



Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1995

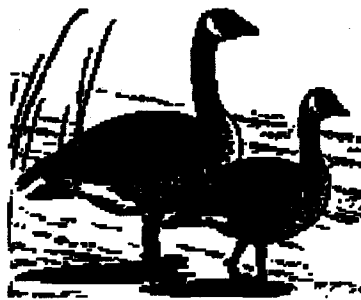
VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2

SUMMARY OF THE 1995 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT

BY MIKE MCCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

The second annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 16, 1995. Most amazingly this year's numbers were very similar to last year. There were a total of 54 participants in 27 field parties. The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the accompanying tally sheet, with the party-hours and miles being roughly 10% less than last year primarily due to more miles spent on foot than last year. Our goal for this second year, was to exceed the number of species recorded in the first count held last year. Despite the impressions many had during the day, we did just that, recording a total of 135 species, exceeding last years total of 133 by two species. The total of individual birds tallied of 26,643 was within 10 birds of last year's total, an amazing coincidence. The weather was cooler than last year, with the day basically overcast and high temperatures in the mid-70's. Just as last year, the rain held off until late afternoon, just in time for the tally rally.

The accompanying table presents the count data for the county and the 7 areas that are now used for all three of the county counts. The confusing fall warblers were present in good numbers with 30 species of warbler identified, the same as last year. These again included a Connecticut and a Mourning Warbler. New this year were Cerulean and Louisiana Waterthrush, which replaced a Myrtle and Yellow-breasted Chat seen last year. Other species of note were Least Bittern, Snow Goose, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Merlin, Least Flycatcher, Summer



Tanager, and Orchard Oriole.

This year the individual bird totals were dominated by starlings and Icterid flocks, unlike last year when the landfill and its flocks of gulls dominated the totals, a phenomenon not repeated this year.

The field checklist used this year was a new sheet developed and tailored to Howard County in the Fall, identifying species that require differing levels of support based on the historical database for the frequency of occurrence at this time in the county. As a result some species not normally requiring write-ups were identified for documentation or extra support. Thanks to all those who provided written or additional details

for these species. Our hope is to refine this checklist as additional data becomes available. Your feedback on this approach and interest in similar modifications to the lists for May and Winter counts would be appreciated by the authors.

Thanks to all participants and those who acted as area coordinators for the count: Maud Banks, Mary-Jo Betts, Bill and Karan Blum (Area 4), Chris Brown, Ellen and Hal Bryson, Jesse Buff, Marty Chestem (Area 5), T. Dennis Coskren, Randy and Richard Crook (Area 3), Greg Dunn, Darius and Paula Ecker (Area 2), Jane Farrell, Kim Gross, Ken Hart, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Emmalyn Holdridge, Cathy Jones, Mike Kerwin, Bob and Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina and Mike McClure (County Co-coordinator), Carol Newman, Paul Newman, Doug Odematt, Peter Osenton, Chris, Nick and Bonnie Ott (Area 6), Joe Picard, Ann Marie Raterman, Frank Reilly, Nanine Rhineland, Clyde Robinette, Susan Setterberg, Romayne Smith, Bob and Jo Solem, Hank Stanton, Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator), Paul Sturm, Eva Sunell (Area 7), Robin Todd, Laura Van Sauwick, Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace (Area 1), Don and Martha Waugh, Carol and Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright, and Helen Zeichner. A very special thanks to Don and Martha Waugh who hosted the evening tally rally.

Last year we had help from Georgia, this year we recruited from Tennessee, in the person of Dennis Coskren. Another welcome out-of-state visitor was Sue Setterberg, an area coordinator last year, who returned from her new home in Pennsylvania. This second Fall count was a great success with many "birding" tales related at the tally rally. Plan now to join us next year when the count will again be held on the third Saturday of September, the 21st, which is the latest date the count can occur, a fact which may provide some interesting insights into the Fall migration.

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HOWARD COUNTY FALL BIRD COUNT - September 16, 1995

Species & Codes / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	Species & Codes / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	
Pied-billed Grebe @ B				4			1	5	Northern Mockingbird A	24	11	44	16	62	32	84	273	
P'ble-crested Cormorant B		3		3	5		3	14	Brown Thrasher A		3	6	1	3	5	4	22	
Least Bittern ** D				1				1	Cedar Waxwing A	20		21	2	131	6	34	214	
Great Blue Heron A	2	11	5	3	6		4	31	European Starling A	262	912	2,101	261	882	362	1,243	6,023	
Great Egret B							2	2	White-eyed Vireo A	4	2	3	2	8	20	10	49	
Green Heron A	4		2	7	7		13	33	Yellow-throated Vireo B	1	1			1	3		6	
Blk-crowned Night-Heron * C					1		2	3	Red-eyed Vireo A	3	8	7	1	6	20	18	63	
Mute Swan A				2				2	Blue-winged Warbler @ B			1				2	3	
Snow Goose ** B							1	1	Tennessee Warbler B		2						2	
Canada Goose A	272	291	69	78	244	14	29	997	Nashville Warbler B		3	1			1	1	6	
Wood Duck B	4		9	17	64			94	Northern Parula A			8	1	2	7	5	23	
Green-winged Teal B	15			1	1			17	Yellow Warbler @ A					1		3	4	
American Black Duck B		5						5	Chestnut-sided Warbler A		1	2	4		15	4	26	
Mallard A	29	24	8	102	51	9	124	347	Magnolia Warbler A		1	6	2	10	15	12	46	
Blue-winged Teal B	2			2			2	6	Cape May Warbler B						1		1	
Black Vulture A	11	6	31	1		1		50	Blk-thrtd Blue Warbler A	3	1	12	2	4	18	2	42	
Turkey Vulture A	19	33	29	16	7	9	9	122	Blk-thrtd Green Warbler B	3	1	6	2	1	3	2	18	
Osprey B	2	5	4	1	1	1	3	17	Blackburnian Warbler B						1	2	3	
Bald Eagle (adm/unk) B						1	1	2	Yellow-throated Warbler B						1		1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk B	8	5	8	1	3	4	29	29	Pine Warbler B		1						1	
Cooper's Hawk B	1	1					1	3	Prairie Warbler A	5		1		2	1		9	
Accipiter species A			1			1		2	Palm Warbler @ A			1	1	6			8	
Red-shouldered Hawk A	2	1	3	5	5	10	2	28	Bay-breasted Warbler B						2	1	3	
Broad-winged Hawk B	20		59	1				80	Blackpoll Warbler B			4			2	3	9	
Red-tailed Hawk A	3	1	3	1	1	2	1	12	Cerulean Warbler @ B	1							1	
American Kestrel A	6	5	17			12	13	53	Black-&-white Warbler A	4		14	11	7	22	16	74	
Merlin * C						1		1	American Redstart A	6	2	25	20	11	45	25	134	
Northern Bobwhite * C			1		2			3	Worm-eating Warbler @ B			1					1	
Black-bellied Plover * C		2						2	Ovenbird A				1	1	2	3	7	
Semipalmated Plover * C	2							2	Northern Waterthrush B					3	2	5		
Killdeer A		78	21		32		50	181	Louisiana Waterthrush @ A						2	2	4	
Greater Yellowlegs B					1			1	Kentucky Warbler @ A			1			1		2	
Lesser Yellowlegs B		8						8	Connecticut Warbler ** C						1		1	
Solitary Sandpiper B		5	1			1		7	Mourning Warbler ** C							1	1	
Spotted Sandpiper B		1			1	1	3	3	Common Yellowthroat A	7	18	45	11	34	29	32	176	
Semipalmated Sandpiper * C		9						9	Wilson's Warbler B							1	1	
Least Sandpiper B		2						2	Canada Warbler B			2	1		2		5	
Pectoral Sandpiper B		3						3	Warbler species		12	5	13	6	28	6	70	
Laughing Gull B			570					570	Summer Tanager ** C							2	2	
Ring-billed Gull A		4	79	5		1	64	153	Scarlet Tanager A	1	2	4	2		8	1	18	
Herring Gull A		2	9					11	Northern Cardinal A	51	22	119	114	100	108	140	654	
Gull species			19		13	3	8	41	Rose-breasted Grosbeak B	3		2		2	3	5	15	
Caspian Tern B		2			2			4	Blue Grosbeak B	1	1					6	8	
Rock Dove A	228	92	187	95	222	17	112	953	Indigo Bunting A	15		16	12	3	22	6	74	
Mourning Dove A	54	49	199	102	79	105	295	883	Rufous-sided Towhee A	3	8	10	1	10	7	11	50	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo A		3	1		1	3		8	Chipping Sparrow A	18		19		7	1		45	
Eastern Screech-Owl B		2			1			3	Field Sparrow A	12	1	7	7	6	2	24	59	
Great Horned Owl B		5		2		1		8	Song Sparrow A	18	1	17	4	3	10	39	92	
Barred Owl B	2	2	2			2		8	White-throated Sparrow @ A					1	1		2	
Common Nighthawk B		2						2	Sparrow species	22			1			3	28	
Chimney Swift A	25	57	708	130	113	63	74	1,170	Red-winged Blackbird A	2	14	41	303	300	5	126	791	
Ruby-th'd Hummingbird B	4	1	1	9	5	6	3	29	Common Grackle A	270	35	516	10	1,775	10	264	2,880	
Belted Kingfisher A	5	6	8	8	7		5	39	Brown-headed Cowbird A	25		818			30	8	881	
Red-bellied Woodpecker A	20	9	38	17	27	36	25	172	Blackbird species		200		1			83	284	
Downy Woodpecker A	8	7	17	24	21	26	28	131	Orchard Oriole ** B	1							1	
Hairy Woodpecker A	2	2	10		2	5	2	23	Baltimore Oriole B			1				1	2	
Northern Flicker A	5	6	38	15	41	33	43	181	House Finch A	30	17	140	70	61	115	97	530	
Pileated Woodpecker A	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	12	American Goldfinch A	66	19	195	116	99	106	108	709	
Eastern Wood-Pewee A	5	9	8	3	3	8	4	40	House Sparrow A		46	166	77	86	1	52	428	
Least Flycatcher B		1			1			2										
Empidonax species		3	1	5		6	3	18	Area Total Birds:	2,101	2,413	7,678	2,588	5,466	2,077	4,310	26,643	
Eastern Phoebe A	7	1	18	8	7	4	13	58	Area Total Species:	74	80	89	72	82	81	84	135	
Great Crested Flycatcher @ A					1			1	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	
Purple Martin @ A						1		1	Supplemental Data									
Tree Swallow A	2		6					8	Time Start:	7:00 a	3:15 a	6:45 a	6:40 a	5:00 a	6:30 a	6:22 a	3:15 a	
Cliff Swallow @ B	1							1	Time Stop:	7:30 p	6:00 p	6:00 p	6:00 p	6:30 p	4:00 p	6:00 p	7:30 p	
Barn Swallow A	20	5	5		4			34	Hours on Foot:	17.0	4.0	22.0	24.8	44.8	25.3	36.0	173.9	
Blue Jay A	51	14	132	62	99	82	246	686	Hours by Car:	5.0	7.0	5.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	4.0	25.8	
American Crow A	73	60	108	178	144	87	160	810	Hours by Boat:			1.5					1.5	
Fish Crow A		23	22	11	3			59	Miles on Foot:	16.0	6.0	24.0	13.0	33.0	20.8	25.3	138.1	
Crow species	120	104	305	268	26	20	30	871	Miles by Car:	20.5	46.0	82.0	14.0	13.0	29.0	86.6	291.1	
Carolina Chickadee A	23	18	126	65	82	80	110	504	Miles by Boat:			2.0					2.0	
Tufted Titmouse A	28	16	43	46	50	74	38	285	Hours Feeder Watching:				2.5	3.0			5.5	
White-breasted Nuthatch A	7	8	17	11	12	21	5	81	Hours Stationary:									
Carolina Wren A	20	11	37	28	37	53	36	222	Hours "Owling":		1.8			1.0		5	3.3	
House Wren A	1	6	10	4	14	17	22	74	Miles "Owling":		6.0			1.0		3	7.3	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher A	1		8	1		2		12	Total Observers in Area:	2	3	8	9	9	13	11	54	
Eastern Bluebird A	19	18	78	1	28	12		156	Total Parties in Area:	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	27	
Veery B	3	3	3			3		12	Total No. Feederwatchers:				1	2			3	
Swainson's Thrush B			5		2	5		12	Total Party-Hours (Reg.):	22.0	12.5	27.5	26.3	46.3	26.6	41.0	202.1	
Wood Thrush A	5	4	8	2	12	14	4	49	Total Party-Hours (Feeder):				2.5	3.0			5.5	
American Robin A	51	6	99	91	212	82	93	634	Total Party-Hrs. ("Owling"):		1.8			1.0		5	3.3	
Gray Catbird A	23	11	91	92	125	67	127	536	Total Party-Hours:	22.0	14.3	27.5	28.8	50.3	26.6	41.5	210.9	

BEWARE OF BANANA-EATING OWL

BY EVA SUNELL

During the last week of June, I received a call from a friend of Maud Banks describing what she believed was a mother owl with a baby. The mother was calling constantly and had been doing so for four days. It was also sitting on the deck begging for food. The baby was quieter and usually remained in the nearby trees. As a bird rehabilitator, or rehabber, I get many calls that are puzzles and require detective work and development of theories. This was definitely one of those situations.

The friend said she knew they were Barred Owls because of the dark eyes and size. Both birds could fly, so there were no injuries. She felt the larger bird that kept screaming was the mother searching for food to take back to the baby. Oddly, the mother bird had a preference for ripe bananas. The last time the homeowner had offered a banana the owl snatched it out of her hand. She yelled, frightened by the talons.

I decided I needed to see this situation for myself. My husband and I gathered our gloves, a cage, a fishing hoop, meat and, of course, bananas. We traveled to southeast Howard

County to a development that backs up on the Middle Patuxent River, and is bordered by a large stand of forest. The birds were now in a neighbor's yard, so we obtained permission to enter. Once in the yard, I saw one bird fly to a tall pine. The other larger bird sat on top of a bird feeder constantly calling. At that point, I realized we had two immature Barred Owls whose parents had decided it was time for them to learn to fend for themselves. The larger bird had made enough racket that many people in this neighborhood (including the homeowners of the yard we were in) had decided to take pity on them and supplement their feedings.

I placed meat in one location and a banana in another. The larger bird unhesitatingly ate the banana. I asked my husband to see how close he could get to the bird. He approached cautiously, with his gloved hand, and the owl attacked it. Later, my husband was able to touch the bird with both hands.

I definitely felt this was not normal. Any predator, including a large dog, would be able to kill this owl. I wanted to take the bird out of the area because he was coming to

decks and being hand fed bananas. Also, there were many young children in the area, and he was as much a danger to them as to himself.

Sometime during this incident the homeowner had called in a friend who is a falconer. When I discussed my concerns with the falconer he insisted the owl did not need rehabbing. The homeowner did not want the bird removed because of her concern that the other bird would miss his sibling. With much doubt, but also respecting the homeowner's wishes, we decided to leave without the owl. We did coax the owl into some undergrowth where, as we left it was picking at worms in a compost pile. We also requested that the neighbors stop feeding the owls so they could learn to fend for themselves.

Maud called me two days later to tell me the rest of the story. The next day the homeowner stepped out onto the deck, not intending to feed the bird, and within seconds the bird made several frighteningly close fly-bys. Feeling threatened, she called the falconer who captured the owl and released it in Patapsco State Park.

Maud and I had a good laugh about warning the park rangers to beware of a banana-eating owl.

BIRD CLUB DISPLAY AT HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

BY DARIUS ECKER

The Howard County Bird Club had a display in the vegetable barn at the Howard County Fair during the week of August 12-19. *Tom Strickwerda* coordinated the event with the Fair Board of Directors, and *Darius Ecker* coordinated prime-time booth coverage with volunteers from the club. *Jo Solem, Helen Zeichner, and Darius and Paula Ecker* set up the display on Friday night before the fair, and *Kimberly Gross and Marty Chestem*

dismantled the display on the last day of the fair.

Thanks to the following volunteers who worked the booth: *Darius and Paula Ecker, Marci Krisnamoorthy, Tom Strickwerda, Jane Farrell, Don and Martha Waugh, Richard and Randy Crook, Chuck Stirat, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Jeff and Elayne Metter, Kimberly Gross, and Marty Chestem.*

In addition to the club's trifold display of common Howard County birds, a box of fishing line, hooks, and other fishing materials was displayed.

These items, potentially lethal to birds, had been picked up by bird club members along the shores of local reservoirs and lakes during the past year. If you collect materials of this type, bring them to a meeting and we will add them to the display.

The touchable display, which included an intact box turtle shell was a hit with children. Anyone who has touchable items to grab children's interest is welcome to contribute them to next year's display.

SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1 - JULY³¹, 1995

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Summer is the shortest reporting season. It produces fewer sightings than other seasons, but there are always birds of note. Although a prolonged period of hot weather reduced observer field time this year, high water levels on both reservoirs were a more critical disadvantage.

One **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported on Fore Bay Pond (FRBYP), which is the beaver pond at the southeast end of Lake Elkhorn (LKELK), 7/8 (JW). What was probably the same bird was seen intermittently from 7/17-31 (JF) at the pond on Stanford Road. The only summer **Double-crested Cormorant** sighting was on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 7/22 (POs). There were 11 **Wood Ducks** at Centennial (CENPK) 7/30 (JF,JS). Non-resident ducks included 1m & 2f **Green-winged Teal** (FRBYP) 6/13 (JW), 1f or imm **No. Pintail** at CENPK 7/17 (CB), and a **Ruddy Duck** at Lake Kittamaquundi (LKKIT) 7/22 (MC).

As expected, herons and egrets began showing up or were seen in increasing numbers. A high of 18 **Great Blue Herons** were reported at the upper end of Triadelphia (TRIUP) 7/22 (NM). **Great Egret** sightings began with 1 at CENPK 7/14 (MC), 3 at LKKIT 7/24 (MC), and 1 at LKELK 7/31 (JW). An imm **Little Blue Heron** was seen by a field trip 7/16 (MC, m.obs.) & again 7/17 (CENPK)(CB). The **Green Heron** count peaked at 8 (LKELK) 7/20 (JW). Also at LKELK 7/11 JW had 1 imm **Black-crowned Night-Heron**; on 7/20 his count had risen to 2 ad, 1 imm. They continued to frequent FRBYP at irregular intervals well into the next reporting season. The resident **Canada Goose** population continued its spectacular success. Chestem found 114 on LKKIT 6/30; she had counted 33 goslings 6/26.

The water level at TRIRS has not been low enough this year to allow WSSC personnel to re-erect the **Osprey** platform that ice destroyed; no pair nested locally. The only summer sighting of that species was 7/28 (TRIUP)(NM). Magnusson also had a **Wild Turkey** calling at the same location 6/18. A **Cooper's Hawk** was spotted in the Howard Chapel Road section of Patuxent River State Park 7/30 (JF,JS). **Broad-winged Hawks** probably nested at Brown's Bridge (BRNBR): 1 ad 6/18 (JW); 1 ad & 1 imm 7/29 (JF,JS). A

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.

family group of 6 **Am. Kestrels** was reported from Rockburn Branch Park (RKBRP) 7/6 (BO).

Shorebird species were the expected ones; numbers were low. Arrivals included 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** (TRIUP) 7/28 (NM), 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs** on Fulton Pond (FULPD) 7/24 (JS), 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** (LKELK) 7/15 (JW), 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** (FULPD) 7/15 (JF,JS), 1 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (FULPD) 7/24 (JS), and 1 **Least Sandpiper** (FULPD) 7/29 (JF,JS).

Wilkinson spotted a **Laughing Gull** near LKELK 7/10 & 1 **Ring-billed Gull** made an appearance at Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 7/15 (JF,JS). The first **Caspian Tern** of the season was reported from TRIRS 7/22 by both MC & POs. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** juvenile, which was able to fly, was seen at LKELK 7/18 (JW). Though this species has certainly nested in this county in small numbers, an active nest or a fledgling unable to fly has yet to be recorded.

Willow Flycatchers nested at Schooley Mill Park (SLMPK) where MC watched adults near a nest 7/14. As usual, there were several successful pairs at the west end of CENPK (m.obs.) A **Horned Lark** was seen 7/15 in a field along A.E. Mullinix Road (JF,JS). A lone **Bank Swallow** was noted on Shaffer's Mill Road 7/15 (JW). Osenton counted 42 **Cliff Swallows** at BRDAM & 20 at Big Branch 7/8. A maximum of 22 **Barn Swallows** was noted over LKELK 7/15 (JW). At least 3 **Warbling Vireos** were heard and seen on both sides of the Patapsco River west of Hoods Mill Road 6/17 (J&RS).

Warblers included 1m **Prothono-**

tary Warbler at Daniels, Patapsco Valley State Park (DANPV) 6/28 (MI); 2 **La. Waterthrushes** (RKBRP) 7/6 (BO) and 1 at DANPV 7/13 (MC,HZ); 6 **Kentucky Warblers** (RKBRP) 7/6 (BO), 1 at DANPV 7/18 (MC,HZ); and 1 **Yellow-breasted Chat** (CENPK) 6/27 (MC). The Marriottsville area along the Patapsco River continues to be productive. Two **Cerulean Warblers** were seen 7/16 (JF,JS) along with 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers**. The Ceruleans were still singing as was 1 **Yellow-throated**; however, the **Yellow-throated** was observed singing a **Cerulean** song, not that typical of his own species. In addition to an atypical song, the bird also had extensive white streaking on its back. A hybrid **Lawrence's Warbler** was seen along both sides of the Patapsco River one-half mile west of Hoods Mill Road 6/11 (D&MH). An unsuccessful attempt was made to relocate the bird 6/17 (J&RS).

Two predictable spots produced **Blue Grosbeak** sightings: 1 at SLMLP 6/28 (MC) and up to 4 at Gateway Business Park (GATWY) during the summer (JW). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were singing 7/9 along A.E. Mullinix Road. At least 4-5 were seen 7/15 at that location (JF,JS). A maximum of 12 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were counted at GATWY 7/9 (JW). With the drop in **E. Meadowlark** habitat and sightings, a report of agitated adults on 6/28 & 7/14 (SLMLP) indicating probable nesting was welcome (MC).

Observers: **Connie Bockstie** (CB), **Martha Chestem** (MC), **Jane Farrell** (JF), **Dave & Maureen Harvey** (D&MH), **Marshall Iliiff** (MI), **Nancy Magnusson** (NM), **Peter Osenton** (POs), **Bonnie Ott** (BO), **Joanne & Robert Solem** (J&RS), **Jim Wilkinson** (JW), **Helen Zeichner** (HZ), 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.

- November 9, Thursday** **“Migration and Breeding Habits of Neotropical Birds,”** by Peter Stangel. Peter is with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and additionally, he works with the new Partners in Flight Program. This program is a major cooperative international initiative for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds and their habitats. NOTE: The November business meeting will begin 15 minutes early, at 7:45 pm to allow Jay Jones, of the Environmental Fund of Maryland, to explain how MOS can benefit from this fund.
- December 14, Thursday** **“Black Skimmers: Strikers in the Night,”** by David Brinker. David, of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will share his knowledge about the natural history and ecology of this coastal species.

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.

- 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.
- December 16, Saturday** **Triadelphia Reservoir Christmas Bird Count** - See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

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.

November 30, Thursday Eileen Clegg, 6007 Flywheel Court, Columbia, MD 21044, phone (410) 730-4362.

December - NONE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1996 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due NOVEMBER 24, 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.

MOS SCHOLARSHIPS

AVAILABLE

The Maryland Ornithological Society annually awards ecology and ornithology tuition scholarships to Audubon camps. If you work with young people, you may wish to apply for a scholarship. Contact President Dave Harvey (410) 795-3117 for additional information.

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to give such thoughtful consideration to an appropriate name for our newsletter. To date, we have received many good suggestions. There is still plenty of time, however, for more suggestions. So, if you come up with what you believe is the perfect name for our newsletter, let us

know.

Send 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.

