

# HOWARD COUNTY



ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

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## THE ORGANIZATION

The Howard County Chapter is the most recently organized chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. The MOS was organized in 1945 and its primary purpose was to promote the study and enjoyment of the birds of Maryland. Its membership has grown steadily and so have the goals and purposes. The MOS still emphasizes the pleasures and importance of bird study but also recognizes the continuing need to preserve natural areas from encroachment, to educate the public in conversation, and to provide a means of accomplishing these goals.

The work is carried out by local chapters throughout the State and all participate in the Statewide activities which include bird counts and surveys, a sanctuary program, scholarships, and an annual convention.

## BIRD NOTES

Each month we will have in this space a collection of bird sightings and observations. This is your column and we are anxious to have lots of information to pass on to other birders. Please call Shirley Hobbs at (66) 442-2385 and give her any sightings you have seen--if you are in doubt about identification, Shirley may be able to help you. Take careful note of special markings, colors, size, actions, etc. so that the two of you can work out a positive identification.

Just for a start--all of us who are familiar with Wilde Lake in Columbia consider the 80 odd Mallards as old friends but now and then there is a visitor, maybe just for a few hours. Recently we spotted a female Bufflehead and one cold Saturday morning a beautiful male Goldeneye seemed to enjoy the lake waters as he stayed around almost all day.

Many of you have been reporting the early arrival of Evening Grosbeaks at your feeders--one sighting as early as October 28.

## C H R I S T M A S     C O U N T

"You count birds for Christmas? You must be crazy!"

"More or less" to the first question.

"Of course! Ain't it fun?" to the second.

Actually to the National Audubon Society who has sponsored these counts since 1900, its a serious business. They are now done all over North America and Hawaii. Last year there were 983 counts including 19 in Maryland. We simply try to find how many of what is within a 7½ mile radius on a given day sometime during a two-week holiday period. You can help by going out with a field party, or if you do not want to go out, by counting around your yard feeders or giving permission for a party to look around your place.

One of these counts includes a generous portion of Howard County (from Glenelg on the North to Rocky Gorge Reservoir on the East to about a mile upstream from the Triadelphia Reservoir on the West) and the compiler will be at our meeting on December 14 to answer questions and to find how many can help. The day of the count is Saturday, December 23 and the National Audubon Society asks \$1.00 from each participant to help with printing and editing expenses of the official reports.

The nearest area count to the one mentioned above is probably Catoclin which is done by the Frederick County Chapter and it could use extra help. We will have information about most of the other Maryland counts at the December 14 meeting. See you there or call David Holmes at 730-7083 (evenings).

## O F F I C E R S

The following people are the organizers of the new Howard County Chapter. They are holding the offices listed for an interim period until a general election can be held in January. They invite all who are interested in birds and the environment to join. They want to hear from you--suggestions for programs, field trips, projects, junior activities, etc.

Nan Rhineland	286-2427	President
Bob Herndon	730-0942	Vice-President
		Field Trips
Peggy Hood	730-9251	Secretary
David Holmes	730-7083	Treasurer
John Healy	465-5737	Trustee
		Conservation
Dee Van Velzen	531-6494	Bookstore
Donna Herbst	286-3808	Membership
Ted Van Velzen	531-6494	Program
Erwin Klaas	301-730-7821	Junior Activities
Shirley Hobbs	66-442-2385	Bird Notes Contact
Mary Healy	465-5737	Field Trip Telephone Contact
Martha Chestem	730-1527	Newsletter
		Publicity

## PROGRAM

December 14	Chandler S. Robbins	Winter Birds of Howard County
January 11	Jerry R. Longcore	Avian Architects
February 8	Dr. Erwin Klaas	Milpas, Motmots and Mayas
March 8	Dr. Dixie Lee Ray Atomic Energy Commission	On the Environment
April 12	David Holmes	African Adventure

## FIELD TRIPS

December 16 (Saturday) Sandy Point and Kent Island for winter residents, snow buntings, swans and ducks.  
Leader: David Holmes

January ~~20~~ (Saturday) Woodcock area walk.  
Leader: Al Geis

*Jan*  
February 14 ~~(Wednesday)~~ *Sunday* Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware.  
*Jan. 14 other* All day trip. Take lunch. Snow date: ~~Feb. 21.~~ *Feb. 21.*  
*snow date 2/7/30* *Bern*  
Leaders: Nan Rhineland and Bob Herndon

The meeting time and place for all trips: Oakland Mills Parking lot--<sup>7:30</sup> 7 a.m.  
For information on all trips, please contact Mary Healy at 465-5737.

## FIELD TRIP POINTERS

Some of you may be going on field trips for the first time and may have questions concerning what to do, take, wear, etc. The following are guides and hints that should help you to get the most enjoyment and information from the outings:

1. Clothing and shoes suitable for the weather. Its well to find out from the leader in advance if rubber boots might be advisable for marshes and wet areas.
2. One should have binoculars, field guide, small notebook.
3. Dogs should be left at home.
4. Report to the leader upon arrival at the designated meeting point. Be on time.
5. Let the leader lead the way. NEVER walk in front of the leader. Avoid abrupt movements and loud noises.

