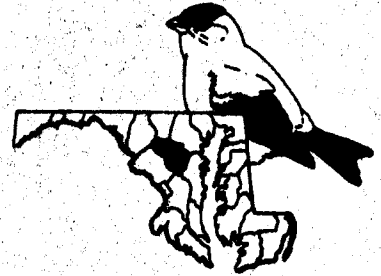




Vol 12, No 2  
Nov-Dec 1983

# Howard

A Chapter of the  
Maryland Ornithological Society



**IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 1983-84 DUES, PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY.** This is the last newsletter that will be sent on last year's membership. Call Treasurer Don Randle, evenings, 531-6296, if you are unsure whether you have paid or if you have mislaid the application.

## RECEPTION AND DINNER SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1983, TO HONOR CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

The Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society will give a reception and dinner on Sunday, November 20 in honor of Chandler S. Robbins, senior author of Birds of North America, to mark the recent publication of the revised edition of this best-selling field guide.

The free reception will be held in the Florence Bain Senior Center, Joseph Square, in Columbia from 2:00-5:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Mr. Robbins will be available to autograph copies of the guide which will be on sale. This is a rare opportunity to meet and chat with one of North America's premier birders. Mr. Robbins has been a biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 35 years. In addition to or as a part of his duties, he is also a bird bander, author and editor and frequently presents papers to ornithological societies in this country and abroad. He is recognized as one of the nation's outstanding field birders and has received a number of awards including the Arthur Allen and Paul Bartsch Medals. A long-time friend of this chapter he has presented programs for us and each year participates in the May Count in this county as well as the Triadelphia Christmas Count which includes this region.

After the reception a dinner will be held at the Columbia Inn. Reservations may be made by returning the form on the last page of this newsletter along with your check. If you are interested in donating cookies or hors d'oeuvres for the reception or would like to help with the event, please contact Jane Farrell, 596-6350 (evenings) or Jan Randle, 531-6296. Mark the date on your calendar and invite your friends. It will be an opportunity to meet not only the author and other members of the Howard Bird Club, but members of other chapters of the Maryland Ornithological Society as well.

## 1983 HOWARD COUNTY BIRD LIST TO BE COMPILED BY DAVID HOLMES

Beginning with 1979, the Howard County Chapter revived the practice of compiling a master list of every bird species seen in the county during a calendar year. Members submit lists of those species they have seen during the year and the compilation is printed in a newsletter. David Holmes, 5643-A Harpers Farm Rd., Columbia, MD 21044 would appreciate receiving your 1983 sightings by January 15, 1984. The length of your list doesn't matter for you may have recorded the only Mourning Warbler, Gray-checked Thrush or Cattle Egret seen during the year. Other than Barred Owls we often have trouble with records for some of the other owls. Likewise Horned Larks and Water Pipits are elusive species. If you are new to this county or new to birding start in January to keep track of the birds you see during 1984 in Howard County. By December you may be surprised by the length of the list.

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER BOOKSTORE SELECTIONS

The following items are available from the Howard County Chapter MGS "bookstore." Call Jan Randle, 531-6296, for prices. Savings are usually at least 15% over retail. She will special order titles if you provide sufficient information. See her at any meeting, seed sale or workshop or give her a call. Starred items (\*) are recent arrivals. Books make excellent gifts!

BIRDS

- Armstrong - A Guide to Birds of Alaska  
 \*Austin - Birds of the World, 1985 reprint  
 Bent - Life History of North American Wood Warblers, Vol. I & II  
 Berger - Bird Study  
 \*Bond - Birds of the West Indies  
 Braux - Birds of Frey: Their Biology and Ecology  
 Braun - Eagles of the World  
 Bruun - Birds of Europe  
 Collins - What Bird Is This?  
 Cruickshank - Photographs of Birds of America  
 Cruickshank - 1001 Questions Answered About Birds  
 Dennis - Beyond the Bird Feeder  
 Dennis - A Complete Guide to Bird Fding.  
 Grant - Gulls: A Guide to Identification  
 Griffin - Bird Migration  
 Grussing - How to Control House Sparrows  
 Halliday - Vanishing Birds  
 Harding - Birding the Delaware Valley Region  
 Harrison - A Field Guide to Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of N. Am. Birds  
 Hawk Mountain - Feathers in the Wind  
 Heintzelman - A Manual for Bird Watching in the Americas  
 ----- - Hawks & Owls of North Am.  
 Heinzel - The Birds of Britain, Europe, North Africa & the Mid-East  
 Hickey - A Guide to Bird Watching  
 Janovy - Yellowlegs  
 Jaques - The Land Birds  
 ---- - The Water Birds  
 Johnsgard - North American Game Birds of Upland and Shoreline  
 ---- - Waterfowl, Their Biology and Natural History  
 Kress - The Audubon Society Handbook for Birders (autographed) 1 copy only  
 Lane - Birders Guide to Churchill  
 ---- - " " " Eastern Colorado  
 ---- - " " " Florida  
 ---- - " " " Rio Grande Valley of Texas  
 ---- - " " " Southern Arizona  
 ---- - " " " Southern Calif.  
 ---- - " " " Texas Coast  
 ---- - " " " North Dakota by Zimmer
- Laycock - Bird Watchers Bible  
 Line - The Pleasure of Birds  
 Lookley - Ocean Wanderers  
 Lorenz - The Year of the Graylag Goose  
 Meanley - Bird Life at Chincoteague  
 ---- - Birds and Marshes of the Chesapeake Bay Country  
 ---- - Blackwater  
 ---- - Waterfowl of the Chesapeake Bay Country  
 Murphy - The Peregrine Falcon  
 McElroy - The New Handbook of Attracting Birds  
 MacKenzie - Complete Outdoorsmans Guide to Birds of Eastern North America  
 McKinley - How to Attract Birds  
 Pasquier - Watching Birds: An Introduction to Ornithology  
 \*Pettingill - A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi  
 Schultz - How to Attract, House & Feed  
 Stutch - The Life of the Hummingbird  
 Soles, ed. - Attracting Birds in MD Piedmont  
 Stokes - A Guide to Bird Behavior, Vol. I  
 Terres - Songbirds in Your Garden  
 Thiede - Water and Shore Birds  
 Thielcke - Bird Sounds  
 Truslow - The Nesting Season  
 Warner - Beautiful Swimmer  
 White - Endangered & Threatened Wildlife of the Chesapeake Bay Region  
 Wetmore - Swans of the World  
 Zeleny - The Bluebird
- Peterson Field Guides Are Available for the Following Subjects:
- Insects
  - Mammals
  - Ferns
  - Birds Nests (E. of Mississippi)
  - Butterflies of North America
  - Animal Tracks
  - Edible Wild Plants
  - Birds (Eastern)
  - Birds (Western)
  - Birds of Texas & Adjacent Sta
  - Mexican Birds & Adjacent C. A. ri
  - Wildflowers (Northeastern U.S.)
  - Trees and Shrubs

## CALENDAR

**PROGRAMS** - 7:45 p.m. Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia, MD.  
Note: Meeting is canceled if schools officially close because of inclement weather or other emergencies.

- Nov. 10 - "Migration at Point Pelee" - Lola Oberman. This Canadian peninsula extending into Lake Erie is famous for unusual aggregations of birds during migration. Lola is a former president of the Montgomery Chapter of MOS.  
Thur.
- Dec. 8 - "Bring Back the Bluebirds" - Dr. Lawrence Zeleny. Recognized expert in bluebird conservation and author of the book The Bluebird; founder of the North American Bluebird Society. Bring your questions.  
Thur.

**FIELD TRIPS** - Field trips leave from Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flic Building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) unless otherwise indicated. Linda Harsy, 489-5131, heads the Field Trip Committee. Leader may cancel under severe weather conditions. If you have questions, call. Carpooling continues with riders sharing gas and toll costs. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably water-proof footwear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow marked paths. No pet

- Nov. 6 - FALL EXCURSION TO PINEY RUN PARK - Leaders: Steve & Linda Harsy, 489-5131.  
Sun. ½ day trip to southeastern Carroll County to search for migrating ducks, geese, blackbirds & wintering birds. Meet at Grempler at 7:30 a.m.
- Nov. 12 - LOCAL BIRDING, LAKE ELKHORN, COLUMBIA - Leader: Chick Rhodehamel, CA biologist. Meet at boat ramp of Dockside Lane, east side of Columbia, 8:00 a.m. for 2-3 hours to search for waterfowl and wintering species.  
Sat.
- Dec. 3 - BUS TRIP TO BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - Leaders: Chuck Dupree & Bill Eckert. Call 992-2483 for more information. Co-sponsored with Howard Co. Rec. & Parks. Bus leaves from George Howard Building, Ellicott City at 7:30 a.m.; return by 6:30 p.m. Registration necessary; \$9.00 per person fee. Take lunch, thermos, warm clothes. Wintering waterfowl, winter residents, eagles almost guaranteed.  
Sat.
- Dec. 10 - FEEDER TRIP HOWARD COUNTY - Leader: Roy Trudel, 465-9398. ½ day. See winter birds at homes of members for easy, close-up looks at a variety of species. Pick up feeding ideas. Meet at Grempler at 8:30 a.m.  
Sat.
- Dec. 26 - TRIADELPHIA CHRISTMAS COUNT - Compiler: Bob Whitcomb, 299-5215 evenings or 344-2339 work. Dawn to dark count of all birds within the count circle. Want to help for just part of the day? Like to go with an experienced observer because you don't know a cardinal from a chickadee? Bob would be glad to hear from you. Tally afterward, as usual, at Olney Ale House. Fee goes toward publication of all North American counts in an extra-large volume of American Birds.  
Mon.
- Jan. 14 - SANDY POINT STATE PARK - Leader: Mike Leumas, 730-1075. Meet at Grempler at 7:30 a.m. for all day trip. Bring lunch, thermos, warm clothing. Variety of habitats on western shore of Chesapeake Bay. Possibilities include diving ducks, geese and Snow Buntings.  
Sat.

### BOARD MEETING

- Nov. 3 - 7:30 p.m. at Eileen Glegg's, 9094 Lambskin Lane. Call 730-4362 for directions. All officers and heads of committees.  
Thur.

### AUTUMN MIGRATION DATES NEEDED

Please call or send autumn migration dates to Jo Solem, 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707 (Tel. 725-5037) by December 15, 1983 so that they can be forwarded to Bob Ringler for inclusion in Maryland Birdlife.

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Deadline for the January-February newsletter is December 5. Submissions of art or written material welcome. Mail to above address.

## FROGS AS BIRD PREDATORS - Alice Grant

Twice in the years before 1981 we found small birds with broken necks floating in our 6'x 10' pond. One was discovered, I believe, in 1979 and the other in 1980. Their presence remained a mystery for several years. One morning in the summer of 1981 Olif was enjoying his early morning coffee watching an immature robin hop along the edge of the pond when he saw a large frog jump out of the water and grab the bird by the neck and immediately disappear with it under water. Within a few seconds the bird reappeared on the surface with a broken neck. Since that incident we have found two more birds with broken necks (both House Sparrows) floating on the water, one during the summer of 1982 and the other in August of 1983.

Our pond contains both Green Frogs (Rana clamitans) and Bullfrogs (R. catesbeiana). When I feed the fish by throwing pieces of bread to them, occasionally a large frog will jump completely out of the water, grab the bread in mid-air and immediately submerge. Within a few seconds the bread pops to the surface again, presumably because the frog finds it unpalatable. These experiences suggest that the larger species of frogs in this area are a clear danger to small birds either drinking or bathing at pond or lake edges.

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### ANY MEMBERS LIVE NEAR THE FREDERICK ROAD LIBRARY?

The Howard Chapter MOS is considering donating a bird feeder to the Miller Branch of the library on Frederick Road and will furnish the seed as we do with the feeder at the Central Library in Columbia. Before we make the donation we would like to know whether there are a few members who either live near the library or pass it frequently who would be willing to keep the feeder filled. Let President Jane Farrell, 596-6357 know if this sounds like something you would like to do. Martha Waugh, who has been keeping the Central Library feeder filled, would welcome help from members in that area.

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### DONATIONS MADE TO HOWARD CHAPTER MOS' NATURAL HISTORY LIBRARY

The following books and periodicals have been donated recently by Frances Ehlers: The Sutton's Warbler issue of the Atlantic Naturalist, Vol. 34, 1981. National Wildlife - 6 issues; Defenders - 4 issues; Audubon - 7 issues; Maryland Birdlife - 24 issues irregularly from 1972 to the present; Sierra - 3 issues; The Living Bird Quarterly - 1 issue; Society and Environment: The Coming Collision by Res R. Campbell and Jerry L. Wade; Field Studies in Natural History by The American Museum of Natural History; The Endangered Environment by Ashley Montagu; Man and the Environment by Wes Jackson; Readings in Conservation Ecology by George W. Cox; This Side of Yesterday: Extinction or Utopia by Paul S. Henshaw.

Lois Carleton donated Our Precarious Habitat by Melvin A. Benarde and Eco-Crisis by Cecil E. Johnson, ed.

Rosamond Munro provided the following periodicals: National Parks - 13 issues; International Wildlife - 36 issues; Natural History for 1966, 67; Nature - 21 issues; Maryland Birdlife 1980, 81; Maryland Yellowthroat - 12 issues; Middle Patuxent River River Natural Area, January 1972. To borrow these or other items, call Maud Banks 596-4131 (evenings).

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### LINDA HARSY TO HEAD FIELD TRIPS

President Jane Farrell recently named Linda Harsy to replace Joe Lutz as Field Trip Chairman. Joe resigned because of a job transfer to Colorado. We wish Joe well and know he will find many new birds in the West.

RECEPTION

FOR

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

Senior Author of Birds of North America

To Mark the Publication of the Revised Edition

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 20, 1983

at

Florence Bain Senior Center

Joseph Square, Columbia  
4370 Beaverkill Road  
(map on reverse side)

Sponsored by

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Robbins will be available to sign copies of the book which will be on sale.

FREE - PUBLIC INVITED

For additional information contact Jane Farrell  
(evenings), 596-6350 or Jan Randle, 531-6296.

A dinner will be held at the Columbia Inn at 5:30 p.m. following the reception.  
Please complete and return the following form in order to reserve space.

Maps will be available at the reception showing location of Columbia Inn.

DINNER RESERVATION

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places (\$14.00 each) at the sit-down dinner  
for Chandler S. Robbins on Sunday, November 20, 1983, at 5:30 p.m. at the  
Columbia Inn. Enclosed is my check for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

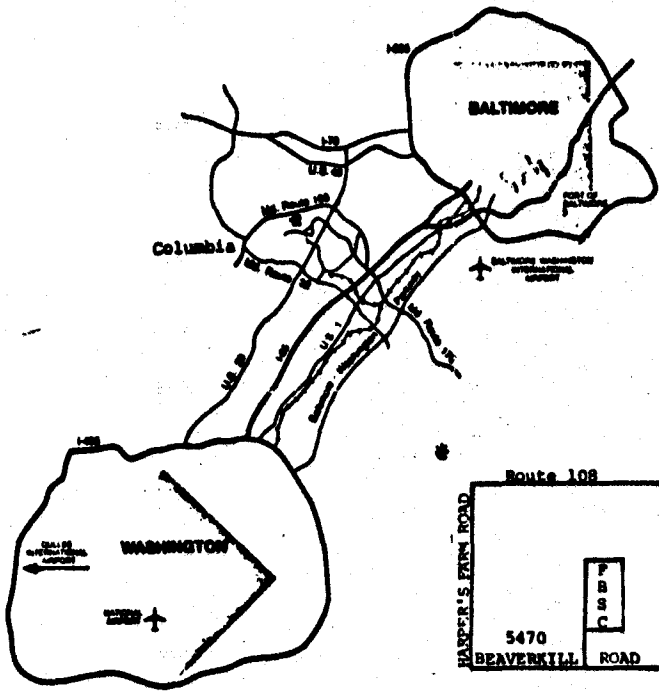
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to Howard County MOS. Reservations must  
be received by November 14, 1983. Mail the bottom portion of this page  
along with your check to President Jane Farrell, 6324 Sandchain Rd.,  
Columbia, MD 21045.



**DIRECTIONS TO FLORENCE BAIN SENIOR CENTF**  
**5470 Beaverkill Road, Columbia, Md. 21044**  
**(301) 730-7697**

FROM WASHINGTON BELTWAY 495, take U. S. 29 North to 10 turn left, travel 4 miles to Harpers Farm Rd., turn le travel one mile to Beaverkill Rd., turn left , Center second large building on left. Parking lot is in back building. In addition to the Center lot, there is a l school lot and two more public lots available for park

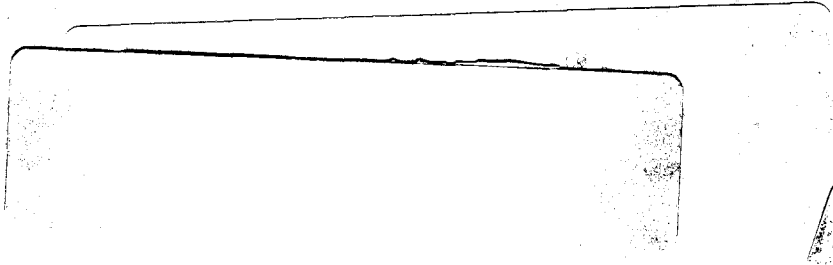
IF COMING FROM WASHINGTON OR BALTIMORE BELTWAY AND USI I-95, U. S. 1, OR BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PARKWAY, take 1 west to 29 north to 108 and follow above directions.

FROM BALTIMORE BELTWAY 695, take I-70 or U. S. 40 west Rt. 29 Columbia to 108, turn right and follow above directions.

FROM CENTRAL OR WESTERN MARYLAND, use I-70 to Rt. 29 Columbia to 108, turn right and follow above direction

Howard County Chapter MOS  
 10617 Graesloch Road  
 Laurel, Maryland 20707

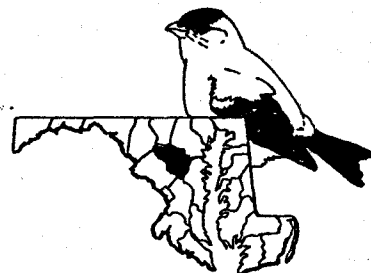
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 RECEPTION AND DINNER  
 FOR  
 CHANDLER S. ROBBINS  
 NOVEMBER 20, 1983  
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# Howard.

A Chapter of the  
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## BOOK SIGNING AND RECEPTION TO HONOR CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

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The free reception will be held in the Florence Bain Senior Center, Joseph Square, 5470 Beaverkill Road, Columbia, Maryland from 2:00-5:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Mr. Robbins will be available to autograph copies of the guide which will be on sale. This is a rare opportunity to meet and chat with one of North America's premier birders.

Mr. Robbins is a biologist in Migratory Non-gamebird Studies at U. S. Fish & Wildlife's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and lives in Laurel, Maryland. He is an Elected Fellow of the national bird society, the American Ornithologists' Union, a member of the Wilson Ornithological Society, numerous other bird and bird-banding societies, and the Maryland Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He conducted population studies of the Common Snipe, contributed toward the solution of the conflict of albatrosses and planes on Midway Island, helped in some of the earliest studies of the effects of DDT on birds, and helped revise methods of reporting bird banding information.

In 1979 he was honored by the presentation of the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award. He was presented the Bartsch Award by the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States and the Arthur A. Allen Award by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. In Dr. Douglas A. Lancaster's introductory



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remarks at the presentation of the Arthur A. Allen Award to Mr. Robbins, he said: "He helped institute, with James Baird of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, a long-range program for banding birds along the coastal areas of Eastern North America. The banding program represents only one of the major efforts by Chan Robbins that has contributed valuable information to the science as well as enlisting the enthusiasm of an army of volunteers. In 1965 Chan Robbins initiated the well-known breeding bird survey."

Data from this survey and from his years of spot-mapping the territories of forest birds indicate to him and to others that many of our birds that winter in the tropics are increasingly threatened by the loss of habitat. These birds arrive late after their insect food is available, have time for only one nest attempt, and need a large continuous forest where such enemies as cowbirds, cats, and raccoons are not overwhelming.

Following the reception, a dinner will be held at the Columbia Inn. A prepaid reservation is required. For further information, contact Jane Farrell, (301) 596-6350 (evenings) or Jan Randle, (301) 531-6296.