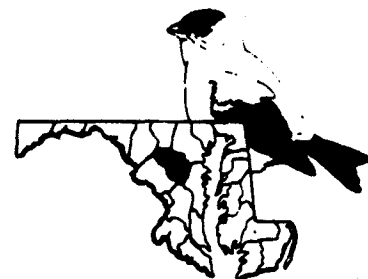




Vol. 18, No 5
May-June 1990

Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



1990-1991 OFFICERS ELECTED

The following were elected at the April annual meeting to lead the Howard County Bird Club for the coming year: President Ralph Geuder, Vice President Joanne Solem, Treasurer Nancy Magnusson, Secretary Marci Krishnamoorthy; State Directors: Martha Chestem, Jane Farrell, Helen Zeichner, Paul Zucker; Chapter Director: Bonnie Ott (Linda Stirrat will be serving the second year of her term). The Nominating Committee consisted of Dave Harvey, Eva Sunell, and Paul Zucker, chairman.

\$1000 TO NATURE CONSERVANCY FROM FEBRUARY SEED SALE DONATIONS

The order blank for the February seed sale invited individuals to make a final contribution to the Maryland Nature Conservancy's "Appalachian Campaign." Contributions would be matched by the chapter up to \$1000. We thank the following for their commitment and generosity. Donations totaled \$419.50. The chapter matched that amount and added a balance to total \$1000. During the last two and a half years more than 80 Bird Club members and friends have supported this effort.

Val Barnes	Peter Folger	Nancy Magnusson	Chuck Stirrat
James Blanchard	Margo Garner	Mike Meyerhoff	Pat Swanson
Rod & Monika Botsai	Arthur Gebhart	Don & Fran Wangyang	Andre & Vera Thomann
Lois Carleton	Roger Handwork	Bea Newkirk	Ann Traynham
Martha Chestem	Kassie Herbert	Dr. Jim Resau	Kathryn Tucker
Warren Drell, Sr.	Pat Hirt	Rosamond Ridgeley	Bruce & Virginia Weber
Bruce Eberle	Eleanor Klitzke	Deborah & Peter Schultz	Colin & Lisa Willett
Frances Ehlers	Russell Lange	Bob & Jo Solem	David Wise
Jane & Jack Farrell			

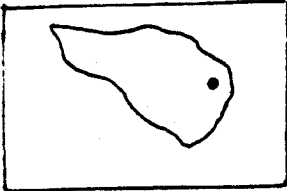
The Sept-Oct 1988 newsletter reported some possible five year goals adopted by the board to be reached by the club's 20th anniversary year of 1992-1993. One goal was to donate a minimum of \$5000 to the Nature Conservancy, divided between the Maryland Chapter (which preserves rare state habitats) and their Latin American division (which works to protect neo-tropical migrants on their wintering grounds). With this most recent \$1000 donation, a total of \$6000 has been contributed to the preservation of specialized and fragile habitats in the state. By our 20th year we look forward to fulfilling the other aspect of our goal for habitat preservation. Be sure to check the most recent *Yellowthroat* for the announcement of the Howard Chapter's challenge grant to support the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

CHECKLIST PROJECT CONTINUES - Jane Farrell



A number of members continue to collect data for Howard County checklists. We are entering the final year of intensive data collection for two checklists scheduled for publication: Rockburn Branch Park and the combined Columbia lakes. Checklist worksheets can be obtained from me by calling 596-2630 or from Ralph Geuder (Rockburn) 5219 Talbot's Landing, Ellicott City MD 21043, Helen Zeichner (Wilde Lake) 730-3695, Kathy Mariano (Lake Elkhorn) 596-2154, or Marty Chestem (Lake Kittamaqundi) 730-1527. For precise boundaries of Columbia lakes, contact area coordinators. All observers are welcome.

BIRDING "HOT SPOTS" IN HOWARD COUNTY - Bonnie Ott, Mike & Sandy Meyerhoff
Rockburn Branch Park, Part II*



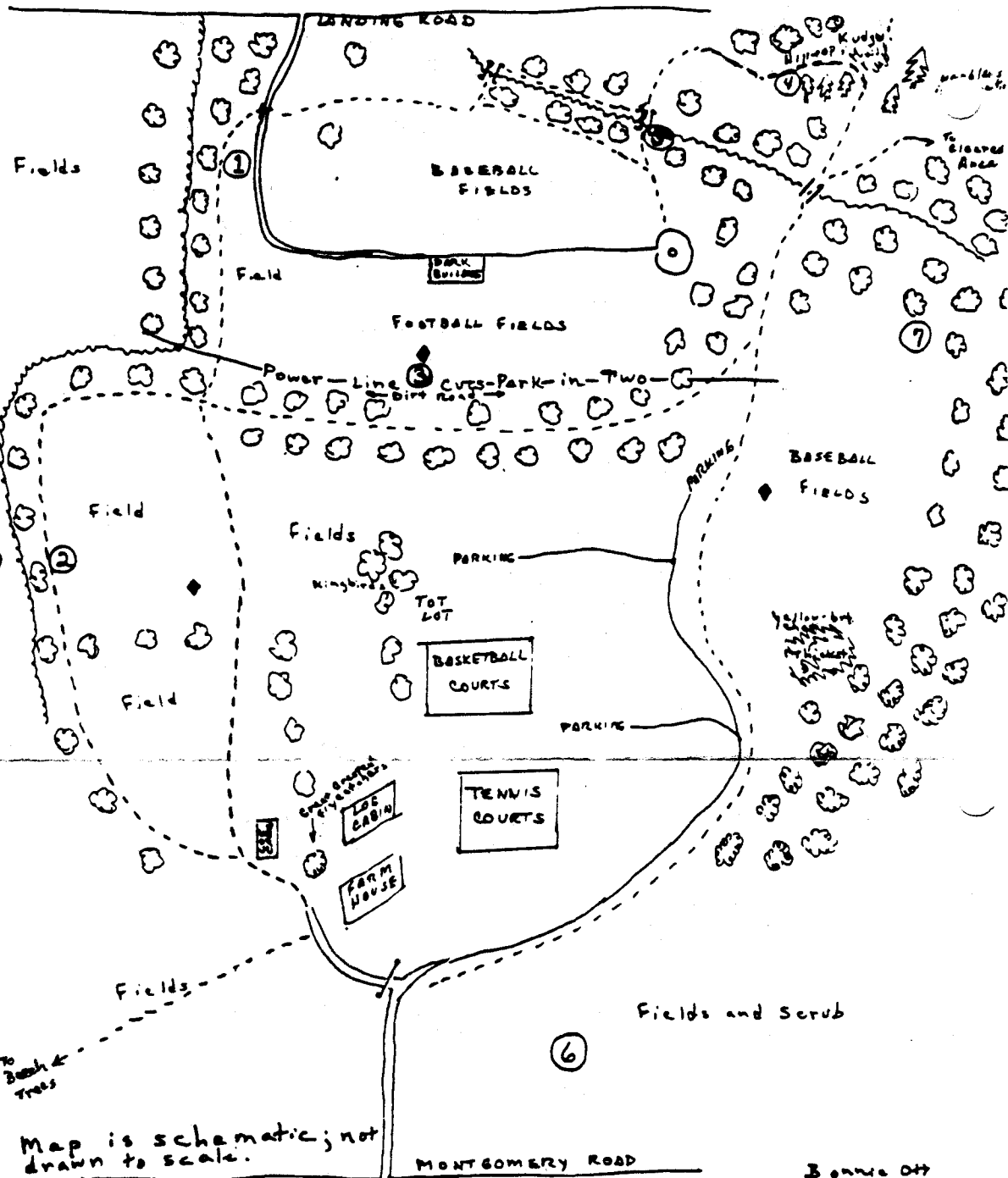
- ① bird areas
- ☁ woods
-]] bridge
- ◆ good for hawks
- - - trail
- ~~~~ stream

Numbered are areas where listed species have been seen consistently in the correct season. Tree lines are always good. **WARNING:** An extensive patch of kudzu (a vine) near ④ covers old holes & foundations. Do not walk into or across it. Portions of woodland trails can be extremely muddy.

① cuckoos, warblers (Ky, Hooded, Yellow, yellowthroat, chat, redstart, parula), No. Oriole, Sc. Tanager, R-br Grosbeak, wrens, bobwhite, pheasant, thrushes, kinglets, gnatcatchers, White-e. & Red-e. vireos.

② orioles, Prairie & Blue-w warblers, Ind. Bunting, cuckoos, R-br Grosbeak, Bobolink, woodcock (also left of Mont. Rd. entrance rd) Grt Blue Heron, hawks, bobwhite, Blackpoll, Blk-&white, & Canada warblers.

③ kestrel & other hawks, Prairie, Palm, Magnolia & Blk-thr. Green warblers, Killdeer, Great Crested Flycatcher, thrushes, woodpeckers, gnat-



Map is schematic; not drawn to scale.

catcher, Blue Grosbeak, Purple Finch, thrasher.

④ owls, Pileated Woodpecker, Least & Acadian Flyc., warblers (Blk-th Blue, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Pine & Ky), nuthatches.

⑤ wrens, thrushes, La. Water-thrush, kingbird, pewee, phoebe.

⑥ Tree & Barn swallows, blue-

bird, wrens, Yel & Bay-br warblers.

⑦ Solitary Vireo, warblers in migration, kestrel, Pil. Woodpkr. Widespread in park: towhees, sparrows & bluebirds (edge & fields--nesting boxes have been productive)

Other Wildlife: at least 4 fox families, a loose herd of a dozen deer (often seen in the lower valley near 6 at dusk), woodchucks, raccoons, skunks, weasels.

*Part I (an introduction to the Landing Rd. section) was published in Vol 17, No 1.

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 footwear 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 Chair Michele Wright 465-6057.*

MAY 10 "BIRDING IN SPAIN" - Stauffer Miller, Frederick Chapter President, and his Thursday wife Ellie will bring us their birding experience in Spain.

MAY 19 BROOKSIDE GARDENS. Leader: Bonnie Ott 461-3361. 1/2 day trip to a Saturday Mont. Co. park for gardens and birds. Meet at Grempler at 7:30 a.m.

JUN 8-10 MOS CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE. Brochures mailed by state MOS. If Fri-Sun you joined the chapter recently, you will not receive a convention notice from the state. Extras will be available at the May meeting or call Tom Strikwerda 942-2841 to obtain a copy by mail.

JUNE 16 SCHOOLEY MILL PARK. Leaders: George Chase 953-7693 and Nancy Magnusson Saturday 461-8912. 1/2 day for wide variety of breeding birds. Meet at Grempler at 7:30 a.m. or parking lot near building in park at 7:50 a.m.

JUNE 30 BUTTERFLY WALK AT CENTENNIAL PARK. Leader: Richard Smith 997-7439. Meet Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the far east end of the parking lot, Centennial Lane entrance. Several hours to continue park list, looking especially for hairstreaks and fritillaries. Need sunny or partly cloudy weather; if unsure of weather conditions, call leader.

JULY 22 SUMMER HABITAT WALK AT ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK. Leader: Mike Meyerhoff Sunday 465-4489. (Cosponsored by Howard Co. Rec & Parks.) Meet at 1:00 p.m. for several hours in the county's largest park. Meet at park office building off Landing Road entrance.

AUG 25 BUTTERFLY WALK AT CENTENNIAL PARK. Leader: Richard Smith 997-7439. See Saturday June 30 above. Look for swallowtails, sulphurs and skippers.

BIRDSEED COOKIES

- 1 large egg
- 1/3 cup sugar (2²/₃ oz)
- 1/3 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar (2²/₃ oz)
- 1 stick unsalted butter (4 oz), softened and quartered
- 2 tablespoons maple flavored syrup
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup unbleached all-purpose flour (3¹/₂ oz)
- 1 cup rolled oats (3 oz)
- 1/2 cup raisins (3 oz)
- 2 tablespoons millet

Fifteen minutes before baking, place rack in oven and preheat to 350°. Lightly butter cookie sheet(s).

Metal Blade: Process egg, both sugars, butter, maple syrup, vanilla, baking soda and salt for 30 seconds, stopping once to scrape work bowl. Spoon flour onto batter in circle, then add oats, raisins and millet. Pulse just until ingredients are combined--about 3 times. Do not overprocess.

Drop batter by tablespoonfuls onto prepared cookie sheet(s), spacing cookies 2" apart. Bake until edges are golden brown--about 9 minutes; centers will be slightly soft. Let cool for 1 minute on baking sheet, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely.

Makes about 28 3" cookies.

1989 ANNUAL LIST HITS 223 SPECIES FOR NEW RECORD--AGAIN - Jane Farrell

When we set a new Howard County year record of 220 species reported in 1988, it appeared we could not go higher. But we did, with 223 species reported and with an additional two species pending with the State Records Committee. It was a good year. Six species were reported for only the second time since 1979 (when the Bird Club began compiling annual lists): Sora, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Forster's Tern and Northern Saw-whet Owl (which was found injured and later died). Greater Scaup, Lesser Golden-Plover and Dickcissel were reported for the third time since 1979. Additionally, Wild Turkey, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Marsh Wren were reported for the fourth time since 1979. The list of these unusual sightings points out, again, that the difference between a "ho-hum" year's list and a good year's list is the number of waterfowl, shorebirds and other water birds reported.

The Sora was the most cooperative of the unusual birds. It stayed at Centennial Park for over five weeks after it was found by Nancy Magnusson on April 5, 1989. Many members were notified of the sighting through our rare bird alert and at the April meeting. It was observed by virtually all who attempted to see it although several trips were sometimes required.

Marty Chestem's sighting of a Connecticut Warbler at the Brown's Bridge area of T. Duckett Reservoir on October 5 is the first report since 1984. In fact, in 1989 we observed 35 of the 36 warblers that have been identified in Howard County. The only one missed was the Orange-crowned Warbler which has been reported prior to 1979.

There were some misses, however. Like 1988, no one reported Summer Tanager. Rough-legged Hawk was not reported after appearing on the 1984 through 1988 lists.

Can this new record of 223 species be broken? In little landlocked Howard County? Let's give it a try. We have a good start in 1990 toward breaking the record with three species of gulls not found in 1989.

Gold stars are hereby awarded to ~~John Blaisdell, Connie Bockstie, Marty Chestem,~~ Jane Farrell, Nancy Magnusson, Kathy Mariano, Jo Solem, Mark Wallace, Helen Zeichner and Paul Zucker who submitted their complete 1989 lists. Special thanks to Jo Solem for passing along the season reports, to Paul Zucker for the May Count summary and to David Holmes and Jo Solem for the Mid-Winter count material. Without these compilations, several species would be missing from the 1989 list. David Holmes and Bob Ringler shared their technical expertise and provided guidance. Bob Solem produced the computerized 11-year compilation. Individuals who submitted their 1989 annual lists will receive a printout of the 11-year compilation. Other members may request it by contacting Jane Farrell at 596-2630 or by sending a stamped, self-addressed long envelope to 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045.

Addenda

- A Marsh Wren was reported in *Maryland Birdlife* for 1982; this brings the 1982 total to 214 species.
- Delete the Wilson's Plover reported for 1983 because of an insufficient description by the observer; this makes 1983's total 204.
- Delete the Philadelphia Vireo from the 1984 list also for an insufficient description; this reduces the 1984 total to 210.
- Add Golden-winged Warbler to the 1987 list based on a report in *Maryland Birdlife*; this brings the 1987 species count to 214.



Red-throated Loon
Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Great-backed Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Tundra Swan
Mute Swan
Snow Goose
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Green-winged Teal

American Black Duck
Ballard
Northern Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Canvasback
American Wigeon
Canvasback
Ruddy Duck
King-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Oldsquaw
Common Goldeneye
Ruffled Duck
Wooded Naysayer
Common Naysayer
Red-breasted Naysayer
Ruddy Duck

Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Cormorant
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Copper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Brewer's Sparrowhawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Ring-necked Pheasant
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
Sora
American Coot
Black-bellied Plover

Lesser Golden-Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Dunlin
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Common Snipe
American Woodcock
Laughing Gull
Bonaparte's Gull

Eastern Kingbird
 Horned Lark
 Purple Martin
 Tree Swallow
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Fish Crow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Carolina Wren
 House Wren
 Winter Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Eastern Bluebird
 Veery
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Water Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 European Starling
 Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull
 Lesser Black-backed Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Caspian Tern
 Forster's Tern
 Black Tern
 Rock Dove
 Spinning Dove
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Barn Owl
 Eastern Screech-Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Screech Owl
 Northern Saw-whet Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Sharp-shinned
 Chimney Swift
 Red-crested Hummingbird
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Wood-Peeper
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
 American Flycatcher
 Willow Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 White-eyed Vireo
 Solitary Vireo

Yellow-throated Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Parula Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Cowbird
 Northern Waterthrush
 Louisiana Water-thrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 American Warbler
 Mourning Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Hooded Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Canada Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat
 Scarlet Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Dickcissel
 Redstart
 American Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Bobolink
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Rusty Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Northern Oriole
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak
 House Sparrow



HOWARD COUNTY MOS MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT - January 27, 1990 - David Holmes & Joanne Solem, Co-Compilers

It happened again! Didn't we luck out! Our count day was warmer than the day this report was written (by David) 2 1/2 months later. There were 130 of us counting birds including a whopping increase in feeder watchers, but our party hour totals were just under 1989's and some of our results showed the effects.

Final totals were 85 species and 103,854 individuals, both of which were quite respectable in a year with almost no real rarities. Or is our county simply so carefully birded that the rarities had all become old stuff by the time of the count? But 1988 and 1989 had 89 and 88 species respectively so something wasn't there. Our total of individuals was down by about 1/3 from 1989, but remember that the 1989 total included about 125,000 blackbirds. This year's blackbird total was only about 72,000 and somehow it is hard not to feel that difference as positive.

We did find one species for the first time ever in this 5th midwinter count: seven Common Goldeneyes, one on Centennial Lake and the rest on Triadelphia Reservoir. We had six species for the second time only: Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Oldsquaw, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, and Killdeer. Notice that all of these associate with water. In fact, our species list of ducks and geese at 17 was the best ever. Can we learn from this? Perhaps waterfowl are not territorial in the winter as are many small birds and will move around to take advantage of open water even when it was formerly frozen (remember December?). Or they may be faithful to a very large territory and move around at random within limits we don't understand. Gulls certainly do this. And our gull totals were high this year. This is especially interesting for Herring Gulls since the species is apparently significantly declining in its nesting colonies all along the Maine Coast.

Species high counts include:

Hooded Merganser -	59	(previous high 4)
Common Merganser -	79	(previous high 35)
Golden-crowned Kinglet -	139	(previous high 66)
Eastern Bluebird -	241	(previous high 225)
Yellow-rumped Warbler -	52	(previous high 23)
American Tree Sparrow -	78	(previous high 24).

And what did we miss? For the first time ever, we missed Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Eastern Meadowlark. We missed Horned Larks for the second time. The "larks" are probably reacting to changing habitats in Howard County, although I found three singing meadowlarks on an improbably warm February 8th on a Winter Atlas Route just south of Watersville in the western end of the county and two Horned Larks just

south of Poplar Springs on the same route. During OUR count, were they hunkered down in an inaccessible field or across the river in Carroll County? Grrr!

We had unusually low counts of:

Rock Doves -	805	(previous years 2,000-5,000)
Pileated Woodpeckers -	16	(previous 2 years, 26 & 28)
Northern Mockingbird -	371	(previous 2 years, 480 & 449)
Northern Cardinal -	820	(previous 2 years, 1178 & 973)

House Sparrows and House Finches rebounded somewhat from last year's unexpected low numbers and the rest of our individuals counts were within reasonable limits.

Our party hours and party miles (not including owlers and feeders) were just about 90% of our 1989 efforts. Here is a list of more or less permanent resident species showing the 1990 results as a percentage of 1989 figures:

Red-shouldered Hawk -	65%	Carolina Chickadee -	96%
Red-tailed Hawk -	96%	Tufted Titmouse -	95%
Pileated Woodpecker -	57%	Eastern Bluebird -	107%
Downy Woodpecker -	90%	Northern Mockingbird -	83%
Hairy Woodpecker -	83%	Northern Cardinal -	84%

Since weather conditions on the two count days (1989 & 1990) were remarkably similar, the comparisons might be meaningful although Red-shouldered Hawks, Pileated Woodpeckers and Eastern Bluebirds are the only figures a statistician might look at twice.

Our feeder watchers gave us interesting results as always. They reported our only Northern Harrier and one of our two Cooper's Hawks. Other numbers of interest are expressed as percentages of the total 1990 Count:

Pine Siskin	79%	House Finch and Am. Goldfinch	27%
Purple Finch	42%	Downy Woodpecker	21%
Hairy Woodpecker	29%	Mourning Dove and Blue Jay	20%

The surprise was that feeder House Sparrows were only 8% of the count total.

A final comparison, this time with Triadelphia Christmas Bird Count whose circle is roughly 40% within Howard County. Unlike last year, we had reasonable weather conditions for both counts. On Triadelphia, the number of party hours was exactly in the middle of the range for the previous five years. On our count, the party hours were on the high side. So, Triadelphia had five-year high counts for all woodpeckers while our totals were only low average. WHY? Both counts had five-year highs for Golden-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and American Tree Sparrows. Triadelphia has had Eastern Phoebes in all five years; we found them only in 1988 (not a surprise). But we reported double or more their numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks in the last three years. WHY? Isn't it amazing how, the more we count, and the more we carefully look at the results, the more questions we find? My next serious effort has got to involve more specific reporting of vultures and flocking birds such as blackbirds and gulls to try to determine how accurate our counting really is.

Thanks go as always to the Simons for the tally rally, and to Jo Solem and the area captains, for getting you all organized and out there. I can't imagine stopping this count now. It's too much fun! See you next year.

OBSERVERS: AREA 1: MARK WALLACE, John Hoffman, Dave Kirkwood, Jay Sheppard, Rob Gibbs, Marilyn Brinkley*, Nadine Bready*; AREA 2: NANCY MAGNUSSON, Bruce Kirtley-Hodess, Mary Lou Clark, Robin Todd, Mariano Gonzalez, Don Henderson, Frances Ehlers*, Judy Proia*, Tish Bell*, Wm. Ballentine*, Leonard Dolhert*, Romayne Smith*; AREA 3: DAVE & MAUREEN HARVEY, Shiras Guion, Karen Skuldt, Dave Czaplak, Mary Ann Todd, Karen Morley, Brent Meyers, Steve Sanford, Will & Robin Tress, Art Rogers, Dan Haft, Carol Renfrew, Diane & Walt Conolley*, Jeanne & Carole Fisher*, Teresa Yee*; AREA 4: MIKE McCLURE, Grazina McClure, Connie Bockstie, Sue Probst, Chuck Stirrat, Irv Robinson, Carolyn Smith, Mike Kerwin, Linda Furlong, Peggy Willson, Wm Walsek, David Holmes, Mike Leumas, Norma Petersen, George & Carole Cleland*, Bob Doyle*, Georgia Kacker*, Margaret Lord*, Marlee Lindon*; AREA 5: MARTHA CHESTN, Helen Zeichner, Pat Hirt, Linda Stirrat, Gerald Elgert, Stephanie Zuk, Tim Ness, John Clegg, Bonnie Ott, Judy & Aaron Goldfarb, Dawn & Chuck Parker, Charles Fuller, John Greer, Kathy Burke, Marci Krishnamoorthy, Michele Wright, Del Dowling*, Rosamond Munro*, Zaida Simon*, Pat Jackson*, John Blaisdell*, Pat Wilson*, Barbara Schuyler*, Glenn & Sarah Funkhouser*; AREA 6: CHUCK DUPREE, Brigitte & Bob Lund, Ralph & Jane Geuder, Bruce Moore, Robin Jenkins, Eric Kahl, Wm. & Louise Dove, Steve Clarkson, Dave Kubitsky, Leroy, Cathy & Thea Williamson, Phil & Barbara Davis, David Mozurkewich, Chas. Williams, Ann Higgins, Del Keener, Schuyler Eberl*, Bob Bogdan*, Alex & Va. Donovan*, Mary Clarkson*, Monika Botsai*, George Dency*; AREA 7: JO SOLEM, Eva Sunell, Naud Banks, John McKitterick, Don Waugh, Jane Parrell, Deborah Schultz, Brenda & Wick Brienza, Ed Gould, Charles Stine, Vidula Glass, Joanne Moul*, Mary Gold*, Jim Medwin*, Martha Waugh*, Judith Howse*, Beth Heilich*, Bob Solen*.

CAPITALS - Area Leaders; * - indicates a feeder/yard watcher

January 27, 1990 - Midwinter Count

Party hours - Foot	166.5	Party miles - Foot	155	FIELD	FEEDER	TOTAL
Party hours - Car	73	Party miles - Car	710.5	25 84	38	85
TOTAL	239.5	TOTAL	865.5	Total species	100,811	3,043
Party hours - Owling	3	Party miles - Owling	5.5	Total individuals		103,854
Party hours - Feeder	94.5					

Great Blue Heron	2	Cooper's Hawk	2	Hairy Woodpecker	24	Yellow-rumped Warbler	52
Tundra Swan	29	accipiter sp.	2	Northern Flicker	92	Northern Cardinal	820
Mute Swan	10	Red-shouldered Hawk	74	Pileated Woodpecker	16	Rufous-sided Towhee	9
Snow Goose	1	Red-tailed Hawk	68	Blue Jay	309	American Tree Sparrow	78
Canada Goose	3318	American Kestrel	35	American Crow	3852	Field Sparrow	66
Green-winged Teal	1	Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Fish Crow	114	Savannah Sparrow	1
American Black Duck	192	Northern Bobwhite	1	crow sp.	624	Fox Sparrow	1
Mallard	957	Killdeer	2	Carolina Chickadee	797	Song Sparrow	404
Northern Shoveler	1	Common Snipe	2	Tufted Titmouse	535	Swamp Sparrow	7
American Wigeon	23	Ring-billed Gull	3915	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	White-throated Sparrow	812
Canvasback	11	Herring Gull	4712	White-breasted Nuthatch	149	White-crowned Sparrow	33
Ring-necked Duck	38	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	Brown Creeper	26	Dark-eyed Junco	1111
Oldsquaw	1	Great Black-backed Gull	27	Carolina Wren	211	Red-winged Blackbird	17214
Common Goldeneye	7	gull sp.	1327	Winter Wren	4	Rusty Blackbird	3
Bufflehead	4	Rock Dove	805	Golden-crowned Kinglet	139	Common Grackle	42333
Hooded Merganser	59	Mourning Dove	947	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	Brown-headed Cowbird	3160
Common Merganser	79	Eastern Screech-Owl	2	Eastern Bluebird	241	blackbird sp.	1201
Ruddy Duck	4	Great Horned Owl	10	Hermit Thrush	5	Purple Finch	24
Black Vulture	113	Barred Owl	5	American Robin	25	House Finch	1529
Turkey Vulture	433	Belted Kingfisher	7	Northern Mockingbird	371	Pine Siskin	28
Bald Eagle	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	185	Cedar Waxwing	184	American Goldfinch	373
Northern Harrier	1	Downy Woodpecker	168	European Starling	8238	House Sparrow	1024
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11						

COURTSHIP BEHAVIOR IN RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS - Mike Leumas

"Virtue is rewarded," said Sue Probst. I don't know about virtue, but persistence (or perhaps just procrastination) certainly paid off on the Winter Count when Sue, Connie Bockstie, and I observed a spectacular courtship flight by two Red-shouldered Hawks.

We had spent most of the morning of January 27th, along with Linda Furlong and Irv Robinson, birding in Centennial Park and had seen only a single hawk, a Red-tail. Around 11:30 a.m. the group broke up, since we all had afternoon commitments. Three of us still had a little time to kill, so I suggested we drive over to Font Hill Park just up Centennial Lane. We hadn't been there five minutes when a Red-shouldered Hawk, conspicuously lacking a few primaries in one wing, soared low overhead and began to climb. As it did so, we noticed two more Red-shoulders already circling fairly high up. When the first bird reached the vicinity of the others, we saw one member of the pair dive on its partner. The latter turned over, joined talons with its "attacker," and the two appeared to tumble over one another in mid-air--pair bonding in the most literal sense. This courtship display lasted only ten seconds or so, but it sent the appropriate message, I presume, for the first hawk soon flew off in another direction. It also gave the three of us, who had never seen this acrobatic mating ritual, our biggest thrill of the day.

MOS LICENSE PLATES AVAILABLE SOON



State MOS Vice President Richard Dolesh announced recently that Maryland Ornithological Society members could advertise the organization in a way used by a number of other groups. You can now obtain applications for license plates that begin with the letters "MOS" followed by numbers. In small letters below the license number will be the words "MD Ornithological Society." Such plates would cost \$4 above the usual registration fee. Initially, 100 applications (with money) must be submitted before they are produced. Each application must be signed by a state MOS officer. Obtain an application at the May meeting from Tom Strikwerda along with instructions or call him evenings at 942-2841. Blanks will also be available at the state convention.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS: POTLUCK, LEISUREFEST, AND MOS STATE BOARD MEETING -
The 17th annual Bird Club potluck dinner was held at the Florence Bain Senior Center on March 3rd. It was smoothly organized by Monika Botsai and Grazina McClure. Mike McClure coordinated members' nature slides which are the traditional program for the evening. President Tom Strikwerda presented Valued Service Awards to Martha Chestem, Jane Farrell, and Bob Solem.

Leisurefest volunteers on February 17th were organized by Eileen Clegg. Helping to staff the display were Sally Ann Cooper, Sheila Glanz, Kathy Mariano, Mike Meyerhoff, Marjorie Mountjoy, Elise Seay, Jo Solem, Tom Strikwerda, and Helen Thompson.

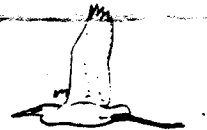
The Howard County Chapter hosted the MOS State Board meeting on March 24th at the Miller Branch Library. Maud Banks, Marty Chestem, Jane Farrell, Norma Petersen, Elise Seay, Jo Solem, Linda Stirrat, Tom Strikwerda, and Helen Zeichner donated food which was much appreciated by the officers and chapter representatives. In response to numerous requests, Tom's "Birdseed Cookie" recipe appears elsewhere in this issue. He furnished them at the potluck and at the state meeting. They are so-named because they contain millet. (No! No! Not millet from the seed sales...)

PLEASE CORRECT THE FOLLOWING in the 1989-1990 directory: Richard & Alice Hegner 730-6583; Joseph & Kathleen Mariano 596-2154; Nancy Magnusson 461-8912, 8589-F Falls Run Road, Ellicott City MD 21043; Hattie Wicks, 8717 Hayshed Lane #33, Columbia MD 21045.

SALLY ROWE of the Anne Arundel Chapter is in charge of the silent auction at the state MOS convention June 8-10. She is looking for donations of bird or nature-related books or other items for the silent auction. Bring donations to the convention or contact her at 534 Broadwater Road, Arnold, MD 21012, tel. 647-4519.

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR HELPERS NEEDED - Call Tom Strikwerda 942-2841 (evenings) or see him at a meeting to indicate your interest in helping with the booth at the Howard County fair in August.

THE BIRDING YEAR IN HOWARD COUNTY: JUNE - Jo Solem



- After the excitement of April and May, June may be a letdown. Concentrate on observing breeding behavior.
- Occasionally, a warbler is still passing through the first week in June. It is usually one of the late migrating species such as Wilson's, Blackpoll, or Mourning.
- Cuckoos may still be migrating as late as the second week of the month.
- Willow Flycatchers are still filtering through the early part of June.
- Most residents have established breeding territories and are singing loudly. This is the time to learn their songs. Early morning will be most rewarding.
- If you are able to rise with the sun, this is an excellent month to experience the sound of the "dawn chorus."
- June and July offer ample opportunity to observe courtship and nesting activity of many resident species. Be sure to visit a variety of habitats.
- Mockingbirds are singing at night. Their virtuosity may not be appreciated if one is perched on your chimney or outside your bedroom window.
- If you have erected bluebird or other cavity nester boxes, monitor each once a week during the entire breeding season to prevent House Sparrows from nesting.
- Continue to watch for wandering eagles and ospreys near reservoirs and rivers.
- Heron and egret dispersal rises now and continues through the summer; watch for the often immature birds in the vicinity of lakes and reservoirs.
- June is one of the slowest months for county rarities with the exception of a few late migrants or possibly a wandering waterbird.

Items for the Sept-Oct Newsletter due July 1; spring migration records by June 7. Call or mail to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeloch Road, Laurel, MD 20723; tel. 725-5037.

MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1990 - Paul Zucker



Every year since 1948, members and friends of the MD Ornithological Society have conducted an annual May Count. You are urged to participate for all or part of the day at the peak of migration for an experience like no other in the birding year.

The compiler for the Howard County May Count is Paul Zucker, 112 Finale Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20901, tel. 681-9005. Field and feeder watchers must contact the compiler during the two weeks preceding the count or at the April or May chapter meetings. Areas to be birded and observer groupings will be assigned by the compiler but, whenever possible, requests will be honored. Inexperienced or beginning birders are encouraged to participate for even a few hours (early a.m. is most productive); the compiler will team them with more experienced observers.

Each of the 18 regions in the county has a team leader who is responsible for combining all field notes from his/her region into a clean, final tally sheet which must be turned in at the tally (extras will be available). Leaders must also total party miles & time, include names & addresses of observers, and obtain documentation for all unusual species reported. (Time out of the assigned area and lunch breaks should be subtracted from totals.) Observers within talking or shouting distance are one party. If two or more birders spend an hour together on foot, that constitutes one party hour; however, if one member is separated from others for half an hour, then the total is 1 1/2 party hours. Count all birds; large flocks can be estimated. Do not ignore House Sparrows, European Starlings and other common species. Birds seen outside your assigned area should be noted separately and given to the area leader of that sector at the tally. Comparison of time, direction, and location may enable additions without double counting.

Individuals birding in the county that day who are not participating in May Count occasionally desire to turn in their sightings. To prevent double counting, the only species that can be accepted are those which no one else has seen. Such species are frequently those which require written documentation.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

All unusual sightings need to be documented. Include the name of the person making the identification, names of all others who saw the bird, when and where seen, lighting conditions, optics used, behavior, time period observed, field marks, etc.

Any species not previously recorded in the county nor listed on the checklist needs to be documented. The following species (seen on four or fewer of the last 15 Howard County May counts) need to be documented: Pied-bill & Horned Grebe, Dble-c. Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Yel-cr Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Tundra Swan, Green-wing Teal, No. Pintail, No. Shoveler, Gadwall, Canvasback, Ring-neck Duck, Grtr or Lesr Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-brst Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Sora, Am Coot, Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalm, White-rumped, or Pectoral Sandpiper, Short or Long-bill Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Bonaparte's or Herring Gull, Caspian or Forster's Tern, Com. Nighthawk, Chuck-will's-widow, Yel-b. Sapsucker, Olive-sided, Alder or Willow Flycatcher, Blk-cap Chickadee, Winter or Marsh Wren, Golden-cr Kinglet, Gray-ckd Thrush, Am. Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, Am. Tree, Fox or Lincoln's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird.

MAY COUNT TALLY POTLUCK AT DON & JAN RANDLE'S, 6424 LOCHRIDGE ROAD, BRAEBURN

Anyone who participates in the count is welcome to attend the tally. If you are unable to attend, please make prior arrangements with your area leader or the compiler to turn in or phone in results count day or evening. Call Jan Randle 531-6296 to let her know the number coming and your choice of food to share. (Non-cooks or all-day counters ask Jan for suggestions.) Counters begin gathering any time after 5:30 p.m.; dinner usually begins between 6:30-7:00 p.m. The Randles live in Braeburn which is on the west side of Cedar Lane (the section north of Rt. 32 and south of the stoplights at Owen Brown and Freetown Rds.) Entrance road is Braeburn Rd., turn right on Lochridge and continue to first house on left after Hillbrook Dr. (one long block).

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| LOON, COMMON _____ | DOVE, ROCK _____ | PARULA, NORTHERN _____ |
| GREBE, PIED-BILL _____ | MOURNING _____ | WARBLER, YELLOW _____ |
| HORNED _____ | CUCKOO, BLACK-BILL _____ | CHESTNUT-SIDED _____ |
| CORMORANT, DC _____ | YELLOW-BILL _____ | MAGNOLIA _____ |
| BITTERN, AMERICAN _____ | OWL, COMMON BARN _____ | CAPE MAY _____ |
| HERON, GREAT BLUE _____ | E. SCREECH _____ | BLACK-THROAT'D BLUE _____ |
| EGRET, GREAT _____ | GREAT HORNED _____ | YEL. RUMP (MYRTLE) _____ |
| SNOWY _____ | BARRED _____ | BLACK-THROAT'D GREEN _____ |
| HERON, LITTLE BLUE _____ | NIGHTHAWK, COMMON _____ | BLACKBURNIAN _____ |
| EGRET, CATTLE _____ | CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW _____ | YELLOW-THROATED _____ |
| HERON, GREEN-BACKED _____ | WHIP-POOR-WILL _____ | PINE _____ |
| NIGHT HERON, BLACK-CROWN _____ | SWIFT, CHIMNEY _____ | PRAIRIE _____ |
| IBIS, GLOSSY _____ | HUMMINGBIRD, RUBY-THRT'D _____ | PALM _____ |
| SWAN, TUNDRA _____ | KINGFISHER, BELTED _____ | BAY-BREASTED _____ |
| MUTE _____ | WOODPECKER, RED-HEADED _____ | BLACKPOLL _____ |
| GOOSE, CANADA _____ | RED-BELLIED _____ | CERULEAN _____ |
| DUCK, WOOD _____ | SAPSUCKER, YEL. BELLIED _____ | BLACK & WHITE _____ |
| TEAL, GREEN-WING _____ | WOODPECKER, DOWNY _____ | REDSTART, AMERICAN _____ |
| DUCK, AM. BLACK _____ | HAIRY _____ | WARBLER, PROTHONOTARY _____ |
| MALLARD _____ | FLICKER, NORTHERN _____ | WORM-EATING _____ |
| TEAL, BLUE-WING _____ | WOODPECKER, PILEATED _____ | OVENBIRD _____ |
| GADWALL _____ | WOOD PEWEE, EAST _____ | WATERTHRUSH, NORTHERN _____ |
| WIGEON, AMERICAN _____ | FLYCATCHER, ACADIAN _____ | LOUISIANA _____ |
| SCAUP (specify) _____ | LEAST _____ | WARBLER, KENTUCKY _____ |
| BUFFLEHEAD _____ | PHOEBE, EASTERN _____ | YELLOWTHROAT, COMMON _____ |
| MERGANSE, COMMON _____ | FLYCATCHER, GT. CRST'D _____ | WARBLER, HOODED _____ |
| RED-BREASTED _____ | KINGBIRD, EASTERN _____ | WILSON'S _____ |
| HOODED _____ | LARK, HORNED _____ | CANADA _____ |
| DUCK, RUDDY _____ | MARTIN, PURPLE _____ | CHAT, YEL. -BRST'D _____ |
| VULTURE, BLACK _____ | SWALLOW, TREE _____ | TANAGER, SUMMER _____ |
| TURKEY _____ | N. ROUGH-WING _____ | SCARLET _____ |
| OSPREY _____ | BANK _____ | CARDINAL, N. _____ |
| EAGLE, BALD (Ad.) (Im.) (U) _____ | CLIFF _____ | GROSBEAK, ROSE-BREAST _____ |
| HARRIER, NORTHERN _____ | BARN _____ | BLUE _____ |
| HAWK, SHARP-SHINNED _____ | JAY, BLUE _____ | BUNTING, INDIGO _____ |
| COOPER'S _____ | CROW, AM. _____ | TOWHEE, RUF.-SIDE _____ |
| RED-SHOULDER _____ | FISH _____ | SPARROW, CHIPPING _____ |
| BROAD-WING _____ | Species? _____ | FIELD _____ |
| RED-TAIL _____ | RAVEN, COMMON _____ | VEEGER _____ |
| KESTREL, AMERICAN _____ | CHICKADEE, BLK-CAP _____ | SAVANNAH _____ |
| PHEASANT, RING-NECK _____ | CAROLINA _____ | GRASSHOPPER _____ |
| GROUSE, RUFFED _____ | TITMOUSE, TUFT _____ | SONG _____ |
| TURKEY, WILD _____ | NUTHATCH, RED-BREASTED _____ | SWAMP _____ |
| BOBWHITE, NORTHERN _____ | WHITE-BREASTED _____ | W. THROAT'D _____ |
| RAIL, KING _____ | BROWN-HEADED _____ | W. CROWN'D _____ |
| VIRGINIA _____ | CREEPER, BROWN _____ | JUNCO, DARK-EYED _____ |
| SORA _____ | WREN, CAROLINA _____ | BOBOLINK _____ |
| MOORHEN, COMMON _____ | HOUSE _____ | BLACKBIRD, REDWING _____ |
| COOT, AMERICAN _____ | MARSH _____ | MEADOWLARK, EASTERN _____ |
| PLOVER, BLACK-BELLIED _____ | KINGLET, RUBY-CROWNED _____ | GRACKLE, COMMON _____ |
| SEMIPALMATED _____ | GNATCATCHER, BG _____ | COWBIRD, BROWN-HD _____ |
| KILLDEER _____ | BLUEBIRD, EASTERN _____ | BLACKBIRDS (unidentified) _____ |
| YELLOWLEGS, GREATER _____ | VEERY _____ | ORIOLE, ORCHARD _____ |
| LESSER _____ | THRUSH, SWAINSON'S _____ | NORTHERN _____ |
| SANDPIPER, SOLITARY _____ | HERMIT _____ | FINCH, PURPLE _____ |
| WILLET _____ | WOOD _____ | HOUSE _____ |
| SANDPIPER, SPOTTED _____ | ROBIN, AMERICAN _____ | SISKIN, PINE _____ |
| SEMIPALMATED _____ | CATBIRD, GRAY _____ | GOLDFINCH, AM. _____ |
| LEAST _____ | MOCKINGBIRD, N. _____ | GROSBEAK, EVENING _____ |
| PECTORAL _____ | THRASHER, BROWN _____ | SPARROW, HOUSE _____ |
| DUNLIN _____ | PIPIT, WATER _____ | |
| SNIPE, COMMON _____ | WAXWING, CEDAR _____ | |
| WOODCOCK, AMERICAN _____ | STARLING _____ | |
| GULL, LAUGHING _____ | VIREO, WHITE-EYE _____ | |
| BONAPARTE'S _____ | SOLITARY _____ | |
| RING-BILL _____ | YEL. THRT'D _____ | |
| HERRING _____ | WARBLING _____ | |
| GTR. BLACK-BACK _____ | RED-EYE _____ | |
| Unidentified _____ | WARBLER, BLUE-WING _____ | |
| TERN, CASPIAN _____ | GOLDEN-WING _____ | |
| FORSTER'S _____ | TENNESSEE _____ | |
| LEAST _____ | NASHVILLE _____ | |

WRITE-INS (DETAILS MAY BE NECESSARY)

Party Leader _____ Address _____

Time Start: _____ Mrs. Owling _____ Hrs. on Foot _____ Hrs. by Car _____ Hrs. other _____ Hrs. feeder watch _____
 Time Stop: _____ Mi. Owling _____ Mi. on Foot _____ Mi. by Car _____ Mi. other _____

Weather: AM: Temp _____ Wind (speed/direction) _____ Cloud Cover _____ % Precipitation _____
 NOON: _____ _____ _____ % _____
 PM: _____ _____ _____ % _____

Other Party Members: _____

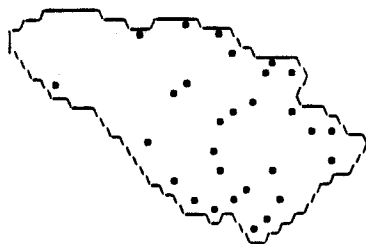
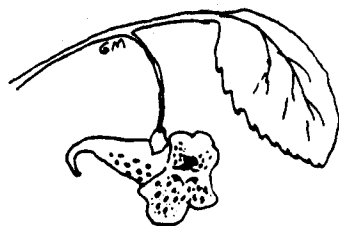


Through use of the mounted specimens, nest collection, and slide programs, chapter members reach numerous county residents. Individuals who used materials for programs, displays, or personal study during the year were Eva Sunell, Jane Geuder, Linda Furlong, Jo Solem, Carolyn Cradler, Martha Chestem, Helen Zeichner, Jim Hill, Michele Wright, Mike McClure, Gina Somerlock, Ralph Geuder, Maud Banks, Connie Bockstie, Judy Habib, Carol McIntire, Ann Coren, Eileen Clegg, and Cliff Edmunds, Jr.

Groups to whom presentations were made or places where there were displays included the following: St. Louis Garden Club, Centennial H.S. art class, Cub Scout Pack 1074, Den 8 and Pack 378, Dens 5 & 7, Land Design Research, Inc., Studio art class at Glenelg Country H.S., 5th gr. at West Friendship E.S., 4th gr. at Woodbridge E.S., Girl Scout Troop 1492, Kinder Nature Camp and Junior Nature Camp (both How. Co. Rec & Parks), Howard Co. Fair, 9th gr. biology class Glenelg Country H.S., 6th gr. ecology class Oakland Mills M.S., Intro to Birding (adult) at Miller Branch Lib., Clemens Crossing E.S. After School Prog., Middle Patuxent Nursery Sch., James H. Harrison E.S. at P.G. Outdoor Envir. Ctr., 1st gr. at Stevens Forest E.S., display case at Miller Branch Lib., Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Nursery Sch., Kindergarten at Hammond E.S., 7th gr. Patapsco M.S., Tu Bishvat service at Columbia Jewish Congreg., Leisurefest at Columbia Mall, Boy Scout Troop 122, G/T student at Waterloo E.S., Cub Scout Pack 720, 4th gr. Thunder Hill E.S., Intro to Birding (6-11 yr. olds) at Miller Branch Lib., and Mt. Zion Methodist Nursery Sch.

Members of the chapter are eligible to borrow specimens, nests, or slide programs for presentations. To borrow slides call Marty Chestem 730-1527; to borrow birds or nests call Jo Solem 725-5037.

FLOWER FEATURE: SPOTTED JEWELWEED - Georgia Morris and Bob Solem



SPOTTED JEWELWEED (Touch-me-not) - *Impatiens capensis*

FAMILY - Jewelweed (*Balsaminaceae*)

HABITAT - Shady wet areas, stream valleys, moist woods.

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - Mid-June to end of October.

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATION - Widespread. Lake Elkhorn, Rockburn Branch Park, Cypressmede Park, many others.

PLANT - 2' to 5' high. Stems soft, translucent, weak.

FLOWERS - 1" long, 3/4" across. Irregularly shaped, yellow-orange with red-orange spots. Sepals and petals conjoined to form a conelike blossom with a recurved spur at the back. The blossom dangles (like a jewel) from a weak stalk.

LEAVES - 1 1/2"-3 1/2" long, egg-shaped, coarsely toothed.

FRUIT - Long rounded capsule that bursts open when touched to scatter the seeds.

SPECIAL INFORMATION - These bright delicate blossoms attract hummingbirds as well as bees and butterflies for nectar. When cut the soft stems drip a clear fluid which is said to be useful against the itch of poison ivy. It is a known anti-fungal agent. Both open and closed flowers develop on the same plant. The closed flowers self-pollinate. Jewelweed is an annual and dies each fall. It is propagated by seeds scattered by its exploding (touch-me-not) pods. In Howard County we also have another, though less common, touch-me-not: Pale Jewelweed, *Impatiens pallida*, which is a pale yellow and has few if any red-orange spots.

LISTS OF COMMON WILDFLOWERS BLOOMING EACH MONTH, MAY-SEPTEMBER were produced by the Bird Club for Cedar Lane, Centennial, Rockburn Branch and Savage Parks and sent to the Dept of Rec & Parks to be displayed. Look for lists posted in these parks.

CONSERVATION REPORT - Bob Solem

Several bills affecting the environment passed the Maryland legislature. The Bird Club Board sent a letter to all nine Howard County legislators requesting their support of a joint resolution which urged that 9,000 acres of Ft. Meade land be transferred to US Fish and Wildlife Service as an addition to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; the resolution passed. The Board sent another letter to the same legislators urging that the cap on Program Open Space funds gradually be lifted. In February, Pres. Tom Strikwerda and Bob Solem joined How Co Rec & Parks in lobbying in Annapolis in support of the bill. The bill passed. (Program Open Space helps fund purchase of park land.) The legislature passed a compromise bill requiring newspapers gradually to use more recycled newsprint (12% by 1994). The reforestation bill failed. Changes in the nontidal wetlands program were not clear when this column was written.

Locally, the Bird Club testified in March before the County Council in support of the proposed General Plan's environmental provisions to acquire green space and protect the landscape. We offered an amendment to the General Plan to promote solid waste reduction. We presented the Council Council a petition with 294 names.

The Howard County Bird Club was one of the 30 cosponsors of the Citizens' Conference on Forests and Forestry organized by the Maryland Conservation Council and held at the University of Maryland April 7, 1990. Bob Solem attended as the Club's representative. Forests are a neglected resource that requires more attention.

Martha Chestem is the Club's representative on the Howard County Public Advisory Committee for the Comprehensive Recycling Plan. Also remember that MoRT (Mobile Recycling Truck) now is accepting plastic bottles (milk, soda, detergent) for recycling as well as your newspapers, glass bottles and aluminum cans.

Ralph Geuder will represent the Bird Club on the task force investigating options to preserve the Smith farm in east Columbia as open space.

News from the Environmental Action Foundation and Environmental Defense Fund is that "degradable" plastics DO NOT degrade significantly in landfills and pose a risk to wildlife and the environment that is equal to or greater than ordinary plastic.

This newsletter is now being printed on recycled paper.

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

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- WINTER COUNT RESULTS
- PREPARE FOR MAY COUNT