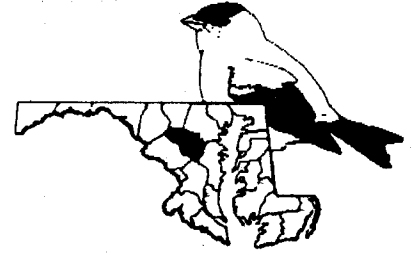




Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1995

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME BY DAVID A. HARVEY

Welcome to the 23rd year of the Howard County Bird Club. We continue to spread the word about birds and the environment that all of us must share. Members continue to provide programs to local schools and community organizations. We also provide manned displays at several community events such as the Howard County Fair.

Many of our members are actively involved in various boards on the local and state levels. There are many opportunities to learn and help direct statewide policies which will protect and enhance the ecosystems around us that are so vital to our enjoyment and existence.

Field trips have taken us around the county and the state in search of birds, wildflowers, butterflies, and knowledge. Our club meetings this past year took us on visits to South America, while closer to home we learned about gulls, hawks, shrikes, and even dragonflies. At each of these events the Bird Club bookstore was available, providing people an opportunity to browse and buy desired material concerning the natural world.

We look forward to your company this year and hope you will join us and help share and provide the enjoyment and knowledge that our members are always seeking.

David A. Harvey

YOUR SUGGESTIONS NEEDED TO NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

The Board of Directors of the Howard County Bird Club needs your help. At the May meeting a decision was made that the newsletter needs an appropriate name. Your suggestions are sought, needed, and welcomed. The suggested names should compliment and coordinate with the existing MOS and Howard County logos. The Board of Directors of the Howard County Bird Club will review all entries and select the name.

Please submit your suggestions to Paula and Darius Ecker, 9270 Crazyquilt Court, Columbia, MD

21045, Phone (410) 312-9165, by February 21, 1996.

The new name for the newsletter will be effective with the September - October 1996 issue.

<i>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
<i>FALL COUNT ANNOUNCED</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>MAY COUNT RESULTS</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>BIRDING GUIDE PUBLISHED</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>SPRING BIRD RECORDS</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>CONSERVATION REPORT</i>	<i>10</i>

1995-1996 CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

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SECOND ANNUAL FALL COUNT

BY MIKE McCLURE & CHUCK STIRRAT

The Howard County Bird Club's annual Fall Count, scheduled to be held each year on the third Saturday of September, will be held on **September 16**. **Mike McClure (410) 531-2780** and **Chuck Stirrat (410) 531-2417** are the county co-coordinators. Last year 133 species of birds were identified on the count and our goal is to exceed that total this year. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and invited to participate. Ask to be put with an experienced individual if you do not wish to have your own territory. Counts are a good way to learn and are great fun. The county is divided

into seven sectors with the same areas used for the other annual counts as well. A new tally sheet tailored to the fall season and Howard County is included in this newsletter. Species that require a write-up include those identified with a double asterisk (**), as well as any write-ins. Others that may require a write-up or oral amplification (*), as well as those that are early or late dates (@), are indicated. **Please note that as for the May count, a separate sheet is to be used for each type of count, i.e. regular, "owling", feeder, or stationary (e.g. hawk watches).**

The following area coordinators

have been named: 1. **MARK WALLACE (301) 725-6370**; 2. **PAUL ZUCKER (301) 270-7896 (H)**, (410) 792-0000, EXT. 4971 (W); 3. **RICHARD AND RANDY CROOK (410) 747-0399**, 4. **BILL AND KARAN BLUM (301) 776-8311**; 5. **MARTY CHESTEM (410) 730-1527**; 6. **BONNE OTT (410) 461-3381**; 7. **EVA SUNELL (410) 996-0029**. You may call an area or county coordinator to volunteer, or check at the September meeting.

Martha and Don Waugh will host the tally rally at **9522 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD, (410) 381-8841**. The pot luck dinner will be served at approximately 7:00 pm, call them by **September 12** to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

SUMMARY OF 1995 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

BY PAUL A. ZUCKER

The 1995 Howard County May count was held on **May 13, 1995** starting from 3:30 am and concluding at 9:00 pm. This was the eighth time the count was held on the second Saturday in May. There were a total of 63 participants in 44 parties, making it second only to last year in turnout and party hours. The total number of birds seen totalled approximately 21,280, which is the greatest number ever for this count. The species tally of 146 was more than we usually find, ranking this count fifth in the last 22 years and third in the last eight.

Notable sightings included: **Great Egret**, seen for the first time on this count; **Pied-billed Grebe** (third time in last 15 years); **Red-breasted Merganser** (third time in 15 years), **American Coot** (third

time in 15 years); and **Gray-checked Thrush** (third time in 15 years). The **Ring-necked Pheasant** and **Northern Bobwhite** had small counts, continuing a recent trend, and the **Whip-poor-will** was missed again (having been seen only three times in the last ten years but regularly before that). Like last year, a large number (45) species had record high counts. Many of these topped last year's record tallies, and many more came close to last year's record counts. Of particular note were **Common Nighthawk**, **American Redstart**, and **Common Yellowthroat** whose tallies vastly exceeded any past total. The large number of record counts is probably attributable to a combination of the large turnout, the late date of the count, and the great weather. Warblers generally had large tallies, even

though the **Cape May** and **Yellow-throated** were missed this year.

Participation of the following people is greatly appreciated: **BURTON ALEXANDER, MAUD BANKS, MARY-JO BETTS, KARAN AND BILL BLUM, CONNIE BOCKSTIE, FRANK CEVARICH, MARTY CHESTEM, RANDY AND RICHARD CROOK, PHIL DAVIS, LAUREN DUFF, WARD EBERT, PAULA AND DARIUS ECKER, JANE FARRELL, JANE AND RALPH GEUDER, RICH GIANNOLA, EDWIN GOULD, MAUREEN AND DAVE HARVEY, JANE HEM, CATHY JONES, MIKE KERWIN, ANU AND MARCI KRISHNAMOORTHY, DAVE KUBITSKY, MARJORIE KUMEC, MIKE LEUMAS, DENNIS LUCK, BRIGITTE AND BOB LUND, NANCY MAGNUSSON, JENNIFER MAZUR, GRAZNA AND MIKE McCLURE, CAROL AND PAUL NEWMAN, DOUG ODERMATT, PETE OSENTON, BONNE OTT, SUZANNE PROBST, ANN MARIE RATERMAN, FRANK RILLY, NANNE RHELANDER, CHAN ROBBINS, SUSAN SETTERBERG, JAY AND NOAH SILVERMAN, MICHAEL SMITH, JO SOLEM, HANK STANTON, CHUCK STIRRAT, TOM STRIKWERDA, EVA SUNELL, ROBIN TODD, MARK WALLACE, RACHAEL WALLACH, MICHELE WRIGHT, HELEN ZECHNER, SHERRY AND PAUL ZUCKER (COMPILER). Special thanks go to the **Randles** for hosting another lovely tally rally and to **Chuck Stirrat** for helping with the numerical compilation.**

✓
X 1/10/95
5/1/95

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 13, 1995

SPECIES	REG	NCT	FDR	SPECIES	REG	NCT	FDR	SPECIES	REG	NCT	FDR
COMMON LOON	9			EASTERN PHOEBE(*)	90			AMERICAN REDSTART(*)	315		
PIED-BILLED GREBE	2			GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	50			PROTHONOTARY WARBLER(*)	5		
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	13			EASTERN KINGBIRD	169			WORM-EATING WARBLER(*)	25		
GREAT BLUE HERON	40			PURPLE MARTIN	86			OVENBIRD(*)	271	1	
GREAT EGRET	2			TREE SWALLOW	60			NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH(*)	35		
CATTLE EGRET(*)	3			N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	27			LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	35		
GREEN HERON	24			BANK SWALLOW	8			KENTUCKY WARBLER	61		
MUTE SWAN	2			CLIFF SWALLOW	127			COMMON YELLOWTHROAT(*)	525		
CANADA GOOSE(*)	500			BARN SWALLOW	376			HOODED WARBLER	51		
WOOD DUCK	40			BLUE JAY	362			WILSON'S WARBLER(*)	7		
MALLARD	189			AMERICAN CROW	612			CANADA WARBLER	27		
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	1			FISH CROW(*)	73			YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT(*)	62		
BLACK VULTURE(*)	40			CROW SPECIES	413			SCARLET Tanager(*)	229		
TURKEY VULTURE(*)	149			CAROLINA CHICKADEE(*)	320	6		NORTHERN CARDINAL	842		6
OSPREY	5			TUFTED TITMOUSE(*)	426	8		ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK(*)	48		
BALD EAGLE [IMMATURE]	2			WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH(*)	61			BLUE GROSBEAK	9		
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	6			CAROLINA WREN	192			INDIGO BUNTING	263		
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	55			HOUSE WREN(*)	184			RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE(*)	274		
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	5			RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	5			CHIPPING SPARROW	129		
RED-TAILED HAWK(*)	37			BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER(*)	299			FIELD SPARROW	169		
AMERICAN KESTREL	10			EASTERN BLUEBIRD	135			SAVANNAH SPARROW	8		
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	4			VEERY(*)	109			GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	29		
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	2			GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	2			SONG SPARROW	209		
AMERICAN COOT	1			SWAINSON'S THRUSH(*)	57	1		LINCOLN'S SPARROW	8		
KILLDEER(*)	53			HERMIT THRUSH	1			SWAMP SPARROW	28		
GREATER YELLOWLEGS(*)	7			WOOD THRUSH(*)	619	1		WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	103		
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	3			AMERICAN ROBIN(*)	808			WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	9		
SOLITARY SANDPIPER(*)	85			GRAY CATBIRD	781			BOBOLINK(*)	455		
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	66			NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	186			RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	803		
SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER	2			BROWN THRASHER	61			EASTERN MEADOWLARK	23		
LEAST SANDPIPER(*)	37			CEDAR WAXWING	347			COMMON GRACKLE	663		
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	1			EUROPEAN STARLING	1206			BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	244		
RING-BILLED GULL	40			WHITE-EYED VIREO(*)	191			BLACKBIRD SPECIES	2		
HERRING GULL	34			SOLITARY VIREO	6			ORCHARD ORIOLE	55		
GULL SPECIES	13			YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	35			BALTIMORE ORIOLE	131		
ROCK DOVE	281			WARBLING VIREO	5			HOUSE FINCH	434		6
MOURNING DOVE	481			RED-EYED VIREO	462			AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	428		2
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	4			BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	31			HOUSE SPARROW	226		
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	19			GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER	1			WRITE-IN SPECIES			
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL		1		TENNESSEE WARBLER	3			SANDPIPER SPECIES	3		
GREAT HORNED OWL(*)	5	5		NASHVILLE WARBLER	4			TOTAL	21,236	15	29
BARRED OWL	4	6		NORTHERN PARULA(*)	178			START	5:00AM	3:45AM	
COMMON NIGHTHAWK(*)	198			YELLOW WARBLER	125			STOP	9:00PM		
CHIMNEY SWIFT	409			CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER(*)	51			FOOT HOURS	225.9		
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	24			MAGNOLIA WARBLER(*)	45			CAR HOURS	19.1		
BELTED KINGFISHER	17			BLK.-THRTD. BLUE WARBLER(*)	171			BOAT HOURS	5.0		
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	279		1	YEL.-RUMPED(MYRTLE) WARBLER	225			FOOT MILES	180.1		
DOWNY WOODPECKER(*)	128			BLK.-THRTD. GREEN WARBLER(*)	56			CAR MILES	303.3		
HAIRY WOODPECKER	25			BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	7			BOAT MILES	6.0		
NORTHERN FLICKER	91			PINE WARBLER(*)	14			OWLING HOURS	4.0		
PILEATED WOODPECKER(*)	38			PRAIRIE WARBLER	54			OWLING MILES	9.0		
EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE(*)	192			PALM WARBLER	2			FEEDER HOURS	1.0		
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER(*)	217			BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	19						
WILLOW FLYCATCHER	1			BLACKPOLL WARBLER	83						
LEAST FLYCATCHER	1			CERULEAN WARBLER	3			PARTICIPANTS	63		
EMPIDONAX SPECIES	10			BLACK & WHITE WARBLER	64			PARTIES (REG, OWL, FEED)	44		

REG = REGULAR NCT = NOCTURNAL FDR = FEEDER (*) = HIGH SPECIES COUNT

BIRDING HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

PUBLISHED

In June, the Howard County Bird Club published *Birding Howard County, Maryland* by Joanne K. Solem with illustrations by M. Suzanne Probst.

The 134 page spiral-bound book is a complete guide to finding birds in this county. The 6 x 9 inch volume is divided into four parts: 1. site guides for 29 of the best birding locations; 2. month by month birding tips over an entire year; 3. species accounts highlighting frequency of occurrence, habitats, and peak migration periods; and 4. the county checklist. The main sections are separated by handsome illustrations of locally occurring birds.

Chris Ludwig initiated a series of articles in the Bird Club's newsletter in 1985 entitled "Birding Hot Spots in Howard County" which formed the basis for the first section of the book. When he moved to Virginia, the series continued with multiple authors. All contributors are credited at the end of each entry; a total of 31 club members shared authorship. Each site guide contains directions, most include a simple locator map, and all describe the best birds, seasons, and habitats. Because of Chris's strong interest in botany as well as birds and Jo's involvement with many aspects of natural history, she has

retained and, in some cases added, references to plants, mammals, butterflies, etc. which might be of interest to observers.



"The Birding Year in Howard County" constitutes part two. It provides tips on what birds to expect month by month. This material was also published in the Bird Club's newsletter and drew on a quarter century of the author's personal records and the experiences of some of the county's most active field birders.

Part three contains the species accounts which are brief descriptions of each species on

the county bird checklist. Each entry indicates the ease of finding a species, general habitat in which it can be found, peak periods of occurrence, and sometimes specific sites where it has been seen consistently. For the more unusual species, specimen records, first county sightings, and high counts are often included. The species accounts and the checklist are based on county records dating to the early 1950's or before. Hundreds of birders have contributed to this data base over the last 45 years.

Four appendices list county map and checklist sources, Latin names for herbaceous plants mentioned in the text, the American Birding Association's Code of Ethics, and membership information for the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Howard County Bird Club.

Birding Howard County, Maryland is printed on recycled paper. It is available from the Bird Club's bookstore at meetings and seed sales for \$10.00 plus tax. It can also be obtained from the following area stores: *the Nature Nook in Ellicott City, Wild Bird Centers in Columbia and Silver Spring, Cover to Cover Bookstore in the Owen Brown Center, and the Audubon Naturalist Bookstore in Chevy Chase. To purchase by mail send a check payable to Howard County Chapter MOS in the amount of \$13.00 (\$10.00, \$0.50 tax, \$2.50 postage and handling) to J. Solem, 10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723. The Howard County Bird Club receives all profits.*

SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 1995

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Spring brings out more birders than any other season. Each year has its surprises and each season enables us to gain a better picture of the birdlife of this small county. Special thanks to the many contributors this spring.

No major flights of **Common Loons** were noted. The last one was reported from Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 5/29 (R&RC,CS). A **Horned Grebe** made an appearance at Centennial Park (CENPK) 3/8 (HZ,MC); 10 were seen on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 4/2 (JF,JS;POs). MC had a high of 19 **Double-crested Cormorants** 4/16 at TRIRS. At least 1 was still there 5/20 (NM).

American Bitterns are always elusive. Two appeared this spring: 1 at Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) 4/12 (MB) and 1 at Wilde Lake (WILLK) 5/5 (HZ). **Great Egrets** were reported twice from LKELK: 1 on 4/22 (JW) and 5 on 5/24 (DE). C&PN had 2 at WILLK 4/19. The Thorntons in Elkridge had the only **Little Blue Heron** 4/13-14. Two **Cattle Egrets** were discovered on May Count (MAYCT) 5/13: 1 at the new Alpha Ridge Park (D&PE) and 1 at the University of Md. Horse Center (MWr,MK). JW found a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at LKELK 4/19.

No large **Tundra Swan** flocks were reported. The **Snow Goose** (white phase) which had been on the lake at CENPK since 1991 was last noted 3/1 (CB). One blue and 2 white phase birds were seen at Fulton and Brown's Bridge Road between 3/3-3/19 (JF,JS; MW; JW).

On a wildflower walk at Daniels (DANPV) on the early date of 4/30

EACH SEASON HOWARD COUNTY BIRD SIGHTINGS ARE COMPILED AND SUBMITTED TO *MARYLAND BIRDLIFE AND FIELD NOTES*. BECAUSE BOTH PUBLICATIONS PROVIDE OVERVIEWS FOR LARGE AREAS, ONLY A FRACTION OF HOWARD COUNTY SIGHTINGS ARE PUBLISHED. THE RECORDS ARE NOT LOST, HOWEVER, FOR THEY ARE THE BASIS FOR COUNTY RECORDS. ALL RECORDS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED. ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO TURNS IN SEASONAL SIGHTINGS RECEIVES A COPY OF THE COUNTY COMPILATION. TO REQUEST A FORM ON WHICH TO LOG DATES, PLEASE CALL (301) 725-5037. THE BOARD HAS REQUESTED THAT A DIGEST OF THE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS APPEAR IN THE NEWSLETTER. OBSERVERS ARE REFERRED TO BY THEIR INITIALS (SEE THE LIST AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE). LOCATIONS ARE WRITTEN OUT THE FIRST TIME CITED; THEREAFTER, ABBREVIATIONS ARE USED.

RS & VN watched a female **Wood Duck** with 8 tiny young on the Patapsco River. R&RC had a late male **Green-winged Teal** at DANPV 5/6-7. **Gadwall** are always hard to find. This spring 3 (2M) were seen on 3/3 at the Elliott Drive pond (ELLDP)(JF,JS) and the next day at a pond on MD 144 (HZ,MC). **Red-heads** were another pleasant surprise. On 3/10 HZ & CB reported 6 (3M) at CENPK; the next day JF & TDC counted 11 (3M) there. MW had a high of 60 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/13 at Waterford Farm on Jennings Chapel Road (JNGCH). The ELLDP produced an unusual 9 **Greater Scaup** 3/18 (JF) with 1 staying till 3/19 seen by 2 field trips. **Old-squaws** came through quickly. CENPK played host to as many as 1M, 2F on 4/1 (CB,HZ); by 4/2 just 1M remained (CB,BO,m.obs.). On 4/1 there were 15 on TRIRS (JF,JS; POs). HZ had a high of 29 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/6 on 1 of the Highland lakes. Most intriguing was that on 3/25 (JF,TDC) and 4/1 (JF,JS), at that same location, there was a single male in flocks of 22 and 27 respectively. The high **Common Merganser** count was 99 (85M) 3/3 at TRIRS (JF,JS). The less common **Red-breasted Merganser** peaked at 5 (2M) 3/11 at BRDAM (JS). The last one, a female, remained at CENPK till 5/13 (ML,MJB,AMR).

An early **Osprey** flew over BO's home south of Ellicott City 3/31. The pair of nesting **Bald Eagles** on TRIRS was reported by WSSC to have 2 young. **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers were low this spring. One **Merlin** was seen east of Fulton 5/5 (JW) and a **Peregrine Falcon** identified at Pigtail (PIGTL) on TRIRS 4/17 (HZ,MC).

Wild Turkey reports are becoming more frequent. This spring AF had a hen in her yard on MD 32 north of MD 99 on 3/30 and R&RC had 1 at DANPV 5/6. Another was reported to BO from MD 32 east of Hall Shop Road on either 5/16 or 17. **Rails** were, as usual, scarce. A **King Rail** was heard at the marshy west end of CENPK 5/9 (JF). From 5/10-12 a **Virginia Rail** was heard at the same location (JS;HZ,MC;CB).

Shorebirds included **Semipalmated Plovers** on TRIRS from 1 at the north end 5/11 (NM) to 3 at PIGTL 5/17 (POs) and 5/18 (JS). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** made a good showing this spring with singles found in four locations: 5/6 PIGTL (MW), 5/11 north end of TRIRS (NM), 5/15 LKELK (JW), and 5/22 Gateway Business Park (GATWY)(J&RS; JF). A nice concentration of 28 **Least Sandpipers** on TRIRS was tabulated by NM. This season produced the first two

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)
Spring Bird Records ...

May **Dunlin** reports: 1 at Big Branch (BIGBR) on TRIRS 5/15 (JS) and 1 at GATWY 5/19-22 (JW,m.obs.). **Common Snipe** numbers were low this spring.

Four **Laughing Gulls** were reported 4/23 from TRIRS (JF,JS). **Bonaparte's Gull** reports were concentrated in a 10 day period with a high of 147 on Lake Kittamaquidi (LKKIT) 4/6 (BO), 1 at CENPK 4/11 (CB), and 13 at TRIRS 4/16 (MC). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are now regular in the county and were seen from 3/4: Green Manor 1 (RR), Alpha Ridge landfill 1 (JS), and TRIRS 2 (JF,JS) to a late 2 on TRIRS 4/30 (JS). **Caspian Tern** migration began 4/9 with 2 at LKKIT (HZ) through 5/11 with 2 on Stanford Road (JF). The most spectacular concentration for this inland county was the 117 MC had on TRIRS 4/16.

Cuckoos were seen and heard in small numbers with the earliest, by far, being the **Black-billed POs** heard and saw 4/23 on Gorman Road (GORRD) west of I-95. On the same date and at the same place he had a "branching" **Great Horned owl**. **Common Nighthawks** made a good showing countywide 5/13 (MAYCT). Most arresting was the swirling kettle of 90 over Duckett Reservoir (JF,JS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted at three different locations: 1 at Schooley Mill Park (SLMLP) 4/23 was reported to JS; another near TRIRS 5/6 was reported to BO; and one was seen 5/10 and 19 (DN) at Timberleigh Way in the Woodbine area.

Willow Flycatchers were slow to return--the first was not reported until 5/13 (MAYCT)(JF,JS) in s.e. Howard Co (HOWCO). **Least Fly-**

catchers were spotted three times: 3/13 on GORRD (POs) and 5/20 at RKBRP (DE) and SLMLP (NM). One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was noted by D&PE at RKBRP 5/14. An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen and heard at SLMLP 5/18 (JS) and 5/20 (NM). The first **Eastern Kingbird** was spotted 4/19 at WILLK (HZ).



The Snow Goose (white phase) which had been on the lake at CENPK since 1991 was last noted on 3/1. One blue and 2 white phase birds were seen at Fulton and Brown's Bridge Road between 3/3-3/19

The largest-ever March flock of **Horned Larks** was seen in the fields of MD 99 and Underwood Road (JF,TDC). Swallows were generally slow to arrive in any numbers; flocks never built beyond 50 of any species. **Bank Swallows** were so scarce there were a mere 3 reports totalling 9 birds: 1 at DANPV 4/30 (JS), 1 at LKELK 5/2 (JW), and 7 in western HOWCO 5/13 (MKe). Considering the scrutiny local lakes and reservoirs receive, these low numbers are puzzling and perhaps a bit frightening. R&RC had the last **Winter Wren** at Mount Pleasant

(MTPLT) on MD 99 and Woodstock Road 4/16.

Thrushes presented a few surprises. R&RC had an early **Veery** 4/15 which they had a chance to study carefully and JW had an early **Swainson's Thrush** at LKELK 4/29. MAYCT (5/13) at Belmont in eastern HOWCO provided a treat for CB, DK & SP who had at least 12 **Swainson's Thrushes**. **Gray-checked Thrushes** are infrequently reported so four sightings is definitely above average: 2 MAYCT reports included 1 at PIGTL (WE,P&SZ) and 1 at RKBRP (BO), 2 on 5/19 & 21 at LKELK (JW), and 1 singing at CENPK 5/23 (J&RS). RG reported the first **Wood Thrush** at his home in east-central HOWCO 4/21. **American Pipits** were not seen in unusual numbers with a high of 36 at the University of Md. Central Farm (UMDCF) 5/7 (BO,JS). **Cedar Waxwings** began showing up in numbers in May and were still flocking in early June.

A probable **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from LKELK 5/10 (JW). Because of their rarity in spring in Maryland, notes are being forwarded to the editors of *Maryland Birdlife*.

The warbler migration was generally unexceptional. There were the expected comments of low numbers and scarcity of some species. BO reported the only **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/6 (RKBRP). She also had the only **Orange-crowned Warbler** on 5/11 at LKKIT. Her MAYCT day at RKBRP produced high counts of a number of species: **Black-throated Blue** 27, **American Redstart** 78, **Northern Waterthrush** 6, **Kentucky** 20, **Hooded** 15, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 16. JW found 80 **Yellow-rumpeds** at LKELK 4/22; one month later JS

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Spring Bird Records ...

had 17 **Blackpolls** there. WE had an extremely early **Blackburnian** in so. HOWCO 4/23. He not only heard and saw the bird but took careful notes which substantiated his sighting. **Palm Warblers** are usually present in good numbers in April. BO spotted a high of 25 at CENPK 4/10. There were 5 different **Prothonotary** reports: 2 birds at DANPV 4/30 (JS,WN), 1 at LKKIT 5/1 (MC), 2 *pairs* on 5/13 (POs) along the Patuxent River west of US 1, 1 on the same date at JNGCH (MW), and 1 at BIGBR 5/18 (JS). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** often arrives in this county the first week in April. HZ and MC recorded one of the earliest-ever at SLMLP 4/1. DE provided excellent documentation of a **Brewster's Warbler** sighting 4/21 at LKELK.

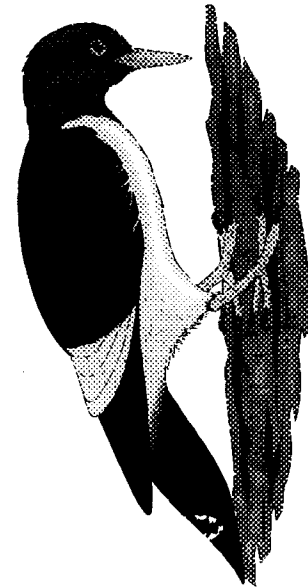
A glimpse (or remembrance) of warbler watching decades ago occurred for this author on 5/11 between 12:15 and 1:00 p.m. Rain the previous evening and fog in the early morning produced nothing of note at PIGTL and SLMLP where I spent the morning. Upon arriving home (so. HOWCO) a little after noon, I found the trees alive with birds. On our half acre and in the adjoining yards, I counted 9 species of warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Veery, Baltimore Oriole, and Indigo Bunting. The wave moved through by 1:00 p.m. This phenomenon was not limited to my vicinity. Discussion with individuals at the Bird Club meeting that evening indicated that people from Howard, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore counties had had similar experiences. Hank Kaestner, our speaker, noted that this was what migration used to be like.

There was a single male **Summer Tanager** seen at UMDCF 5/7

(BO,JS). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were widely reported at feeders. This happens periodically, usually triggered by rainy weather conditions while they are migrating. JW found a **Blue Grosbeak** on 4/29 at SLMLP where they nest. An early **Indigo Bunting** showed up in the Woodbine area 4/26 (DN).

American Tree Sparrows were last reported from CENPK: 2 on 3/4 (HZ) and 1 on 3/11 (DE). **Vesper Sparrows** were seen in scattered locations during the first half of April: 4/6 LKKIT (MC,m.obs.), 4/9 Jeffers Hill in e. Columbia (JW), 4/12 a farm on Roxbury Road (ROXRD) (MW), and 6 at MTPLT 4/16 (R&RC). MW had an early **Grasshopper Sparrow** on 4/10 (ROXRD). **Fox Sparrows** were reported most of March, from 1 near Fulton 3/2 (RM) to 2 at RKBRP 3/28 (BO). Highs of 3 were noted in Allview 3/10 (ES) and 4 in High Ridge (BN) on the same date. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found countywide during much of May: singles on 5/3 Vantage Point (MC), 5/10 BRNBR (MC), 5/6 & 13 RKBRP (BO), 5/13 Patuxent River State Park (PDv), 5/16 DANPV (MC,HZ), and 5/18 SLMLP (JS). NM had the highs at SLMLP with 4 on 5/13 and 2 on 5/20. BO had a high of 14. **White-crowned Sparrows** at MTPLT 4/7, and 9 **Swamp Sparrows** at RKBRP 5/13.

Bobolink concentrations were low with 40 at UMDCF 5/7 (BO,JS) and 28 on 5/14 at MD 32 & MD 99 (D&PE). **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen during a brief period: 9 at Gwynn Acres Path 3/28 (BO) and 3 at UMDCF 4/4 (BO,JS). **Orioles** arrived in the county together on 4/22 with 1 **Orchard** at LKELK (JW) and 1 **Baltimore** at BRDAM (POs) plus 3 at Woodbine (DN).



Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted at three different locations

Spring observers cited above: MAUD BANKS (MB), MARY-JO BETTS (MJB), CONNIE BOCKSTIE (CB), MARTHA CHESTEM (MC), T. DENNIS COSKREN (TDC), RANDY & RICHARD CROOK (R&RC), PHIL DAVIS (PDv), WARD EBERT (WE), DARIUS ECKER (DE), DARIUS & PAULA ECKER (D&PE), JANE FARRELL (JF), ALICE FAZEKAS (AF), RALPH GEUDER (RG), MIKE KERWIN (MKE), MARCI KRISHNAMOORTHY (MK), DAVE KUBITSKY (DK), MIKE LEUMAS (ML), NANCY MAGNUSON (NM), ROSAMOND MUNRO (RM), DIANE NAGENGAST (DN), BEA NEWKIRK (BN), CAROL & PAUL NEWMAN (C&PN), VIVIAN NEWMAN (VN), WILLIAM NEWMAN (WN), PETER OS-ENTON (POs), BONNIE OTT (BO), SUZANNE PROBST (SP), ANN MARIE RATERMAN (AMR), ROBERT RINGLER (RR), JO SOLEM (JS), JO & ROBERT SOLEM (J&RS), CHUCK STIRRAT (CS), EVA SUNELL (ES), MARK WALLACE (MW), JIM WILKINSON (JW), MICHELE WRIGHT (MWR), HELEN ZE-ICHER (HZ), PAUL & SHERRY ZUCKER (P&SZ), MANY OBSERVERS (M.OBS.).

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.

September 14, Thursday **"Northern Mockingbirds: The Natural History and Analysis of the Vocal and Breeding Patterns,"** by **Dr. Kim Derrickson**. Dr. Derrickson, a Professor at Loyola College in Baltimore, will share the findings of his research of the last decade, including the expansion of the range of mockingbirds. **NOTE:** For this first fall meeting, wear a T-shirt or sweatshirt showing where you've birded or a favorite conservation cause.

October 12, Thursday **"Sora Rails at Jug Bay,"** by **Greg Kearns**. Greg is a naturalist at Patuxent River Park. He will talk about his ongoing research about soras at this location.

Field Trips meet as described for each trip. Carpooling is encouraged; riders share the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for the field trip 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 three participants* FOR INFORMATION, CALL **BONNIE OTT**, at (410) 461-3361.

September 3, Sunday **Butterfly Walk** - Meet at 10:00 am at the west end lot of Centennial Park for this 1-2 hour walk. **Leader: Richard Smith**. Bring binoculars if you have them. Might find swallowtails, skippers, fritillaries and more. Trip cancelled if rainy or overcast. Call leader at (410) 997-7439 if more information needed.

September 9, Saturday **"DYC" Search** - Meet at 9:00 am at the Route 108 and 29 park and ride to carpool to Henryton. **Leader: Bob Solem**. Join Bob to look for those **"darn yellow composites"**. Call leader at (301) 725-5037 if more information needed.

September 16, Saturday **Second Annual Fall Count** - See details elsewhere in this newsletter. Mike McClure (410) 531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat (410) 531-2417 are co-coordinators.

September 22, Friday **Weekday Walk at Gwynn Acres** - Meet at 9:00 am at Old Columbia Road and Rams Horn Row. **Leader will be present.** Walk a paved path through the woods to look for fall migrants. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

September 23, Saturday **Buzzard's Roost Farm** - Meet at 8:00 am at the lower lot of Mt. Hebron High. **Leader: Dave Kirkwood**. Different habitats should bring a variety of species in this Howard County hot spot. Call leader at (410) 461-2510 if more information needed.

September 24, Sunday **Confusing Fall Warblers** - Meet at 8:00 am at the upper parking lot of Schooley Mill Park. **Leader: David Holmes**. Join David to sort out those little brown jobs. Paths may be muddy. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

September 30, Saturday **Lake Elkhorn** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot. **Leader: Jim Wilkinson**. Walk around the lake to find a wide variety of species on the water, in the woods, and at the marshy end. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

October 1, Sunday **Rockburn Branch Park** - Meet at 8:00 am at the park office off Landing Road. **Leaders: Barbara and Phil Davis**. Many species possible in woodland and field habitats. Paths may be muddy. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

(Continued on page 9)

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 8)

- October 15, Sunday** **Mount Pleasant** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Woodstock Post Office. **Leaders: Richard and Randy Crook.** Sparrows will be plentiful with eight or more species possible. Call leaders at (410) 747-0399 if more information needed.
- October 17, Tuesday** **Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn** - Meet at 9:00 am at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot. **Leader will be present.** Walk around the lake in search of many species. Call Bonnie if more information needed.
- October 21, Saturday** **Annual Hawk Watch at Rockburn Branch Park** - Meet at 9:30 am on the hill next to the tot lot. **Leader: Ralph Geuder.** Bring a chair and lunch if you like. Sit and watch the hawks fly. Call Bonnie if more information needed.
- October 21, Saturday** **Fall Seed Sale** - Look for details in the mail.
- October 22, Sunday** **University of Maryland Central Farm** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Board of Education Building on Route 108. **Leader: Mike McClure.** Wear sturdy footgear to walk the fields of the farm in search of sparrows. Savannah and seven other species possible. Call leader at (410) 531-2780 if more information needed.
- November 5, 12, 19, 26** **Centennial Park Sunday Walks (co-sponsored with Howard County Recreation and Parks)** - Meet at 8:00 am at the west end lot to walk around the lake. **Leader will be present.** Many different birds - ducks, gulls and woodland species. Call Bonnie if more information needed.
- November 11, Saturday** **Piney Run (Carroll County)** - Meet at 7:00 am at the Route 108 and 29 park and ride. **Leader: Burton Alexander.** Wide variety of waterfowl possible. Call leader at (410) 381-5574 if more information needed.
- November 13, Monday** **Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake** - Meet at 9:00 am at the boat dock. **Leader will be present.** Walk along the lake and check the woods for waterfowl and possible Winter Wren. Call Bonnie if more information needed.
- November 25, Saturday** **Howard County Waterfowl** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Centennial Park concession stand. **Leader: Jane Farrell.** Will carpool to other ponds and lakes to search for ducks, mergansers and grebes. Call leader at (410) 381-7344 if more information needed.

Board of Directors meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

- September 28, Thursday** Don Waugh, 9522 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD 21045, phone (410) 381-8841.
- October 26, Thursday** Shiras Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, phone (301) 490-0444.
- November 30, Thursday** Eileen Clegg, 6007 Flywheel Court, Columbia, MD 21044, phone (410) 730-4362.

December - NONE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1995 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due **SEPTEMBER 22, 1995.** Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Call or mail to **Paula and Darius Ecker, 9270 Crazyquilt Court, Columbia, MD 21045, Phone (410) 312-9165.**

CONSERVATION REPORT BY BOB SOLEM

Thanks to the *Rachel Carson Council News* for the following on why we have a lot to fear from our elected representatives: "During a radio interview, Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R - 6th Dist, MD), asked the question, 'why is there a need for flowers?'" In response, Cristol Fleming, co-author of *Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area* explained why we need flowers:

"Congressman Bartlett asks 'why is there a need for flowers?' Perhaps he thinks flowers are only decorative. Well, without flowers, he would not be able to eat a variety of food: no bread, no potatoes, no apples, grapes, peas or carrots. All of this food comes from seeds and seeds come only from flowers. Of course, no milk, no eggs, no steak or chicken either, since the animals that give us these foods need to eat flowering plants such as corn and wheat.

Without flowers, humans would subsist on mosses, pine needles, ferns, algae and fungi.

"In a world without flowers, we would have fewer medicines for human illnesses. Almost fifty percent of all medicinal drugs originate in wild plants. If Mr. Bartlett became sick with malaria, quinine would not be available to cure him. If he had cardiac failure, digitalis could not strengthen his heart. If his daughter had leukemia, the rosy periwinkle would not be here to increase her survival rate from 20% to 80%.

"Of course, without flowers, there would be no cotton or linen to make clothing, no hardwood for lumber or paper products. There would be no elm or oak trees to shade our homes and no grass to make green lawns. In fact, as civilization arose only when humans began to plant seeds, probably there would be no human culture at all without flowers."

Now do you see why it is so important that we tell our representatives why we need strong environ-

mental legislation? Send a letter today to the U. S. Senators and the Representative of your district, tell them that you are a voter in their district and insist on a strong Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act.

STATE-WIDE MOS MEMBERSHIP LIST

The MOS will be publishing a state-wide MOS membership list. Everyone who is a member of a chapter will have their name included in this directory. Additionally, you can have your address and telephone number, or your address and not your telephone number included in the directory. Please be sure to check the option you desire when completing the membership application.

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RECYCLED PAPER

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
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 COLUMBIA, MD 21044

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PRESIDENT'S WELCOME
- FALL COUNT ANNOUNCED
- MAY COUNT RESULTS
- BIRDING GUIDE PUBLISHED
- SPRING BIRD RECORDS
- PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

