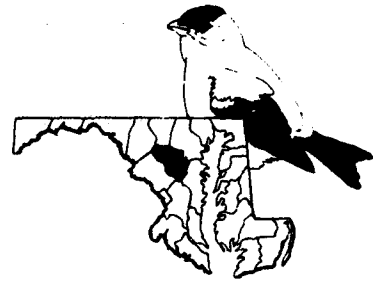




Vol. 15, No. 1
Sept - Oct 1986

Howard.

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME - JOHN CLEGG

Welcome to what I hope will be another enjoyable year of meetings, field trips, and special events. I would like to thank all those who assisted the club last year at our meetings, functions and numerous public presentations and to request continued support from them and others in the upcoming year. The club always welcomes volunteers to "man" booths and answer questions at various shows like the recent Howard County Fair and the Recreation and Parks Expo coming up in September. Do not feel you have to have expert knowledge of birds and other nature subjects in order to help. The people who coordinate these functions will, when requested, team you with more experienced people and make sure that you have, most importantly, an enjoyable experience.

Please complete the attached membership form and return it promptly; also fill in and return the questionnaire checking any areas in which you would like to assist the club such as helping at the seed sales (the first one is October 18th), serving as a field trip coordinator or leader, being a host or hostess at one of our meetings, monitoring bluebird boxes, or any number of other possibilities. If you know of a speaker you would like to hear or want to suggest a field trip to a specific area or for a particular bird or group of birds (remember to check the Rare Bird Alert), make a note on the form or contact me or any member of the Board directly and we will do our best to try to make it happen. Also, if you are involved with a community gathering where you think the bird club should have a table or booth, again make a note or provide a point of contact and a date.

The one note of business I would like to add to this greeting concerns our new By-laws. As you may know, a committee has been at work for a year now. There have been several open forums, revisions and more rewrites, but a final draft of the proposed By-laws has been completed. A mailing will be going out very soon with a copy of the new By-laws that will be voted on at a general membership meeting. I plan on voting at our September meeting and hope to see you all then. I would like to extend my thanks to Anne Hart, Mike McClure and Don Waugh who have shouldered the bulk of the responsibility for completing this task.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN 1986-1987

President - John Clegg 730-4362
 V-President - Martha Chestem 730-1527
 Secretary - Maud Banks 381-3240
 Treasurer - Don Randle 531-6296
 State Directors
 Jane Farrell 596-2630
 Tom Strikwerda 942-2841
 Paul Zucker 681-9005


Bookstore - Fran Schoenberger 465-1981; Eva Sunell 995-0029
 Field Trip Comm. - Roy Trudel 992-7105; Jim Orgain 381-4912; Joe Van Auker 992-0107
 Program Comm. - Martha Chestem 730-1527; Jane Geuder (unlisted)
 Conservation - Bob Solem 725-5037
 Education - Volunteer welcome
 Membership Services - Eileen Clegg 730-4362
 Newsletter/Records - Jo Solem 725-5037

SEED SALE COMING - FOR THE EIGHTH YEAR THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WILL SELL SEED AT TWO SALES DURING THE 1986-1987 YEAR. FIRST PICKUP DATE IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH. A BROCHURE WILL BE SENT WITHIN A FEW WEEKS TO ALL MEMBERS AND TO THOSE WHO ORDERED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. CALL EILEEN 730-4362 FOR INFO.

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS


Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia, MD. Meeting is cancelled if schools are closed for any reason. Hospitality session at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. Club bookstore opens at 7:30 p.m.

Field trips leave from Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flier building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) unless otherwise listed. Carpooling is encouraged with riders sharing cost of gas and tolls. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow paths. No pets. Leaders may cancel due to inclement weather. If you have questions, contact leaders or Field Trip Chairman Roy Trudel 992-7105, evenings.


 *SEPT 7 - APL WOODS. Leader: Dave Harvey, 795-3117. Meet at 8:00 a.m. for $\frac{1}{2}$ day joint Sunday trip with Baltimore MOS. U.S. 29 south of Columbia; turn right (west) onto Johns Hopkins Rd. Go about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, turn right after passing Exxon Station (just before pond on right). Meet at first main parking lot on right.


SEPT 11 - "BIRDING ADVENTURES IN MEXICO" - Chandler S. Robbins. Internationally recognized biologist and field guide author has been studying neo-tropical migrants on their wintering grounds. Is there a "silent spring" in our birding future?

SEPT 20 - BEGINNING BIRDING WALK. Leader: Richard Giannola, 774-5483. Meet at 8:00 Saturday a.m. at Grempler for $\frac{1}{2}$ day walk at Howard Community College.


 SEPT 27 - HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA. Leader: Chuck Dupree, 796-1086. Nationally famous. If winds are right, Broad-winged migration. Leave Grempler at 7:00 a.m., return in evening. Car pooling a must, share costs. Bring food, drink, warm clothes. Displays at headquarters. Uphill, rocky .7 mile trail to lookout; admission fee. Cancelled in case of rain.

SEPT 27 - TOWN FAIR, COLUMBIA MALL. Club display from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. To volunteer, contact Eileen Clegg 730-4362.


 OCT 4 - MUSHROOM MEANDER. Leader: Bill Newman, 442-5639. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Saturday Grempler. Bring field guide if you have one. If wish to spend full day, bring lunch; otherwise, you may leave after several hours.

 OCT 9 - "THE WONDERS OF THE NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS." Jim Stasz. Truly an ecological treasure; the Barrens hold a miniature forest, gorgeous orchids, a fascinating history and more. Explore it with Dr. Stasz who led a trip to the area in June for the club and may lead one next summer again.


OCT 12 - AUTUMN WILDFLOWERS ALONG THE PATAPSCO. Leader: Bob Solem, 725-5037. Meet at Sunday 1:00 p.m. at Grempler for $\frac{1}{2}$ day trip along railroad tracks for flowers.

 OCT 11-13 BIRDING AT CHINCOTEAGUE NWR. Take advantage of the long weekend. Chuck Dupree Sat-Mon 796-1086 will be birding at the refuge during this weekend. Arrange meeting by calling him prior to the 11th.

OCT 18 - FALL SEED SALE PICKUP - Brochure will be sent to all members. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, call Eileen Clegg 730-4362.

 OCT 19 - AUTUMN HABITAT WALK - CENTENNIAL PARK. Co-sponsored with How. Co. Rec. & Parks. Sunday Leaders: Chuck Dupree 796-1086 & Bill Eckert 992-2464 (days). The first of four seasonal walks to this new park. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Annapolis Road entrance.

OCT 25 - PATAPSCO RIVER BIRDING. Leader: Geraldine Newton, 795-0664. Co-sponsored with Saturday Carroll Co. MOS. Leave Grempler at 7:30 a.m. or meet leader at shopping center on Rt. 26, $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 mile east of Rt. 32 at 8:00 a.m.

 *Baltimore MOS trip. Vice-President of the Baltimore Chapter, Jim Orgain, who is serving on our Field Trip Comm. has extended a special invitation to our chapter members to participate in any of Baltimore's field trips. For more information because space limits our listings, call Jim at 381-4912 or the leaders: Bombay Hook NWR, 8/23 Jim Wilkinson 944-4387; Back River Sewage Plant, 8/31 Mike Resch 661-4313; Woodstock, 9/13 Pete Webb

BIRDING "HOT SPOTS" IN HOWARD COUNTY - CHRIS LUDWIG - CYPRESSMEDE PARK

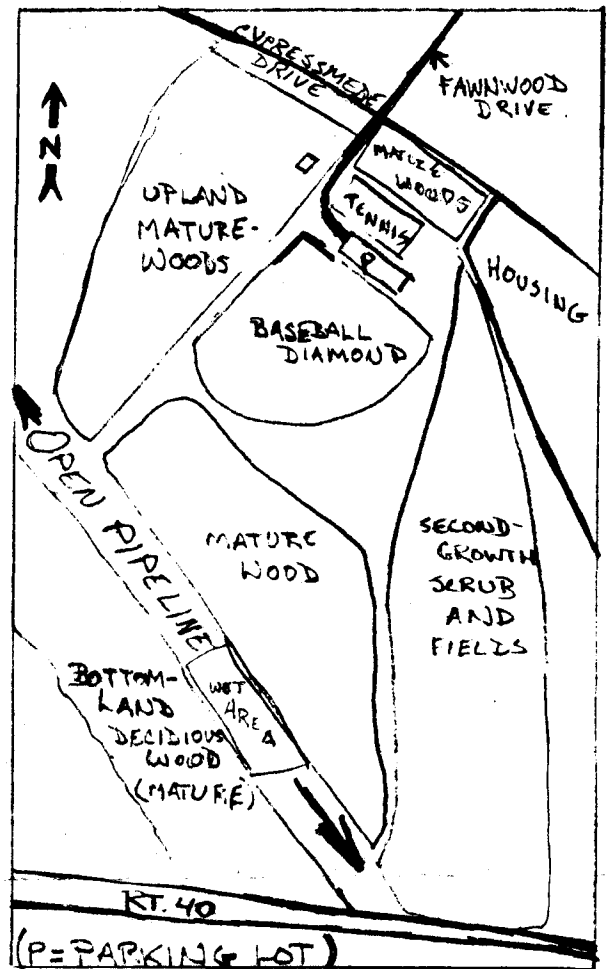
Cypressmede Park, one of Howard County's neighborhood parks, provides county naturalists with a variety of habitats that can be covered in an hour or two. To get to the park, turn right off Route 40 onto Greenway Drive, which is the entrance to Valley Mede, about 1 mile west of the junction of Routes 29 and 40. (No left turn is possible for eastbound traffic; if coming from the west, continue toward Chatham Mall until you are able to make a U turn.) After turning onto Greenway Drive, turn left almost immediately onto Longview Drive; continue to Cypressmede Drive where you again turn left. Turn left onto Fawnwood Drive; the park entrance is a short block ahead. If the gates are closed, park near the entrance and walk in. This 20 acre park is seldom crowded and most of the users tend to cluster around the tennis courts and baseball diamond. The area is criss-crossed with trails.

The diversity of habitats offers a diversity of bird species. The well-maintained residential and park areas are the haunts of House Finches, Northern Mockingbirds, House Wrens, and other "urban" birds. The second-growth scrub areas can yield Prairie Warblers, Northern Cardinals, Common Yellowthroats, and Yellow-breasted Chats. Bluebirds have been seen in some of the open areas.

The mature woods will offer some variety in woodland species such as woodpeckers, chickadees and titmice along with Wood Thrushes and Rufous-sided Towhees. Topping the list of interesting species is a Great Horned Owl, resident in the area, which was sighted in 1984 and 1985 (with young). A careful watch for these owls may prove fruitful for they are not easily found in Howard County. Other forest birds (though not necessarily breeding species) which have been observed include Hermit Thrush, Hairy Woodpecker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager. The diversity in habitat correlating with a change in the bird community makes Cypressmede an excellent locale for beginning birders to learn species' habitat preferences.

Another highlight of Cypressmede is its botanical diversity. The open pipeline in the southwestern portion of the park is an excellent area in which to find many of our common summer and autumn wildflowers. The wet area (see map) can be outstanding although it has diminished in size with the past few dry years. Howard County Recreation and Parks has spread their "wildflower" mix around the baseball field, parking areas and roadways so don't be fooled. They may be "wild" somewhere, but most are not indigenous to this county. Some of the local flowers you can find include Cardinal Flower, Rose Pink, Tall Blue Lettuce, Mistflower, Wild Potato Vine, Ditch Stonecrop, Water Plantain, Monkey Flower, Winged Monkey Flower and Flowering Spurge.

Thanks to Marty Chestem, Chuck Dupree, Jo Solem and Jane Farrell for information on this park. If you have a favorite birding spot that you'd like featured, contact me evenings at 796-8373.



486-1217; Delmarva Listers Trip, 10/11-13 Bob Ringler 655-5738; Eastern Neck NWR, 11/9 Jim Peters, 429-0966.

BOARD MEETINGS - ALL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Sept. 25 - Thur. - 7:30 p.m. at the Clegg's, 9094 Lambskin Lane, Columbia, 730-4362.

Oct. 23 - Thur. - 7:30 p.m. at the Solem's, 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, 725-5037.

AMONG THE OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE COMING YEAR, PUT THE FOLLOWING ON YOUR CALENDAR: "Birds of the Antarctic," Ron Naveen, Nov. 13; "Bird Banding on Appledore Island, Maine," David Holmes, Dec. 11; "Twilight of an Estuary," (an outstanding film about the Chesapeake Bay) Jan. 18 (on our popular movie/popcorn night); and "The Great Blue Heron and Other Wildlife of the Patuxent River," March 12. Mos Vice-President Richard Dolesh's article about this heron rookery was published in National Geographic--the slides were taken by their photographers.



THANKS TO EXPO '86 AND OAKLAND MILLS VILLAGE FAIR VOLUNTEERS - E. CLEGG

Although Expo '86 once again coincided with the MOS state convention weekend in June, we were able to staff our display all day thanks to the following individuals: Barbara Doarnberger, Mary Fallon, Anna Llewellyn, Lois Carleton, Mildred Fitez, Linda McDaniel, Joe Van Auker and son, Sheila Glanz, John & Eileen Clegg. The Oakland Mills Village Fair in mid-May was a hot day which finished with a thunderstorm so it wasn't as pleasant as being in the mall. Special thanks to George Cleland, Linda McDaniel, Brenda Bell, Mildred Fitez, Kevin Heffernan, Sandra Goolsby, Elise Seay, Jane Farrell, Elsa Ponce, Bob & Jo Solem & Eileen Clegg. We are especially grateful to those individuals for whom either function was your first experience and hope you'll be willing to help again.



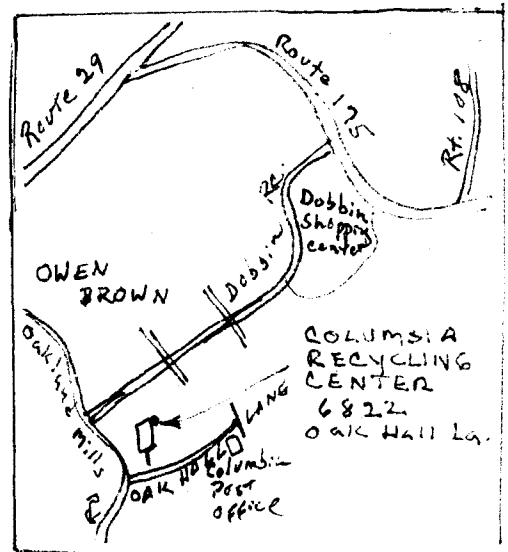
BOOST BLUEBIRDS (AND OTHER NATIVE CAVITY NESTERS) - BOB BOGDAN

Attached is the cavity nester survey form for 1986. Please complete it and return promptly. If you erected and monitored one or more bird boxes (and kept the House Sparrows from nesting), we would like to add your box(es) to the large Howard County map we now have showing the location of cavity nester boxes whose results are reported to us for compilation in the MOST (MD Ornithological Society Trails) Program. All new and renewing club members will receive a newly compiled "Boost Bluebirds" pamphlet which discusses aging nestlings, monitoring techniques, ways to control predators, nest identification, and more. If you want to help but do not have land or the right habitat, check the appropriate blank on the questionnaire and we'll try to help you adopt one or more boxes.

ATTENTION ALL RECYCLERS!

Beginning August 9 the Columbia Recycling Center will move its location to the Hamilton Avnet building (the first building on the left) on Oak Hall Lane not far from the Columbia post office and just a few blocks from their previous location. They will be in the back righthand corner. Because they are expanding their program to include more developmentally disabled clients they are asking that all individuals who recycle for organizations bring materials on SATURDAY ONLY between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. when there will be staff only working.

They express their appreciation for our recycling efforts and hope these new hours "will not pose any real problems." Please continue to designate the Howard Co. Bird Club to receive credit when you recycle.



LENDING POLICY FOR MOUNTED BIRD SPECIMENS

A policy for lending the mounted specimens owned by the Howard County Bird Club was adopted by the Board of Directors on October 24, 1985. The statement will be supplied in its entirety when birds are borrowed. In summary, they require that borrowers assume responsibility for specimens, the club's educational and publicity needs have the highest priority, birds may be borrowed for one week by members for presentations or up to three may be borrowed for individual use for a maximum of one month. Non-member's requests are considered on an individual basis; specimens are not lent to non-members for personal use but only for educational presentations. Any display or presentation by non-members must contain a sign identifying the lenders.



HOWARD COUNTY FAIR PROVIDED A CHANCE TO MEET MANY PEOPLE

Once again the bird club took up part-time residence in the vegetable barn during the Howard County Fair. The display was staffed evenings as members chatted with fair-goers about their bird observations and answered questions. Chairman Mike McClure did his usual outstanding job of obtaining volunteers during prime vacation time. He scheduled a sufficient number of workers each night so that people had a chance to wander around the fair as well as work at the table. The efforts of each individual were appreciated: Don & Jan Randle, Chuck Stirrat, Don & Martha Waugh, Anne & Ken Hart, Jane & Ralph Geuder, Marty Chestem, John & Eileen Clegg, Roy & Karen Trudel, Maud & Harry Banks, Jane & Jack Farrell, Monika & Rod Botsai, Dave Harvey, Cathy & Leroy Williamson, Linda McDaniel, Bob & Jo Solem & Mike Leumas.



NEWEST BIRD SPECIMENS NOW HAVE BOXES THANKS TO FRANK GRIFFIN

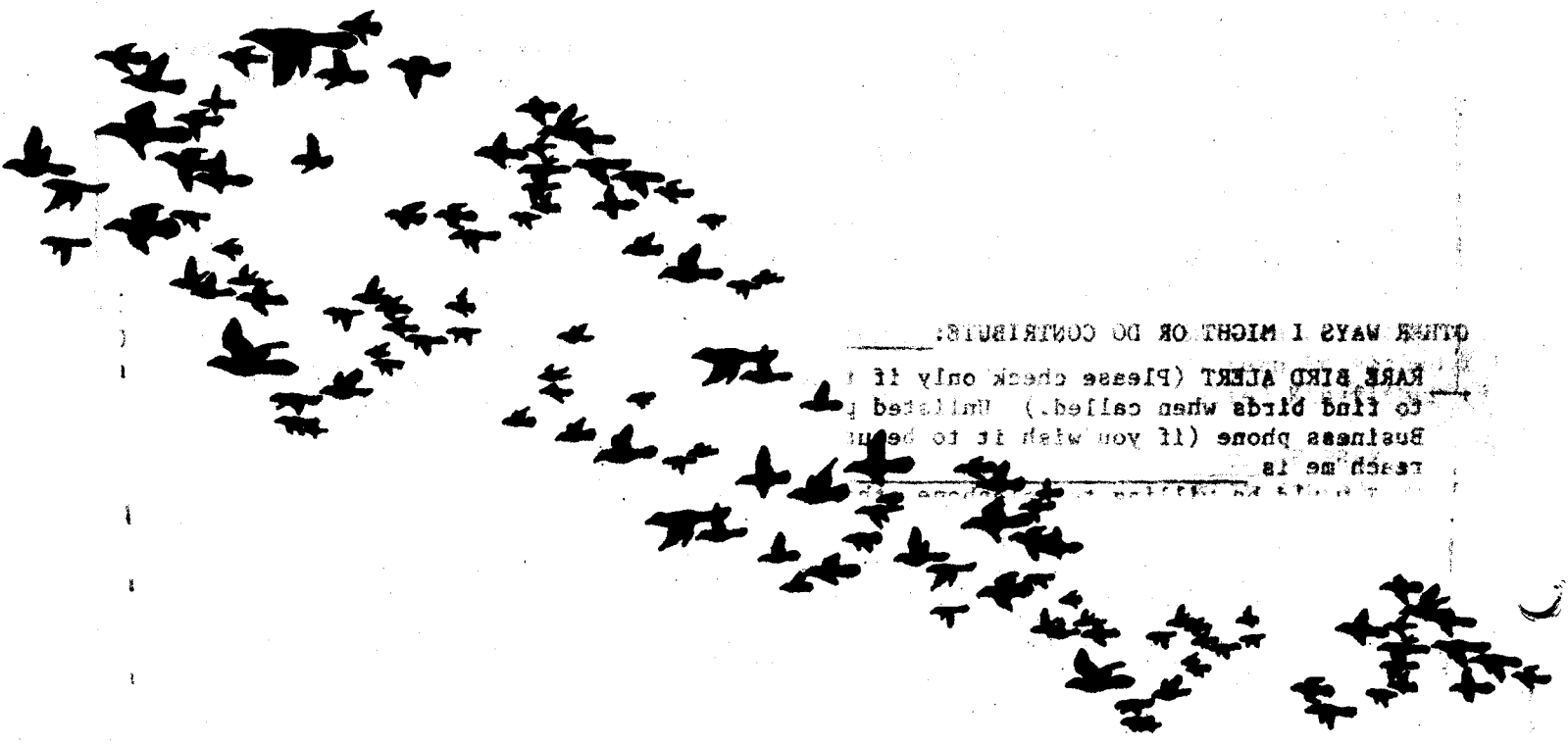
During the summer, Frank Griffin built three boxes for specimens so a few birds that we have had for some time can now be used. Within the last six months we obtained a Great Horned Owl, a Broad-winged Hawk, a female Northern Bobwhite and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak courtesy of Greg Kearns, a naturalist at the Jug Bay Environmental Center. We are still searching for a taxidermist who can mount some of the small birds we have in the freezer. Suggestions are welcome. To help defray the cost of commercially mounting birds, Frank Griffin has generously donated five dozen well-crafted decoupage bird plaques in several sizes. He asked that they be sold at a very modest price so that they would move quickly. They will be available at upcoming meetings and seed sales. Check the club bookstore.

The newest birds now in boxes with their donors are listed below. If you would like to sponsor a bird with a tax-deductible donation (your name will be placed on the base), contact Jo Solem 725-5037. Some birds in the collection, in addition to those listed, do not yet have sponsors. Cost ranges from \$5 to \$35. No. Bobwhite \$10; Va. Rail - Jane & Jack Farrell; Rose-breasted Grosbeak (male) - Joanne Moroney; E. Bluebird (male) - Jon E. & Jon K. Boone; Carolina Wren (fledgling) \$5; Am. Redstart (female) - Don & Jan Randle; Great Horned Owl - \$35; Broad-winged Hawk - Ralph & Jane Geuder, Margie & Chet Kupiec; Surf Scoter - Bird Club Memorial for George Cassell (the taxidermist for most of our collection); and Lesser Scaup - Martha Chestem.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR URBAN WILDLIFE IS SPONSORING A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN WILDLIFE AT THE NATIONAL 4-H CENTER, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND, NOVEMBER 3-6, 1986. FOR INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP, CALL 995-1119.

DEADLINE: Nov-Dec. Newsletter, October 10; autumn migration dates Dec. 15. Call Jo Solem 725-5037 or send to 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. All are welcome.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
10617 Graeloach Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707



OTHER WAYS I MIGHT OR DO CONTRIBUTE:
RARE BIRD ALERT (Please check only if you
to find birds when called.) (Unlisted
Business phone) (If you wish it to be
reach me at