

# HOWARD

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MARCH - APRIL 1981 VOL. 9 NO. 5

## HOWARD COUNTY BIRDERS SET A RECORD IN 1980 - David Holmes

Total corrected  
to 207

Birding in Howard County was again very good. Our 202 species plus an unidentified crossbill gave us a species total (203) amazingly similar to last year's 202. Our only wildly out-of-range species, the White Ibis, was possibly two birds and was enjoyed by more than a dozen county birders. One other species was almost as unusual: the Ruffed Grouse. The other birds of note--Little Blue Heron, American Bittern, Long-billed Dowitcher and Alder Flycatcher are either habitual wanderers or regular migrants which are very difficult to see or identify. Other species which were seen in 1980 but not in 1979 include the following: Black-crowned Night Heron, Greater Scaup, Bald Eagle, Black-bellied Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Great Horned Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo.

Unfortunately, we left a few birds in the bush. Our worst miss was Gray-checked Thrush. ~~But then nobody reported a pipit either.~~ Semipalmated Plovers are mud birds which do migrate inland and which should be possible here; Lincoln's Sparrows surely passed through but are extremely difficult to see; and not one scoter was reported even though Mark Wallace did find an Oldsquaw. So, a record-breaking 1981 should still be quite possible.

Special thanks go to the people who submitted full annual lists: Alice Grant, David Holmes, David Pardoe, Steve Simon, Jo Solem and Mark Wallace. Thanks likewise to people who reported single uncommon species: George Gee, Pat Jackson, Henry Niese, Jay Sheppard, and some of the May Counters. With the spring migration just getting under way, it's time to start your list for 1981 and resolve to submit it next January.

If you observed a species not included on the 1980 list, give me a call at 730-7083 so that it can be added.

Editor's Note: Killdeer was inadvertently omitted from the 1979 list. Its addition brings the 1979 list total to 202 as indicated above.

- |                          |                            |                            |                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Common Loon           | 23. Northern Shoveler      | 45. Northern Harrier       | 67. Herring Gull             |
| 2. Horned Grebe          | 24. Wood Duck              | 46. Osprey                 | 68. Ring-billed Gull         |
| 3. Pied-billed Grebe     | 25. Redhead                | 47. Merlin                 | 69. Bonaparte's Gull         |
| 4. Double-cr. Cormorant  | 26. Ring-necked Duck       | 48. American Kestrel       | 70. Rock Dove                |
| 5. Great Blue Heron      | 27. Canvasback             | 49. Ruffed Grouse          | 71. Mourning Dove            |
| 6. Green Heron           | 28. Greater Scaup          | 50. Common Nighthawk       | 72. Yellow-billed Cuckoo     |
| 7. Little Blue Heron     | 29. Lesser Scaup           | 51. Ring-necked Pheasant   | 73. Black-billed Cuckoo      |
| 8. Great Egret           | 30. Common Goldeneye       | 52. American Coot          | 74. Barn Owl                 |
| 9. Black-cr. Night Heron | 31. Bufflehead             | 53. Killdeer               | 75. Common Screech Owl       |
| 10. American Bittern     | 32. Oldsquaw               | 54. Black-bellied Plover   | 76. Great Horned Owl         |
| 11. White Ibis           | 33. Ruddy Duck             | 55. Greater Yellowlegs     | 77. Barred Owl               |
| 12. Mute Swan            | 34. Hooded Merganser       | 56. Lesser Yellowlegs      | 78. Whip-poor-will           |
| 13. Whistling Swan       | 35. Common Merganser       | 57. Solitary Sandpiper     | 79. Common Nighthawk         |
| 14. Canada Goose         | 36. Red-breasted Merganser | 58. Spotted Sandpiper      | 80. Chimney Swift            |
| 15. Snow Goose           | 37. Turkey Vulture         | 59. American Woodcock      | 81. Ruby-thr. Hummingbird    |
| 16. Mallard              | 38. Black Vulture          | 60. Common Snipe           | 82. Belted Kingfisher        |
| 17. American Black Duck  | 39. Sharp-shinned Hawk     | 61. Short-billed Dowitcher | 83. Common Flicker           |
| 18. Gadwall              | 40. Cooper's Hawk          | 62. Long-billed Dowitcher  | 84. Pileated Woodpecker      |
| 19. Common Pintail       | 41. Red-tailed Hawk        | 63. Semipalmated Sandpiper | 85. Red-bellied Woodpecker   |
| 20. Green-winged Teal    | 42. Red-shouldered Hawk    | 64. Least Sandpiper        | 86. Red-headed Woodpecker    |
| 21. Blue-winged Teal     | 43. Broad-winged Hawk      | 65. Pectoral Sandpiper     | 87. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| 22. American Wigeon      | 44. Bald Eagle             | 66. Dunlin                 | 88. Hairy Woodpecker         |

89. Downy Woodpecker	118. Gray Catbird	147. Black-thr. Blue Warbler	176. Northern Oriole
90. Eastern Kingbird	119. Brown Thrasher	148. Yellow-rumped Warbler	177. Rusty Blackbird
91. Great Crst'd. Flycatcher	120. American Robin	149. Black-thr. Green Warbler	178. Common Grackle
92. Eastern Phoebe	121. Wood Thrush	150. Cerulean Warbler	179. Brown-headed Cowbird
93. Yellow-bell. Flycatcher	122. Hermit Thrush	151. Blackburnian Warbler	180. Scarlet Tanager
94. Acadian Flycatcher	123. Swainson's Thrush	152. Yellow-throated Warbler	181. Northern Cardinal
95. Willow Flycatcher	124. Veery	153. Chestnut-sided Warbler	182. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
96. Alder Flycatcher	125. Eastern Bluebird	154. Bay-breasted Warbler	183. Blue Grosbeak
97. Least Flycatcher	126. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	155. Blackpoll Warbler	184. Indigo Bunting
98. Eastern Pewee	127. Golden-crowned Kinglet	156. Pine Warbler	185. Evening Grosbeak
99. Horned Lark	128. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	157. Prairie Warbler	186. Purple Finch
100. Tree Swallow	129. Cedar Waxwing	158. Palm Warbler	187. House Finch
101. Bank Swallow	130. European Starling	159. Ovenbird	188. Pine Siskin
102. Rough-winged Swallow	131. White-eyed Vireo	160. Northern Waterthrush	189. American Goldfinch
103. Barn Swallow	132. Yellow-throated Vireo	161. Louisiana Waterthrush	190. Crossbill sp.
104. Cliff Swallow	133. Solitary Vireo	162. Kentucky Warbler	191. Rufous-sided Towhee
105. Purple Martin	134. Red-eyed Vireo	163. Connecticut Warbler	192. Savannah Sparrow
106. Blue Jay	135. Philadelphia Vireo	164. Mourning Warbler	193. Grasshopper Sparrow
107. American Crow	136. Warbling Vireo	165. Common Yellowthroat	194. Vesper Sparrow
108. Fish Crow	137. Black-and-white Warbler	166. Yellow-breasted Chat	195. Northern Junco
109. Carolina Chickadee	138. Worm-eating Warbler	167. Hooded Warbler	196. American Tree Sparrow
110. Tufted Titmouse	139. Golden-winged Warbler	168. Wilson's Warbler	197. Chipping Sparrow
111. White-breasted Nuthatch	140. Blue-winged Warbler	169. Canada Warbler	198. Field Sparrow
112. Red-breasted Nuthatch	141. Tennessee Warbler	170. American Redstart	199. White-crowned Sparrow
113. Brown Creeper	142. Nashville Warbler	171. House Sparrow	200. White-throated Sparrow
114. House Wren	143. Northern Parula Warbler	172. Bobolink	201. Fox Sparrow
115. Winter Wren	144. Yellow Warbler	173. Eastern Meadowlark	202. Swamp Sparrow
116. Carolina Wren	145. Magnolia Warbler	174. Red-winged Blackbird	203. Song Sparrow
117. Northern Mockingbird	146. Cape May Warbler	175. Orchard Oriole	

Water Pipit, Gray-checked see May-June 1981 for 3rd.  
 Thrush + Lincoln's sp. also Parula - also, K. Vireo  
 + Estralia

## EVA SUNELL RECEIVES FEDERAL PERMIT TO CARE FOR PASSERINES

Eva Sunell has received the necessary federal permit to salvage, possess and rehabilitate injured or sick passerines (perching birds). Call her at 995-0029 if you need help or advice about what to do with birds you, your children, neighbors, etc., find. Nan Rhineland, 286-2427, still has a permit to care for birds of prey. One or the other individual can give you advice. Cases that can't be handled locally will be passed along to Jane Zuke in Adelphi.

## WINTER BIRDS -- AND EARLY SIGNS OF SPRING

Northern Orioles have been hard to find throughout Maryland during the winter. One arrived about Dec. 1 at the Boone's feeder (east of Rt. 29 in Columbia) and stayed into the winter eating a varied diet of suet, thistle, sunflower, millet, oranges, peanut butter and bacon fat. Reports of Evening Grosbeaks were scattered until mid-January when they began appearing at feeders with regularity. Pine Siskins were absent until the last week in January when, within a few days, from one to five birds were reported by Ruth Cairns, Frances Dawson, Mary Hall, Rosamond Munro, Jo Solem and Eva Sunell. The Dawsons, Randalls and Marjorie Mountjoy also reported a kinglet at suet or a suet mix. Frances Dawson was one of the few lucky souls to have American Tree Sparrows at her feeders during January.

During the warm period the third week in February Eva Sunell (2/18), Rosamond Munro (2/19), and Fran Nahrgang (2/20) reported Fox Sparrows. Although a scattered few usually winter, the appearance of three on the heels of several days of southerly winds indicates migrants. Although there may still be snow and cold, Fox Sparrows are one of the certain signs that spring is on the way. Flocks of Whistling Swans migrating the morning of Saturday, Feb. 21st were reported by both Joanne Moroney and Brenda and John Bell.

## SECOND SEED SALE REPORT - Eileen Clegg

The Howard Bird Club's second (and last) seed sale of the season was the most successful yet. We sold 6700 pounds of sunflower seeds, 1625 pounds of mixed seed, and 300 pounds of thistle (niger) for a total of 8,625 pounds. The following individuals helped in some way with the sale: Frank Baldau, Lois Carleton, Max Casper, Eileen Clegg, Brenda Ericsson, Jane Farrell, Terry Kretz, Grazine & Mike McClure, Janet & Don Randle, Jim Shields, Jo Solem, Eva Sunell, Roy Trudel, Marie Walters, & Martha Waugh. A special thanks to each of you; we couldn't have done it without your generous help!

When planning your feeding program for next winter, remember that our first sale will probably be in early November. Let me know, 730-4362, if you have any special wants. Purchasers of black oil sunflower during the last sale have been enthusiastic about the results.

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### DR. GEIS' FEEDER REPORT AVAILABLE - - - FREE

Members who feed birds should find interesting information in a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report entitled, "Relative Attractiveness of Different Foods at Wild Bird Feeders," by Dr. Aelred Geis. Since the observations were made locally it has special value. Single copies are available free.

Request Fish and Wildlife Service Special Wildlife Report 233 from the Publications Unit, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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### 1981-82 OFFICERS NAMED BY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Marty Chestem, Meg Miller and Martha Waugh announce the following candidates for Howard Bird Club officers for the coming year:

President - Michael McClure  
V-President - Jane Farrell  
Secretary - Carole Cleland  
Treasurer - David Pardoe  
State Trustees - Max Casper & Paul Zucker

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the March meeting prior to voting on the slate. (Prior permission of the nominee must be obtained.) Please come and vote; 20% of our membership constitutes a quorum.

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### SPRING WILDFLOWER LIST READY

The third and final year of the Spring Wildflower Survey of Howard County is upon us. The revised checklist will be sent to all who participated in the previous two seasonal surveys. Anyone who would like to be a part of this project should call Chuck Dupree 796-1086 or Jo Solem 725-5037. Volunteers are definitely welcome. If you are interested in learning more about our local wildflowers please note that there will be a full schedule of field trips from early April through May in order to monitor the progress of spring blooms.

IDENTIFICATION: Red-shouldered vs. Red-tailed Hawk - M. Chestem

The two species of buteos that we are most likely to see in Howard County during the winter are the Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) and the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). It is not difficult to identify a mature adult Red-tail soaring against a blue winter sky when the sun highlights the richly-colored red tail. It is a beautiful sight for a birder on a winter walk. The adult Red-shouldered Hawk is also easily spotted under ideal conditions by the conspicuous rufous chest and narrow black and white tail bands. Unfortunately, we seldom find adult birds of prey under ideal conditions displaying foolproof field marks. Immature birds pose additional problems.

The size of these two buteos does not vary remarkably and so is not helpful for identification, particularly to the novice birder. According to references, their length varies from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet with the Red-tail usually given an inch advantage. The Red-tail's wing span is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet while that of the smaller Red-shouldered Hawk is closer to 3 feet.

The immature Red-tailed Hawk may or may not have a banded tail (there are variations) which, if present, could prompt a casual viewer to mistakenly identify a bird as a Red-shouldered. The best field marks these birds show is the underparts. In the Red-tail the upper chest is light and unmarked and is prominently set off by a dark streaked belly. This zoning gives the effect of a belly band. This is an equally good field mark for adult birds. The Red-shouldered immatures are streaked on both chest and belly.

Field guides frequently refer to the translucent wing "windows" visible in Red-shouldered Hawks as they soar overhead; however, this characteristic is sometimes also seen on Red-tails. Do look for these "windows" to help sharpen your abilities by always checking all field marks on every bird you see.

The habitat in which a bird is found is usually a helpful clue to its identity. Red-tails are most frequently found in extensive upland deciduous woods and open fields. The Red-shouldered prefers deciduous woods, usually in the vicinity of water; therefore, they are more frequently found in bottomlands and along the streams, rivers, ponds and reservoirs of Howard County.

Wade Wander, in an article written for Birding News Survey last year, suggested a finer point in identifying these buteos in flight. He stated that, at a distance, the Red-shouldered can be spotted by its accipiter-like flight pattern--that is, brief bouts of flapping alternating with short periods of sailing. A Red-tail will most likely soar with only an occasional flap. I had an opportunity to test this idea recently and did correctly identify a distant Red-shouldered Hawk by its flight pattern. Try it!

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Editor's Note: The Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks are currently engaging in courtship flights and displays. They begin nesting before the leaves have emerged so will soon be adding to old nests or building new ones. Nests are twiggy,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter, and are normally located in the main crotch of a large deciduous tree from 20-60 feet or more above the ground. If you locate an active hawk or owl nest please call Jo Solem, 725-5037, so that arrangements can be made to band the young.

## C A L E N D A R

Meeting place for programs and field trips is the Grempler Realty Building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia unless otherwise indicated. From the south entrance of Columbia, turn left. The building is beyond Symphony Woods and the Fire House, but before you reach Howard Community College on the east side of the street, across from the Wilson Garden Center.

### PROGRAMS - 7:45 p.m.

- Mar. 12 - Thur. - "Prehistoric Birds of Maryland" - Bill Hilgartner. Bill is a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution in the West Indian bird section. He has taught an introductory field ornithology course in the adult education program at Howard Community College and has also been associated with the Irvine Natural Science Center in Greenspring Valley.
- Bob - Apr. 9 - Thur. - "Closeup of Nature" - Robert K. Hoffman. Robert Hoffman will present a slide program featuring insects. His photographic credits include Audubon, National Wildlife magazine, and various technical journals. In addition to being a photographer, Robert is a wood sculptor and will bring slides and samples of his art.

### FIELD TRIPS

Eva Sunell, 995-0029, is in charge of field trips. Severe weather conditions can result in trip cancellation at the leader's discretion. If in doubt, call first. Car-pooling efforts will continue. Riders are expected to share gas & toll costs.

- Mar. ? - ? - WOOD FROG MATING. A warm, perhaps wet evening. Leader: Eva Sunell. Call Eva, 995-0029, if you would like to be advised of Wood Frog mating activity. The peak period lasts less than two weeks, sometimes it is concentrated during just a few warm days in March. It is definitely dependent on the weather.
- Mar. 14 - Sat. - WATERFOWL EXCURSION. co-sponsored with How. Co. Rec. & Parks. Bus trip to Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge. Leaders: Marty Chestem, 730-1527 & Bill Eckert. Leave Court House parking lot in Ellicott City at 7:30 a.m., return by 6:00 p.m. Take lunch. \$6.50 fee. Make check to Director of Finance of Howard County and send to Howard Co. Dept. of Rec. & Parks, 3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043 with a note stating the program you are signing for OR use the blank in the Rec. & Parks circular which is currently available. Waterfowl, residents & some early migrants. Stops at Remington Farms and perhaps some private ponds are also possible. Not recommended for children under 10. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Mar. 21 - Sat. - DUCKS ON WILDE LAKE. Leader: Linda McDaniel. Meet at 3:00 p.m. at Grempler to join Linda while she completes a waterfowl survey of the lake. Lake Kittamaqundi may be checked if there is time.
- Mar. 28 - Sat. - PLANTINGS FOR WILDLIFE. Leader: Alice Grant. 1:00 p.m. at Grempler. This is a follow-up to the program last year by Joanne Moroney and Nan Rhineland. A visit will be made to the new central library grounds to observe the plantings designed to attract wildlife. The group will also visit Alice's yard which is part of the National Wildlife Federation's backyard wildlife habitat program.

(Calendar continued on next page)

Apr. 11 - Sat. - NATURE WALK. Leaders: Eileen Olegg & Jane Farrell. 1/2 day. 8:00 a.m. at Grempler. A walk for early spring bird migrants and wildflowers in the vicinity of Broken Land Parkway and the Little Patuxent River on the east side of Columbia. This is an area of mixed conifers & deciduous woods and is slated to become an industrial park.

Apr. 15 - Wed. - WOODCOCK WALK. Leader: Al Geis. Watch the courtship flight of the woodcock. Meet at Grempler at 5:45 p.m. to carpool or at 6:15 p.m. at the Trotter Road parking lot (.8 mile south of Rt. 108, east side). No children under 10. Please wear dark long-sleeved shirts or jackets and long pants. Trip is canceled in case of rain.

Apr. 26 - Sun. - HABITAT WALK, BENSON BRANCH. Leaders: Bill Eckert, Mike & Grazina McClure. Co-sponsored by How. Co. Rec. & Parks. This is the third in a series to this area to observe it in different seasons. Emphasis this time will be on spring wildflowers and birds. Meet 12:30 p.m. Grempler; 12:50 entrance to Glenelg Country School.

May 2 - Sat. - MAY COUNT. Dawn to dark. Compiler: Paul Zucker, 622-4195 (evenings). Plan now to help with this bird count for an adventure in birding. If you have never participated in something of this kind, by all means plan to join the counters and ask to accompany a more experienced birder. This is often one of the most thrilling birding days of the year with lingering waterfowl, the last of the feeder birds, and a parade of migrant passerines (warblers, vireos, flycatchers, etc.) If your schedule or stamina does not permit a whole day's birding, go for just a few hours. Lots of enthusiastic helpers are needed to cover the entire county. See Paul at either the March or April meetings or call him. He will be glad to answer your questions and/or assign territories and find birding companions as needed. A tally is held in the early evening (this year at Mike & Grazina McClure's, 12237 Mt. Albert Rd.) Here you can compare notes, find out what good birds were seen--and which ones were missed. You do not need to attend the tally to participate in the Count, but DO volunteer. Call Grazina for food choices for the tally and directions, 531-6170.

May 8, 9, 10 - MOS CONVENTION - All members should have received a brochure. If you did not and want information call Marty Chestem, 730-1527. Plan for a great weekend with birds, birds, birds and lots of friendly people.

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALKS - In order to cover as much of the county as possible during this third year of our Spring Wildflower Survey, there will be a series of walks during April and May. Each of the walks will be led by a competent leader. Some will be in areas not previously visited on club outings. The early walks will be in the southern and eastern portions of the county. As the season progresses we will move to the central and western sections. The location will be decided by the leader(s) depending on the type of spring we're having. Meet at Grempler Realty at 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. April 5, Sun.; April 11, Sat. (see above); April 18, Sat.; April 26, Sun. (see above); May 3, Sun.; May 9, Sat.

BOARD MEETINGS - March 19, Thursday - at Carole Cleland's, 9518 Good Lion Rd., Columbia. Call 730-2946 for directions. April 18, Thursday - place to be announced. Joint meeting for 1980-81 and 1981-82 members of the Board. at Steve Simon's

## IF YOU FIND A DEAD BIRD - - -

Many members are kind enough to keep an eye out for specimens in good condition that can be added to our mounted bird collection. A number of them, of course, turn out to be duplicates which we would like to pass along to other scientific or educational organizations. In order to be scientifically usable each specimen must contain an accompanying slip of paper with 1) the name of the collector, 2) date found, 3) place collected, 4) county and 5) state. The Smithsonian Institution, for instance, cannot add items to its collection without all the listed data.

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## COLUMBIA WATERFOWL COMMITTEE NEEDS HELPERS

If you regularly bird Lake Kittamaquidi, give Pat Birnie a call at 730-0178 to volunteer to take regular censuses of the waterfowl on the lake. Also, if you live near Wilde Lake and would like to help feed the ducks on a regular basis, also contact Pat. Members who currently participate in the regular census of county lakes include Jane Farrell (Lake Elkhorn), Linda McDaniel (Wilde Lake), and Mark Wallace (lakes in western Howard County).

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## MANY THANKS!!!

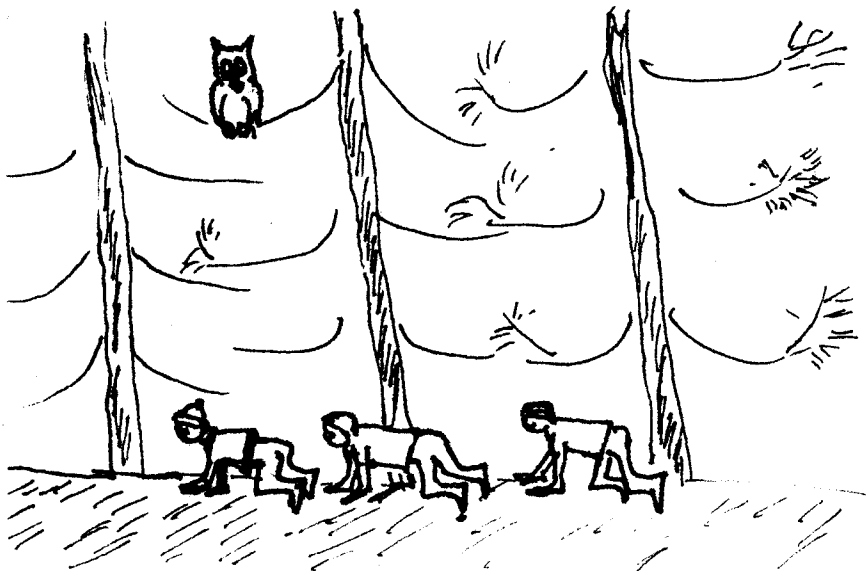
The February Members' Night was a great success. The club thanks Nan and Fred Rhinelanders for serving as hosts for this event. Marjorie Mountjoy capably coordinated the food, the photographers provided excellent slides, and the many who furnished food created an outstanding buffet. It is regrettable that numbers must be limited. If you have suggestions regarding alternative locations, please see Mike McClure.

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF HOWARD COUNTY TO BE OFFERED

The Introduction to the Natural History of Howard County adult education course taught by Eileen Clegg and Jo Solem will be offered during the spring session at Howard Community College. It consists of eight sessions (six evening classes, two field trips) during April and May to introduce individuals to the birds, plants, trees, ferns, reptiles and amphibians of the county.

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Grazina McClure's cartoon indicates a recurring position of participants on a recent owling trip. A dozen people, under Jay Sheppard's leadership, combed several young pine stands in Montgomery and Howard County. A single Saw-whet in Patuxent River State Park (unfortunately on the Montgomery side of the river) was the lone owl. Examination of pellets (skulls of three small rodent species, bird bones & two bird crops which may have been from Saw-whet Owls) along with a discussion of the ecology of several owl species made it worth the rough going within the pines.

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SELECTED HOWARD COUNTY SPRING ARRIVAL RECORDS

Common Loon.....	4/6/76	Water Pipit.....	3/5/70
Pied-billed Grebe.....	2/17/72	White-eyed Vireo.....	4/14/64
Green Heron.....	4/7/73	Yellow-throated Vireo.....	4/26/70
Cattle Egret.....	4/30/76	Solitary Vireo.....	4/17/64
Great Egret.....	3/26/70	Red-eyed Vireo.....	4/23/76
Snowy Egret.....	5/2/72	Warbling Vireo.....	5/1/71,76
American Bittern.....	4/8/51	Black-and-white Warbler....	4/13/74
Glossy Ibis.....	4/7/73	Prothonotary Warbler.....	5/1/76
Whistling Swan.....	2/23/75	Worm-eating Warbler.....	4/23/76
Canada Goose.....	2/12/78	Golden-winged Warbler.....	5/2/70
Blue-winged Teal.....	3/5/71	Blue-winged Warbler.....	4/29/70,74
Wood Duck.....	2/21/73	Tennessee Warbler.....	5/1/76
Common Goldeneye.....	2/25/76	Nashville Warbler.....	4/24/63,72
Bufflehead.....	2/28/76	Northern Parula Warbler....	4/18/64,76
Ruddy Duck.....	3/12/77	Yellow Warbler.....	4/23/78
Broad-winged Hawk.....	4/11/74,78	Magnolia Warbler.....	4/28/73,76
Osprey.....	4/8/59	Cape May Warbler.....	4/30/74
Greater Yellowlegs.....	4/4/76	Black-thr. Blue Warbler....	4/28/75
Lesser Yellowlegs.....	3/4/72	Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	4/11/77
Solitary Sandpiper.....	4/20/75,76	Black-thr. Green Warbler...	4/14/71
Spotted Sandpiper.....	4/14/65	Cerulean Warbler.....	4/27/74
Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	4/29/73	Blackburnian Warbler.....	5/4/63
Least Sandpiper.....	4/30/76	Yellow-thr. Warbler.....	4/16/76
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	3/21/73	Chestnut-sided Warbler....	4/25/76
Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	5/1/76	Bay-breasted Warbler.....	5/4/63,74
Black-billed Cuckoo.....	5/2/71,72	Blackpoll Warbler.....	5/4/63,69,74
Whip-poor-will.....	4/7/76	Pine Warbler.....	4/3/70
Common Nighthawk.....	4/24/61	Prairie Warbler.....	4/17/64,66
Chimney Swift.....	4/15/64,78	Palm Warbler.....	3/28/76
Ruby-throated Hummingbird..	4/14/68	Ovenbird.....	4/18/76
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	4/5/73	Northern Waterthrush.....	4/21/75
Eastern Kingbird.....	4/19/73	Louisiana Waterthrush.....	3/4/73
Great Crested Flycatcher....	4/26/66	Kentucky Warbler.....	4/26/70
Eastern Phoebe.....	3/2/71	Mourning Warbler.....	5/19/70,73,79
Acadian Flycatcher.....	4/30/76	Common Yellowthroat.....	4/14/67,68
Willow Flycatcher.....	5/6/72	Yellow-breasted Chat.....	4/24/61
Least Flycatcher.....	4/27/74	Hooded Warbler.....	4/25/70
Eastern Pewee.....	5/1/75	Wilson's Warbler.....	5/5/73
Tree Swallow.....	3/28/77	Canada Warbler.....	5/4/63,68
Bank Swallow.....	4/10/78	American Redstart.....	4/15/76
Rough-winged Swallow.....	4/4/76	Bobolink.....	4/30/62
Barn Swallow.....	3/17/77	Orchard Oriole.....	4/25/61,70
Cliff Swallow.....	4/16/68	Northern Oriole.....	4/24/72
Purple Martin.....	3/17/73,77	Scarlet Tanager.....	4/10/70
House Wren.....	3/12/72	Summer Tanager.....	5/1/76
Gray Catbird.....	4/19/72	Rose-breasted Grosbeak....	4/23/67
Brown Thrasher.....	3/24/76	Blue Grosbeak.....	5/1/76
Wood Thrush.....	4/19/72	Indigo Bunting.....	4/23/76
Hermit Thrush.....	4/6/66,73	Savannah Sparrow.....	3/3/69,71
Swainson's Thrush.....	5/2/70	Grasshopper Sparrow.....	4/3/72
Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	5/4/74,78	Vesper Sparrow.....	4/5/67
Veery.....	4/26/70	Fox Sparrow.....	2/13/71
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	3/24/73	Lincoln's Sparrow.....	5/7/76



## THE WAXWINGS CAME TO DINNER--AND STAYED ALL NIGHT - Rosamond Munro

Recent winter visits by American Robins and Cedar Waxwings to a large persimmon tree in our yard reminded me of a previous invasion by three fellow travelers.

On January 2, 1977, I counted thirty-four waxwings and twenty robins in that same tree. At that time of year persimmon fruit is black and withered in appearance. Inside, however, it is still golden and moist. The birds were sampling the fruit without any squabbling between individuals or species.

Of course, robins are usually genial, and waxwings seem to be amiable among themselves. In fact, it is well-known that waxwings pass fruit along from one bird to another. I have watched them do this and have also seen them transfer the blossoms of black locust.

On this January day I was amazed and amused to see one of the waxwings pick a morsel of fruit and attempt to pass it to its neighbor, a robin. The robin ignored the tidbit which fell between them to the ground. The attempt of a waxwing to offer a treasure to a bird of another species is something I have never seen or heard reported.

After forty minutes in the persimmon tree the combined flock left. Three of the waxwings flew directly to the top of a nearby sycamore tree. The time was 3:35 p.m.; the temperature was about 30° and falling with a cold wind blowing. From forty-five feet below, the birds resembled the sycamore seed balls around them. On one side of the tree two birds sat close together, but not touching; the third was about two feet away. Tucked in between two sycamore balls this third bird seemed to be wearing them like the waterwings used by non-swimmers years ago.

Curious to know how long they would stay, I checked the birds from time to time. Dusk arrived, they remained. It became obvious that their perch high in the sycamore was to be their roosting place for the night. A full moon rose behind them; the temperature dropped to twenty degrees. I checked the birds in the beam of a flashlight at 11:00 p.m. and again at 2:00 a.m.

It was another member of the family, however, who saw the waxwings take flight at 7:35 a.m. They had perched in the same place for exactly sixteen hours.

## MANDATORY DEPOSITS FOR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Don't forget to call Sen. James Clark's office, 997-3572, to register your support for SB#873, Mandatory Beverage Deposit Legislation, which he has introduced in the Maryland Senate.

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## FLASH - MARCH MEETING TO HAVE ADDED ITEM ON PROGRAM

As we go to press word has just been received that the March meeting will have a special feature. In addition to the regular program, Henry Niese will make a short presentation on "The Meaning and Importance of Birds in American Indian Culture."

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## SPRING ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE SHEETS NOW READY

Either at the March meeting or in the mail you will receive Howard County Spring Arrival and Departure sheets. Note birds as you see them and pass along the dates for compilation in Maryland Birdlife. Even if you have only a few dates they may be ones that no one else has. On a form of this kind NO ONE fills in all of the blanks. Many species are seen by only one individual in the course of a season or an entire year. The sharing of many bits of information from people all over the county is far more useful than the records of a handful of active birders.

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DEADLINE FOR THE MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 20. Send material to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20810. Submissions are welcome.

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Howard County MOS  
10617 Graeloch Rd.  
Laurel, MD 20810

