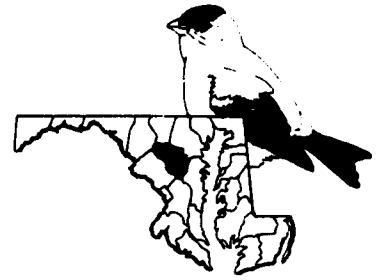




Vol. 18, No 1  
Sept-Oct 1989

# Howard

A Chapter of the  
Maryland Ornithological Society



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## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME - Thomas Strikwerda

As we begin the 1989-90 Bird Club season with this newsletter and I begin my second year as president, let me say "welcome." I hope you had a good summer. First, let me thank all of you for making the 1988-89 season a successful year for the club. Many of you contributed to this success and in ways too numerous to list. Even though I won't mention them all here, be assured that your efforts, time and talents are noticed and appreciated. I would like to highlight just two items which come to mind and are, perhaps, indicators of our success. First, our club surpassed the 300 member mark--its largest size ever! Another notable "success" was active club support for several key Howard County environmental bills and land use regulations which were passed.

I'm looking forward to another good year for the club and hope you will support it and fellow members in whatever way you can. This may be in the form of staffing the club's booth at the county fair or other events. Possibly you can help at the seed sales. How about stuffing envelopes with *Maryland Birdlife* or serving refreshments at club meetings? Then there are always the club committees--book store helpers and field trip coordinators are especially needed this year. Please look over the questionnaire included with this newsletter and consider helping in one or more areas.

Above all, have a safe and enjoyable time birding in Howard County!

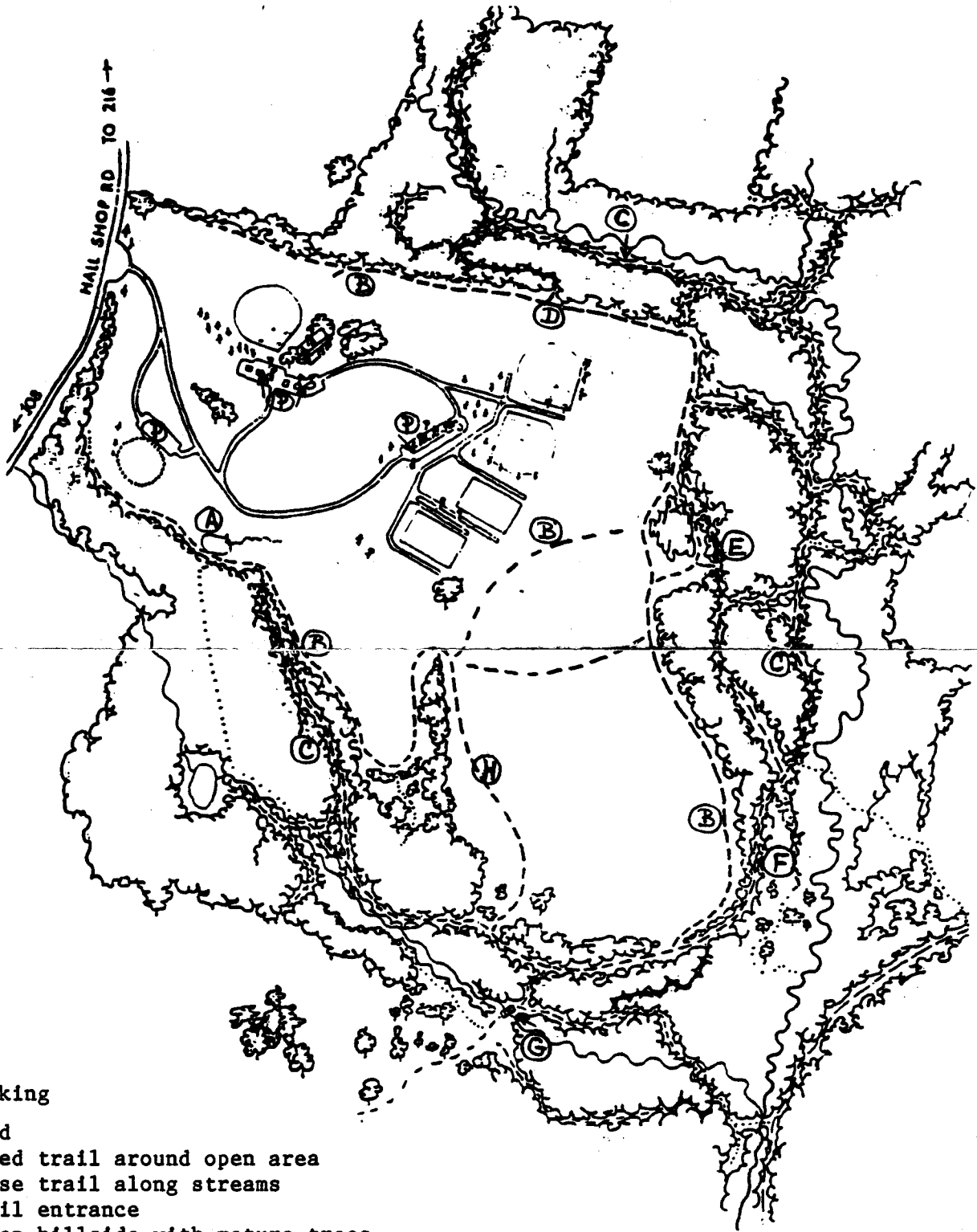
*Thomas Strikwerda*

### 1989-1990 OFFICERS

President - Thomas Strikwerda - 942-2841  
Vice President - Ralph Geuder  
Treasurer - Nancy Magnusson - 498-4612  
Secretary - Marci Krishnamoorthy - 730-0568  
State Directors: Marty Chestem, Jane Farrell,  
Helen Zeichner, Paul Zucker  
Chapter Directors: Linda Stirrat, Michele Wright

SEED SALE COMING -- FOR THE ELEVENTH YEAR THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WILL SELL SEED DURING THE 1989-90 YEAR. THE FIRST PICKUP DATE IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14. ORDER BLANKS WILL BE SENT IN SEPTEMBER TO ALL MEMBERS AND TO THOSE ON OUR MAILING LIST. IF YOU FAIL TO RECEIVE AN ORDER BLANK BY OCTOBER 1 OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CALL EILEEN AT 730-4362

Schooley Mill Park, Part II



- P - Parking
- A - Pond
- B - Mowed trail around open area
- C - Horse trail along streams
- D - Trail entrance
- E - Steep hillside with mature trees
- F - Area of brushy second growth
- G - Foot bridge
- H - Trail near ravine

An introduction to Schooley Mill Park (Part I) appeared in the May-June 1989 issue of the newsletter. A description of the areas shown on the above map with species to be expected (Part III) will be published in the November-December newsletter.

## 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 or fewer than 3 participants. Questions? Call leader or Field Trip Ch. Michele Wright 465-6057.

SEPT 14  
Thurs



**"THE PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER: Current Projects and Future Plans."** Matthew Perry & Carol Silberg. During this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Dr. Perry, Special Assistant to the Director, will let us know some of the plans the research facility has in store. *Had a film on wetlands instead.*

SEPT 16  
Sat

**MUSHROOM WALK.** Leader: Bill Newman 442-5639. 10:00 a.m. at Grempler. 1/2 day. Bring lunch. Leader will choose site. Moist conditions this year should provide numerous colorful examples. *(rained out)*

SEPT 23  
Sat



**HAWK WATCH AT NEW CUT.** Leader: Ralph Geuder. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Observers welcome any time during listed hours. Bring lawn chair and binoculars, lunch & beverage if all day. Park in Worthington El. Sch. lot, walk to site. Rain date Sunday. If you wish to conduct a watch at another location, notify Ralph at the Sept. meeting. Additional watches will be made at New Cut during the fall. Broad-winged Hawks chief migrants this date. East on MD 103 to a left on Worthington Way, left on Roundhill into school parking lot.

SEPT 24  
Sun



**AUTUMN WILDFLOWERS.** Leader: Bob Solem 725-5037. Meet at Grempler at 1:00 p.m. or at Wincopin Neck Trail parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Goldenrods & more goldenrods. Three hours.

OCT 12  
Thurs



**"A FRIENDLY LOOK AT THE BAT WORLD."** Ed Gould. Dr. Gould is in charge of small mammals at the National Zoological Park. We don't know if he is THE batman, but he certainly knows many fascinating things about these often maligned small mammals.

OCT 14  
Sat



**AUTUMN SEED SALE.** Seed sale order blank will be mailed in September to all members and those on our mailing list. If you have questions, contact Eileen 730-4362. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

OCT 15  
Sun



**SPARROW SEARCH.** Leader: Scott Atkinson 992-7559. Meet at Grempler 6:30 a.m. to bird the Univ. of MD farm and Cent. Park. Particularly looking for Lincoln's, Savannah, and, if we are lucky, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

OCT 22,29  
NOV 5,12  
Sundays



**SUNDAY MORNING WALKS AT CENTENNIAL PARK.** 8:00-10:00 a.m. Meet at the building off the MD 108 entrance. Leaders: Farrell, Magnusson, Solem, Swift. A resumption of the popular walks. If you would like to lead a Centennial Park walk, spring or fall, contact Jo Solem 725-5037.

OCT 29  
Sun



**AUTUMN HABITAT WALK AT ROCKBURN PARK.** Leaders: Bill Eckert 992-2464 (days) & Chuck Dupree 796-1086 (eves). Co-spons. w/How. Co. Rec. & Pks. Meet at building next to parking lot on Landing Rd. at 1:00 p.m. East on MD 103, to Ilchester Rd., turn left, continue to Landing Rd., turn right, go to park entrance on right. One of the largest county parks will be the site for seasonal habitat walks.

**MORE**

Cont on other side

NOV 4  
Sat



**WAGGONER'S GAP, PA FOR HAWKS.** Leader: Charles Swift. Meet at Grempler at 8:00 a.m.; return late afternoon. Reservations necessary. Call Michele 465-6057, & leave message. Wear warm clothes, bring lunch & cushion for rock sitting. Golden Eagles & No. Goshawk poss. Cancelled in case of rain.

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**NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS**

**VEERY NEST** - George Chase and Nancy Magnusson located a Veery nest with one egg and one newly hatched young near Schooley Mill Park on June 12, 1989. George collected the nest after the young had fledged and added it the Bird Club's federally permitted nest collection. This represents the first active nest record for this species in Howard County.

**BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST AVAILABLE** - For more than a year the chapter has been receiving an exchange subscription to *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Copies are brought to meetings; they may be borrowed one month and returned the next.

**1990 MOS CONVENTION** - The annual MOS convention for 1990 will be held June 8,9,10 at Washington College in Chestertown on the Eastern Shore. Plan now to reserve this weekend for field trips, workshops, a banquet speaker, optical and book shops, a silent auction, and the annual meeting. It is a superb chance to meet other birders and share the fun of seeing many birds whether for the first time or the hundredth. If you're unsure you might enjoy it, ask any of the more than 30 people from this chapter who attended the Frostburg Convention in 1989. For chapter artists: Watch for announcement in *The Yellowthroat* concerning the deadline for designing the 1990 convention pin.

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS THIS YEAR?** - One of the options which can be checked on this year's membership questionnaire is whether you'd be interested in a bird/nature oriented photography class. From time to time specialized classes of this type are held when demand warrants it.

**INTRODUCTION TO BIRD WATCHING** - The Howard County Library system in conjunction with the Bird Club is sponsoring a two session introduction to bird watching. Sessions will be held at the Miller Branch library on Frederick Road on two Tuesday evenings in October. No fee but registration at the library is required. Jo Solem is the instructor. Some of the club's specimens will be on display in one of the cases near the desk during the month of October.

**BLUEBIRD/CAVITY NESTER SURVEY FORM ENCLOSED; BAND RETURN FROM PENNSYLVANIA** - For those individuals who had birds nest in boxes or natural cavities on their property or who monitored trails, please complete the enclosed form and return it by Oct. 15, if possible. If you monitor boxes in the parks, Bill Eckert will be collecting your data before forwarding it to Joe Suess & Mark Wallace. Joe was recently advised that the banding office at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center had received a report on a male bluebird he banded as a nestling in 1987. The bird was found dead on April 1, 1989 in east central Pennsylvania (Coatsville) approximately 85 miles from its birthplace not far from Brighton Dam in eastern Montgomery County.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND** - Martha Chestem has worked tirelessly in promoting the state "checkoff" fund. She was advised by DNR that as of July 31 a total of \$964,007.67 had been contributed. Howard County ranked sixth among all counties in amount contributed (\$60,028.44), fourth in the average amount contributed (\$13.13), and first in the percentage of taxpayers contributing (3.9%)! Next year when completing your Maryland tax return, check the fund and donate. Many small donations do add up.

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRAILS (MOST) BLUEBIRD/CAVITY NESTER SURVEY

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED SURVEY FORM TO COUNTY COORDINATOR BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1 AND OCTOBER 15. If you cannot meet that deadline, please advise co-chairman Joe Suess 854-0250 when compilation can be expected.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOCATION OF NESTING BOX(ES) OR TRAIL (if different from above address) \_\_\_\_\_

BOX USE

Number of bluebird boxes monitored (1½" entrance hole) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of boxes containing one successful\* nesting of bluebirds \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of boxes containing two successful nestings of bluebirds \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of boxes containing three successful nestings of bluebirds \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of boxes containing unsuccessful\*\* nestings of bluebirds \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of bluebird boxes used by ANY other cavity nester \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of bluebird boxes containing two successful nestings of different species  
 i.e. chickadee, titmouse, bluebird, wren, etc. \_\_\_\_\_



Number of other boxes monitored with hole size less than 1½" \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of successful nestings in boxes with hole size less than 1½" \_\_\_\_\_

\*Successful nesting - at least one bird fledged

\*\*Unsuccessful nesting - nest built, no eggs laid and/or nest built with at least one egg laid but no fledging took place

NESTING SUCCESS OF NATIVE CAVITY NESTING SPECIES

Indicate an estimate if exact numbers are not known ("47 est.") Write N.K. (Not Known) if an estimate is not possible.

	Boxes			Eggs			Nestlings		Nests Natural in Cav- ities	No. of Young (if known)
	Used	Suc- cessfully	Eggs Laid	Eggs Lost	Eggs Hatched	Lost	Fledged	Banded		
Wood Duck										
Am. Kestrel										
C. Barn-Owl										
E. Screech-Owl										
Barred Owl										
Woodpecker,										
Woodpecker,										
Grt. Cr. Fly.										
P. Martin										
Tree Swallow										
C. Chickadee										
T. Titmouse										
W-br. Nuthatch										
Carolina Wren										
House Wren										
E. Bluebird										

Plastic Jug Usage:

E. Bluebird										
House Wren										

(Please complete reverse side)

PREDATION AND PREDATOR CONTROL

In column 1, list number of eggs (E) lost; in column 2, list number of young (Y) lost.

E	Y	E	Y	E	Y
	Raccoons/Opossums		House Sparrows		Weather
	House Wrens		European Starlings		Cats
	Snakes		Chipmunks		Mice
	Infertile Eggs		Vandals		Other
	Gray/Red Squirrels		Blowflies		Other
	Flying Squirrels		Abandonment		

Do you remove House Sparrow nests \_\_\_\_\_, eggs \_\_\_\_\_, and young \_\_\_\_\_ from boxes?  
 Do you engage in an active House Sparrow trapping program? Yes \_\_\_\_\_; No \_\_\_\_\_.  
 If yes, cite figures or estimates:

COMMENTS: Please use the space below (attach extra sheets as necessary) to describe unusual increases or decreases in population, boxes added this year, interesting behavior observed, number of white eggs for bluebirds, extreme weather conditions, innovative box designs, predator problems and control, or anything you think might be of interest or value to other monitors or the coordinators.

Joseph Suess  
 6872 Mink Hollow Rd.  
 Highland, MD 20777

FLOWER FEATURE: GREEN-HEADED CONEFLOWER - Georgia Morris and Bob Solem



GREEN-HEADED CONEFLOWER - *Rudbeckia laciniata*

FAMILY - Composite (*Compositae*)

HABITAT - Swamps, wet thickets, stream banks

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - July through October

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATION - Widespread. Atholton & Rockburn Parks, Lake Elkhorn, Savage Mill Trail, Daniels PVSP

FLOWERS - Flower head  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -4 in. across consisting of 6-16 drooping yellow ray flowers surrounding a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 in. knob or cone of greenish-yellow or greenish-gray disk flowers.

LEAVES - This mid summer to fall member of the daisy family has deeply lobed three or five part leaves on a branching plant 2-10 ft. tall.

SPECIAL INFORMATION - As the disk flowers mature, they become more open giving the cone a shaggy appearance. In the late fall the ray flowers shrivel and drop. The cone or seed head dries out and scatters its seeds in the wind through the winter months. A popular garden flower, Golden Glow is a cultivated variety of the wild Green-headed Coneflower. The genus *Rudbeckia*, which also contains our well-known Black-eyed Susan, was named by Linneaus in honor of Olaf Rudbeck, a Swedish botanist, who taught Linneaus at Uppsala University.



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THE BIRDING YEAR IN HOWARD COUNTY: SEPTEMBER - Jo Solem

The following feature will appear as space permits until the entire year has been covered. Additions from readers are encouraged and welcome.

Look for migrating warblers (especially during the first half of the month); usually seen in small groups, frequently in the vicinity of water, sometimes in association with mixed chickadee, titmouse and nuthatch flocks. Among the trees that seem to have insects most attractive to these birds are Black Walnut, various species of oak, hickory, ash and willow. After cool nights, look for activity in areas where the early sun hits the trees. During the last two hours of the day, there is another period of feeding activity before the night flight.

Peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration is generally the middle of the month through the third week.

There is still a possibility of seeing migrant terns over lakes and reservoirs.

Late hummingbirds will be going through the last half of the month.

From mid month on, kinglets may be arriving along with Purple Finches (in an invasion year).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers begin to show up the third week of the month.

From mid September to mid October, check brushy weed patches for Lincoln's Sparrows.

Red-breasted Nuthatches can begin to appear this month.

In early September, check short grass areas like sod farms for Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Lesser Golden Plovers along with the usually numerous Killdeer.

Robins are flocking at dusk. Look for roosts.

Shorebirds can still be found on mud flats, along pond edges, in wet short grass areas, etc., throughout most of the month.

**GRAY AND FEAGA OPPOSE EMERGENCY GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT - Bob Solem**

The Howard County Council passed Bill No. 43 for growth management of new housing with Charles Feaga (District 5) opposing it and C. Vernon Gray (District 3) leaving the Council chamber to avoid voting either way.

Bill No. 43 prescribes an 18-month period of immediate and carefully targeted limits on residential development. The bill was introduced because residential growth has been nearly twice the rate planned, "which will severely overtax the county's proposed plans for transportation, education, public facilities, water, sewerage, parklands, housing, human service programs, and environmental protection." The bill was proposed to allow time to plan for the future in the next General Plan and to begin implementing a structure within which responsible growth can occur.

The Howard County Bird Club Board voted to support efforts by individual members to gain passage of this legislation. Special thanks to Mike McClure & Marty Chestem, along with Maud Banks, Carolyn Cradler, Jane Farrell, Sheila Glans, Kevin Heffernan, Lynn Holley, Robin Jenkins, Anu Krishnamoorthy, Else Ponce, Irv Robinson, Zelda Simon and Martha Waugh for contacting members and insuring the success of the petition at the hearing. Thanks to all of you who attended hearings, wrote letters, or telephoned the County Council on Bill No. 43.

Gray's disappearance and Feaga's opposition provide an opportunity for five percent of the voters to take the bill to referendum. If the bill goes to referendum, it will not take effect until after the bill is approved in the next election (which is 1990, the election for County Council). Since the bill only runs through March, 1991, Gray and Feaga could thwart the intent of the bill.

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**PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION SOON. THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - AUGUST 31. YOUR PROMPT RENEWAL SAVES US POSTAGE.**

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39

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Cylburn Mansion  
4915 Greenspring Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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