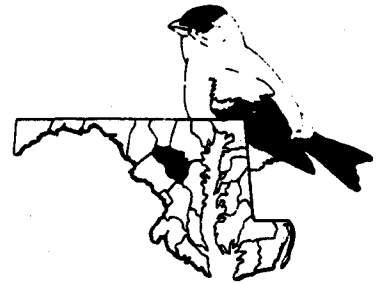




Vol. 22, No 2
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Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



CONSERVATION REPORT: *The Endangered Species Act*

by Bob Solem

Renewal and strengthening of the Endangered Species Act will be considered by Congress this year. The Endangered Species Act was first passed in 1973 and has significantly helped many species, including the Piping Plover in Maryland. There are companion bills introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. 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. Many Senators and Representatives have signed on as cosponsors. Some of those from Maryland need to be persuaded.

Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and John Chaffee (R-RI) have introduced S.921, the "Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1993," to strengthen and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes is already a cosponsor of this bill and should be commended. ~~Senator Barbara Mikulski has not yet signed on as a cosponsor.~~ Club members should write her and request action.

Representatives Gerry Studds (D-MA), John Dingell (D-MI), and Jim Saxton (R-NJ) have introduced H.R.2043, the companion House bill that is the "Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1993. Benjamin Cardin, 3rd. Cong. District, is one of the cosponsors of the bill and should be commended. Steny Hoyer, 5th. Cong. District, has not yet signed on as a cosponsor; Club members should write him and request action. Constance Morella, 8th Cong. District, is already a cosponsor and should be commended. Roscoe Bartlett, 6th. Cong. District is opposed to H.R.2043 and is a cosponsor of another bill (H.R.1490; see the end of this article why this is a bad bill).

Address correspondence
to a senator as follows:

The Honorable (name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator (last name):

To a representative
as follows:

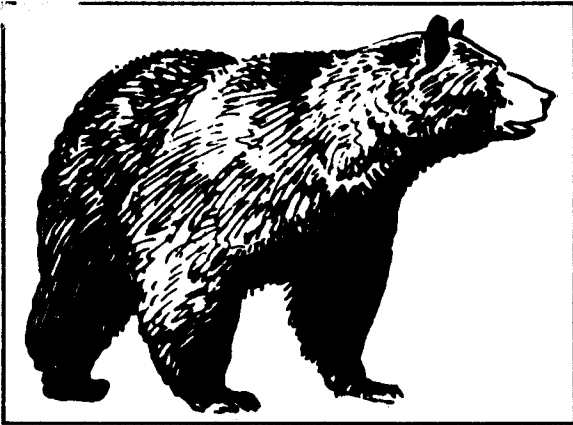
The Honorable (name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Dear Congressman/woman (last name):

If you prefer to reach
them by phone call:

Senate Switchboard - (202) 224-3121
House Switchboard - (202) 225-3121

Always include the bill number when you write or call (S.921 for the Senate and H.R.2043 for the House). This is one of the most important pieces of legislation coming before the 103rd Congress.

To prevent species from becoming endangered in the first place, these bills make the conservation of candidate species and species proposed for listing part of the conservation responsibilities of federal agencies. The bill requires agencies to inventory candidate species on their lands, identify conservation measures which reduce the likelihood that species would need listing in the future, and authorizes agencies to enter into voluntary



agreements with the Interior Secretary to conserve these species. There is also authorization for a study of federal laws and programs that are harmful to listed species or discourage conservation by private landowners.

To streamline the recovery process and help to conserve entire ecosystems upon which species depend, the bills move from the current species-by-species focus towards an ecosystem approach. This makes sense fiscally and ecologically. The bills give priority to listing species whose listing would reduce the need to list other species in the same ecosystem, and, in developing recovery plans, gives priority to the development of integrated multi-species recovery plans which include all

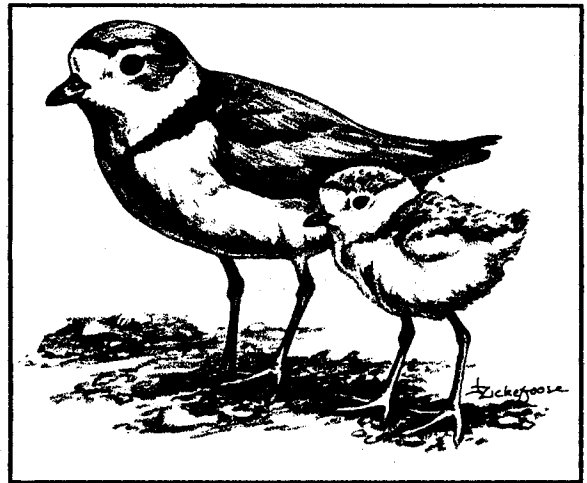
listed and candidate species within a given area. There would be a federal revolving fund to provide seed loans to states, counties and municipal governments for the development of Habitat Conservation Plans and candidate species conservation plans. Loss of habitat is the most important cause of species extinction.

Right now nearly half of the current listed species do not have approved recovery plans--even though studies show that threatened and endangered species with recovery plans are more likely to improve. States like California (which has the greatest number of endangered species) would be helped by recovery plans and by the ecosystem approach.

The bills provide financial incentives and technical assistance to landowners who go beyond the requirements of the law to undertake affirmative measures to promote the recovery of listed or candidate species on their land. Landowners could develop Habitat Conservation Plans for conservation of candidate species in situations where enough habitat is involved to provide for the long-term conservation of the species.

There is a clear statement in the bills that, to achieve timely conservation of species and habitats, adverse social and economic impacts should be minimized; federal lands should be used for species recovery wherever possible.

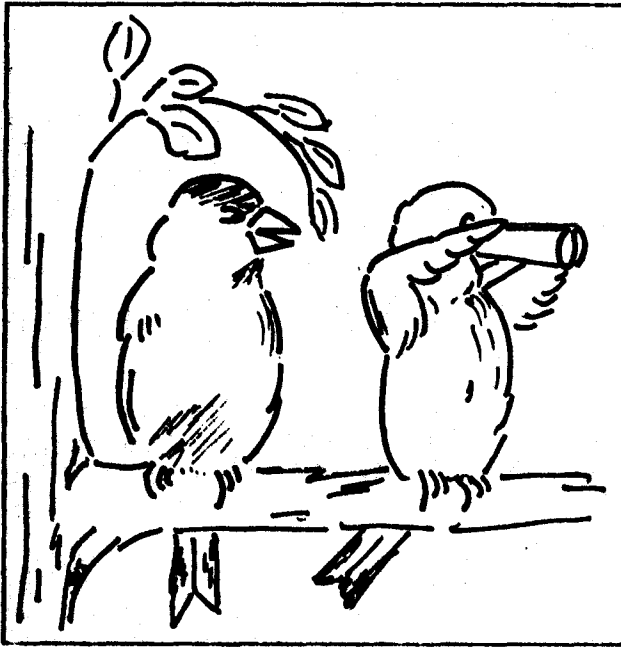
Another bill (H.R.1490) has been introduced that weakens the ESA and is contrary to the ecological principles the Bird Club espouses: This bill would create "Cooperative Management Agreements" that would *suspend* normal operation of the ESA; it would also authorize general permits *exempting entire categories of activities and entire regions* from the ESA. Since H.R.1490 would require a showing of actual injury of an *individual* of a listed species for a citation, there could be *widespread destruction of nesting habitat for endangered birds or spawning habitat for endangered fish* when the species were temporarily absent from the area. *Special protection for critical habitat would disappear* because modification of such habitat would have to jeopardize the existence of the *whole species* before it could be stopped.



Much of the above information was provided by Susan Jones (speaker at the September Bird Club meeting) and the National Wildlife Federation.

MARYLAND TO BUY SCENIC LAND

\$1.7 million will be used to purchase 1,053 acres along the Youghiogheny River in Garrett County, the state's only designated wild and scenic river. Funding will be from Maryland's Program Open Space and the new federal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. Maryland Board of Public Works (consisting of the Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer) approved an agreement between the state transportation and natural resources departments to acquire land and scenic easements on the state's Civil War sites and greenways, one of which was the Youghiogheny River.



September Seed Sale Offers Challenges!

During the past fifteen years of overseeing our club's ever growing and highly successful seed sale, various problems have occurred; but none as challenging as the one presented on Saturday, September 25!

At 7:15 am, volunteers discovered the delivered trailer's seed cargo was not our order but destined for another location. The driver called homebase and the correct trailer was on it's way. This situation was an immediate crash course in field management and public relations. The Club's president was phoned, the volunteers amassed themselves to unload the seed and to deal with double the number of customers when the shipment finally arrived around 10:00 am. The Nature Nook and the MGS bookstore were poised to entertain any and all customers - specials were advertised.

Do you see the seed truck yet?

I personally feel that our club's seed sale has generated much good will and that built up good will served us like a bank account in withdrawing

cooperation between ourselves and our customers.

I heartily wish to thank every member and friend of this organization who waited on a customer, delivered seed to someone's home or workplace and/or stayed on for a longer shift. Our delivery rate was 100% - every customer received his or her seed.

~~I'm proud to be a member of such a wonderful club! I'm extremely grateful for everyone's willingness to help, for their cooperation, support, and friendliness the have shown to me and our valued customers. -- Eileen Clegg~~

Volunteers at the seed sale included: Maud Banks, Bill Blum, Martha Chestem, Steve Clarkson, Andrew Clegg, John Clegg, Mike Courbron, Barbara Davis, Jane Farrell, Margo Garner, Ralph Geuder, Shiras Guion, Mike Hill, Tim Keller, Dennis Luck, Nancy Magnusson, Karan Repsher, Barbara Schuyler, Susan Setterberg, Bob Solem, Jo Solem, Charles Stirrat, Tom Strikwerda, Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace, Don Waugh, Jim Wilson, Michele Wright, and Helen Zeichner. Baked Goods were provided by: Maud Banks, Martha Chestem, Eileen Clegg, Barbara Davis, Mary Keller, and Romaine Smith.

Howard County Rivals Hawk Mountain?

September 20th turned out to be a very exciting day for club member Mike Kerwin. Getting ready to start work that morning, he stepped out on his deck in Ellicott City and started counting Broad-winged Hawks, and counting, and counting and counting. Mike lives about 1.5 miles NW of Centennial Lake. By the time he stopped counting, it was 2:30 pm. He had been on the deck for six hours and logged in 35 entries totaling 6500 Broad-winged Hawks, two Sharp-shinned Hawks and two Osprey. His most concentrated time of counting was between 12:06 and 12:51 pm, when eight separate groups estimated at 3000 individuals passed by. Bonnie Ott and Hank Stanton, who are east of Centennial Lake, counted over 2000 from her home that same day from their homes.

Weather conditions were overcast all day with light winds out of the INNE. For the first three hours, the hawks were moving northeast to southwest, then switched to east to west later in the day. Mike called Hawk Mountain at noon and they reported nothing incredible there but they did say they were getting calls from all over about broad wings moving through. Two days later at Centennial Lake, Mike counted another 1500 Broad-winged Hawks in less than an hour in the morning. And, he has had a couple other days with a couple hundred. Considering that, according to Mike, Hawk Mountain for the last ten years has averaged 8500 per year, Howard County looks like it is right up there with the hot spots



CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

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 pm. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 pm. Club bookstore opens at 7:30 pm.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 1992, 7:30 pm at Longfellow Elementary School. There will be no board meeting in December.

- Nov 11
Thursday
"Farewell to Midway" - Claudia Wilds and Erika Wilson. Claudia is the author of *Finding Birds in the National Capital Area*. Erika is the speaking voice on the Voice of the Naturalist. They will be speaking on the birds of Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean.
- Dec 9
Thursday
"Wood Ducks" - Mike Haramis. Mike is a researcher with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He has done much research on ducks and will talk about a local favorite, the Wood Duck.

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 footgear & 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.

- Nov 1
Monday
CENTENNIAL PARK - Meet at 8:30 am at west end parking lot. Meet with others and walk around the lake to look for migrating waterfowl and more. Call Bonnie Ott for more information.
- Nov 7, 14
21, & 28
Sundays
CENTENNIAL PARK WEEKLY BIRD WALKS - 8:00 to about 11:00 am. Meet at west end parking lot. Four leaders. Previous years we have found teal, American Wigeon, scaup, Bufflehead, hawks, gulls, warblers, and sparrows. Call Bonnie Ott for additional information.
- Nov 17
Wednesday
CASUAL BIRD WALK at WILDE LAKE - 8:00 am. Meet at boat dock. Leaderless walk on paved path around Wilde Lake for migrant waterfowl.
- Nov 20
Saturday
COLUMBIA LAKES - 8:00 am. Meet at Wilde Lake boat dock. Leader - Jane Farrell, (410) 381-7344. Will carpool to other lakes to check for migrant waterfowl. Possible grebes, coots, Canvasback, Bufflehead, etc.
- Dec 4
Saturday
BOMBAY HOOK BUS TRIP - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Co-sponsored with Howard County Rec & Parks. Meet at the George Howard building on Courthouse Drive next to the police station. Bring your lunch & drinks. Mail your registration fee of \$15 (payable to the Director of Finance, Howard County) with your name, address & phone number (specify trip to Bombay Hook) to Department of Recreation & Parks, Executive Center, Suite 170, 3300 Northridge Rd, Ellicott City, 21043. Call Bonnie for further information.
- Dec 11
Saturday
WINTER WEEDS at SCHOOLEY MILL PARK - 9:00 am. Meet at last parking lot. Leaders: Bob Solem, (301) 725-5037, and Georgia Morris.
- Dec 18
Saturday
TRIADELPHIA CHRISTMAS COUNT - Count for part or all of the day. Areas are assigned in western Howard and eastern Montgomery counties. To volunteer, contact Norm Saunders, (301) 989-9035 or (202) 606-5723. A small fee is charged which helps defray the cost of publication of the results.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1994 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due December 1, 1993. Call or mail to Susan Setterberg, 9445 Clocktower Lane, Columbia, MD 21046; Phone (301)498-4734. Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders.

this year, at least for Broad-winged Hawks. Our previous notable counts for broad wings were on September 25, 1989, when Jo Solem, Connie Bockstie and Kathy Mariano counted 2420 at Schooley Mill Park and September 24, 1982, when Marty Chestam counted more than 1000 during a brief morning visit to the Daniels section of Patapsco State Park.



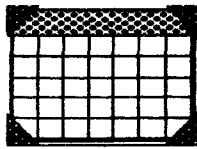
ODDS AND ENDS



Hosting State MOS Meeting: Our club will be the host for the state MOS meeting on December 11, 1993. Volunteers are being sought for donations of baked goods or snacks for the meeting. Call Jo Solem, (301) 725-5037, for details.

Reminder: Remember, collecting of anything; plant, animal or mineral; in a public park is illegal.

Calendars on sale: The Maryland National Heritage calendars for 1994 are now available from the bookstore during club meetings or you can call Michele Wright at (410) 465-6057. The price is \$5.00.



Another discount for members: If you shop at *For The Birds* in Ellicott City, be sure to mention you are an MOS member to receive a 10% discount on all merchandise (except special orders). The store is located at 8241 Main Street, phone number (410) 418-8969.

Thank you: A big thank you to club members who helped with the mailing of two issues of *Maryland Birdlife* this summer. Rumor has it there is another issue at the printer now. A special thanks to Bill Guion for printing all the labels. The volunteers included: Marty Chestem, Shiras Guion, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Ruth Leffler, Nancy Magnusson, Florence Saito, Jo Solem, Tom Strikwerda, and Helen Ziechner.



Irish Grove Cleanup Days: Irish Grove in Somerset County will be having its annual fall clean up weekend on November 6 & 7. Volunteers will be clearing brush and reconstructing boardwalks on the rail trail. Workers can stay overnight in sleeping bag type accommodations. The local MOS will provide a midday dinner Saturday. Call Peter Osenton at (301) 776-4118 or Dotty Mumford (410) 849-8336 to let them know you are coming & so they can plan the food.

NEW ADDRESS?? When you move, please send your new address to the treasurer, Shiras Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723. If the Bird Club has only the old address, the Post Office returns the material with your new address on it and charges the Club 29¢. The Club has to put another 29¢ stamp on your newsletter and mail it to you again.

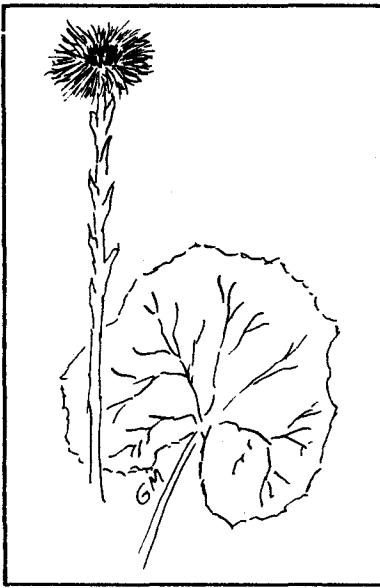
Survey at Brown Farm: The club is doing a bird, butterfly and botanical survey the Mt. Pleasant, the Brown Farm, on Old Frederick Road (see Sept/Oct 1993 newsletter for details). Anyone who wishes to help in any one of the surveys, please contact Jo Solem, (301) 725-5037, for information.

Sightings: Several birders were treated to an uncommon sighting on the Tuesday morning, September 14, on the Gwynn Acres walk. They got a good look at a migrating Connecticut Warbler!! These warblers are encountered here only in the fall, are very secretive and extremely hard to find. Usually no more than two are sighted in a season. Another sighting was reported by other birders the next day at Maryland Farm and one was also reported at Rockburn Park earlier.



Howard County Fair: The club put up it's booth again this year at the Howard County Fair. Marty Chestem made some new displays for the club, one of which asks the viewer to identify the numbered birds which are frequently found in Howard County. As usual, people are brimming with stories about the birds in their yards. It's always a fun night. Volunteers who worked at the booth included: Maud Banks; Marty Chestem; Andrew, Eileen & John Clegg; Jane Farrell; Dave & Maureen Harvey; Nancy Magnusson; Sue Neri; Don & Jan Randle; Susan Setterberg; Chuck Stirrat; Tom Strikwerda; Bob & Jo Solem; and Cathy, Leroy, & Thea Williamson.

NEW PLANT LIST



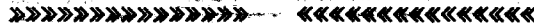
The Bird Club will be selling a new Howard County Plant list, which will include both wildflowers and woody plants (trees, shrubs, and vines). The Bird Club published the first wildflower list in 1982 and updated it in 1983, 1985, and 1987. The current list is the first that includes woody plants.

As a part of the Club's interest in natural history, a survey of wildflowers was started in 1979 by Chuck Dupree, and Bob and Jo Solem. From information gathered on field trips and from individuals, the Club was able to determine the early and late flowering dates for Howard County. It received a major boost when Chris Ludwig began working for the Maryland Natural Heritage Program. The Club's wildflower records are used by Georgia Morris and Bob Solem to produce the "Flower Feature" for the newsletter.

Since this project began, many people have participated in the wildflower and woody plant survey: Burton Alexander, Scott Atkinson, Marty Chestem, Lynne Clary, Ed Cohen, Bill Eckert,

Brenda Ericsson, Jane Farrell, Shiras Guion, Sarah Haviland, Pat Jackson, Kris & Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Anna Llewellyn, Nancy Magnusson, Helen Miller, Grazina & Mike McClure, Marjorie Mountjoy, Rosamond Munro, Bea Newkirk, David Pardoe, Norma Petersen, Nanine Rhineland, Bob Ringler, Chan & Eleanor Robbins, Steve Simon, Eva Sunell, and Michele Wright.

To order the list by mail, send a check for \$1.00 (made out to Howard County Chapter - MOS) and two first class stamps. Send your order to Howard County Bird Club, 10617 Graeloach Road, Laurel, MD 20723. The list is also available at every Bird Club meeting from the book store.



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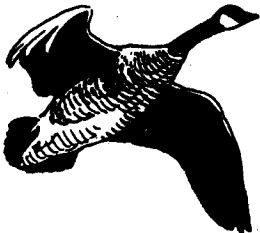
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