



HOWARD

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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P I C N I C T I M E

The June program will be a picnic at the Rhinelanders. This will be a family night beginning at 6 p.m. Please bring everyone, a picnic supper and swimsuits. The evening's entertainment will be a showing of slides with emphasis on birds but flowers and other nature subjects too! If you have any slides, particularly those taken on field trips, bring them along.

Directions to the Rhinelander's home were given in last month's newsletter but are repeated here to be sure everyone has them. From our regular meeting place at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot, take Cedar Lane to Harper's Farm Road, turn left to Route 108 and right about 50 yards to Homewood Road and here a sharp left. Travel Homewood Rd. straight through the intersection on Folly Quarter (Shepherd Lane will be to the left). The Rhinelander's lane is the first dirt road on the left after the intersection. There will be signs out that evening to assist guests. If there are any questions about the picnic, program, or directions, please call 286-2427.

S U M M E R F I E L D T R I P S

JUNE 15, SATURDAY: A special trip to a beautiful spot in Maryland. Jay Sheppard will be the leader on this trip to Elliott Island Marsh to look for the elusive black rails. We will get an early start so that we might have time to look for Henslow's sparrows in the area. A good trip to add a species or two to the life lists. Black rails must be on a late night schedule so the trip will begin from Swansfield Elementary School parking lot at 3:30 p.m. and will end quite late, perhaps past midnight. Bring a supper.

JULY 20, SATURDAY: A repeat of a special event! A four mile hike along (and wading in) the Middle Patuxent River from Route 32 to Route 108. Last July the hike lasted five hours and was rugged but fun and a trip the 12 participants will not forget. Wear comfortable OLD clothes and be sure the lunch is well wrapped in plastic bags for protection against the water. Larry Hood is the leader again (730-9251). Meet at 8 a.m. at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot.

AUG. 24, SATURDAY: Little Creek Refuge in Delaware for water birds, waders and shore birds. This is near Bombay Hook and we may take in both. A one day trip but an early start is a must. Meet at 6 a.m. at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot. Bring lunch. Home by 6 p.m. Leaders: Erv Klaas (730-7821) and Larry Hood (730-9251).

S U M M E R R E A D I N G

There are some good old standards and newly published books that are worthy of note for summer reading for birders of all ages.

One of the popular Spring publications has been The Habitat Guide to Birding by Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. The birder can look up the kind of terrain or cover he expects to be in (meadow, dense grove, marshland, pine woods, etc.) and the author tells precisely what species of birds that can be expected to be found in that habitat in particular parts of the country.

A great standard twin set is published by National Geographic. Song and Garden Birds of North America and Water, Prey, and Game Birds can be purchased separately for \$11.95 each or both volumes boxed for \$20.95. These books are beautifully illustrated and offer vivid profiles of 626 species of America's birds. A big bonus are the records in each book of bird sounds and songs.

The Bird Watcher's America edited by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and illustrated by John Henry Dick contains articles by forty four of the world's most distinguished naturalists relating favorite ornithological haunts in the United States and Canada. The anecdotes are by such household names in the birders' world as Roger Tory Peterson and Herbert Krause.

For the young birders, a new book this Spring is 120 Questions and Answers About Birds by Madeline Angell. It answers such questions as "How do birds keep cool on a hot day?" and "Why do birds lift their heads when they drink water?"

The View From Hawk Mountain by Michael Harwood (Charles Scribner and Sons) is a great book for those who have spent days or weekends on Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania looking for the flight of the broadwings, redtails, red-shoulders, roughlegs, golden eagles, bald eagles, sharpshins, Cooper's hawks, goshawks, peregrines, merlins, kestrels, harriers and ospreys. The author writes about the birds, their habits and reputations and the problems which threaten them.

The Society sells many books about birds and these are available at the monthly chapter meetings or call Frances Dawson at 730-8549. There are also several catalogues that have many listings. Some of these that may be received on request are Buteo Books, P. O. Box 481, Vermillion, S. D. 57069; Audubon Workshop, 2907 MacArthur Blvd., Northbrook, Ill. 60062 (this company has many items of interest to birders other than books); The Audubon Bookcase, 138 Grand St., Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10520; and Books on Birds, Mammals and Other Natural History Subjects, Pierce Book Company, Winthrop, Iowa 50682.

A monthly newspaper published in Baltimore but with nation-wide distribution is THE CALL of the National Bird Watching Society. Most of the articles are reprinted from other publications and there are also other features including letters from readers, a column by Wheeler Johnson, a series of John James Audubon illustrations and articles, and excellent photographs. The subscription rate is \$6.00 per year and the address is The National Bird Watching Society, 2519 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This is the last newsletter until September when the Howard County Chapter begins its third year. This season closed with a membership of 70 adults and juniors and \$208.38 in the treasury. During the summer, please contact those you think would be interested in our objectives and activities and sign them up! Call Tom Moyers -730-0138- for membership information.

The monthly programs this past year were arranged by Duncan MacDonald and the variety of subjects and calibre of guest speakers made a successful season. There were no meetings cancelled because of weather and only one speaker didn't make it and that night Larry Hood came to the rescue.

There were 25 good field trips planned by Bob Herndon which included travel to four neighboring states (Florida and Texas will be on the agenda some day in the future). Birders visited Hawk Mountain, Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, Cape May, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the Maryland favorites--Blackwater and Eastern Neck. Birding close to home was rewarding with day trips to Patapsco State Park, Little Patuxent River and Middle Patuxent River areas, Camp Woodbine and many more.

The Chapter became more aware of conservation and took a more active role in the important work of the Middle Patuxent Valley Association. A letter was sent to all members describing the effects of the MPVA's Park proposal and members attended hearing and zone meetings.

One of the most successful projects of the Chapter was the development of the slide lecture, "Winter Birds of Howard County". The slides were originally taken by Howard County photographers including George Munro, Bob Herndon, Ben Dawson, Fred Rhineland, and Erv Klaas. A committee reviewed many slides and selected 53 for the program and a script was written to accompany the show. It was written so that any member could give the lecture and that proved to be helpful since there were more than a dozen requests mainly from garden clubs and schools. Donna Herbst made the arrangements for the shows and gave a number of them herself. She was very active promoting the show and much of its success was because of her efforts. (NOTE: This show is being expanded next season and a new one on nesting birds is in production.)

The Helen Miller Scholarship entitling the awardee to attend an Audubon Nature Camp was presented to a Faulkner Ridge teacher, L. Martin Hamilton, who also heads the Howard County 4H Summer Camp.

Regular business resumes in September but during the summer hiatus there are several field trips planned as listed elsewhere in this newsletter just so that we do keep in touch....join us!

W O O D B I N E

Those who attended the banding demonstration trip last month at Woodbine saw twenty-three birds banded. These included a redstart, white-eyed vireo, song sparrow, downy woodpecker, northern woodthrush (6), cardinal, yellowthroat, ovenbird, indigo bunting, and Acadian flycatcher.

