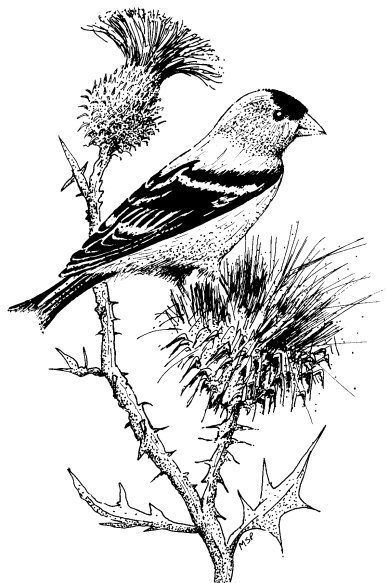


The Goldfinch

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



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The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year.

Copy deadline for the January/February 2007 issue is November 25, 2006.

Amanda Witt, *Editor*
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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders.

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Please visit the Club's website at www.howardbirds.org

SUMMER BIRD RECORDS JUNE 1 TO JULY 31, 2006

BY JOANNE SOLEM

The highlight of the season was an adult Least Tern which, if accepted by the MD/DCRC, would be a new county record.

Field work during this fifth year of the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas produced other fine sightings including Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Common Moorhen, Red-headed Woodpecker, Common Raven, and Summer Tanager.

A pair of **American Wigeons** continued at Centennial (6/7) and a female **Redhead** lingered there until 6/3 (**SLg**).

A hen **Wild Turkey** with seven poults was a pleasant surprise along the Patuxent River near Md 97 on 6/17 (**B&GHi**). A **Northern Bobwhite**, first located 5/25, continued calling until 7/15 at West Friendship—an excellent atlas addition (**JCu**). **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported twice: two flying over Duvall Rd 7/6 (**B&GHi,KT**) and one at Lake Kittamaquundi 7/23 (**SN**). One or two **Great Egrets** could be seen through the period at Lake Elkhorn (**SN**); one put in an appearance 7/22 at Alpha Ridge landfill (**RC**). The adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Elkhorn was last reported 6/8 (**JCu**).

An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was noted 7/14 at newly opened Meadowbrook Park (**SBg**).

An **Osprey** was present 6/30 at a Turf Valley pond (**RC**). An immature **Bald Eagle** was spotted 6/4 at Warfield's Pond Park (**K&BBI,B&GHi**). The most exciting raptor news was the juvenile **Broad-winged Hawk** seen just east of Marriottsville Rd along the Patapsco River 7/29 (**RR**). Sadly, this species has declined so dramatically that this bird is the first (and only) county confirmation during the current atlas. Two **American Kestrels** were present at the landfill 7/8 and 7/22 (**RC**).

The **Common Moorhen** at Woodstock, first seen 5/27, was last reported 6/4 (**RC**). By 7/22, 31 **Killdeer** were counted at the landfill (**RC**). An adult and a downy chick were watched near a building at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory 7/12 (**GW**). A **Solitary Sandpiper** 7/4 at Western Regional Park set a new fall arrival date (**B&GHi**). The **Spotted Sandpiper** at Browns Bridge 6/4 tied the second latest spring departure (**JS**). Three on 7/15 at the landfill were the earliest-ever fall records (**RC**). (These sightings

(**RECORDS** Continues on page 2)

(*RECORDS Continued from page 1*)

illustrate the narrow window that often exists between spring and fall shorebird migration.) Two **Least Sandpipers** appeared at Western 7/22, with the number rising to five by 7/31 (**B&GHi**).

An adult **Least Tern** fishing at the Johns Hopkins APL pond the morning of 7/10 stayed only a short time (nearby mowers may have disturbed it) (**KH**). If accepted, this would be a new county record. Although this species must currently be reviewed by the MD/DCRC when seen west of the Coastal Plain, more county sightings are to be expected. Atlas field work established their consistent summer presence at the Halthorpe ponds not far east of the Patapsco River and at the Oxbow Preserve near the southern boundary of the county. If you see a Least Tern in Howard County, please take careful notes and alert local birders.

Michele Wright's experience in confirming a **Belted Kingfisher** in her Ellicott City Southwest block shows that atlasers could be able detectives. At David Force Park in late May, a hole in the riverbank about two feet from the top appeared to be the correct size and shape for a kingfisher with faint, but definite, "tracks" at the bottom. On 7/4, she tested the length of the tunnel by holding a 2½ foot stick and extending her arm into the hole. This probe of approximately 5½ feet did not reach the end of the upward-sloping tunnel (they can extend more than 10 feet, although 3 to 6 is most common). Maggots around the entrance were a good clue that the nest site had been used recently. All signs pointed to a valid nesting.

Red-headed Woodpeckers in this county are few and far between during migration, and even more scarce during the breeding season. One adult was spotted near the entrance to Waterford Farm 6/5 (**MBr**). The site was checked at least twice a week until well into August. The sole time a pair was observed was 7/4; 7/28 was the last time an adult was seen (**B&GHi**). No successful breeding could be established.

Summer brought one **Common Raven** sighting to add to the May bonanza. Two (possibly three) birds were reported soaring over I-70 between Md 97 and Md 94 on 6/18 (**MHf**). **Horned Larks** are still breeding in parts of the county, although their nests are not easy to locate. A Dorsey Mill nest contained three nestlings on 6/4 (**B&GHi, K&BBl**). A nest at the landfill was tracked from 6/10 when it contained four eggs to an empty nest on 6/24, after the young presumably had fledged (**RC**). Two **Purple Martins** were spotted at Alpha Ridge Park 6/1, an unusual location (**KS**).

Most of the well-established **Cliff Swallow** colonies are known. The great majority are on dams or under large bridges over rivers and reservoirs; a few are under major highway bridges. A small outlier colony was verified in July on a farm at the junction of Triadelphia Rd and Triadelphia Mill Rd (**WE**). Five or six nests were present in an open building that had once served as a corn crib. The birds nested in 2006 as they have, intermittently, for the last 20 years according to the owners. This location is approximately one-half mile west of Big Branch where, during a previ-

ous atlas, there had been a small colony beneath the bridge.

Two **Veeries** were heard at MPEA 6/15, a known breeding location (**BHb**). One was also heard 6/10 and 6/17 at Woodstock along the Patapsco River (**RC**). Nest building **Cedar Waxwings** were watched at Thunder Hill, E. Columbia 6/12 (**KLz**).

A **Northern Parula** on a nest was reported at Union Chapel Rd 6/4 (**JSh**). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** at the end of Harding Rd (adjacent to Duckett Reservoir) 6/7 established a new spring departure date (**JS**). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was present at Woodstock 6/4 and 6/17 (**RC**). Five **Kentucky Warblers** were counted at MPEA 6/15—a fine number for this increasingly scarce nester (**BHb**). Deer control may be allowing vegetative regeneration benefiting this and other understory species.

One of the best finds of this atlas season was a singing male **Summer Tanager** actively defending territory 7/1 and 7/8 (**POs**). The site, on private property, was in the small section of Coastal Plain east of I-95 which would be the most logical nesting location for this species, here at the edge of its breeding range. At least 15 **Scarlet Tanagers** were counted 6/15 at MPEA (**BHb**).

Eleven **Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed at the landfill 7/22 (**RC**). The good news for this species is they were noted at numerous farms in western Howard County this season; the bad news is the number of farms continues to dwindle (**MW**).

(*RECORDS Continued on page 3*)

(*RECORDS Continued from page 2*)

Four **Bobolinks** at the landfill 6/3 were the last spring migrants (**RC**). Also at the landfill, three **Eastern Meadowlarks** 6/3 and seven on 7/29 were good news for this increasingly scarce meadow species (**RC**). A fledgling meadowlark along Old Frederick Rd west of Morgan Station Rd 7/8 was a nice atlas confirmation (**BO**). Unfortunately, a **Brown-headed Cowbird** fledgling was being fed by a **Chipping Sparrow** 6/17 in Oakland Mills (**JMcK**).

At least one **Baltimore Oriole** fledgling was seen at Ilchester Elementary School 7/7-9 (**KLz**). An **Orchard Oriole** adult was with a fledged young along Janney Rd on 7/15 (**WEb**) and at West Friendship 7/12 (**LC**).

MD/DCRC – Maryland/DC Records Committee

MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Observers: **SBg** – Scott Berglund, **BBl** – Bill Blum, **KBl** – Karan Blum, **MBr** – Marilyn Brinkley, **JBy** – Joseph Byrnes, **LC** – Lisa Colangelo, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **RC** – Ralph Cullison III, **WE** – Wes Earp, **WEb** – Ward Ebert, **MHf** – Matt Hafner, **KH** – Kevin Hefferman, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **GHi** – Gayle Hill, **BHb** – Bill Hubick, **SLg** – Shashi Lengade, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **JMcK** – John McKitterick, **SN** – Sue Neri, **POs** – Peter Osen-ton, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **RR** – Robert Ringler, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **JS** – Jo Solem, **KT** – Kate Tufts, **GW** – Ginny Walker, **MW** – Mark Wallace.

FIRE

BY KURT SCHWARZ

The ancient Greeks believed that matter was composed of four elements: water, fire, earth, and air. Last month, I discussed the topic of water. This month, I would like to relate a bit about fire.

Those of us who grew up in the 1960s, and earlier, were raised on Smokey the Bear, and the slogan “Only you can prevent forest fires.” This year, we are reminded of the danger of forest fires, as this fall has set a new record for wild fires in the northwest states, and a major fire rages outside Los Angeles as I write this.

Many of us know, however, that fire is not universally bad for the environment. In fact, the fire suppression exemplified by Smokey the Bear, may have exacerbated the problem. Periodic fires can help to clear accumulated dead wood and litter, that otherwise can build up to provide fuel for a genuine wild fire.

Fire is also a tool to maintain field-like habitats. Lightning-sparked fires once upon a time helped maintain meadow-type habitats. And this technique has been used to suppress woody vegetation in refuges near home, such as Patuxent Research Refuge. Furthermore, the endangered Kirtland’s Warbler depends on Jack Pine stands of a certain, young age. A fire regime can maintain such habitat, by burning out a stand that is too old, and allowing it to regrow.

2006 SEED SALE

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The Howard County Bird Club’s annual seed sale is on **Saturday, November 4**. The sale will again take place at **The Wildlife Authority** at 10281 Baltimore National Pike (Route 40) in Ellicott City (2 blocks west of Centennial Lane). Like last year, the hours for picking up your seed are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. As usual, the proceeds support habitat preservation and conservation. Look for a flier in the mail in early October with an order form and seed prices. Forms need to be returned by October 27th. You will also be able to download an order form from the club website (www.howardbirds.org). Volunteers are needed to help load the seed. If you can help load, please check the order form and we will contact you.

I would like to extend special thanks to **Eileen Clegg** who has run the seed sale flawlessly for many years. I would also like to thank **Sherry Tomlinson** who is taking over running the sale this year. Finally, our thanks to **Cathy Franklin** of the Wildlife Authority for again hosting the seed sale. The Wildlife Authority has a great selection of bird seed, feeders, houses, books, and other wildlife supplies. Be sure to ask for your coupon for 15% off any one item (except binoculars) you purchase in the store on seed sale day. Any additional items purchased by bird club members will get the 10% discount the Wildlife Authority always extends to the club.

CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Club meetings are held at:

**Howard County Recreation & Parks
Headquarters
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046**

If schools are closed for the day or close early due to snow and/or ice, all indoor facilities are closed for the day. You can check on the status of programs and facilities by calling the recorded program status line at 410-313-4451.

Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731.

Thursday, November 9, 2006 **“From Crow Family Soap Operas to Online Biodiversity,”** by Dr. Cynthia Sims Parr. With an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a masters and doctorate in biology from the University of Michigan, Cyndi has conducted research on birds in California, Panama, Michigan and South Korea. She lives in Columbia and currently conducts interdisciplinary research at UMBC and UM College Park.

Thursday, December 14, 2006 **“Capturing Bird Images in Kenya,”** by Dr. Stephen Kent. Steve is Chief Scientist-Information Security at a high-tech R & D firm in Cambridge, MA. Nature photography has been his hobby for over 30 years; birds became a special interest ten years ago to facilitate vacation planning with his wife, the birder of the family.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB FALL TRIPS

BY BONNIE OTT

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 howard-birds.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, bonnieott@verizon.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.

ALPHA RIDGE PARK AND LANDFILL

Nov. 4, Sat., 8:00 a.m. (half day)
Meet at Alpha Ridge Park, 1/2 mile west of Marriottsville Rd. on Md 99.


Moderate to difficult walking through the fields to check ponds and edges looking for lingering sparrows and early winter arrivals. Rarities are always a possibility at the landfill. Facilities at the park.
Leader-Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181.

CENTENNIAL PARK

 Nov. 5, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hrs). *Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane.*

Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and lake host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers; early waterfowl and lingering migrants likely. Facilities available.
Leader-Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.

CENTENNIAL PARK

 Nov 12, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hrs) *Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane. See Nov. 5 trip description. Leaders - Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 and Karen Darcy 410-552-9342.*


HOWARD WATERFOWL SEARCH

Nov. 18, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Meet in the Broken Land Parkway lot at Lake Elkhorn.
Plan to visit the Columbia lakes searching for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons and other waterfowl. Easy walking involved. Be prepared to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available at some locations.
Leader-Stan Arnold 410-768-0155


(**FIELD TRIPS** Continued on page 5)

(*FIELD TRIPS Continued from page 4*)

CENTENNIAL PARK

 Nov. 19, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hrs). Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane. See Nov. 5 trip description. Leader- TBD

CENTENNIAL PARK

 Nov. 26, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hrs). Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane. See Nov. 5 trip description. Leader-Richard Orr 410-730-7290

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Dec. 2, Saturday, (all day trip). Call Stan to reserve a spot and get details.

Plan to stop at the Choptank River bridge for ducks--and coffee. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly! Facilities at some locations.

Leader-Stan Arnold 410-768-0155.


START YOUR 2007 LIST

Jan. 1, 2007, Mon., (8:00-11:00 a.m.)

Meet at Centennial Park boat ramp; South entrance on Md 108.

Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year when every bird is new! Facilities available.

Leader-Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361. Call for more info.

 = Great for beginning birders

2007 MOS SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS

BY TOM STRIKWERDA

MOS is accepting applications from Maryland teachers, park rangers, and youth leaders for scholarships to attend summer ecology and ornithology workshops in 2007 conducted by the Audubon Society in Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Scholarships pay tuition, room and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ecology, ornithology, conservation, and natural history. MOS awards about ten scholarships every year, with a value of \$1,000 - \$1,200 each. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient. Specific dates for camps are not known at this time but are generally the same from year to year. For more information about how to apply and workshop descriptions, please see www.mdbirds.org (the MOS website), select "education" and then "scholarships," or contact the scholarship chairperson (see below). Websites for the Audubon organizations provide additional information; however, not all workshops listed are approved for the MOS Scholarship program. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must work with young peo-

ple. Typical applicants are teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, students, and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers.

We ask all MOS members to please spread the word about this valuable learning experience for our Maryland teachers. Past scholarship winners have all found the experience an enjoyable, fascinating experience. For further information, please contact our chapter president, Kevin Heffernan or me, Tom Strikwerda, at 301-942-2841; tstrik@verizon.net; 9806 Culver Ct, Kensington, MD 20895. Applications for the 2007 workshops are due by January 31, 2007. Winners are notified in early March.

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.

November 16, Thursday

(Note: This is the **third** Thursday)

Ward Ebert
7366 Hallmark Rd.
Clarksville, Md. 21029
(301) 490-5807

December: No board meeting

Holiday Shopping?

When doing your holiday shopping, why not consider a few purchases from the club's bookstore? If you are searching for a particular title, contact **Ann Marie Raterman** (301-847-1958) and ask if she can get you that perfect item.

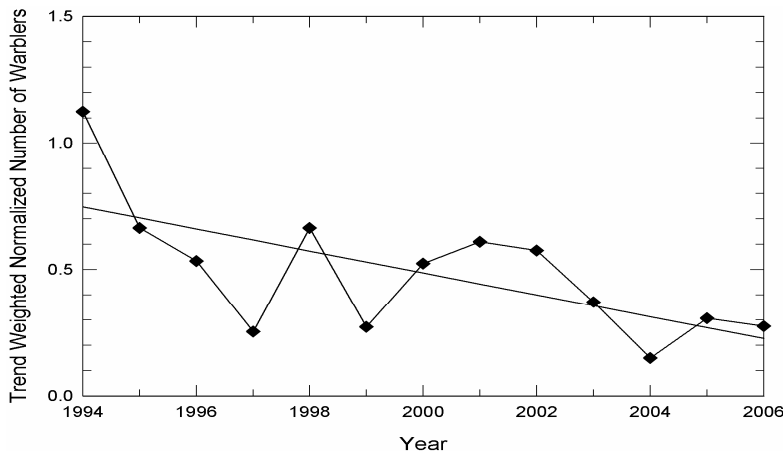
SUMMARY OF THE 2006 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT

BY MIKE MCCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

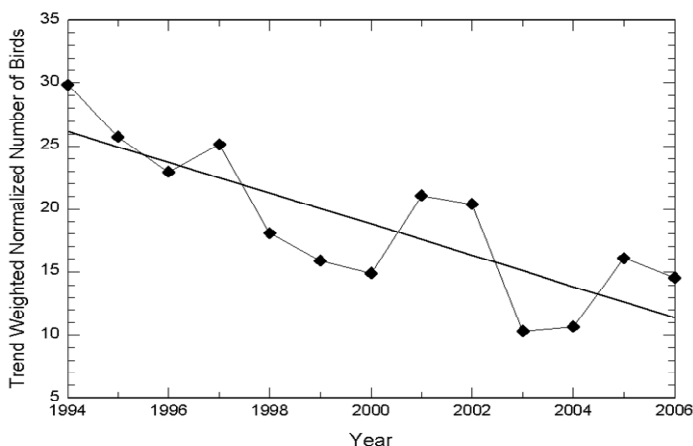
The thirteenth annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 16, 2006. All field counters agreed it was a very slow day of birding; however, a total of 125 species was observed making this Fall Count average. Comparison with totals for the prior 12 years are as follows: high, 136 on 9/19/1998; low 108 on 9/18/2004; average, 125 species.

The number of participants and parties (50 and 38) was down from last year's (58 and 41). The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the tally sheet. The participants provided the average of 186 hours of field counting time. The mileage was 351 compared to the average of 379 miles. The total of individual birds tallied to 17,014 which is near the average. Comparisons to prior years: high, 26,651 on 9/17/1994; low, 9,293 on 9/18/2004; average, 17,685 birds. Finally, there were 21 warbler species identified (high, 30; low, 13; average, 25 species) with 322 individual warblers sighted (average of 464).

During the last ten years (includes 2006) the Fall Count has been adversely affected by the weather on seven occasions (70% of the time). These weather



lem looms. It exists on all of the annual counts, winter, spring and fall as well as throughout the year. There are not the numbers of birds to be seen. This problem is reflected in the data from the 13 years of Fall Counts as shown on the graphics for the number of individual birds and the number of warblers observed countywide. In fact, during the 13 years of the Fall Count, the numbers of individual birds has dropped to less than half of what was seen in the early years.



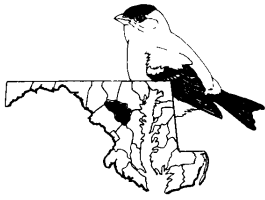
events ranged from severe drought, to extensive rainfall, to unseasonably hot and humid conditions, to comfortable temperature and humidity accompanied by high winds for the day. Saturday's temperature started in the mid 60s at 6:00 a.m. under full cloud cover, rising to 70 degrees in late afternoon as the full cloud cover broke to 30% around 2:30 p.m. The humidity was tolerable (dew point: 61 degrees at 6:00 a.m. and increasing to 64 degrees by afternoon). Winds were light during the day and there was a period of light rain in the late morning. In spite of the weather's impact on the counts, an even larger prob-

The accompanying table presents the count data. There were 19 species for which only one bird was sighted countywide and 11 species for which only two birds were sighted countywide. Species showing moderately high numbers are Canada Goose, 1,226; Mourning Dove, 1,293; Blue Jay, 878; American Robin, 840; European Starling, 1,901; Northern Cardinal 995; and American Goldfinch, 557. New to Fall Count is the Black Tern (1 bird) sighted in Area 7.

Elaine & Stan Arnold, **Karan & Bill Blum (Area 4)**, Joe Byrnes, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis Coskren, **Jeff Culler (Area 2)**, Ralph Cullison III, **Karen Darcy (Area 3 Co-coordinator)**, Susan & Wes Earp, Ward Ebert, Tom Feild, Jeffrey A. Friedhoffer, **Kevin Heffernan, (Area 3 Co-coordinator)**, Emy Holdridge, Patsy Kennan, Michael Kerwin, Shashi Lengade, Mike Leumas, Felicia Lovelett, Bob & Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina & **Mike McClure (County Co-coordinator)**, John McKitterick, Elayne & Jeff Metter, Barry Miller, Tom Miller, Carol Newman, **Bonnie Ott (Area 6)**, Karla Pearce, Ron & Susan Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5)**, Romaine Smith, Bob & Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator)**, Ralph Stokes, **Eva Sunell (Area 7)**, June Tveekrem, **Mark Wallace (Area 1)**, Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright. **Lastly a very special thanks to Don and Martha Waugh who hosted the evening tally.**

HOWARD CO. FALL BIRD COUNT - September 16, 2006

Species / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	Species / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals				
Canada Goose	218	8	9	234	180	475	102	1,226	Eastern Bluebird	38	13	25	41	16	7	2	142				
Mute Swan								1	Veery			2		2			4				
Wood Duck	26	1	3	1		2		33	Wood Thrush	3	10	7	5	16	2	6	49				
American Wigeon				3				3	American Robin	169	60	117	36	269	104	85	840				
Mallard	12	5	12	29	50	11	105	224	Gray Catbird	64	32	99	102	111	36	103	547				
Double-crested Cormorant				1			1	2	Northern Mockingbird	23	25	47	19	24	29	71	238				
Great Blue Heron	1	5	8	4	7	4	11	40	Brown Thrasher	10		9	2	1	13	3	38				
Great Egret	2	1						4	European Starling	129	1,332	194	527	470	119	740	3,511				
Green Heron	2		1	7		3	4	17	Cedar Waxwing	70	10	53	1	2	16	25	177				
Black-crowned Night-Heron					1			1	Golden-winged Warbler					1			1				
Black Vulture	25	1	32	13	1	10	12	94	Tennessee Warbler		2						2				
Turkey Vulture	45	9	38	22	2	11	21	148	Nashville Warbler		1					1	2				
Osprey				6		3		9	Northern Parula			3		2		2	7				
Bald Eagle [ad/m/unk]	1			1	1	1	1	4	Yellow Warbler				1				1				
Northern Harrier	1			1		1		3	Chestnut-sided Warbler			1	3	2		2	8				
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2		2	13		4	1	22	Magnolia Warbler	3	1	5	5	9	1	4	28				
Cooper's Hawk	5	2	3	8	1	7	4	30	Blk.-throtd. Blue Warbler		1	2	2	5	1		11				
Accipiter species		1	1	1				4	Blk.-throtd. Green Warbler	1		2	2	6			11				
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	2	11	10	2	7	11	54	Yellow-throated Warbler	1							1				
Broad-winged Hawk			3	54		10	2	69	Pine Warbler					1		5	6				
Red-tailed Hawk	5	3	2	3	1	3	5	22	Palm Warbler			1					1				
Golden Eagle						1		1	Bay-breasted Warbler				1				1				
American Kestrel	2	2	8		1	1		14	Black-&-white Warbler	4	3	6	8	7	2	12	42				
Killdeer		2		12		8	4	26	American Redstart	5	1	10	7	8	6	10	47				
Spotted Sandpiper					1			1	Worm-eating Warbler	1		1			1		3				
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2							2	Ovenbird				1		1	1	3				
Least Sandpiper	8		1	4				13	Northern Waterthrush	2							3				
Pectoral Sandpiper	3							3	Kentucky Warbler	1						1	2				
Wilson's Snipe	1							1	Common Yellowthroat	25	2	38	7	17	3	11	103				
Ring-billed Gull						2	6	8	Wilson's Warbler			2		1			3				
Herring Gull							1	1	warblers species			14	4			6	36				
gull species						1	2	3	Scarlet Tanager	1		7			2	6	16				
Caspian Tern	1				2			3	Eastern Towhee	13	2	17	1	17	4	13	67				
Black Tern							1	1	Chipping Sparrow	10	1	6	9	3	29	1	59				
Rock Pigeon	19	10	62	209	107	118	13	538	Field Sparrow	5		20		4			29				
Mourning Dove	162	53	126	293	467	41	151	1,293	Savannah Sparrow	3		8					11				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4			1		1	1	7	Grasshopper Sparrow	1							1				
Eastern Screech-Owl			1		1	1		3	Song Sparrow	21	7	27	36	14	13	17	135				
Great Horned Owl	1							1	sparrows species				8				8				
Barred Owl					2			2	Dark-eyed Junco	1							1				
Common Nighthawk	4		8	4		5		21	Northern Cardinal	63	34	168	133	167	42	388	995				
Chimney Swift	6	21	16	28	2	21	66	160	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5	3	1			1	6	16				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	3	11	11	1	3	7	37	Blue Grosbeak			33		6		1	40				
Belted Kingfisher	4	1	8	5	2	1	7	28	Indigo Bunting	105		33	8	9	1	1	157				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	35	11	32	32	43	18	43	214	Bobolink				3				3				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker						1	1	2	Red-winged Blackbird	8	7	3			24	2	44				
Downy Woodpecker	18	9	22	18	36	17	38	158	Eastern Meadowlark	6		6					12				
Hairy Woodpecker	2	1	4	4	3	5	3	22	Common Grackle			202		5	6	5	218				
Northern (Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	10	7	45	10	8	20	12	112	Brown-headed Cowbird	6	1		3		1	18	29				
Pileated Woodpecker	1	4	6	1	3	9	5	29	blackbird species						95		95				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	17	4	23	7	10	1	12	74	Baltimore Oriole		1	1					2				
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2							2	Purple Finch					2			2				
Acadian Flycatcher	1		2	1	2			6	House Finch		4	19	82	21	68	55	249				
Empidonax species	8	1	13		7	1	1	31	American Goldfinch	69	34	127	102	66	63	96	557				
Eastern Phoebe	10	8	24	23	7	6	15	93	House Sparrow	26	9	88	59	23	16	246	467				
Great Crested Flycatcher	1				1		3	5	Area Total Birds:	1,855	2,005	2,647	2,725	2,771	1,843	3,168	17,014				
Eastern Kingbird	2				1	1		4	Area Total Species:	86	57	81	72	74	76	79	425				
White-eyed Vireo	5	1	2	1	7	1		17	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals				
Yellow-throated Vireo			1		1			2	Supplemental Data												
Blue-headed Vireo						1		1	Time Start:	6:45 a	7:00 a	6:45 a	7:00 a	5:00 a	5:45 a	6:30 a	5:00 a				
Red-eyed Vireo	4		10	5	10	10	14	53	Time Stop:	8:00 p	4:30 p	5:06 p	5:22 p	3:40 p	5:00 p	3:30 p	8:00 p				
Blue Jay	76	69	178	137	141	110	167	878	Hours on Foot:	27.5	9.0	32.7	21.3	26.2	14.3	25.0	156.0				
American Crow	24	59	92	35	50	44	59	363	Hours by Car:	1.0	3.5	1.7	.8	1.8	2.8	7.5	19.1				
Fish Crow	2		1	1	2		1	7	Miles on Foot:	16.0	6.0	27.6	10.1	25.0	16.5	28.4	129.6				
crows species	14	8	100	64	14	18	19	237	Miles by Car:	8.0	35.7	15.7	14.7	44.0	23.0	80.0	221.1				
Horned Lark	3		7					10	Hours Feeder Watching:	.0	.0	.0	.0	2.0	1.0	.0	3.0				
Purple Martin						1		1	Hours Stationary:	4.8	.0	.0	7.9	.0	2.0	.0	14.7				
Tree Swallow	20	13	36	13		3		85	Hours "Owling":	1.0	.0	.0	.0	1.3	1.0	.0	3.3				
Barn Swallow	1		2					3	Miles "Owling":	.5	.0	.0	.0	4.0	.0	.0	4.5				
Carolina Chickadee	30	29	95	68	80	42	106	450	Total Observers in Area:	5	5	9	9	7	7	9	50				
Tufted Titmouse	25	14	50	41	62	24	45	261	Total Parties in Area:	4	3	7	8	6	4	6	38				
White-breasted Nuthatch	19	13	37	18	29	11	26	153	Total Party-Hours (Reg.):	28.5	12.5	34.4	22.1	28.0	17.1	32.5	175.1				
Carolina Wren	44	27	87	49	85	33	94	419	Total Party-Hours (Feeder):					2.0	1.0		3.0				
House Wren	14	3	6	2	12	6	7	50	Total Party-Hours (Stationary):	4.8				7.9	2.0		14.7				
Marsh Wren							1	1	Total Party-Hours (Owling):	1.0				1.3	1.0		3.3				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1							1	Total Party-Hours:	34.3	12.5	34.4	30.0	31.3	21.1	32.5	196.1				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher					6	2		8	Total Party-Miles:	24.5	41.7	43.3	24.8	73.0	39.5	108.4	355.2				
Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals				



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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Columbia, MD 21044

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Hawk Watch Site Opens

NEW HAWK WATCH SITE FORMALLY OPENS

BY KURT SCHWARZ

The Howard County Bird Club inaugurated the official Howard County Hawk Watch Site at Meadowbrook Park at 9:30 a.m. on September 23. The site was manned from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A total of 19 persons participated. Some interesting species were found prior to the official opening of the Hawk Watch, the highlights being an Orange-crowned Warbler and a few Bobolinks.

Southerly winds and intermittent light rain, alas, resulted in a very slow day. Arguably, we had maybe five genuine migrants for the

day: one Accipiter species, three Ospreys, and one American Kestrel. Broad-winged Hawks were a no show. The one Cooper's Hawk, male and female Red-shouldered Hawks, and sole Red-tailed Hawk were residents. The Cooper's put on quite a show right over our heads at one point. Vultures kept our eyes on the sky, with both Black (26) and Turkey Vultures (20) noted. The most abundant migrant, however, was Blue Jay, with a total of 47. A total of 39 species was tallied for the entire day.

The Hawk Watch Site provides an

awesome view of the sky, with an almost a 360 degree view. The view to the north is unblocked. And it sits due south from Bonnie Ott's house, so all the rarities that appear there will surely subsequently turn up at Meadowbrook.

If you park by the ball fields, the site is at the highest part of the park, behind the baseball diamond in the southwest corner. There is a bench and three large rocks there. An interpretive sign will be added later. So, from September through November, on any partly cloudy day with northerly winds, check it out!