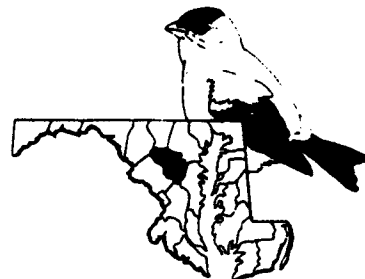




VOL. 22, No 1
SEPT-OCT 1993

Howard.

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



President's Welcome. Joanne K. Solen

Welcome to the Howard County Bird Club's (HCBC) twenty-first year! As one of the most active chapters of the Maryland Ornithological Society, we offer numerous opportunities to learn about and enjoy birds whether it is in your own backyard or far afield.

If you are new to this fascinating hobby, there are ways the HCBC can help you. Participating in field trips is an excellent way to see many species, visit a variety of habitats, and obtain numerous helpful tips. Members may borrow audio and video tapes and printed matter to speed the learning process. Spending a day with experienced birders during one of the annual counts may prove physically tiring, but it may also be one of the most exhilarating and memorable experiences you've ever had. The evening tally is half of the fun. Here you learn what other people have seen and how the birds you counted contribute to the larger picture--for that larger picture is one of the things that birding is all about.

Birds are only one facet of any ecosystem. If you become hooked on birds, you will find it hard to ignore the trees, wildflowers, butterflies, mammals, and other aspects of the natural world. Rarely can species be "saved" one by one. Entire breeding and wintering ecosystems in all their marvelous complexity must be preserved to ensure the health and survival of most life forms. Taking the initial step of getting to know the birds that live around you opens windows to involvement, understanding, and ultimately it is hoped, preservation.

Birding is fun whatever your level of experience. We invite you to join us this year. You may never see the world around you in quite the same light again.

BLADEN MOUNTAINS NATURE RESERVE RECEIVES CLUB DONATION

Proceeds from last year's seed sales were donated to the Bladen Mountains Nature Reserve in Belize. Bladen, located in the southern part of the country and covering about 135 square miles, is probably the most highly diverse area in Belize. Features of Bladen include richly-forested mountains, hills, and floodplains; rock outcrops, cliffs, and caves; waterways of pools, rapids and falls; a variety of lofty trees, palms, massive lianas, giant herbs, flowers, and fruits. The World Conservation Union will be working with the Belize Audubon Society, the group officially charged with management of the area by the government, to identify the best use of the funds.

In 1985, and more thoroughly in March, 1987, a biological survey of the area was made by scientists from the Manomet Bird Observatory and the Missouri Botanical Gardens. They recorded 194 bird species during the two short surveys. Included in the counts were 30 migrant species that breed in North America. Of these, 12 were American Wood Warblers, *Dendroicidae*. Also seen were mountain lion, Great and Slaty-breasted Tinamous, Curassows, Crested Guan, and herds of white-lipped peccaries. Large numbers of Guan and Curassows, known as "pot" birds, are a good indicator of a relatively untouched area in Central America today. Uninvestigated Mayan ruins were located in this currently uninhabited area. In the report it was recommended that Bladen, as a nature preserve, be one component of a wider conservation region, including the already established Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve. The larger area would then be able to maintain populations of top carnivores, some large herbivores and certain wide ranging species over the long term and protect against deterioration of Bladen.



from Phil Norman, Open Space Coordinator - HCRP

On Saturday, October 16, 1993, the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Dorsey's Search Community Association will co-sponsor their first "Walk for the Wetlands." The purpose of the walk is to raise funds for the production of signs which will interpret the natural history and environmental value of the wetlands, floodplains and forest traversed by the Gwynn Acres and Plum Tree Pathways. These paved pathways, well known to many MOS members, are heavily used by area residents who

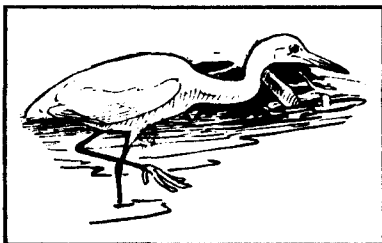
may not be aware of the ecological significance of the surrounding area. See the March/April and May/June newsletters for descriptions of these birding hotspots.

If you would like to participate in this event, registration/pledge forms are available from the Community Association offices at Linden Hall, located at the Dorsey's Search Village Center, phone (410) 730-4005. You may also contact the Land Management Division, Department of Recreation and Parks at (410) 313-7256. Walks of one, five and ten miles have been planned to accommodate a variety of abilities and time schedules.

SUMMARY OF THE 1993 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

by Paul A. Zucker

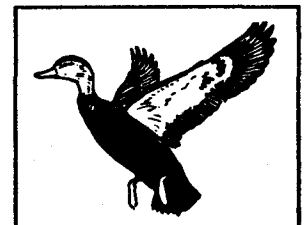
The 1993 Howard County May Count was conducted from 5:00 am until 9:00 pm on May 8. This year was the sixth year that the count was held on the second Saturday in May, and May 8 is the earliest that the second Saturday can occur. There were a total of 50 participants in 21 field parties. The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the accompanying tally sheet. As in previous years, this count had a very good turnout and reasonably good coverage of the county. A total of 137 species were identified (an average number for this count), and 13,323 individual birds were tallied. Most of the day was clear and sunny with some overcast late. The temperatures ranged from a low near 50 to a high near 80.



The unusual sightings were the Snowy Egret (Setterberg party) which was new for the count, American Black Duck (Van Nostrand), Canvasback (Wallace), Semipalmated Sandpiper (Wallace), Willow Flycatcher (Solem), Water Pipit (Atkinson), and Lincoln's Sparrow (Ott, Atkinson). Also of interest were two adult Bald Eagles seen from the Montgomery side by Gerald Elgert. High counts (over the last fifteen years) were tallied for the following species: Double-Crested Cormorant, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Cliff Swallow, House Wren (for the second year in a row), Savannah Sparrow, and House Finch. Low counts over

fifteen years were for: Northern Bobwhite, Spotted Sandpiper, and House Sparrow. Compared to the past ten years, however, the following additional species were low: Rock Dove, Barn Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Louisiana Water Thrush, Song Sparrow, and Common Grackle. A few species which are generally found were missed: Nashville Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler (Chan, we missed you!).

The participation of the following people is greatly appreciated: Burton Alexander, Scott Atkinson, Giff Beaton, Bill Blum, Connie Bockstie, Joy Byrnes, Marty Chestem, Randy and Richard Crook, Ward Ebert, Gerald Elgert, Peggy Erbe, Jane Farrell, Charlie Fuller, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Richard Giannola, Shiras Guion, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Kathy Jones, Kevin Heffernan, Jane Heim, Anu and Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Marge Kupiec, Dennis Luck, Bob and Brigitte Lund, Grazina and Mike McClure, Carol Newman, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Suzanne Probst, Karan Repsher, Nan Rhineland, Woodrow Rhoades, Steve Schrader, Susan Setterberg, Michael Smith, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, Robin Todd, Greg Van Nostrand, Mark Wallace, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, Sherry and Paul Zucker (compiler). Thanks also go to the Randles for hosting the tally rally.



MAY 8, 1993

County Howard

COMMON LOON	58
PIED-BILLED GREBE	
HORNED GREBE	
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	27
AMERICAN BITTERN	
LEAST BITTERN	
GREAT BLUE HERON	13
GREAT EGRET	
SNOWY EGRET	3
LITTLE BLUE HERON	
TRICOLORED HERON	
CATTLE EGRET	
GREEN-BACKED HERON	26
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	
YEL.-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	
GLOSSY IBIS	
MUTE SWAN	2
CANADA GOOSE	230
WOOD DUCK	35
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	2
MALLARD	251
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	
GADWALL	
AMERICAN WIGEON	
GREATER SCAUP	
LESSER SCAUP	
BUFFLEHEAD	
HOODED Merganser	
COMMON Merganser	
RED-BREASTED Merganser	
RUDDY DUCK	
BLACK VULTURE	17
TURKEY VULTURE	88
OSPREY	2
BALD EAGLE (ad/im/unk)	2
NORTHERN HARRIER	
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	2
COOPER'S HAWK	
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	38
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	1
RED-TAILED HAWK	28
AMERICAN KESTREL	8
MERLIN	
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	6
RUFFED GROUSE	
WILD TURKEY	
NORTHERN BOB-WHITE	1
CLAPPER RAIL	
KING RAIL	
VIRGINIA RAIL	
SORA	
COMMON MOORHEN	
AMERICAN COOT	
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	
KILLDEER	33
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER	
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	22
WILLET	
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	10
UPLAND SANDPIPER	
RUDDY TURNSTONE	
SANDERLING	
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER	2
LEAST SANDPIPER	
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	
DUNLIN	
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER	
COMMON SNIFE	1
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	
CANVASBACK	①

Time Start: Hours on Foot: 141
 Time Stop: Hours by Car: 10 1/4
 Hours by Boat:
 Hours other:

Hours Feeder Watching: 6

Hours "Stationary":

Gull, sp	3
LAUGHING GULL	
BONAPARTE'S GULL	
RING-BILLED GULL	16
HERRING GULL	
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	
CASPIAN TERN	
ROYAL TERN	
COMMON TERN	
FORSTER'S TERN	
LEAST TERN	
BLACK SKINNER	
ROCK DOVE	239
MOURNING DOVE	371
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	1
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	1
COMMON BARN OWL	
EASTERN SCREECH OWL	1
GREAT HORNED OWL	7
BARRED OWL	11
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW	
WHIP-POOR-WILL	
CHIMNEY SWIFT	197
RUBY-THRTD. HUMMINGBIRD	16
BELTED KINGFISHER	14
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	152
YEL.-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	
DOWNY WOODPECKER	65
HAIRY WOODPECKER	5
NORTHERN FLICKER	103
PILEATED WOODPECKER	17
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE	35
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	44
LEAST FLYCATCHER	2
EASTERN PHOEBE	44
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	32
EASTERN KINGBIRD	97
HORNED LARK	
PURPLE MARTIN	44
TREE SWALLOW	36
N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	35
BANK SWALLOW	1
CLIFF SWALLOW	78
BARN SWALLOW	232
BLUE JAY	814
AMERICAN CROW	440
FISH CROW	26
CROW (sp)	196
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	
CAROLINA CHICKADEE	225
TUFTED TITMOUSE	256
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	18
BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH	
BROWN CREEPER	
CAROLINA WREN	123
HOUSE WREN	160
MARSH WREN	
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	2
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	181
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	71
VEERY	22
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	13
HERMIT THRUSH	3
WOOD THRUSH	248
AMERICAN ROBIN	467
GRAY CATBIRD	423
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	132
BROWN THRASHER	19
WATER PIPIT	11
CEDAR WAXWING	38
EUROPEAN STARLING	869
Willow Flycatcher	①

Miles on Foot: 118 1/2
 Miles by Car: 205
 Miles by Boat:
 Miles other:

Hours "Owling": 3/4
 Miles "Owling":

WHITE-EYED VIREO	113
SOLITARY VIREO	1
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	10
WARBLING VIREO	10
RED-EYED VIREO	256
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	14
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER	
TENNESSEE WARBLER	2
NASHVILLE WARBLER	
NORTHERN PARULA	102
YELLOW WARBLER	128
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	7
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	10
CAPE MAY WARBLER	9
BLK.-THRTD. BLUE WARBLER	49
MYRTLE WARBLER	826
BLK.-THRTD. GREEN WARBLER	11
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER	
PINE WARBLER	4
PRAIRIE WARBLER	20
PALM WARBLER	2
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	4
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	76
CERULEAN WARBLER	
BLACK & WHITE WARBLER	60
AMERICAN REDSTART	76
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER	1
WORM-EATING WARBLER	10
OVENBIRD	143
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	2
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	15
KENTUCKY WARBLER	29
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	216
HOODED WARBLER	26
WILSON'S WARBLER	2
CANADA WARBLER	8
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	32
SUMMER Tanager	
SCARLET Tanager	107
NORTHERN CARDINAL	548
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	20
BLUE GROSBEAK	7
INDIGO BUNTING	135
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	129
CHIPPING SPARROW	89
FIELD SPARROW	73
VESPER SPARROW	2
SAVANNAH SPARROW	44
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	17
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW	
SEASIDE SPARROW	
SONG SPARROW	134
SWAMP SPARROW	13
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	31
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	17
DARK-EYED JUNCO	
BOBOLINK	240
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	630
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	14
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	
BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE	
COMMON GRACKLE	551
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	179
ORCHARD ORIOLE	31
BALTIMORE ORIOLE	66
PURPLE FINCH	
HOUSE FINCH	402
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	465
HOUSE SPARROW	135
Lincoln's Sparrow	④

TOTAL: 137 SPECIES
 13,323 INDIVIDUALS

GREAT HORNED OWL RELEASED IN HOWARD COUNTY BY DNR



To thank our club for a donation last spring to the *Scales and Tails* environmental education and bird rehabilitation program of the Department of Natural Resources, DNR hosted a photo shoot and raptor release which was free to club members. Available and posing nicely were a Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Screech Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Turkey Vulture. All birds are part of the rehabilitation program and it is hoped they will be returning to the wild. At 8:00 pm on July 11th, a rehabilitated Great Horned Owl was released in the Hollofield Area of

Patapsco Valley State Park to the delight of club observers. The bird wasted no time and made for an evergreen tree about 30 yards from its release box. It wasn't clear who was observing whom most carefully at that moment, the bird or the birders. After a few minutes, the owl flew a bit further into the trees leaving all observers smiling and wishing it well. For further information on the *Scales and Tails* programs, you can call (410) 922-8825.

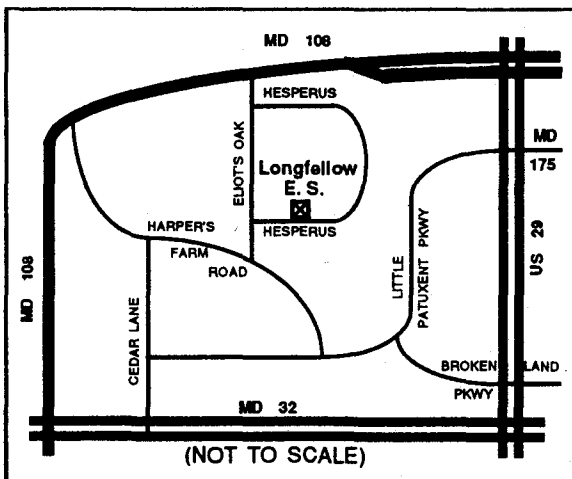
MT. PLEASANT FARM BEQUEATHED TO DNR AND HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY

On June 6, 1993, friends and family of Ruth and Frances Brown; numerous state and local officials; and representatives from Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Environmental Trust, Howard County and the Howard County Conservancy met at Mt. Pleasant farm to celebrate the beginning of a new era for the property. Through the generosity of the Brown sisters, their 232 acre farm on Old Frederick Road near Woodstock will be permanently preserved by the Howard County Conservancy and the MD Dept of Natural Resources. The Conservancy received, through the bequest, 127 acres including the historic house and outbuildings which will become their headquarters. They will also manage the 105 acre DNR grant, which is adjacent to the Patapsco Valley State Park. The complex agreement for future preservation of the farm involved six agencies and representatives for the two sisters' estates.

The farm had been in the Brown family since 1692, when Thomas Brown, constructed a one room log cabin, believed to be the dining room of the existing house in the middle of the current property. As Patuxent Ranger, he was to survey the lands at the headwaters of the Patuxent and its tributaries. One of the two Patapsco tributaries originates on the farm property. Subsequent family members added to the property. In speaking of Ruth Brown, one of the Davis family said it was her wish that since the family had gotten the land from the country, they should give the land back to the country. The Conservancy and DNR are developing a master plan for the preservation of the property which will include some continued farming.



CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS



Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia, on the second Thursday of the month. Meeting is cancelled if schools are closed for any reason. Hospitality session starts at 7:30 pm. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 pm. Club bookstore opens at 7:30 pm.

September 9, Endangered Species Act - Susan Jones from the National Wildlife Federation will discuss the history and contributions of the Act. The Act, because of a six month extension last spring, is up for renewal in the fall.

Oct 14, The Art and History of Falconry - Michael Dupuy, a local falconer, will bring his Red-tailed Hawk and talk about the art and history of falconry and the biology and behavior of birds of prey.

Field Trips meet as described for each trip. Carpooling is encouraged; riders share the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for the field with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear & layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow paths. NO pets. *Leaders may cancel due to inclement weather or fewer than three participants.* Questions? Call the trip leader or Field Trip Chair, Bonnie Ott (410) 461-3361.

Sept 11
Saturday Butterfly Walk at Centennial Park - Meet at west end lot at 10:30 am for a two hour butterfly walk. Co-sponsored with Howard County Rec & Parks (HCRP). Skippers, sulphurs, swallowtails, Monarchs and more. Leader: Richard Smith, (410) 997-7439. Will cancel if raining; call leader if overcast.

Sept 14
Tuesday Gwenn Acres - Meet at 8:30 am, Old Columbia Rd across from Rams Horn Row. Join other birders for a stroll on paved path to look for early fall migrants. Call Bonnie Ott for info, (410) 461-3361.

Sept 19
Sunday Daniels Area (Patapsco State Park) - Meet at 8:00 am, at first lot at beginning of Camel Trail for a walk along the river and more. Fall migrants, possible hawks and herons. Leaders: Richard and Randy Crook, (410) 747-0399.

Sept 29
Wed Turf Valley Overlook - Meet 8:30 am at signboard off Pebble Beach Drive. Fields, woodland and streams offer a variety of species and a good view of the sky for flyovers. Call Bonnie for info.



Oct 3
Sunday Birds & Butterflies with Binoculars at Centennial Park - Meet at 8:00 am, at west end lot. Richard Smith & Bonnie Ott will lead the trip to view everything with wings. Will have copy of new Butterflies with Binoculars guide to start this new method of identification. Monarchs are migrating, also sulphurs, skippers and possibly a painted lady. Fall warblers are on the move! Call Bonnie, (410) 461-3361, or Richard, (410) 997-7439, for info.

Oct 7
Thursday Lake Elkhorn - Meet at 8:30 am in parking lot off Broken Land Parkway. Walk on paved path around lake for waterbirds and warblers. Call Bonnie for info.

Oct 9
Saturday Rockburn Branch - Meet 8:00 am, at park office off Landing Road. Great habitat for sparrows, warblers, sapsuckers, creepers, thrushes and kinglets. Open sky areas for hawks. Leader: Jim Wilkenson, (410) 381-9250.

Oct 16
Saturday Hawk Watch at Rockburn Park - Meet at 10:00 am, on hill next to tot lot, Montgomery Road entrance. Bring chair and lunch if desired and sit to watch hawks fly. Years past have also produced cormorants, Purple Finches and White-crowned Sparrows. Leader: Ralph Geuder (call Bonnie for info).

Oct 16
Saturday Walk for the Wetlands - at Gwenn Acres and Plum Tree in Dorsey's Search. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Oct 17
Sunday Sparrow Search - Meet at 8:00 am, at Centennial Park west end lot to carpool to nearby location. Hoping for Savannah, Swamp, Vesper, and Grasshopper Sparrows. Also Water Pipits and Common Snipe. ~~Wear boots. Leader: David Holmes, (call Bonnie for info).~~

Oct 17
Sunday Habitat Walk at Rockburn Park - Meet at park office at 1:00 pm for one hour walk. Co-sponsored with HCRP. Leader: Bob Solem (301) 725-5037.

Oct 22
Friday Rockburn Park - Meet 8:30 am, at park office. Will walk on wood chip trails for warblers and sparrows. Call Bonnie for info.

Oct 23
Saturday Wilde Lake Beginners Bird Walk - Meet at 8:00 am, at boat dock. Walk along the lake on paved path. Ducks, grebes, and woodland birds. Leader will have scope. Leader: Helen Zeichner (410) 730-3695.

Nov 1
Monday Centennial Park - Meet at 8:30, at west end lot. Walk around lake to look for migrating waterfowl and more. Call Bonnie for info.

FIELD TRIP TIPS: When out birding with others consider the following birding tips. When carpooling, share fuel expenses and tolls with the driver. Arrive at the meeting place with an ample supply of gas if you are going to drive. Keep track of the car behind you to hold the caravan together. When in the field, avoid flushing birds by staying behind the trip leader. Avoid sudden or loud noises as well as unnecessary gesturing or talking. Many in the group locate birds by listening as well as sight. Avoid early departure through areas yet to be explored by the group. And most important of all, if you don't know the bird you are looking at or hearing, ask someone in the group to help you. It's a great way to learn.

LOCAL CANADAS PART OF NATIONAL STUDY

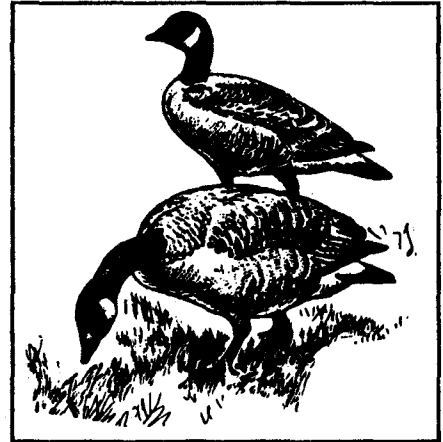
by *Martha Chestam*

Centennial Park is, no doubt, the most frequently visited park by birders and others who enjoy the outdoors. So when one day last June the 30 resident Canada Geese were seen swimming on the lake with distinctive neck collars where none had been before, it was noted and reported. What was going on?

Bill Harvey, Maryland waterfowl biologist and state project leader of a study of Canada Geese (part of a national effort), said in a telephone interview that the Howard County flocks have actually been in the study for three years. Each year a flock is selected for leg bands and neck collars during the molting season when the flightless Canadas can be easily caught and handled. This was the year for the birds on Centennial Lake. Sometimes called "street geese," these birds and their goslings are genetically pre-determined to stay put and will never migrate.

In the past,, the public was asked to report sightings of marked geese. Harvey said the state staff was inundated with reports, too numerous to process properly. The state now has a team of trained observers throughout the state collecting information and no longer needs reports from the public.

What to do with an overpopulation of resident geese nationwide (an estimated 20,000 in Maryland) is the problem. Complaints come from golf courses, parks and farms. At times they are even a traffic hazard. A few Canadas seen outside the migrating seasons can be desirable, but the incredible numbers have become a nuisance and a possible health problem. Besides destroying some plants, they can pollute waters. The droppings cause algae blooms that reduce oxygen levels in the waters where they spend time, endangering other wildlife depending on the water. No ideal solution has been found. The continuing study of Canada Geese, their habits and impact on the environment should provide information to a satisfactory answer.



ODDS AND ENDS



BOCKSTIE WINS MOS PIN COMPETITION - AGAIN!: ~~Connie Bockstie's~~ submission of a Saw-whet Owl was selected for the pin design for this year's MOS convention at Frostberg. This was the second time Connie's drawing has been used; she was the 1990 winner for a Canada Goose drawing. (Next year's convention will be hosted by Harford County the third weekend in May.)

BUTTERFLY CHECKLIST PUBLISHED: "The Butterflies of Howard County, Maryland. A Biological Summary and Checklist," was published in May. Written by club member Richard Smith, it details the flight

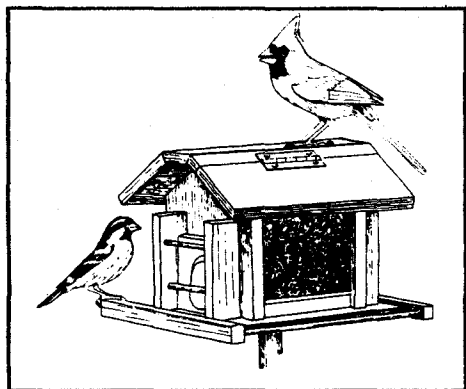
period, habitat, and plants visited, including the larval host plants. The checklist can be obtained free by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Richard at 5213 Eliot's Oak Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED: This year's Program Committee is chaired by Jane Geuder, who is assisted by Kathy Klimkiewicz and Greg Van Nostrand.

The Publicity Committee is being chaired by Connie Bockstie. If you have any program or publicity suggestions, they would be happy to hear from you.

OTHER CLUB DONATIONS: In the Spring, the Board of Directors voted to donate subscriptions of "Birder's World" to the Howard County Library. One subscription each will be in the Central and Miller Library Branches. Check them out!

MAY PICNIC: On May 23, the club closed out its 20th Anniversary year with its first picnic which was held on the grounds of the Applied Physics Lab off Sanner Road. Club founding members, including Nan Rhineland, Marty Chestam and Norm Healy, were in attendance. Although the birding was a little slow, everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather. This could become an annual event.



~~**FALL SEED SALE EARLY THIS YEAR:** Keep your~~
eye on your mail box for the seed sale order form. This year's sale is a little earlier than usual do to crowded bookings at the sale site. Mark September 25th on your calendar for pick up of your order. Call Eileen Clegg at (410) 730-4362 if you haven't received an order form by Sept 8th. This year, you will have to add tax to your order, it will not be part of the listed price.

SEASONAL BIRD RECORDS: Beginning with the 1993 autumn season (August-November), anyone submitting a seasonal "Howard County Bird Records" form will receive a copy of the county compilation that is submitted to *Maryland Birdlife* and *American Birds*. A brief summary of the seasonal highlights will appear in the chapter newsletter. The form for

recording seasonal observations can be obtained by calling Jo Solem (301) 725-5037.

MOS DISCOUNTS: The Wild Bird Center at 6955-F Oakland Mills Road in Columbia offers a discount of 10% to all MOS members on all goods excluding sale items and optics. Just let them know you are a member when you shop in their store.

1992 BLUEBIRD COUNTS UPPED: Coordinator Mike Wallace has revised the Bluebird totals previously reported for 1992 upward. During that breeding season, 1043 boxes were monitored. Of those, 517 were used by Bluebirds fledging 1503 young.

OOPS - ERROR CORRECTION: Two awardees for the Valued Service Award were erroneously reported in the May-June newsletter. There was only one recipient last year, Mike McClure.

THANK YOU to Marty Chestam and Susan Setterberg for putting up the club display at the Annual Spring Garden Fair at Howard Community College.

GOLDFINCH AWARD REDEFINED: After some deliberation over the first year's experience with the newly established **GOLDFINCH** Award, the board of directors decided to modify the competition. Starting with the club field trips last Spring, each Howard County field trip leader will, with the participants on the trip, determine which bird(s) should be nominated for the award. Nominations can be based on rarity, situation or behavior (of the birds).

For instance, the nominees from the April Wilde Lake trip were a pair of Nuthatches. We observed one bird moving around a very large tree trunk. But the bird disappeared for a long period of time. None of us saw it fly away. When we got around the path to view the other side of the tree, we found a pair of nuthatches cleaning out a large cavity in the tree in preparation for nesting season. The winning bird(s) will be announced at the Potluck Dinner in February or March of next year.

EAGLET FLEDGES AT TRIDELPHIA RESERVOIR

In the May/June newsletter we reported the first nesting account of Bald Eagles in Howard County. On April 24, a group from Howard and Montgomery Bird Clubs trekked with spotting scopes to view the progress of the nestlings. Two eaglets were active in the nest; one more so than the other. Both adults were on the nest at different times and we observed one feeding the nestlings. Tridelphia Park Rangers later discovered one eaglet dead at the base of the nest tree. It is not unusual to have only one of the nestlings survive as being pushed out or falling out of the nest happens frequently. Subsequently, Nancy Magnusson has sighted an immature eagle flying around Tridelphia Reservoir. Success on our first try!

CONSERVATION REPORT

by Bob Solem

Renewal and strengthening of the Endangered Species Act will be considered by Congress this year. Rep. Studds (D-MA) and Sen. Chafee (R-RI) have introduced pro-environment reauthorization bills. The bills create positive incentives for species conservation and add emphasis to species nearing threatened or endangered status. The Endangered Species Act provides a framework within which conflicts between federal or private development proposals and species conservation can be effectively and fairly resolved. The act prohibits conduct that would harm threatened or endangered animals or plants and calls for planning and implementation of a recovery strategy for each listed species. Proper maintenance of the environment necessary for survival of the listed species is mandated by requiring identification of critical habitat.

How have species listed as endangered by the federal government fared? The Environmental Defense Fund looked at 78 species first listed in 1967 and continued under protection of the Endangered Species Act (which took effect in 1973): the American alligator has made a full recovery; the red wolf, Whooping Crane, and black-footed ferret have a new lease on life; and declines in the populations of the Delmarva squirrel, grizzly bear, and Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel have been halted.

Eighty percent of the animals and plants listed from 1988 to 1991 were full species, 18% were subspecies, and 2% were populations. EDF points out that the subspecies and populations protected include the grizzly bear, Peregrine Falcon, Florida panther, and gray wolf. It also means that the Bald Eagle can be protected in the "lower 48" states without imposing the restrictions in Alaska, where Bald Eagles are much more common.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sept 23, Longfellow Elementary School, 7:30 pm.

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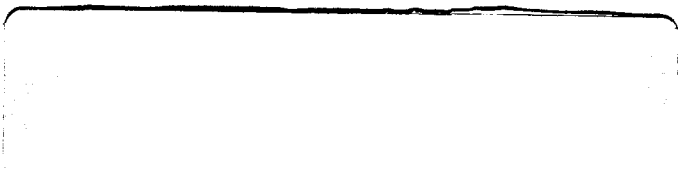
HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

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