).

Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported in a number of locations: MPEA 5/9 (HH), 5/11 (BO,EH), 5/14 (HH); Hallmark Rd 5/19 (WEB); and Fore Bay Pond 5/25 (JW). Swainson's Thrushes moved through from 5/3 Rockburn (BO,NM, JS+) to 5/26 Hallmark Rd (WEB).

Observers generally found warbler migration better than last spring's, thanks perhaps to frequent showers. A Golden-winged Warbler at Rockburn 5/4 was the lone report (JMa). Cape May Warblers have become increasingly scarce in spring. The only reports were on 5/10 at

## SPRING BIRD RECORDS (Continued from page 2.)

David Force Wildlife Management Area (E&JMe) and east-central Howard County (ES). Prothonotary Warblers made a good showing with records from Race Rd 4/28 (JMa), Henryton, PVSP 5/1 (J&TDC), Rockburn 5/4 (JMa), Orange Grove, PVSP 5/10 (SAr,CK,BE), Furnace Inn 5/11 (KS), and Lake Elkhorn 5/12 (JW) & 5/15 (DE). Two Mourning Warblers were present at Rockburn 5/31 (BO,JS+).

The last American Tree Sparrow was seen at Alpha Ridge Park 3/8 (RC). Chipping Sparrows peaked between 3/30 at Wynfield Rd (34-RC) and 4/16 at Mt. Pleasant (40-BO). The first Vesper Sparrow was spotted at UMDCF 4/15 (BO,EH,JS) and the last in western Howard County 5/10 (LC,KT). A colony of 30+ Grasshopper Sparrows was counted at Alpha Ridge landfill 5/30 (RC). Fox Sparrows finally put in an appearance 3/10 at Swansfield (JTv) and Hammond Village (J&RS), with a high of 18 reported from MPEA 3/12 (BO,HF,EH,JS). Lincoln's Sparrows were noted from 5/1 at Dasher Green (HH) to 5/18 at Alpha Ridge Park (RC). A Dark-eyed Junco lingered at a Swansfield feeder where it was photographed on 5/10 (JTv).

There were numerous reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders. The high was 7 on Manahan Dr (BO). The last was a stunning male photographed\* in Allview 5/26 (RSt). The first Indigo Bunting availed himself of a feeder in east-central Howard County 4/25 (SB). A Lapland Longspur\* was reported in the fields along Old Frederick/ Underwood Rds 3/3 (JW) and 3/9 (BO+). Rusty Blackbirds were uncommon with most sightings in April. Flocks of 20 along Gwynn Acres Path 4/12 (BO+) and 26 at Vantage Point 4/15 (HZ) were the highs. Two male Purple Finches at Wilde Lake on 4/27 were the only ones reported (HZ).

Observers: SAr—Stan Arnold, GA—Glenn Austin, K&BB—Karan & Bill Blum, MB—Marilyn Brinkley, SB—Sue Buswell, MC—Martha Chestem, LC—Lisa Colangelo, JC—Jane Coskren, TDC—T. Dennis Coskren, RC—Ralph Cullison, III, KD—Karen Darcy, WEb—Ward Ebert, DE—Darius Ecker, BE—Bill Ellis, EE—Erin Eve, TE—Tracy Eve, HF—Harry Fink, TFr—Tom Franklin, R&JG—Ralph & Jane Geuder, MHa—Matt Hafner, DH—Dave Harvey, MH—Maureen Harvey, KH—Kevin Heffernan, HH—Hans Holbrook, EH—Emy Holdridge, CK—Charlie Kucera, NL—Nate Levy, NM—Nancy Magnusson, JMa—John

Maloney, KM—Kathy Mariano, E&JMe—Elayne & Jeff Metter, IN—Ian Nagengast, SN—Sue Neri, LN—Louis Nielsen, POs—Peter Osenton, BO—Bonnie Ott, SPe—Sherry Peruzzi, SPt—Suzanne Probst, KS—Kurt Schwarz, SS—Susan Setterberg, JSh—Jay Sheppard, JS—Jo Solem, RS—Robert Solem, MSt—Michelle Stewart, RSt—Ralph Stokes, ES—Eva Sunell, KT—Kate Tufts, JTv—June Tveekrem, MV—Marilyn Veek, MW—Mark Wallace, PW—Pete Webb, CW—Carol Wilkinson, JW—Jim Wilkinson, HZ—Helen Zeichner.

## Places:

Centennial-Centennial Park  
MPEA—Middle Patuxent Environmental Area  
PVSP—Patapsco Valley State Park  
Rockburn-Rockburn Branch Park

\*photograph posted at [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org)

## MEMBER APPRECIATION

### BY KURT SCHWARZ

In an organization such as the Howard County Bird Club, the voluntary efforts of members are vital. Some carry out an extraordinary amount of work which may go unrecognized. The club could not function without their help, so, with this column, I'd like to start recognizing the invaluable contributions of our members who go beyond just showing up for meetings, attending field trips, or reading the newsletter. Please take the time to consider the many hours contributed by these volunteers and thank them. We all benefit from the selfless efforts of these members.

This month I would like to recognize the tremendous and long-standing contribution of Eileen Clegg. Eileen has been the Seed Sale Chairman since its inception in 1979. As you may recall, the seed sale invests its proceeds in habitat preservation. Under Eileen's leadership, the sale has earned and invested over \$50,000. That money has been invested in conservation efforts as far away as Panama, and as close as Columbia, MD. Our resident birds have benefited from the seed, while species that rarely visit feeders, our neotropical migrants, have also benefited through preservation of their wintering habitat. Eileen has guided these efforts for the last 24 years and continues to do so. This is one effort of which the Club can be quite proud, and we owe it all to the organizational talent of Eileen. Please join me in thanking her.

## 2003-2004 HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB OFFICERS

**President:** Kurt Schwarz  
**Vice-president:** Jeff Friedhoffer  
(also *Publicity*)  
**Secretary:** Chuck Stirrat  
**Treasurer:** Emy Holdridge  
**Chapter**  
**Directors:** Tom Miller (1<sup>st</sup> yr.)  
Kevin Heffernan (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
**State**  
**Directors:** Mary-Jo Betts  
Darius Ecker  
Karen Darcy

### STATE OFFICERS/COMMITTEES:

**State President:** Paul Zucker  
**State Treasurer:** Shiras Guion  
**Atlas:** Jane Coskren  
(also *Park Checklists*)  
**Conservation:** Maureen Harvey  
**Nominations:** Dave Harvey

### CHAPTER COMMITTEES:

**Field Trips:** Bonnie Ott  
**Programs:** Jane Geuder  
**Seed Sale/**  
**Scholarship:** Eileen Clegg  
**Conservation:** Bob Solem  
**Newsletter:** Suzanne Probst  
Dave Holyoke  
**Records/Atlas:** Jo Solem

# TENTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2003

BY MIKE MCCLURE

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 20. 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 field sheet for Howard County is included in this newsletter. Species that require a write-up include those identified with a double asterisk (\*\*), as well as any write-ins. Others that may require a

write-up 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
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 Circle, Columbia, MD, 410-381-8841. The potluck dinner will be served at approximately 7:00 p.m. Call them by September 19 to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and, if necessary, obtain directions.



## M.O.S. Needs Your Help

By Kurt Schwarz

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) at the state level has quite a few positions available for any member with the talent, skills, and/or motivation. If you have any of the above, and one of these positions appeals to you or you know a possible candidate, contact MOS President, and Howard County Bird Club member, Paul Zucker at 301-279-7896, or Paul.Zucker@jhuapl.edu. The following positions are available:

Executive Secretary (this includes a \$200/month stipend)

Conference Committee Chairperson

Publicity Committee Chairperson

Seasonal Counts Committee  
Chairperson

Gifts Committee Chairperson

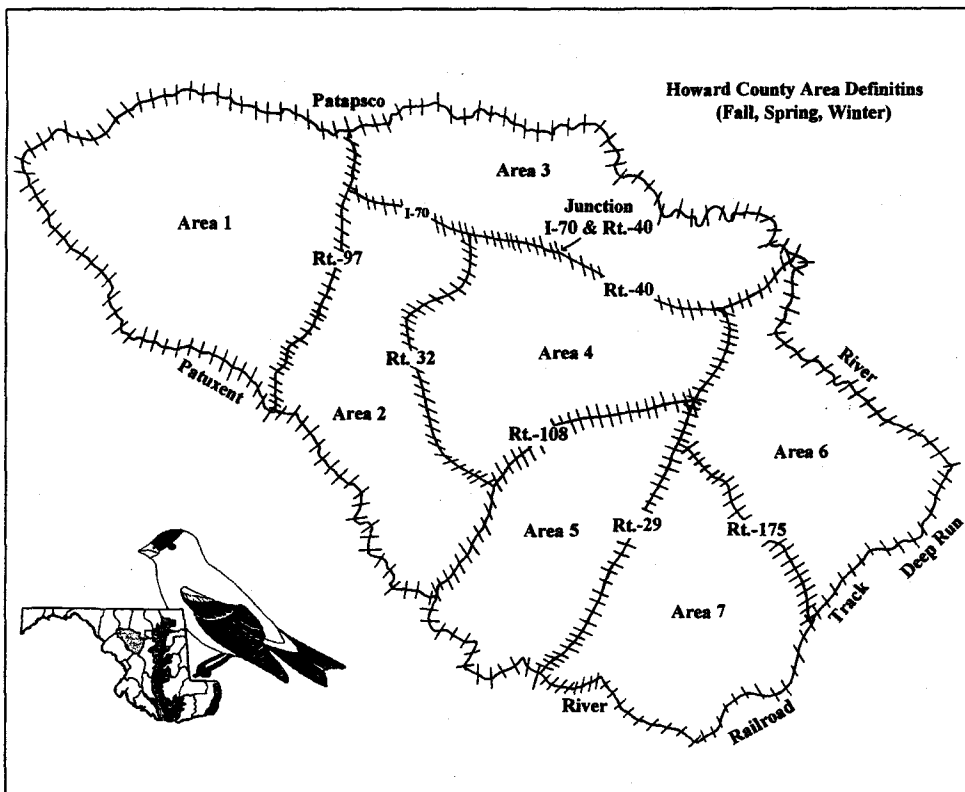
Editor of seasonal reports to  
*Maryland Birdlife* (this may  
include a computer, if needed)

Editor for the *Yellowthroat*

Calendar Editor for the *Yellowthroat*

Merchandise Manager

World Series of Birding Coordinator



## Thanks to our Howard County Fair Volunteers

By Suzanne Probst

Thanks to all of the folks who very graciously volunteered their time to help staff the club's booth at the Howard County Fair in August: Marty Chestem, Lisa Colangelo, Jane Coskren, Karen Darcy, Jeff Friedhoffer, Ralph and Jane Geuder, Kevin Heffernan, Emy Holdridge, Elayne and Jeff Metter, Bonnie Ott, Kurt Schwarz, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, and Don and Martha Waugh. Thanks so much for braving the heat, and continuing to make this venture a success each year!

## CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

PROGRAMS are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Meeting is cancelled if schools are closed for any reason. Hospitality session and bookstore begin at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information, call Kurt Schwarz at 410-461-1643.

**Thursday, September 11** "Helping Your Records Committee Document Rarities," Paul O'Brien

**Thursday, October 9** "Hot and Cold Birding," Barry Miller and Michelle Stewart

**FIELD TRIPS** are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Plan to arrive at the meeting area with enough time to be prepared to begin birding at the designated time. Carpooling is encouraged. Come prepared with appropriate footwear and gear (the trip description will offer advice). The leader has the option to cancel due to inclement weather. Directions for trips not on ADC maps may be found on the howardbirds.org website. If you have questions, call or e-mail the trip leader at the number/address listed in the trip description, or field trip coordinator, **Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361** or **bonnie1163@comcast.net**

To help make trips successful please stay behind the leader, keep talking to a minimum and stay with the group. Don't hesitate to ask questions or alert the leader to something you've spotted. Howard Bird Club members will be given priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

### MIDDLE PATUXENT ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

**Sept. 13, Saturday. Half Day. 7:00 a.m.**

Meet at Trotter Rd gravel lot.

Leader—Stan Arnold, 410-768-0155.

Moderate to difficult hiking through woodlands and fields. Stream crossings expected. Mix of woodlands, fields, river and streams offer a wide variety of habitats and birds. Migrant warblers, thrushes, vireos and hawks will be on the move. No facilities.

### TROLLEY TRAIL WEEKDAY WALK

**Sept. 17, Wednesday. 2 hours. 8:30 a.m.**

Meet at Oella parking lot.

Leaders—Michele Wright and Eva Sunell, 410-465-6057 or 410-995-0029

Easy walk on paved path through the woodlands. Migrant songbirds expected. No facilities.

### FALL COUNT

**September 20, Saturday.**

### HUGG-THOMAS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(Joint trip with Carroll County.)

**Sept. 28, Sunday. 3 hours. 8:00 a.m.**

Meet at gravel lot on Forsythe Rd.

Leaders—Dave and Maureen Harvey, 410-795-3117.

Moderate walking along field edges and through woodlands. Hills, wet grass, muddy trails expected. Migrant warblers, sparrows and hawks likely. No facilities.

### SPARROW BIG DAY

(Limit of 10)

**Oct. 4, Saturday. All Day.**

Leader—Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361.

A grueling all day trip to visit the best sparrow spots in the county. We will try to find as many species of LBJ's as possible.

(Call Bonnie for details and to sign up.)

### SOLDIERS DELIGHT IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

**Oct. 5, Sunday. Half Day. 8:00 a.m.**

Meet at Alpha Ridge Park to carpool.

Leader—Eva Sunell, 410-995-0029.

A mile walk on rocky path expected. This unique geological area known as a pine barren produces stunted trees and rare vegetation. Hopefully we will view the Fringed Gentian from a safe distance and read a poem above it. Flyover hawks and late migrant warblers possible. Facilities available.


### THE BIG SIT

**Oct. 12, Sunday. All Day.**

Meet at the wildlife end of Centennial Park.

Leader—Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643.

Bring a chair and sustenance to join in the 5th annual Big Sit. Originated by the New Haven Bird Club with the objective of counting as many species as possible from one spot. We draw a 17 foot circle and any bird seen or heard from within

 =Great for beginning birders

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

### September 25, Thursday

Bonnie Ott, 8664 Manahan Drive, Ellicott City, 21043 • 410-461-3361

### October 23, Thursday

Dave Holyoke, 3557 Conchita Drive, Ellicott City, 21042 • 410-531-1355

the chosen area is countable. Past highlights are Sora, Merlin and Bald Eagle. Can we top our previous high of 55? Great for beginners! Stay for a little while or join Kurt for the whole day. Facilities available.

### HAWK MOUNTAIN

**Oct. 18, Saturday. All Day. (weather conditions permitting)**

Leader—Harry Fink.

We will take a day trip to Hawk Mountain, Pa. Expect a hike up the mountaintop to sit for the day and watch the hawks fly. Bring food and drink and cushion. (Call Bonnie to sign up and get details 410-461-3361.)

### AUTUMN BIRDS OF MOUNT PLEASANT

**Oct. 19, Sunday. 3 hours. 8:00 a.m.**

Meet at shed.

Leaders—Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffeman, 410-418-8731.

An easy walk through the meadows of the Howard Conservancy property. Sparrows and migrant hawks expected. Facilities available.

### SEED SALE

**October 25, Saturday.**

(See page 6 for more details.)

(Field Trips continues on page 6.)

FIELD TRIPS (continued from page 5.)

**HAWK WATCH AT MOUNT PLEASANT**  
**Oct. 26, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to early afternoon**  
 Leader—Ralph Geuder, 410-788-3764.  
 Bring a chair and sustenance to sit and watch the hawks fly. Stay for a little while or stay all day.  
 Facilities available.

**BON SECOURS**  
**Nov. 1, Saturday, 1.5 hours, 9:30 a.m.**  
 Meet in visitor's parking lot.  
 Leaders—Michele Wright, 410-465-6057, and Eva Sunell, 410-995-0029.  
 Easy walk through the lovely grounds of this spiritual center. Woodlands and fields will host a variety of birds.  
 Facilities available.

**CENTENNIAL PARK**  
**Nov. 2, Sunday, 3 hours, 8:00 a.m.**  
 Meet at west end lot.  
 Leader—Ralph Cullison, 410-442-2181  
 Easy 2-mile walk around lake on paved path. Migrant hawks expected and late passerines may be lingering.  
 Facilities available.

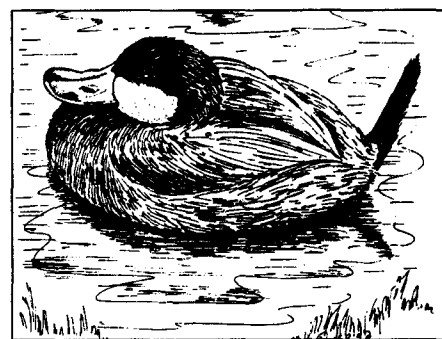
**SANDY POINT STATE PARK**  
 (Joint trip with Kent County.)  
**Nov. 8, Saturday, Half Day, 7:00 a.m.**  
 Meet at Rt. 100 park-and-ride.  
 Leader—Walter Ellison.  
 Easy walking on paths and sand. A great location for waterfowl and gulls. Scopes useful. (Call Bonnie for information 410-461-3361.) Facilities available.

**CENTENNIAL PARK**  
**Nov. 9, Sunday, 3 hours, 8:00 a.m.**  
 Meet at west end lot.  
 Leader—Harry Fink, 410-988-8008.  
 Easy 2 mile-walk around lake on paved path. Some waterfowl possible and hawks still passing through.  
 Facilities available.

**PINEY RUN IN CARROLL COUNTY**  
 (Joint trip with Carroll County.)  
**Nov. 15, Saturday, Half Day, 8:00 a.m.**  
 Meet at 32/70 park-and-ride.  
 Leader—Bob Ringler.  
 Easy walk through the woodlands and fields of the Carroll County park. The lake hosts a variety of waterfowl. Scopes useful. (Call Bonnie for information 410-461-3361.)  
 Facilities available.

**CENTENNIAL PARK**  
**Nov. 16, Sunday, 3 hours, 8:00 a.m.**  
 Meet at west end lot.  
 Leader—Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643.  
 Easy 2-mile walk around lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected and late migrant hawks.  
 Facilities available.

**CENTENNIAL PARK**  
**Nov. 23, Sunday, 3 hours, 8:00 a.m.**  
 Meet at west end lot.  
 Leader—Richard Orr, 410-730-7290.  
 Easy 2-mile walk around lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected and winter arrivals possible.  
 Facilities available.



## SEED SALE BY KURT SCHWARZ

As the days shorten, temperatures cool, and our thoughts turn to the thrills of autumn migration, perhaps it has occurred to you, "What can I do to aid the birds that have brought me so much fun and excitement?" One great way to help our feathered friends is to purchase seed from the Howard County Bird Club's fall seed sale. The birds benefit in two ways: they get to dine on the yummy treats you provide—AND the proceeds are invested in habitat preservation and enhancement, but more about that later.

You probably have more mundane concerns about where to go, whether you will have to heft those heavy bags of seed, and so on. The process, in fact, is quite simple. You order seed in advance with a blank you can download from the website, or use the one you will receive in the mail about October 1st. On the morning of the sale (Saturday, October 25), drive to the First Presbyterian Church on MD 108, just east of US 29 (9325 Presbyterian Circle). Enter the church to obtain your receipt. Don't forget to shop the Wildlife Authority as well as the club's own merchandise offerings! Then re-enter your car, drive to the pallets, and the smiling volunteers will happily heft the bags of seed into your trunk, back seat, or wherever you direct. Okay, you will have to wrestle the bag(s) out of your car when you get them home, but the birds will appreciate it.

What happens to the proceeds? The club's board will assemble a variety of proposals, seeking projects right here in

Maryland, as well as abroad, to benefit the birds we see in Howard County. If you know of a worthy project, please inform a board member.

Since the sale's inception in 1979, under the able leadership of Eileen Clegg (with assistance from Mary-Jo Betts in recent years), we have raised \$50,000 which has been invested in habitat preservation and enhancement. Some of that money has been invested right here in Howard County to help get the Clegg Memorial Grassland project started in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. In Maryland, we have also aided the "Old Growth Forest Project" at Frostburg University, the Little Patuxent Oxbow Sanctuary in Laurel, and the Belt Woods Environmental Area. Internationally, to assist our neotropical migrants, we have aided projects to preserve and enhance habitat in Central America, having invested in projects in Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, and most recently, Panama. We also provided substantial backing for the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas of the 1980s.

As you can see, the birds benefit twice from your seed sale purchase. So please give serious consideration to purchasing your seed from the club in October. You will also have an opportunity to make an additional contribution toward habitat preservation. 100% of all contributions will be directed to the habitat project(s) the board selects. Look for the seed sale order blank on the website or in the mail by October 1. Hope to see you at the Seed Sale!

# THE 23<sup>RD</sup> AND 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOWARD LISTS—2001 AND 2002

BY JANE COSKREN

In 2001 we found 232 species; 12 species over 2000's total of 220. We added Ruddy Turnstone to the Howard list. Other exciting finds were Least Bittern, Mississippi Kite, Ring-necked Pheasant, King Rail, Common Moorhen, Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet, Red Knot, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Clay-colored Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and a White-winged Crossbill. We still missed Black Tern.

We located 229 species in 2002. Good finds were Eurasian Wigeon, Surf Scoter, Upland Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Alder Flycatcher, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting.

Let's hope for a really productive 2003. Find some birds and report them! Have fun! Share your finds by activating the Howard County Rare Bird Alert: call Bob Solem at 301-725-5037 or Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Thanks to the following members who submitted their 2001 and/or 2002 lists: Mary-Jo Betts, Rod Burley, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Karen Darcy, Ward Ebert, Kevin Heffernan, Jane Heim, Marcus James, Nancy Magnusson, Sue Neri, Bonnie Ott, Bob Schaefer, Kurt Schwarz, Jo Solem, Kate Tufts, and Paul Zucker. Jo Solem's reports for the seasons captured many sightings not reported on individual lists, as did Paul Zucker's, Chuck Stirrat's, Jo Solem's, and Mike McClure's compilations from special counts. Dennis Coskren helped compile the annual list.

Individuals who submitted their 2001 or 2002 annual lists will receive the 24-year compilation. Others may obtain it by sending a stamped, self-addressed, long envelope to Jane Coskren, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045.

## 2001 Annual Howard County List

- |                            |                         |                               |                              |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Common Loon                | Red-tailed Hawk         | Ruby-throated Hummingbird     | Ruby-crowned Kinglet         | Mourning Warbler              |
| Pied-billed Grebe          | Rough-legged Hawk       | Belted Kingfisher             | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher        | Common Yellowthroat           |
| Horned Grebe               | American Kestrel        | Red-headed Woodpecker         | Eastern Bluebird             | Hooded Warbler                |
| Double-crested Cormorant   | Merlin                  | Red-bellied Woodpecker        | Veery                        | Wilson's Warbler              |
| American Bittern           | Peregrine Falcon        | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker      | Gray-cheeked Thrush          | Canada Warbler                |
| Least Bittern              | Ring-necked Pheasant    | Downy Woodpecker              | Swainson's Thrush            | Yellow-breasted Chat          |
| Great Blue Heron           | Wild Turkey             | Hairy Woodpecker              | Hermit Thrush                | Summer Tanager                |
| Great Egret                | Northern Bobwhite       | Northern Flicker              | Wood Thrush                  | Scarlet Tanager               |
| Snowy Egret                | King Rail               | Pileated Woodpecker           | American Robin               | Eastern Towhee                |
| Cattle Egret               | Virginia Rail           | Olive-sided Flycatcher        | Gray Catbird                 | American Tree Sparrow         |
| Green Heron                | Sora                    | Eastern Wood-Pewee            | Northern Mockingbird         | Chipping Sparrow              |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron  | Common Moorhen          | Yellow-bellied Flycatcher     | Brown Thrasher               | Clay-colored Sparrow          |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | American Coot           | Acadian Flycatcher            | European Starling            | Field Sparrow                 |
| Glossy Ibis                | Black-bellied Plover    | Willow Flycatcher             | American Pipit               | Vesper Sparrow                |
| Black Vulture              | American Golden-Plover  | Least Flycatcher              | Cedar Waxwing                | Savannah Sparrow              |
| Turkey Vulture             | Semipalmated Plover     | Eastern Phoebe                | Blue-winged Warbler          | Grasshopper Sparrow           |
| Snow Goose                 | Killdeer                | Great Crested Flycatcher      | Golden-winged Warbler        | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow |
| Canada Goose               | American Avocet         | Eastern Kingbird              | Tennessee Warbler            | Fox Sparrow                   |
| Mute Swan                  | Greater Yellowlegs      | White-eyed Vireo              | Orange-crowned Warbler       | Song Sparrow                  |
| Tundra Swan                | Lesser Yellowlegs       | Yellow-throated Vireo         | Nashville Warbler            | Lincoln's Sparrow             |
| Wood Duck                  | Solitary Sandpiper      | Blue-headed Vireo             | Northern Parula              | Swamp Sparrow                 |
| Gadwall                    | Spotted Sandpiper       | Warbling Vireo                | Yellow Warbler               | White-throated Sparrow        |
| American Wigeon            | Ruddy Turnstone         | Philadelphia Vireo            | Chestnut-sided Warbler       | White-crowned Sparrow         |
| American Black Duck        | Sanderling              | Red-eyed Vireo                | Magnolia Warbler             | Dark-eyed Junco               |
| Mallard                    | Semipalmated Sandpiper  | Blue Jay                      | Cape May Warbler             | Northern Cardinal             |
| Blue-winged Teal           | Least Sandpiper         | American Crow                 | Black-throated Blue Warbler  | Rose-breasted Grosbeak        |
| Northern Shoveler          | White-rumped Sandpiper  | Fish Crow                     | Yellow-rumped Warbler        | Blue Grosbeak                 |
| Northern Pintail           | Pectoral Sandpiper      | Horned Lark                   | Black-throated Green Warbler | Indigo Bunting                |
| Green-winged Teal          | Dunlin                  | Purple Martin                 | Blackburnian Warbler         | Dickcissel                    |
| Canvasback                 | Stilt Sandpiper         | Tree Swallow                  | Yellow-throated Warbler      | Bobolink                      |
| Redhead                    | Wilson's Snipe          | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Pine Warbler                 | Red-winged Blackbird          |
| Ring-necked Duck           | American Woodcock       | Bank Swallow                  | Prairie Warbler              | Eastern Meadowlark            |
| Greater Scaup              | Laughing Gull           | Cliff Swallow                 | Palm Warbler                 | Rusty Blackbird               |
| Lesser Scaup               | Bonaparte's Gull        | Barn Swallow                  | Bay-breasted Warbler         | Common Grackle                |
| Bufflehead                 | Ring-billed Gull        | Carolina Chickadee            | Blackpoll Warbler            | Brown-headed Cowbird          |
| Common Goldeneye           | Herring Gull            | Tufted Titmouse               | Cerulean Warbler             | Orchard Oriole                |
| Hooded Merganser           | Great Black-backed Gull | Red-breasted Nuthatch         | Black-and-white Warbler      | Baltimore Oriole              |
| Common Merganser           | Caspian Tern            | White-breasted Nuthatch       | American Redstart            | Purple Finch                  |
| Red-breasted Merganser     | Forster's Tern          | Brown Creeper                 | Prothonotary Warbler         | House Finch                   |
| Ruddy Duck                 | Rock Dove               | Carolina Wren                 | Worm-eating Warbler          | White-winged Crossbill        |
| Osprey                     | Mourning Dove           | House Wren                    | Ovenbird                     | Pine Siskin                   |
| Mississippi Kite           | Black-billed Cuckoo     | Winter Wren                   | Northern Waterthrush         | American Goldfinch            |
| Bald Eagle                 | Yellow-billed Cuckoo    | Sedge Wren                    | Louisiana Waterthrush        | Evening Grosbeak              |
| Northern Harrier           | Eastern Screech-Owl     | Marsh Wren                    | Kentucky Warbler             | House Sparrow                 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk         | Great Horned Owl        | Golden-crowned Kinglet        | Connecticut Warbler          |                               |
| Cooper's Hawk              | Barred Owl              |                               |                              |                               |
| Northern Goshawk           | Common Nighthawk        |                               |                              |                               |
| Red-shouldered Hawk        | Whip-poor-will          |                               |                              |                               |
| Broad-winged Hawk          | Chimney Swift           |                               |                              |                               |

(Annual Lists continues on page 8.)



# SUMMARY OF 2003 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

BY PAUL A. ZUCKER

The Howard County May Count was held on May 10, 2003. The earliest party started at 4:30 in the morning, and the last die-hards did not quit until 11:50 p.m. The weather was mild but featured a downpour at about 10 a.m. Apart from the inconvenience, the rain brought out the birds, which remained active into the early afternoon. The count had a large (but not a record) turnout of 70 participants, who split into 42 parties (the highest number so far). Party-hours on foot (194.2) was an average number for recent counts, way down from the 245 from last year's count. The total number of birds tallied was 16,840. Again, this number was typical compared to the last several years but was down compared to last year.

In most ways this count was rather typical, but it stood out in one respect. **The total species count was 149, the third highest in the last 15 years!** Numbers of individual species were generally

in the expected ranges. There were only seven high counts (Cooper's Hawk, Barred Owl, Horned Lark, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Palm Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow) while last year had 30 highs. The interval of comparison is the past 15 counts including the current one. On the other hand there were low counts for only three species: Killdeer, Kentucky Warbler, and Common Grackle.

The large tally of nine unusual sightings, combined with only one surprising miss, produced the elevated species count. These unusual sightings included two that were new for the count: Red-necked Grebe and Common Moorhen. A third species, the Dark-eyed Junco, has not been counted in the last 15 years, but was seen prior to then when the counts were on the first Saturday in May. The remaining unusual sightings were: Snowy Egret (3 times in past 15), Ring-necked Duck

*(Howard County May Count continues on page 9.)*

## ANNUAL LISTS *(continued from page 7.)*

## 2002 Annual Howard County List

Common Loon	Cooper's Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Connecticut Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-headed	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Mourning Warbler
Horned Grebe	Broad-winged Hawk	Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Common Yellowthroat
Double-crested	Red-tailed Hawk	Red-bellied	Veery	Hooded Warbler
Cormorant	American Kestrel	Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Wilson's Warbler
American Bittern	Merlin	Yellow-bellied	Swainson's Thrush	Canada Warbler
Least Bittern	Peregrine Falcon	Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush	Yellow-breasted Chat
Great Blue Heron	Ring-necked Pheasant	Downy Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Summer Tanager
Great Egret	Wild Turkey	Hairy Woodpecker	American Robin	Scarlet Tanager
Snowy Egret	Northern Bobwhite	Northern Flicker	Gray Catbird	Eastern Towhee
Little Blue Heron	Sora	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	American Tree Sparrow
Cattle Egret	American Coot	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Brown Thrasher	Chipping Sparrow
Green Heron	Black-bellied Plover	Eastern Wood-Pewee	European Starling	Field Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-	Semipalmated Plover	Yellow-bellied	American Pipit	Vesper Sparrow
Heron	Killdeer	Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Savannah Sparrow
Yellow-crowned Night-	Greater Yellowlegs	Acadian Flycatcher	Blue-winged Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Heron	Lesser Yellowlegs	Alder Flycatcher	Golden-winged	Fox Sparrow
Glossy Ibis	Solitary Sandpiper	Willow Flycatcher	Warbler	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	Spotted Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Tennessee Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Upland Sandpiper	Eastern Phoebe	Orange-crowned	Swamp Sparrow
Snow Goose	Semipalmated	Great Crested	Warbler	White-throated
Canada Goose	Sandpiper	Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler	Sparrow
Mute Swan	Least Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Parula	White-crowned
Tundra Swan	White-rumped	White-eyed Vireo	Yellow Warbler	Sparrow
Wood Duck	Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo	Chestnut-sided	Dark-eyed Junco
Gadwall	Pectoral Sandpiper	Blue-headed Vireo	Warbler	Lapland Longspur
Eurasian Wigeon	Dunlin	Warbling Vireo	Magnolia Warbler	Snow Bunting
American Wigeon	Stilt Sandpiper	Philadelphia Vireo	Cape May Warbler	Northern Cardinal
American Black Duck	Wilson's Snipe	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-throated Blue	Rose-breasted
Mallard	American Woodcock	Blue Jay	Warbler	Grosbeak
Blue-winged Teal	Laughing Gull	American Crow	Yellow-rumped	Blue Grosbeak
Northern Shoveler	Bonaparte's Gull	Fish Crow	Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Northern Pintail	Ring-billed Gull	Horned Lark	Black-throated Green	Dickcissel
Green-winged Teal	Herring Gull	Purple Martin	Warbler	Bobolink
Canvasback	Great Black-backed	Tree Swallow	Blackburnian Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Redhead	Gull	Northern Rough-	Yellow-throated	Eastern Meadowlark
Ring-necked Duck	Caspian Tern	winged Swallow	Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Greater Scaup	Forster's Tern	Bank Swallow	Pine Warbler	Common Grackle
Lesser Scaup	Rock Dove	Cliff Swallow	Prairie Warbler	Brown-headed
Surf Scoter	Mourning Dove	Barn Swallow	Palm Warbler	Cowbird
Long-tailed Duck	Black-billed Cuckoo	Carolina Chickadee	Bay-breasted Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Bufflehead	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Tufted Titmouse	Blackpoll Warbler	Baltimore Oriole
Common Goldeneye	Barn Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cerulean Warbler	Purple Finch
Hooded Merganser	Eastern Screech-Owl	White-breasted	Black-and-white	House Finch
Common Merganser	Great Horned Owl	Nuthatch	Warbler	Common Redpoll
Red-breasted	Barred Owl	Brown Creeper	American Redstart	Pine Siskin
Merganser	Long-eared Owl	Carolina Wren	Prothonotary Warbler	American Goldfinch
Ruddy Duck	Common Nighthawk	House Wren	Worm-eating Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Osprey	Whip-poor-will	Winter Wren	Ovenbird	House Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Chimney Swift	Marsh Wren	Northern Waterthrush	
Northern Harrier	Ruby-throated	Golden-crowned	Louisiana Waterthrush	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hummingbird	Kinglet	Kentucky Warbler	



## HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT (continued from page 8.)

(2 times), Whip-poor-will (5 times), Olive-sided Flycatcher (4 times, but third year in a row), Horned Lark (5 times), and Brown Creeper (3 times, but first since 1991). The only notable miss was the Broad-winged Hawk. The recent trend of missing the Northern Bobwhite and the Ring-necked Pheasant has continued for the fourth year in a row (sixth for the pheasant). Also missed was the Mourning Warbler, which has been seen 5 times in the past 15 years.

We thank the Randles for again hosting a great tally-rally (now a cherished tradition). Chuck Stirrat has again been a great help with numerical tabulations and checklist generation. The efforts of all the participants are what make the count what it is. Thanks go to: Andy and Diane Aguilera, Stan Arnold, Randy Beaton, Karan and William Blum, Marty Chestem,

Eileen Clegg, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis and Jane Coskren, Marge and Ralph Cullison, Karen Darcy, Ward Ebert, Darius Ecker, Bill Ellis, Erin and Tracy Eve, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Bill and Gayle Hill, Emy Holdridge, Linda and Lynn Holley, Dave Kubitsky, Charlie Kucera, Michael Leumas, Brigitte Lund, Grazina and Michael McClure, Elayne and Jeff Metter, Sue Neri, Doug and Jeanne Odermatt, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Karla Pearce, Anita Picco, Susan Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, Clyde Robinette, Kurt Schwarz, Susan Setterberg, Jay Sheppard, Jay and Silvia Silverman, Romayne Smith, Bob and Jo Solem, Michael Squatrito, Hank Stanton, Chuck Stirrat, Jon-Paul and Ralph Stokes, August and Eva Sunell, Kate Tufts, June Tveekrem, Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace, Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, and Paul Zucker (compiler).

## HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS—MAY 10, 2003

SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL
Common Loon	2	Chimney Swift	304	Swainson's Thrush	29	Scarlet Tanager	157
Red-necked Grebe	1	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	19	Hermit Thrush	3	Eastern Towhee	188
Double-crested Cormorant	20	Belted Kingfisher	12	Wood Thrush	393	Chipping Sparrow	262
Great Blue Heron	64	Red-bellied Woodpecker	214	American Robin	392	Field Sparrow	94
Snowy Egret	1	Downy Woodpecker	60	Gray Catbird	678	Vesper Sparrow	1
Green Heron	29	Hairy Woodpecker	22	Northern Mockingbird	208	Savannah Sparrow	73
Black Vulture	66	Northern(Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	52	Brown Thrasher	38	Grasshopper Sparrow	43
Turkey Vulture	116	Pileated Woodpecker	37	European Starling	654	Song Sparrow	198
Canada Goose	744	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Cedar Waxwing	126	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Mute Swan	1	Eastern Wood-Pewee	47	Blue-winged Warbler	15	Swamp Sparrow	7
Wood Duck	57	Acadian Flycatcher	91	Tennessee Warbler	2	White-throated Sparrow	156
Mallard	166	Willow Flycatcher	6	Nashville Warbler	4	White-crowned Sparrow	9
Ring-necked Duck	2	Least Flycatcher	1	Northern Parula	173	Dark-eyed Junco	1
Osprey	9	Eastern Phoebe	55	Yellow Warbler	171	Northern Cardinal	794
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	1	Great Crested Flycatcher	62	Chestnut-sided Warbler	48	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	47
Northern Harrier	2	Eastern Kingbird	101	Magnolia Warbler	88	Blue Grosbeak	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	White-eyed Vireo	114	Cape May Warbler	3	Indigo Bunting	200
Cooper's Hawk	7	Blue-headed Vireo	6	Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	183	Bobolink	180
Red-shouldered Hawk	28	Yellow-throated Vireo	29	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	311	Red-winged Blackbird	722
Red-tailed Hawk	26	Warbling Vireo	18	Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	58	Eastern Meadowlark	6
American Kestrel	11	Red-eyed Vireo	438	Blackburnian Warbler	19	Common Grackle	362
Common Moorhen	1	Blue Jay	344	Yellow-throated Warbler	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	218
Killdeer	21	American Crow	459	Pine Warbler	6	Orchard Oriole	42
Greater Yellowlegs	2	Fish Crow	63	Prairie Warbler	35	Baltimore Oriole	139
Lesser Yellowlegs	9	crow species	245	Palm Warbler	8	House Finch	228
Solitary Sandpiper	79	Horned Lark	54	Bay-breasted Warbler	6	American Goldfinch	453
Spotted Sandpiper	55	Purple Martin	20	Blackpoll Warbler	121	House Sparrow	262
Least Sandpiper	19	Tree Swallow	141	Cerulean Warbler	9	<b>TOTAL BIRDS:</b>	<b>16,840</b>
Wilson's Snipe	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	60	Black-&-white Warbler	101	<b>TOTAL SPECIES:</b>	<b>149</b>
American Woodcock	3	Cliff Swallow	39	American Redstart	223		
Ring-billed Gull	3	Barn Swallow	257	Prothonotary Warbler	2	Time Start:	04:30 AM
Herring Gull	1	Carolina Chickadee	268	Worm-eating Warbler	14	Time Stop:	11:50 PM
Rock Dove	418	Tufted Titmouse	320	Ovenbird	269	Hours on Foot:	194.2
Mourning Dove	329	White-breasted Nuthatch	36	Northern Waterthrush	13	Hours by Car:	34.0
Black-billed Cuckoo	5	Brown Creeper	2	Louisiana Waterthrush	32	Miles on Foot:	130.7
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	11	Carolina Wren	111	Kentucky Warbler	25	Miles by Car:	309.4
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	House Wren	116	Common Yellowthroat	363	Hours Feeder Watching:	11.3
Great Horned Owl	6	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	Hooded Warbler	37	Hours Owling	1.0
Barred Owl	17	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	315	Wilson's Warbler	13	Miles Owling	8.0
Common Nighthawk	3	Eastern Bluebird	91	Canada Warbler	29	Total Observers	70
Whip-Poor-Will	1	Veery	57	Yellow-breasted Chat	36	Total Parties	42



**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB**  
*Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*  
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## CONSERVATION COLUMN "INVASIVE PLANTS SERIES"

BY BOB SOLEM

This is the first of a series of articles on plants, and the ones to be featured are those that NOBODY wants: **invasive alien plants in the natural landscape**. An excellent source book from which this column is taken is *Plant Invaders of the Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas* (J. Swearingen, K. Reschelittoff, B. Slattery, S. Zwicker [2002]. National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

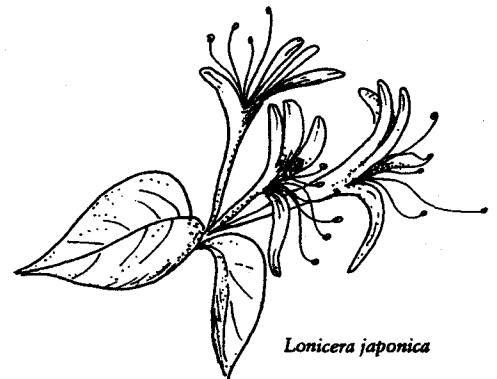
### **Japanese Honeysuckle** *(Lonicera japonica)*

"Japanese Honeysuckle is a perennial vine that was introduced from eastern Asia during the 1800's as an ornamental, for erosion control and for wildlife cover and food. Japanese Honeysuckle is extremely wide-spread, occurring in at least 38 states from California across southern and mid-western states to New England

and the Great Lakes region. It escaped cultivation to invade cultivated and natural areas where it grows vigorously, smothering most vegetation in its path, and girdles shrubs and young trees as it twines up to reach greater light. Its ever-green nature gives it an additional advantage, allowing it to grow when most other plants are dormant. Japanese Honeysuckle is a vigorous bloomer and produces abundant seed dispersed by birds.

*"Prevention and Control:* Small populations can be controlled by hand removal of trailing vines. Over large areas, mowing twice a year can slow vegetative spread, however due to resprouting, stem density may increase. Japanese Honeysuckle can be treated with glyphosate herbicide. Reapplication may be necessary."

You can pull up Japanese Honeysuckle any time of the year since it spreads vegetatively more than by seed in this area; when you pull off the vines, you are depriving the plant of energy needed for growth. But, as it says above, you have to be persistent.



*Lonicera japonica*