



THE GOLDFINCH



A CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1996

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME BY MAUD J. BANKS

Welcome to the 24th year of the Howard County Bird Club. This issue of our newsletter, September - October 1996, initiates it's new name.

As we begin, we note the loss of Roger Tory Peterson to the birding world and celebrate his legacy, "A Field Guide to the Birds," which changed the study of birds by killing them with shotguns to the study and sport of birding by observing them with binoculars and learning their songs.

We celebrate this legacy because birding is a repeated observation of our ecological system. It leads to a greater understanding of the entire natural world, which helps us all make better decisions in our personal lives regarding our work, our play, and our community. That's what the Howard County Bird Club is all about. Birders from novice to expert are learning and sharing from monthly programs, field trips, the bird club bookstore and fall, winter, and spring counts with their tally rallies. So bring your curiosity, your fascination, your joy in nature and join us this year!

Maud J. Banks

THIRD 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 21. Mike McClure (410) 531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat (410) 531-2417 are the county co-coordinators. In prior years 133 and 135 species of birds were identified on the count and our goal is to exceed these totals 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 spring 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) 279-7896 (H), (410) 792-6000, EXT. 4971 (W); 3. RICHARD AND RANDY CROOK (410) 747-0399, 4. BILL AND KARAN ELLUM (301) 776-8311; 5. MARTY CHESTEM (410) 730-1527; 6. BONNIE OTT (410) 461-3361; 7. EVA SUNELL (410) 995-0029. 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 17 to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

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VOLUNTEER ARTIST NEEDED

The bird club is seeking volunteers to do illustrations for the covers of the soon-to-be-published Columbia lakes checklists. The checklists will be for Lake Elkhorn, Wilde Lake, and Lake Kittamaquidi.

If you would like the honor of having your talents displayed for all to see and envy, please contact any board member, or Paula and Darius Ecker (410) 312-9165.

1996-1997 CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

President:
Maud J. Banks
Vice President:
Mike Kerwin
Secretary:
Chuck Stirrat
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Mary-Jo Betts (first year)
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Jane Farrell
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Paul Zucker

SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 1996

BY JOANNE SOLEM

The Common Loon flight was not widely detected. Last bird reported was from Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) 5/31 (DE). Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported throughout the period with the last on Wilde Lake (WILLK) 5/31 (C&PN). One **Horned Grebe** was seen 3/9 at Centennial (HZ); the last 2 were at LKELK 4/12 (JW). The high came on one spectacular day between those dates. On 4/5 JS birded CENPK and was elated to find a flock of 14 Horneds resting on the lake along with 2 **Red-necked Grebes**. While this constituted a good flight day for the county, it was merely a small sample of what was in the area. Late in the day JF called from Brighton Dam (BRDAM). She and TDC had spent the afternoon viewing Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) from several locations and had caught what could only be described as a spectacular waterfowl flight. In several compact flocks they counted a minimum of 225 **Horned Grebes** and 1 **Red-necked Grebe**. (As many as 8 Red-neckeds had been seen 3/14 JW; HZ, J&RS; last was 1 JF had at CENPK 4/11.) In addition to the grebes on 4/5, JF enumerated other species on TRIRS: **Common Loon** 30, **Double-crested Cormorant** 31, **Wood Duck** 1, **American Black Duck** 2, **Northern Shoveler** 7, **Greater and Lesser Scaup** 150, **Oldsquaw** 5, **White-winged Scoter** 5, **Bufflehead** 15, **Common Merganser** 17, **Red-breasted Merganser** 12, **Ruddy Duck** 30, plus 1 adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and 30 **Herring Gulls**. Days like that come seldom to Piedmont birders.

There were two **American Bittern** reports: 5/3 CENPK (JF) and 5/11 flying over the Patuxent River in s.e. How Co (POs). Even more exciting was a **Least Bittern** flying up from a heavily vegetated pond n.w. of US29 & MD108 on 5/20 (RC). **Great Egrets** were seen from 5/10 CENPK (JF) to 5/15 LKELK (DE). The only **Snowy Egret** appeared at CENPK 5/2 (J&RS) and stayed overnight. The lone **Little Blue Heron**, an adult, was at LKELK 4/10 (JS). **Cattle Egrets** were detected only twice. Two were in a pasture on Sand Hill Road 4/20 (CS) and a single was at the Fulton turkey farm 4/28 (JF) where it was seen by a number of birders. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** turned up 5/2 at WILLK (1 ad—HZ, MC) and were last reported 5/31 LKELK (DE). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** are normally very scarce. They showed up twice: an adult 5/3 at CENPK (MC) and a gray first spring bird on the pond at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (JHAPL) 5/20-5/22 (NM). It stayed long enough to be seen by numerous birders. Perhaps the most bizarre sighting of the season was a flock of 11 **Glossy Ibis** flying over Mt. Pleasant (MTPLT) on MD 99 on 5/11 (R&RyC, CS, FR).

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.

Tundra Swans moved north from 3/10 TRIRS (JW) to 4/6 TRIRS (NS). The peak period was 3/14-3/24 with flocks reported by HZ, J&RS, KS, DN, M&GM. **Snow Geese** were reported only twice. A blue phase showed up with Canada Geese at CENPL 3/2 (KS) and a white phase was at a pond on Brown's Bridge Road 3/2 & 23 (JF, JS). **Canada Geese** continue to be seen by the hundreds. JF counted 45 goslings at CENPK 5/28—and not all eggs had yet hatched.

The only **Green-winged Teal** reports came from CENPK 3/9 (1M—JS) & 4/8-10 (1M—JF). **American Black Duck** numbers were low with 7 at CENPK 3/10 (JW) and a pair at Daniels (DANPV) 5/11 (CS, R&RyC, FR). **Northern Pintails** were, as usual, few: 1M on 3/9 CENPK (JS), 1M 3/19 LKELK (JW), and 2M, 1F on 3/21 on the Daisy Road pond (DSYRP)(HZ, MC). The only **Blue-winged Teals** were a pair at CENPK 4/10 (JF, JS). **American Wigeon** numbers were rather low with a high of 10 on 3/21 DSYRP (HZ, MC). **Canvasback** numbers, likewise, were low. The high was 10 CENPK 3/4 (JF). Three **Redheads** showed up 3/2 at the Elliott Road Pond (ELLRP)(JF, JS), and 2 at CENPK 3/20 (C&PN) were the last noted. **Ring-necked Ducks** sometimes are seen in the hundreds, but this year the high was a modest 42 at CENPK 3/10 (POs). A **Greater Scaup** at CENPK 4/7 (JW) was well seen including the extent of the wing stripe. Several other scaup at CENPK & LKELK were the subject of debate. The high for **Oldsquaws** was 9 on 4/14 CENPK (MK+) which appropriately turned up for a field trip. **Common Goldeneyes** were reported between 3/2 TRIRS 1 pair (JF, JS) and 3/20 CENPK 1F (JF). **Hooded Merganser** numbers were low with the high on 3/9 when HZ & C&PN reported 6 at WILLK; a pair was also at LKELK (JB) that day. **Common Mergansers** peaked on TRIRS at 224 on 3/2 (JF, JS); the latest lingered till 5/15 at LKELK (DE). Peak numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported on 3/24 when JF had 12M at CENPK & 80 on TRIRS.

An **Osprey** was detected on the early date of 3/14 on TRIRS (JW). The next ones were not seen until 4/5 at Big Branch (BIGBR) and Brown's Bridge (BRNBR)(JF, TDC). The **Bald Eagle** pair nested again at TRIRS and was seen throughout the spring. By April they were feed-

ing at least 1 eaglet. On 4/14 an adult was seen in the eastern part of the county (RG). **Northern Harriers** were noted from 3/23 at Gateway (GATWY)(JW) to 5/11 at Alpha Ridge Park (ALRGP)(DE). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was observed 3/3 in the Fulton area catching an **American Tree Sparrow** (JB). **Broad-winged Hawks** were not widely reported. A small kettle of 7 **Broad-winged Hawks** was seen high over CENPK 3/30 (HZ, MC), several weeks ahead of schedule. The high was a modest 21 at JHAPL (DH). The only **Merlin** was a late bird south of Ellicott City 5/11 (HS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen twice (4/7 & 4/12) at LKELK (JW).

One **American Coot** continued to stay at CENPK until 5/28 (JF). As many as 15 were counted on 3/9 (JS) and 3/15 (JB). Sightings were also made at LKELK 4/17 (JW) and at WILLK 4/13 (2—C&PN). **Northern Bobwhites** were reported on May Count from western How. Co. (2—PD). A bobwhite walked across a yard in the Fulton area 5/22, soon after a large field in the vicinity was mowed (RM). **Wild Turkeys** made themselves conspicuous on several occasions in March. HS had 1 cross Folly Quarter Road south of MD 144 on 3/9. A flock numbering from 4 (RG) to 20 (BK) hung around I-70 from 3/22-3/31 and was seen between Marriottsville Road and MD 97. D&MH also had 1 on 4/15 on Pfefferkorn Road.

The only spring **Horned Lark** report was from the UMDCF field trip 4/6 (DHO+). DE had the first **Tree Swallows** at LKELK 3/16. It took almost a month before the high of 125 at CENPK (JF). Although JW had 4 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at LKELK 3/28, 12 still seemed to be migrating 5/30 WILLK (C&PN). This is consistent with a report of all swallow species noted on 5/26 over the Fulton Pond (FULPD) (JF, TDC) where only **Barn Swallows** and possibly **Purple Martins** nest in the vicinity.

No major flights of **Blue Jays** were noted; JW reported 40 on 5/4 Fore Bay Pond (FORBY).

Spring is usually an uninteresting season for shorebirds, and this spring was no exception. A flock of 30 **Killdeer** seen on Milk Plant property along Gorman Road was the season high (JW). FULPD had the greatest diversity of

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shorebirds with Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Common Snipe. With a new school being constructed on adjoining property, soon birders should be able to scope this pond without danger from traffic on MD 216. The high for snipe was 54 on a club trip to UMDCF 4/6 (DHo+). Seven American Woodcock were still performing courtship flights 5/31 at GATWY (D&PE).

The only spring Laughing Gull was 1 at ALRGP 5/5 (CS). Bonaparte's Gulls were seen from 3/31 CENPK (13—HZ, MC) to 4/18 CENPK (4—JF). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was on TRIRS 4/5 (JF, TDC) and 4/6 NS; HZ, on 4/7, 3 adults were resting on WILLK (JS). Single Great Black-backed Gulls were reported between 3/2 TRIRS (JF, JS) and 4/6 WILLK (C&PN). Caspian Terns were caught during an abbreviated period from 4/6 FULPD (3—JW) to 4/28 DANPV (1—DS). The high was 23 at FULPD 4/9 (JS).

Cuckoos arrived in low numbers. The first Black-billed Cuckoo was noted on 4/27 CENPK (1—HZ, MC) while 1 was reported from WILLK on 5/30 (C&PN). The only report of more than 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo was 2 on 5/11 Rockburn Branch (RKBRP)(BO). Common Nighthawks were seen from 5/10 on Sandchain (1—JF) through 5/22 Hopewell (1—JW). Major movement occurred on 5/18 when 31 were counted in s.e. How Co. (POs). HZ noted the early arrival of Chimney Swifts with 5 on WILLK on 4/16. The only Red-headed Woodpecker was seen on 5/2 & 5/12 in the Timberleigh (TIMBR) area (DN). The last Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appeared at LKELK 4/21 (JW). Willow Flycatchers are rather late migrants. May Count on 5/11 turned up just 1 (Milk Plant)(JF, JS), but by 5/15 there were at least 4 at CENPK (JS). Least Flycatchers were well reported this spring all within a 10 day window from 1 on 5/9 south of FORBY (DE) to 1 on 5/19 along the Middle Patuxent at Kindler Road (JF, JS). Two Alder Flycatchers on 5/18 in the scrubby meadow edge at SLMLP called so they could be identified (JF, JS, NM).

A few scattered Red-breasted Nuthatch reports were received from late March to late April. The last was seen 4/19 in central How Co. (CS). Brown Creepers were reported in the same period, the latest 1 in north central How Co 4/20 (KS). (Theoretically, Brown Creepers nest in the county, but no evidence of active brooding has ever been found. If you ever observe a creeper during the breeding season, please advise the author at the time the bird is seen.) KS also spotted the first House Wren 4/20 in the same area while the last Winter Wren lingered along the Middle Patuxent River (Eden Brook) until 5/10 (JS). Marsh Wrens are difficult to detect in this county where they do not breed; some years they are not seen at all. This year the two sightings were in the same week and near the end of the



"Perhaps the most bizarre sighting of the season was a flock of 11 Glossy Ibis flying over Mt. Pleasant on MD 99 on 5/11"

expected period. One was observed at Pigtail (PIGTL) 5/11 (PZ, WEB) and the other at GATWY 5/18 (JF, JS). Kinglets were not seen in large concentrations. The last Golden-crowned Kinglets (and the high) were 10 in east Columbia (JW) & 1 at MTPLT (CS, R&RC) 4/13, while the last Ruby-crowned Kinglets stayed till 5/12 in so. How Co. (WEB). The high was 5 on 4/15 (JF). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers came in on schedule at CENPK 4/18 (JF).

Veeries were a bit late with the first on 5/4 in southern How Co (WEB). Three Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported: 5/11 c. How Co (MKr, MS); 5/17 e. Columbia (Hopewell)(JW); and 5/18 s. How Co (WEB). Swainson's Thrushes could be seen for three weeks from 5/1 in north-central How Co (KS) to 5/22 (J&RS). Wood Thrushes arrived at two sites in the northern half of How Co. on 4/22 (DN; BO). The first Brown Thrasher appeared at the David Force Wildlife Management Area 3/31 (BO). American Pipit reports were low despite searches of plowed fields. JW had 1 at GATWY 3/30 and 10 turned up on the former Freestate Raceway property in Savage 5/11 (POs). Cedar Waxwings were widespread and numerous from the 20 on 4/13 at WILLK (C&PN) to the 7 on 5/31 FORBY (JW). Single observer high was 150 on 5/23 LKELK (DE). Incomplete countywide totals for May Count (5/11) showed a minimum of 665.

The first White-eyed Vireo arrived 4/21 at FORBY (JW); Yellow-throated Vireo 4/25 LKELK (JW) and Savage Mill Trail (SVMLT)(JW); and Red-eyed Vireo 4/22 so. How Co (WEB). Solitary Vireos arrived 4/24 in no. central How Co (KS); the last ones were sighted on May Count 5/11. The earliest Warbling Vireos are often picked up before the end of April. This year the arrival date was also the high. At the UMDCF on 4/27 M&GM had 6.

Most warblers were seen this spring—

some, such as Bay-breasted Warbler, in larger numbers than most observers have come to expect. Golden-winged Warblers were reported in a relatively short window from 5/2 so. How Co (WEB) to 5/9 CENPK (JF). Tennessee Warblers came in 5/8 in so. How Co (JS) and left 5/18 SLMLP (2—JF, JS). Nashville Warblers arrived 4/27 SLMLP (JW) and were last seen 5/14 LKELK (DE). Yellow Warblers were singing 4/21 at GATWY (J&RS). A prime spot to observe them is CENPK; 14 were seen there 4/29 (JF). Chestnut-sided Warblers arrived 4/29 WILLK (HZ); 2 were at the same location 5/31 (C&PN). Magnolia Warblers arrived 5/4 in Patuxent River State Park (PATRP)(CS) and left 5/25 in so. How Co (WEB). On May Count BO had 12 at RKBRP. Cape May Warblers arrived 5/3 CENPK (JF); last 1 was seen on May Count. Yellow-rumped Warbler migration peaked 4/22 with a minimum of 150 seen at LKELK (MC, JS) and 35 the same day at CENPK (JF). Blackburnian Warblers arrived in several places 5/5 and lingered until 5/30 at LKELK (DE). The Yellow-throated Warblers were on their predictable breeding grounds on time 4/13 at HENPV (CS) while Pine Warblers were a little late this year—detected on both major reservoirs 3/30 (JW). Bay-breasted Warblers were a pleasant surprise. This species is usually more common in the fall. Most regular observers remarked on seeing several. DE had 12 in a couple hundred yards of LKELK 5/14—6 in his binoculars at once! Blackpoll Warblers waited till the very end of May for their major push. On 5/30 DE had 8 at LKELK while on 5/31 at CENPK & LKKIT sites more than a dozen were heard (NM, J&RS). Another was reported that day from JHAPL (DH). The following day the silence was deafening, although a few lingered. Prothonotary Warblers were almost missed with a lone report on May Count from WILLK (EN, RL). Oddly the waterthrushes arrived simultaneously, with the Northern Waterthrushes early, 4/21 SLMLP (DO) & 4/23 GATWY & FORBY (JW), and the Louisiana Waterthrushes late, 4/20 central How Co (CS). The only Mourning Warbler was seen & heard along the powerline south of FORBY 5/13 (DE). Wilson's Warblers were noted in small numbers between 5/11 (May Count) and 5/19 MPR-Kindler (JF, JS). The last Canada Warbler was present at Marriottsville 5/25 (TDC, JF, JS).

Two Summer Tanagers were reported: a male at DANPV 4/28 (DS) and a female 5/11 at RKBRP (BO). The lengthy period of rain during migration produced a fallout of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks similar to that in 1984 during the identical period 5/6-5/10. No high numbers were reported but 1-3 birds in yards and at feeders was an exciting phenomenon to most feeder watchers tired of House Finches, blackbirds, and a few cavity nesters.

American Tree Sparrows were scarce

(Continued on page 8)



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

SEPTEMBER 1, 1996 - AUGUST 31, 1997 MEMBERSHIP



NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER () _____

ABOVE INFORMATION CHANGED FROM LAST YEAR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: *HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER - MOS*

IMPORTANT: (CHECK ONE)

I WISH MY ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER TO APPEAR IN THE STATEWIDE MOS DIRECTORY.

I WISH MY ADDRESS, BUT NOT MY PHONE NUMBER TO APPEAR IN THE STATEWIDE MOS DIRECTORY.

MAIL TO TREASURER: SHIRAS GUION
8007 MARTOWN ROAD
LAUREL, MD 20723
(301) 490-0444

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL

HOUSEHOLD (ONE ADDRESS) \$ 22.50

NUMBER OF: ADULTS _____
JUNIORS (UNDER AGE 18) _____

INDIVIDUAL..... \$ 15.00

JUNIOR (UNDER AGE 18, NO ADULT IS MEMBER)..... \$ 9.00

SUSTAINING (PER PERSON)..... \$ 45.00

LIFE (PLUS ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES) \$400.00

HOWARD Co. CHAPTER DUES (IF LIFE, OR MEMBER OF ANOTHER MOS CHAPTER)..... \$ 5.00

NAME OF PRIMARY CHAPTER: _____

QUESTIONNAIRE - (PLEASE COMPLETE EACH YEAR)

WHAT LOCATIONS WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN GOING ON OUR FIELD TRIPS?

WHAT PAST TRIPS HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST?

WHICH HOWARD COUNTY BIRDS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE RARE BIRD ALERT NETWORK? (PLEASE CHECK ONLY IF THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE YOU WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND BIRDS WHEN NOTIFIED) LOCAL CALLS ONLY.

CONTACT ME AT HOME () _____

WORK () _____

BEST TIME OF THE DAY TO CALL _____

I CAN TELEPHONE OTHERS

DELETE MY NAME FROM THE RARE BIRD ALERT LIST

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRD CLUB TO:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

I WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

SURVEYS AND COUNTS

- MAY BIRD COUNT
- FALL BIRD COUNT
- MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT
- WILDFLOWERS & PLANTS
- BUTTERFLIES

HELP COMPILE BIRD LISTS FOR PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- HOWARD COUNTY PARKS. WHICH? _____
- COLUMBIA LAKES. WHICH? _____
- OTHER? _____

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

- HOST/HOESSTESS AT A MEETING
- PROVIDE BAKED GOODS
- HELP WITH POTLUCK OR SPECIAL EVENTS
- STAFF CLUB EXHIBITS AT SHOWS & FAIRS
- WORK ON PUBLICITY & INFORMATION DISPLAYS
- PREPARE SPECIAL MAILINGS FOR STATE MOS

CLUB ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS:

- HELP PLAN
- SERVE AS TRIP LEADER

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

- GIVE TALKS IN SCHOOLS OR TO GROUPS

PROGRAMS:

- HELP PLAN
- I HAVE SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ME

BOOKSTORE:

- ASSIST WITH SALES OR INVENTORY

NEWSLETTER:

- CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES
- HELP WITH MAILING

CONSERVATION:

- PHONE OR WRITE LETTERS TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS
- WORK WITH CLUB MEMBERS AS ISSUES ARISE

BOOST BLUEBIRDS (AND OTHER CAVITY NESTERS):

- MONITOR A BOX
- START A TRAIL
- I HAVE A BOX/TRAIL

Common Loon @
 Pied-billed Grebe @
 Double-crested Cormorant
 American Bittern *
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Snowy Egret *
 Little Blue Heron
 Cattle Egret*
 Green Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron *
 Glossy Ibis *
 Mute Swan
 Canada Goose
 Wood Duck
 Green-winged Teal
 American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Northern Pintail *
 Blue-winged Teal
 Northern Shoveler @
 Gadwall*
 American Wigeon
 Ruddy Duck *
 Black Vulture
 Turkey Vulture
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle [ad/m/unk]
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
accipiter species
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 American Kestrel
 Merlin *
 Peregrine Falcon *
 Ring-necked Pheasant *
 Wild Turkey *
 Northern Bobwhite *
 Sora *
 American Coot @
 Black-bellied Plover *
 American Golden-Plover **
 Semipalmated Plover *
 Killdeer
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Sanderling **
 Semipalmated Sandpiper *
 Least Sandpiper
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Dunlin **
 Short-billed Dowitcher *
 Common Snipe *
 American Woodcock *
 Laughing Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull @
gull species
 Caspian Tern
 Forster's Tern **
 Black Tern *
 Rock Dove
 Mourning Dove
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Eastern Screech-Owl
 Great Horned Owl

Barred Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Chimney Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker *
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker @
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Olive-sided Flycatcher *
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher **
 Acadian Flycatcher *
 Least Flycatcher *
Empidonax species
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher @
 Eastern Kingbird @
 Horned Lark *
 Purple Martin @
 Tree Swallow
 N. Rough-winged Swallow
 Bank Swallow @
 Cliff Swallow @
 Barn Swallow
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Fish Crow
crow species
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch *
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper @
 Carolina Wren
 House Wren
 Marsh Wren *
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet @
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Eastern Bluebird
 Veery
 Gray-cheeked Thrush *
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush *
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 American Pipit *
 Cedar Waxwing
 European Starling
 White-eyed Vireo
 Solitary Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Warbling Vireo @
 Philadelphia Vireo *
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Blue-winged Warbler @
 Tennessee Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler @
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Blk.-thrd. Blue Warbler
 Yel.-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler @
 Blk.-thrd. Green Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Palm Warbler @
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler @
 Black-&-white Warbler
 American Redstart
 Prothonotary Warbler *
 Worm-eating Warbler @
 Ovenbird
 Northern Waterthrush
 Louisiana Waterthrush @
 Kentucky Warbler @
 Connecticut Warbler **
 Mourning Warbler **
 Common Yellowthroat
 Hooded Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Canada Warbler
 Yellow-breasted Chat
warbler species
 Summer Tanager **
 Scarlet Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Eastern Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow *
 Savannah Sparrow *
 Grasshopper Sparrow @
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow **
 Swamp Sparrow @
 White-throated Sparrow @
sparrow species
 Dark-eyed Junco @
 Bobolink
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
blackbird species
 Baltimore Oriole
 Purple Finch *
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow
 Write-ins: ** (use back if necessary)

* May require write-up or oral amplification
 ** Will require write-up
 @ Early or late date, be sure of observation.
 Put party names, addresses, phone nos. on back.
 Time Start: _____
 Time Stop: _____
 Hours on Foot: _____
 Hours by Car: _____
 Miles on Foot: _____
 Miles by Car: _____
 Type (circle): Regular "Owling" Feeder "Stationary"
 FALLLIST.DOC 7/20/9

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 12, Thursday "Life and Times of the Golden Swamp Warbler," by Lisa Petit of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. NOTE: For this first fall meeting, wear a T-shirt or a sweatshirt showing where you've birded or a favorite conservation cause.
- ✓ October 10, Thursday "Wild Turkeys in Maryland," by Steve Bitner of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- 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 1, Sunday Butterflies at Centennial Park - Meet at 9:30 am at the west end lot. 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 is needed.
- September 10, Tuesday Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn - Meet at 9:00 am at the lot off Broken Land Parkway. Leaderless Walk. 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 is needed.
- September 14, Saturday McKeldin Area of Patapsco State Park - Meet at 8:00 am on the Howard County side of the railroad tracks on Marriottsville Road. Leader: Dave Harvey. Join us for a walk through this interesting area. Call leader at (410) 795-3117 if more information is needed.
- September 15, Sunday Henryton Area of Patapsco State Park - Meet at 8:00 am at the Route 108 and 29 park and ride to carpool to Henryton. Leaders: Darius and Paula Ecker. Moderate walking through woodland for thrushes and other forest birds. Call leader at (410) 312-9165 if more information is needed.
- September 21, Saturday Third Annual Fall Count - See details on the front page of this newsletter.
- September 26, Thursday Weekday Walk at Gwynn Acres - Meet at 9:00 am at Old Columbia Road and Rams Horn Row. Leaderless Walk. Easy walk on paved path through the woods. Call Bonnie if more information is needed.
- September 28, Saturday Beginners Bird Walk at Wilde Lake - Meet at 8:00 am at the boat dock. Leader: Doug Odermatt. Easy walk for water and land birds. Call leader at (410) 992-1812 if more information is needed.
- September 29, Sunday Rockburn Branch Park - Meet at 8:00 am at the park office off Landing Road. Leader: Bonnie Ott. Walk through fields, woods, and open areas for flyovers. Migrants are moving! Call Bonnie if more information is needed.
- ✓ October 6, Sunday Lincoln's Sparrow Search at Schooley Mill Park - Meet at 8:00 am at the upper parking lot. Leader: Nancy Magnusson. Join Nancy for search for this illusive bird. Paths may be muddy. Call leader at (410) 992-8753 if more information is needed.
- October 9, Wednesday Weekday Walk at David Force - Meet at 9:00 am at the signpost off Pebble Beach Drive. Leaderless Walk. Moderate walking through woods and fields. Call Bonnie if more information is needed.
- ✓ October 12, Saturday Sparrow Search - Meet at 8:00 am at the Route 108 and 29 park and ride. Leader: Jim Wilkinson. Probable birding spots are Alpha Ridge Park and/or Mount Pleasant to look for white-crowns and others. Moderate walking. Call leader at (410) 381-9250 if more information is needed.
- October 20, Sunday University of Maryland Central Farm - Meet at 8:00 am at the Howard County Board of Education building on Route 108. Leader: Bonnie Ott. Moderate to difficult walking through fields. Savannah Sparrows and other grassland species. Call Bonnie if more information is needed.
- October 25, Friday Weekday Walk at Centennial Park - Meet at 8:00 am at the west end parking lot. Leaderless Walk. A variety of species is possible. Call Bonnie if more information is 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 26, Thursday Don Waugh, 9522 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD 21045, phone (410) 381-8841.

October 24, Thursday Mary-Jo Betts, 9494 Crisscross Court, Columbia, MD 21045, phone (301) 596-5859.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1996 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL IS DUE SEPTEMBER 27, 1996. 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 or upload to the Electronic Goldfinch at (301) 596-2167. Also, please visit the club's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.abs.net/~dariuse/birding.html>.

CONSERVATION COLUMN

BY BOB SOLEM

When you are evaluating candidates for the House of Representatives, ask for their stands on the following conservation issues:

Endangered Species Act: Do they favor letting the Interior Department list new species as threatened or endangered and designating new areas of critical habitats that will establish protection of ecosystems?

Clean Water Act: Do they favor keeping strong anti-pollution restrictions that are part of the current act and retaining EPA's veto power over wetland permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers?

Chesapeake Bay: Do they favor funding of initiatives at least at the current level of authorization?

National Forests: Do they favor keeping power in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture to designate new critical habitat areas for wildlife in national forests?

Safe Drinking Water Act: Do they favor the action of the last Congress, which continued drinking water standards currently in force for the states?

(Continued from page 3)

this spring with 1 seen at a Fulton feeder 3/2 (JB) and 2 on 3/20 CENPK (DE). The first **Chipping Sparrow** arrived in e. Columbia 3/19 (MJB). The UMDCF trip on 4/6 was successful in locating as many as 5 **Vesper Sparrows** so all participants had good looks (DHo+). There were at least 25 **Savannah Sparrows** on that same trip. Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were back at GATWY 4/23 (JW). **Fox Sparrows** were noted 3/1 in e. How Co (RG) to 4/9 in e. Columbia (JF). An astonishing concentration was reported by HS who had 13 under his feeders 3/9 so. of Ellicott City. **Lincoln's Sparrows** are the favorites of a few county birders so they are usually detected spring and fall. D&LS had the earliest one at BRNBR 5/4. May Count (5/11) turned up 4 at SLMLP (NM, CSh, LS) & 1 e. Columbia (JW). The best numbers were tallied 5/18 at SLMLP when NM counted a part of the upper meadows & found 7 while JF & JS were beating through the vegetation in the lower meadows and came up with at least 4 more. The last **White-throated Sparrows** lingered until 5/15 at LKELK (JW) and east Columbia where MJB had a flock of 12. A very few **White-crowned Sparrows** moved in from 5/9 (JF) to 5/11 (May Count).

Bobolinks were well-reported with 18 at UMDCF 4/27 (M&GM) and the last 5/19

when JW had 75 on Roxbury Road & 1 in Fulton. DN had a flock of 50-100 on Triadelphia Road near Rosemary Lane 5/8. A few **Rusty Blackbirds** can be counted on in the spring, but this year 65 were found 4/10 Gwynn Acres Path (BO) and 30 on 5/6 at Vantage Point in w. Columbia (HZ, MC). **Purple Finches** were scattered, especially at feeders; 3 was the maximum reported (RM, J&RS, KS). RG had the last one 5/11 in eastern How Co. The lone **Evening Grosbeak** report was from far western How Co; a male & female visited feeders intermittently from 4/11 to 4/29 (DN).

Observers. Thanks to all who submitted records. Observers cited by initials: Mary-Jo Betts (MJB), John Blaisdell (JB), Martha Chestern (MC), T. Dennis Coskren (TDC), Richard Crook (RC), Randy Crook (RyC), Ward Ebert (WE), Darius & Paula Ecker (D&PE), Jane Farrell (JF), Ralph Geuder (RG), Dave & Maureen Harvey (D&MH), David Holmes (DHo), Mike Kerwin (MK), Marci Krishnamoorthy (MKr), Bill Kuip, Jr. (BK), Robin Landry (RL), Nancy Magnusson (NM), Mike & Grazina McClure (M&GM), Rosamond Munro (RM), Diane Nagengast (DN), Erich Neupert (EN), Carol & Paul Newman (C&PN), Daryl Olson (DO), Peter Osenton (POs), Bonnie Ott (BO), Phil Davis (PD), Frank Reilly (FR), Norm Saunders (NS), Kurt Schwarz (KS), Mike Smith (MS), Jo Solem (JS), Robert Solem (RS), Dan & Linda Southworth (D&LS), Hank Stanton (HS), Lisa Stevens (LS), Chuck Stirrat (CS), Jim Wilkin-son (JW), Helen Zeichner (HZ), Paul Zucker (PZ).

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HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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