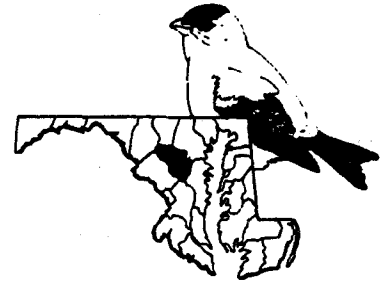




Vol. 17, No 1
Sept-Oct 1988

Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME - Thomas Strikwerda

This is the first club newsletter for the 1988-89 season. I welcome all of you and hope you have a good birding year. The club will again offer a variety of activities for its members. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities: bird and wildflower walks, bird counts, monthly programs, and seed sales, to name a few. Let me encourage you to consider helping the club in some capacity. Although there are plenty of "old timers" -- members who have been doing the same club tasks year after year -- who enjoy the work, most would be more than happy to have help. Helping on committees or with other activities is an excellent way for members to get to know others. Not everyone is able or desires to participate, but please consider it. Participation may also provide feedback to the club's board members with suggestions for improving the club's activities. My primary goal for this year is to increase member participation. Please help.

The club has adopted a number of goals for the next five years (see related article on reverse of the application blank). In addition to these important issues, let me mention some other items that were discussed by the board and deserve your attention.

We hope you will continue your support of the breeding bird atlas. This has been a monumental effort by many people across the county and the state. Publication will require money as well as the efforts of volunteers. Some club members have already helped with some of the compiling efforts.

Terrific progress has been made in the county in support of cavity nesters, primarily bluebirds. A number of club members have been very active in this area, as you may have read in previous newsletters. The results of their work have been outstanding, but there is ample opportunity for more involvement by members.

From time to time the club has received special gifts, either from someone's estate or from other sources. We need to decide on appropriate uses for these monies: special programs, field trips, or equipment purchases. Your suggestions are always welcome.

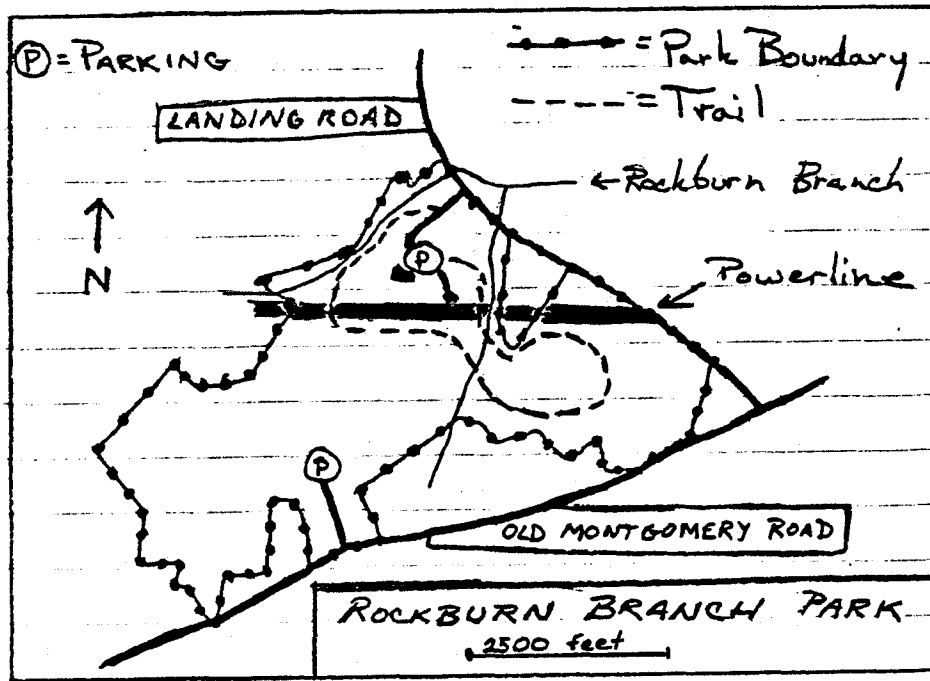
There has been discussion for some years of developing a county nature center. When possible we, as a club, will participate in hearings or the planning process. However, members can also contribute their time and energy to this exciting project.

Environmental issues continue to be very much in the news. We will continue to monitor them and support county or statewide conservation initiatives. Members can help a great deal by letter writing, telephoning, or testifying at hearings.

Thomas Strikwerda

SEED SALE COMING -- FOR THE TENTH YEAR THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WILL SELL SEED DURING THE 1988-89 YEAR. THE FIRST PICKUP DATE IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15. ORDER BLANKS WILL BE SENT IN SEPTEMBER TO ALL MEMBERS AND TO ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO PURCHASED SEED DURING THE PAST YEAR. IF YOU FAIL TO RECEIVE A BLANK BY OCTOBER 1 OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CALL EILEEN AT 730-4362

BIRDING "HOT SPOTS" IN HOWARD COUNTY - Chris Ludwig - Rockburn Branch Park



Rockburn Branch Park's 389 acres provide a rare opportunity for county naturalists--a county park within easy access of the majority of the population that contains a quiet, relatively secluded atmosphere. Numerous paths traverse a variety of habitats including open fields, streamsides, and various woodland types. To reach Rockburn Branch Park, enter from Landing Road and park in a lot near the brick park building atop the first hill. From here return halfway down the hill to walk the woodchip trail marked on the map above. This route, marked with yellow paint blazes, takes 1-2 hours if you are walking slowly. There are many side trails to be investigated.

Mammals are a prevalent feature. The White-tailed Deer herd is estimated at about 20 individuals. Look in muddy areas for the tracks of other county mammals: fox, opossum, raccoon, and squirrel.

In the fall of 1987, Ralph Geuder surveyed migrant raptors which flew by in good numbers. During approximately 25 hours Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrel, Osprey, Northern Harrier, and (the highlight) a Bald Eagle were observed. To watch for hawks, pick an area with good visibility such as the ballfield bleachers, and look north. The best time of day is between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and the optimal season is September 15 to November 30. Although we are not certain if this is truly a "hot spot" every year for raptors, it appears to be as good as any other county location. The raptors may be following the boundary between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain known as the Fall Line, a proven migratory route.

The park offers average to good birding at other seasons in addition to the hawks during the autumn migration. Summer breeding species include Hooded Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker, and Ovenbird. Listen and watch for resident Barred and Great Horned Owls. Migration and winter periods feature the usual species.

Flowers at this park are not highly unusual, but the streamside woods, wood edge and powerline offer a variety of habitats so that the enthusiast can locate Jack-in-the-pulpit, toothworts, and Spring Beauty early in the year, Fringed Loosestrife and Daisy Fleabane in the summer and Black-eyed Susan, Hollow Joe-pye-weed, and an assortment of goldenrods in the autumn.

Thanks go to Ralph Geuder and Sandy Meyerhoff who provided the information on Rockburn's exciting fauna. If you know of other areas that should be presented as county "hot spots," please contact me evenings at 796-8373 or mail a description to 7992 Millstream Ct., Elkridge, MD 21227.

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, SPECIAL EVENTS

Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. 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 noted. Carpooling is encouraged with riders sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footgear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow paths. No pets. Leaders may cancel due to inclement weather. If you have questions, contact the leader or Field Trip Chair Michele Wright 465-6057.

SEPT 3 **SORA RAILS AT JUG BAY.** Leader: Greg Kearns. Join Jug Bay Naturalist on a boat tour through the marshes in search of this elusive bird. Leave Grempler at 6:00 a.m. Limited to 15 adults. Eat lunch at park. 3/4 day trip. Call Michele at 465-6057 before 9:00 p.m. to reserve space.



SEPT 8 **"AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL SMITH"** - An outstanding wildlife photographer will present favorite slides including bluebirds (some of which appeared in National Geographic) and Osprey--he's been shooting one pair for 14 years! His photographs have appeared in a number of national publications. Don't miss the chance to see the methods and professional results of his sensitive and meticulous artistry. Hostesses: Jane Farrell and Mary Lou Clark.



SEPT 10 **ANTIETAM: CIVIL WAR HISTORY AND BIRDING.** Leaders: Martha Chestem 730-1527 and Chuck Dupree 796-1086 (evenings). An all day trip combining history and birds in a setting and at a time that should be good for fall migrants. Meet at Grempler at 7:00 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch. Back mid-late afternoon.



SEPT 17-18 **SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY WEEKEND.** Leader: Karl Anderson. Join Rancocas Sanctuary Director and one of New Jersey's premier naturalists in botanizing and birding this fascinating area. Botanists will follow Karl seeking out Pine Barrens Gentian and other flower specialties, while birders will cover Cape May, Brigantine Refuge and other area hot spots. Call Michele at 465-6057 before 9:00 p.m. to register and to obtain suggestions for motels. Registration is necessary. Sixth annual Wings and Water Festival (fee) with marine-related events taking place for non-field folks. Shorebirds, hawks, songbirds.



OCT 1 **SOLDIER'S DELIGHT.** Leader: Jean Worthley. Look for the Fringed Gentian and other botanical specialites of this serpentine barren which Chris Ludwig highlighted in his May program. Bring wildflower guide and magnifying lens. Meet at Grempler at 8:30 a.m. More info? Call Michele.

OCT 8 **DYKE MARSH, BELLE HAVEN, MT. VERNON AREA.** Leader: Charles Swift 964-1989. All day. Meet at Grempler 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Look for puddle ducks, shorebirds, herons, etc. along the Potomac River in Virginia.



OCT 13 **"BIRDS THAT GO BEEP: TRACKING BIRDS BY SATELLITE"** - Thomas Strikwerda. Valuable information about bird migration and movement can be learned by attaching radio transmitters to birds, then following their movement by computer. Howard Chapter President Tom Strikwerda worked on a project at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory that resulted in minature solar-powered transmitters for swans and an Antarctic petrel. Hostess: Maud Banks.



OCT 15 **AUTUMN SEED SALE.** Seed sale order blank will be mailed in September to all members and those who purchased seed during the 1987-88 year. Questions? Contact Eileen 730-4362. Volunteers are always needed & welcome.

OCT 23 **AUTUMN HABITAT WALK AT CEDAR LANE PARK.** Leaders: Chuck Dupree 796-1086 (evenings) & Bill Eckert 992-2464 (days). Meet at 1:00 p.m. in front of the grey building near the parking lot at the Cedar Lane entrance for an afternoon walk in one of our newer parks. Co-sponsored by How. Co. Rec. & Parks.

BOARD MEETINGS - September 29 - Miller Branch Library Meeting Room, Frederick Rd., Ellicott City at 7:30 p.m.
October 20 - Central Library Meeting Room, Columbia at 8:00 p.m.

Thursdays

A HAWK WATCH IN HOWARD COUNTY - Ralph Geuder

For some folks the highlight of the year is the fall when the big birds fly. Hawk Mountain, Cape May, and many lesser-known spots are frequented from August through December by thousands of people who enjoy the annual southward migration of birds of prey.

It seems highly unlikely that we have an undiscovered Cape May or Hawk Mountain in Howard County, but there are places here which are relatively better than others for watching migrating hawks. For example, one observer spent 23 hours at Rockburn Branch Park in the autumn of 1987. Eighty raptors of seven species were observed during that period.

We'd like to hear about other hawk watching spots in the county. Possibilities which have been mentioned or which have produced hawks in the past include Worthington Elementary School, the Hollofield section of Patapsco Valley State Park, the reservoir area along Triadelphia as well as Centennial and Schooley Mill parks. All that's needed, in addition to binoculars, field guide, and a small notebook, is a comfortable spot (a lawn chair will do), a large open vista with a view of the northwest to northeast, and some block of time between about 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on one or more fall days.

Would you be willing to be part of a group which would try to coordinate flight data among some observation points? Please drop a note or card to Ralph Geuder (or see me at the September meeting) 9282 Soaring Hill Rd., Columbia, MD 21045 if you know about a spot and/or are willing to try to help coordinate viewing times and data. Although it may not be easy to arrange, we'd like to try to put several people in the field at different sites on the same day two or three times during fall migration (more would be even better). Anytime you hawk watch individually this fall, please keep track of starting and ending time, total time spent watching, location, and number and species of raptors seen. If you are inexperienced, your eyes still can be a big help to others (it's also a great way to learn without committing a whole day or weekend.)


C'mon, who can top 3.5 hawks per hour?????

HOWARD CHAPTER DONATES STATE HIGH \$1857.25 TO FUND ATLAS PUBLICATION

Regular readers of this newsletter know that during the 1987-88 year the Howard County Chapter MOS helped to raise funds toward publication of the five year Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas, a joint project of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. An anonymous \$5000 donation as a matching grant challenge on the state level elicited an excellent response from members and friends of this chapter. This club donated \$500 and agreed to donate another \$500 to match private donations which eventually totaled \$857.25. Those persons donating by March 31st were listed in the May-June 1988 newsletter. Since that time the following individuals have also responded: Judy Ray, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Elizabeth Bobo, and David Holmes. Many thanks to all contributors. Your support of this project is much appreciated and your sensitivity to the long term value of this information in making land use decisions is a tribute to your environmental awareness.

As one of the preliminary steps toward publication, a number of individuals responded to a request for help from Chandler Robbins at the May meeting. They met with him on three spring evenings to compile material from published regional sources for each breeding bird species in Maryland which would serve as background information for the more than three dozen authors who will be writing individual species accounts for the atlas publication. Assisting Chan at one or more of the sessions were Howard County Atlas Co-ordinators Chuck Dupree and Jane Farrell along with Marty Chestem, Michele Wright, Marjorie Mountjoy, Elise Seay, Jo Solem, Maud Banks, Eileen Clegg, Don and Jan Randle, and Kevin Gillen.

BLUEBIRDS REBOUND AFTER POOR START - Joe Suess and Mark Wallace



The late April and early May rains were needed in the county, but the cold temperatures associated with the rains were not! Over 70 young bluebirds perished due to these conditions on the Ehlers, Suess, and Wallace trails alone. Two nestlings from one of Frances Ehlers' boxes were barely alive when we checked them, but they were warmed in our hands and moved to another box from which they eventually fledged. The drive to perpetuate the species did not discourage the adults from starting new families immediately.

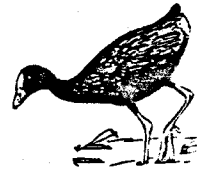
The articles describing the club's bluebird program published in county newspapers last spring resulted in many calls. People asked for assistance in locating nesting boxes, banding young, capturing and removing House Sparrows, and answering general questions. The interest thus stimulated has been rewarding and should result in higher recorded numbers of bluebirds fledged in Howard County. These "newcomers" to bluebirding are monitoring their boxes, keeping good records, and calling us to report problems and results of their monitoring. Such cooperation is saving us a lot of trail time.

We are also excited about the enthusiasm of some individuals in assisting or operating their own bluebird trails. The efforts of Connie Bockstie and Ceil Casciaro in taking over the Sharp Road Trail are particularly appreciated. This trail, previously operated by Fred Schwaner, is a bluebird haven and probably fledges more bluebirds than any area of similar size in the county. While some boxes are located in backyards, most are mounted on posts shared with mail boxes along the deadend street with limited traffic. The bluebirds undoubtedly occupied the area long before any houses were constructed, but the property owners welcome the "return" of the bluebirds and enjoy their presence.

The Glenelg Country School acreage and the subdivision adjacent to it may become another haven for bluebirds. Boxes maintained by Carolyn Cradler at the school have been relocated and results are promising, while Cindy Newman, a nearby resident, has acquired "bluebird fever." Her four boxes attracted nothing but House Sparrows, but with the capture and removal of more than 30 of the intruders she has two pairs of bluebirds nesting within 60 yards of one another! Each pair has fledged a family and with all threats removed, it is anticipated that each will raise a second family.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE CAVITY NESTER SURVEY FORM AS SOON AS BREEDING IS COMPLETE IN YOUR BOXES. The form was included in the May-June newsletter. If you need a copy, call Joe at 854-0250 and leave your name and address on his tape. He will see that you receive one.

PARKS LISTS PROJECT CONTINUING - Jane Farrell



Just a reminder to individuals who might not be aware that the Bird Club is creating bird and wildflower checklists for four major county parks and the Lake Elkhorn area in Columbia. Enthusiasm and cooperation has been excellent with some individuals visiting a designated park several times a week for the entire spring and early summer period. Please continue to keep records. If you did not receive a reporting form or would like more information, call me at 596-2630 evenings.

WILDFLOWER CHECKLISTS SHOULD BE RETURNED BY 1 NOVEMBER - Bob Solem

For individuals who have been cooperating in locating common wildflowers in the county, especially in the parks, continue tabulating your findings during the early autumn when the composites are blooming. Then please return them to me by the first of November.

FLOWER FEATURE: MARYLAND GOLDEN ASTER - Georgia Morris and Bob Solem



1'-2' upright MARYLAND GOLDEN ASTER - *Chrysopsis mariana*
plant

FAMILY - Composite (*Compositae*)

Flowers are in large terminal clusters
HABITAT - Dry sandy soil, fields, pine woods

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - Late August

The 1"-3" leaves are alternated

on the stem and are broadly oblong
HOWARD COUNTY LOCATION - Behind Hammond High, Brown's Bridge Road, Scott's Cove, roadsides like Folly Quarter Rd. & Rt. 144

FLOWERS - Flower rays widest in the middle; flower heads .5-1" wide with a yellow center

SPECIAL INFORMATION - The Maryland Golden Aster is not a true aster and is in the genus *Chrysopsis*, sometimes called "silk grasses." The 1'-2' stalk is hairy or silky when young becoming smooth later. The leaves do not clasp the stems. The bracts below the flowers are sticky.

"CHICKADEE CHECKOFF" SIGNED BY GOVERNOR SCHAEFER - Bob Solem

Bird Club members who telephoned the governor's office or wrote letters in late May urging the signing of the bill allowing a checkoff line on the income tax return benefiting the Chesapeake Bay and the Endangered Species Fund can take credit for knowing they helped to pass important environmental legislation. The state print and stamp will be retained to help publicize the programs. It is necessary to realize, however, that the checkoff legislation has an automatic "sunset" feature. If, at any time, the amount of voluntary contributions on state income tax returns falls below \$200,000, the bill will automatically lapse. In planning your annual voluntary contributions, set aside a specific amount for this cause or the work of many years to achieve the passage of this legislation may be lost.

In addition to the above bill, the governor also signed bills to prohibit drilling for oil or gas in the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries, made permanent the state's ban on phosphates in detergents (to benefit the Bay), and created an Office of Recycling as an initial step in requiring counties to encourage recycling and reduce solid waste.

REFUGE ENTRANCE FEES

On March 19, 1988 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge again began collecting an entrance fee of \$3.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per person. The Federal Duck Stamp as well as Golden Age, Golden Access and Golden Eagle passports will be honored. These can be obtained at the Visitor Center on the refuge. This year fees will be collected as visitors enter the refuge. Entrance fees will also be collected at Blackwater, Back Bay, Bombay Hook and 19 other refuges. Speaking of Chincoteague Refuge, the endangered Piping Plover's nesting area along the beaches was protected during the 1988 breeding season as designated areas were closed to beach traffic.

MATERIAL FOR NOV-DEC NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE PHONED OR MAILED TO JO SOLEM (725-5037), 10617 GRAELOCH RD., LAUREL, MD 20707 BY SEPT. 25. AUTUMN MIGRATION DATES WELCOME ANY TIME; MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN DEC. 7 FOR INCLUSION IN MARYLAND BIRDLIFE AND AMERICAN BIRDS REPORT.

LOON, COMMON	5	DOVE, ROCK	540	WARBLER, TENNESSEE	6
GREBE, PIED-BILL		MOURNING	436	NASHVILLE	1
HORNED		CUCKOO, BLACK-BILL	13	PARULA, NORTHERN	100 *
CORMORANT, DBLE-C.	7	YELLOW-BILL	45 *	WARBLER, YELLOW	113
BITTERN, AMERICAN		OWL, COMMON BARN		CHESTNUT-SIDED	22
HERON, GREAT BLUE	14 *	E. SCREECH		MAGNOLIA	7
EGRET, GREAT		GREAT HORN	1	CAPE MAY	
SNOWY		BARRED	6	BLACK-THROAT BLUE	11
HERON, LITTLE BLUE		NIGHTHAWK, COMMON	2	YELLOW-RUMPED	14
EGRET, CATTLE		CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW		BLACK-THROAT GREEN	5
HERON, GREEN-BACK	12	WHIP-POOR-WILL		BLACKBURNIAN	8 *
BLK.-CR. NIGHT		SWIFT, CHIMNEY	242	YELLOW-THROATED	1
IBIS, GLOSSY		HUMMINGBIRD, RUBY-T.	26 *	PINE	9
SWAN, TUNDRA		KINGFISHER, BELTED	13	PRAIRIE	46
MUTE	74 *	WOODPECKER, RED-HEAD		PALM	
GOOSE, CANADA	76	RED-BELLIED	249 *	BAY-BREASTED	4
DUCK, WOOD	16	SAPSUCKER, YEL.-BEL.		BLACKPOLL	22 *
TEAL, GREEN-WING		WOODPECKER, DOWNY	63	CERULEAN	22 *
DUCK, AM. BLACK		HAIRY	76 *	BLACK & WHITE	25
HALLARD	196	FLICKER, NORTH.	24	REDSTART, AM.	143
TEAL, BLUE-WING		WOODPECKER, PILEATED	20 *	WARBLER, PROTHONOTARY	2
GADWALL		WOOD PEWEE, EAST.	106 *	WORM-EATING	11 *
WIGEON, AM.		FLYCATCHER, ACADIAN	157 *	OVERBIRD	182 *
SCAUPE, LESSER		LEAST		WATERTHRUSH, NORTH.	1
BUFFLEHEAD		PHOEBE, EAST.	49	LOUISIANA	36
MERCANSER, COMMON		FLYCATCHER, GT. CREST	29 *	WARBLER, KENTUCKY	73 *
RED-BREASTED		KINGBIRD, E.	135 *	YELLOWTHROAT, COM.	287
DUCK, RUDDY	6	LARK, HORNED		WARBLER, HOODED	47 *
VULTURE, BLACK	125	MARTIN, PURPLE	30	WILSON'S	1
TURKEY	4	SWALLOW, TREE	15	CANADA	31 *
OSPREY	4	N. ROUGH-WING	65 *	CHAT, YELLOW-BREAST	37
EAGLE, BALD (AD) (IM)		BANK		TANAGER, SUMMER	
HARRIER, NORTHERN		CLIFF	27	SCARLET	109 *
HAWK, SHARP-SHIN	4	BARN	387	CARDINAL, N.	609 *
COOPER'S	3	JAY, BLUE	327	GROSBEAK, ROSE-BREAST	35
RED-SHOULDER	13	CROW, AMER.	336	BLUE	1
BROAD-WING	6	FISH	17	BUNTING, INDIGO	318 *
RED-TAIL	15	SPECIES	194	TOWHEE, RUFIOUS-S.	220
KESTREL, AMER.	13	RAVEN, COMMON		SPARROW, CHIPPING	168 *
PHEASANT, KN	6	CHICKADEE, BLK-CAP.		FIELD	90
GROUSE, RUFFED		CAROLINA	182	VESPER	
TURKEY, WILD		TITMOUSE, TUFTED	234 *	SAVANNAH	
BURRWITTE, N.	7	KNUTCH, RED-BRST		GRASSHOPPER	23
HALL, KING		WHITE-BRST	15	SONG	222
VIRGINIA		BROWN-HEADED		SWAMP	1
SOPA		CREEPER, BROWN	1	WHITE-THROAT	15
MOORHEN, COMMON		WREN, CAROLINA	82	WHITE-CROWN	
COOT, AM.		HOUSE	81	JUNCO, DARK-EYED	
POLOVER, BLK.-BEL		MARSH		BOBOLINK	32
SEMIPALM.		KINGLET, RUBY-CR.		BLACKBIRD, RED-WING	738
KILLDEER	29	GNATCATCHER, BL-GR.	190	MEADOWLARK, EAST.	33
YELLOWLEGS, GREAT.		BLUEBIRD, E.	115	BLACKBIRD, RUSTY	
LESSER	3	VEERY	33	CRACKLE, COM.	715
SANDPIPER, SOLITARY	23	THRUSH, SWAINSON'S	28 *	COWBIRD, BR.-HD.	239
WILLET		HERMIT		ORIOLE, ORCHARD	29 *
SANDPIPER, SPOTTED	30	WOOD	324 *	NORTHERN	107 *
SEMIPALM.	1	ROBIN, AM.	256	FINCH, PURPLE	
LEAST	9	CATBIRD, GRAY	246 *	HOUSE	248 *
PECTORAL		MOCKINGBIRD, N.	264 *	SISKIN, PINE	
DUNLIN		THRASHER, BROWN	30	GOLDFINCH, AM.	709 *
SNIBE, COMMON		PIPIT, WATER		GROSBEAK, EVENING	
WOODCOCK, AMER.	1	WAXWING, CEDAR	188	SPARROW, HOUSE	304
GULL, LAUGHING		STARLING, EUR.	122 *	WRITE-INS (DETAILS MAY BE NECESSARY)	
BONAPARTE'S		VIREO, WHITE-EYE	185 *	WILLOW FLYCATCHER	2
RING-BILLED		SOLITARY		GRAY-CHEEKED THROSH	3
HERRING		YELLOW-THROAT'D	25	BREWSTER'S WARBLER	1
GRT. BLK.-BACK.		WARBLING	11 *		
TERN, CASPIAN		RED-EYED	454 *		
COMMON		WARBLER, BLUE-WING	18		
LEAST		GOLDEN-WING			

PARTY LEADER _____ ADDRESS _____

TIME START 4:45 AM HRS OWLING 1 HRS ON FOOT 147 HRS BY CAR 25 HRS OTHER 0

TIME END 9:00 PM MILES OWLING 2 MILES FOOT 136 MILES CAR 334 MI. OTHER 0

WEATHER: AM: TEMP _____ WIND _____ CLOUD COVER _____ * PRECIP _____

PM: TEMP _____ WIND _____ CLOUD COVER _____ * PRECIP _____

PARTY MEMBERS & ADDRESSES _____

* High count compared to fourteen previous years.

SUMMARY OF 1988 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT - Paul Zucker

The 1988 Howard County May Count was conducted from 4:45 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on May 14. Holding the May Count on the second Saturday in May is a departure from previous tradition, and will be continued in the future. There were a total of 49 participants in 20 field parties. The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the accompanying tally sheet. Compared to previous years, this count continued to have a good turnout and good coverage of the county. A total of 131 species and one hybrid were identified (somewhat below average) and 15,777 individual birds were tallied. The weather was moderate in the morning (about 60 to 65 degrees) with slight winds and varying cloud cover. In the afternoon the temperatures were in the upper seventies. There was no rain.

Unusual sightings (seen three or fewer times on the preceding 14 counts) are listed below along with the name of the party leader: Double-crested Cormorant (Skuldt), Semipalmated Sandpiper (Robbins), Common Nighthawk (Stirrat, Wallace), Willow Flycatcher (Solem, Leumas), Brown Creeper (McClure), Gray-cheeked Thrush (Skuldt, Leumas, Clegg), and Brewster's Warbler (Zucker). High counts (compared to the preceding 14 counts) were set for 40 species (indicated on the tally sheet by an asterisk). Low counts for this same time frame were obtained for Ring-necked Pheasant (6), Yellow-rumped Warbler (14), and White-throated Sparrow (15). In addition, several species which have been seen in most of the recent counts were missed: Whip-poor-will (for the third year out of the last six), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Purple Finch. The later date of the count this year is the likely cause for many of the high records and for some of the missed species.

The following people participated in the May Count: Maud Banks, George Chase, Marty Chestem, Mary Lou Clark, Eileen and John Clegg, Jane Farrell, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Richard Giannola, Cathy Glacken, Shiras Guion, Don Haft, Alex and Helene Hammer, Anne and Ken Hart, Dave Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Ann Higgins, Marci Krishnamoorthy, Margie Kupiec, Mike Leumas, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina and Mike McClure, Peter Osenton, Dave and Elaine Pardoe, Don and Jan Randle, Carol Renfrew, Nanine Rhineland, Maureen Ritz, Chandler Robbins, Carol Rykaczewski, Steve Sanford, Nick Short, Karen Skuldt, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, Linda Stirrat, Eva Sunell, Charles Swift, Mark Wallace, Cathy Williamson, Michele Wright, and Paul Zucker (compiler). Thank you all for making the count such a success, and once again our thanks to Jan and Don Randle for hosting the tally in the evening.

HOWARD MOS SUPPORTS OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN - Bob Solem



The Howard Bird Club supported the *Land Preservation and Open Space Master Plan* in testimony before the Howard County Park Board July 27. The Master Plan, prepared for the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, will guide decisions about land preservation, recreation, and parks for the next 10-15 years. This plan is broader than the 1978 plan and includes land preservation policies and recommendations which have been promoted by the Bird Club in other forums.

A large section of the plan is devoted to policies to protect and preserve stream and river corridors, wetlands, woodlands and other valuable environmental resource areas. Stream corridors are important because they provide habitats for a variety of plants, animals, and aquatic life. The Master Plan proposes establishing Stream Corridor Protection Areas, which will include environmentally sensitive areas, defined as wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, highly erodible soils, and critical plant and wildlife habitat. No development would be permitted in these areas. The Master Plan proposes that the land preservation policies apply to all land, not just park land and open space.

The Master Plan will be a part of Howard County's General Plan, which serves as a guide for the future growth and development of the County. When questions arise about land preservation, recreation, and parks, this Master Plan will be used to help answer the questions.

NAME _____

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Husband & Wife/Couple.....	\$12.50
Adult (individual).....	9.00
Student (through age 18).....	1.50
Student (over age 18).....	5.00
Sustaining.....	20.00
Life (plus chapter dues).....	200.00
Senior Couple (age 65 & over)....	8.50
Senior Adult (age 65 & over).....	6.00
Howard Co. Chapter dues (if life or member of another MOS chapter)	4.00

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1 - AUGUST 31

Checks should be made payable to HOWARD CO. CHAPTER-MOS and mailed to treasurer

Eva Sunell, Treasurer
6730 Carlinda Ave.
Columbia, MD 21046 Tel. 995-0029

Name of primary chapter

New Membership

Renewal

QUESTIONNAIRE (Please complete and return with dues.) NAME _____

My time is limited, but I would be willing to help in these ways. PHONE _____

SURVEYS AND COUNTS

May Count _____ Mid-Winter Count _____ Wildflowers

I would like to help compile bird lists for parks/open space: _____ Centennial,

Rockburn, _____ Savage, _____ Schooley Mill, _____ Lake Elkhorn, Other _____

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE

Serve as host/hostess at one monthly meeting; _____ Provide occasional baked goods;

"Man" club exhibits at shows & fairs (_____ Put me with someone who is experienced);

Help with the annual potluck & special events; _____ Work on publicity;

Work at the seed sales: _____ Inside at the desk, _____ Outside loading, _____ Bookstore

BOOST BLUEBIRDS (AND OTHER NATIVE CAVITY NESTERS)

Monitor boxes; _____ Start a trail (I have access to land); _____ I have a trail/box;

Other _____

ASSIST WITH THE CLUB BOOKSTORE _____; NEWSLETTER _____ (Name capacity) _____

FIELD TRIPS: _____ Help plan; _____ Lead (location or subject) _____

Allow my yard or land to be a feeder stop or part of a field trip

PROGRAMS: _____ Help plan; _____ I have suggestions; please contact me.

CONSERVATION: _____ Recycle my cans, newspapers, etc. at local center; _____ Telephone or
write letters to legislators; _____ Work with other club members as issues arise

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: _____ Give talks in schools & to groups (_____ I would like to go with
someone in order to learn.)

RARE BIRD ALERT: (Please check only if there is a reasonable chance you will
attempt to find birds when notified.)

Unlisted phone numbers must be listed here.

Business phone if you wish it to be used

Best time of day to reach me.

I am no longer able to follow these calls. Please delete my name from the Alert.

I WOULD BE WILLING TO TELEPHONE OTHERS ON THE ALERT.

OTHER WAYS IN WHICH I COULD CONTRIBUTE

ADDITIONAL IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS _____

POSSIBLE FIVE YEAR GOALS FOR THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB 1988-1993

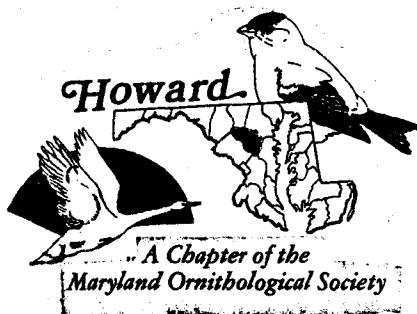
At its May meeting the Board of Directors adopted unanimously five possible goals which they hoped could be largely achieved by the Club's 20th anniversary year. Your help, suggestions, and continued support are welcome and necessary. Contact President Tom Strikwerda at 942-2841 (evenings) if you would like to receive additional information or to offer ideas and help.

1. Prepare a bird and a wildflower checklist for each major county park and for the Columbia lakes. (This project was outlined in the May-June 1988 newsletter; progress reports will be made from time to time.)
2. Publish a checklist of the birds of Howard County. (A preliminary checklist covering the years 1956-1984 was published in 1985. A final checklist encompassing 30-35 years and including the increased volume of data from the last few years should be completed before 1993.)
3. Revise Attracting Birds in the Maryland Piedmont. Our popular guide continues to fill a real need at a bargain price.
4. Establish a hawk watching site in the county. (Article in the September-October 1988 newsletter.)
5. Donate a minimum of \$5000 to the Nature Conservancy divided between the Maryland Chapter which preserves rare state habitats (a focus which we have long supported) and their Latin American division which works to protect neo-tropical migrants on their wintering grounds (an aspect which we, as a bird club, must increasingly emphasize). This sum will be funded by club donations from seed sale profits and individual contributions. Although the Board set a modest goal of \$5000, there is hope that the actual amount collected will be significantly more than that figure.

In his welcome in the September-October newsletter, President Strikwerda also mentions some continuing projects which will be a part of our planning for the next five years. Those items are, of course, in addition to our regular schedule of programs, field trips, seed sales, and annual counts.

Maryland Ornithological
Society, Inc.
Cylburn Mansion
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
OR SUGGESTIONS