



THE GOLDFINCH



A CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MARCH - APRIL 1998

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 4

A TROGON LAUGHING - ARIZONA TRIP REPORT (PART II)

BY DARIUS ECKER

In Part II of our trip report you will find out why the trogon was laughing. Part I appeared in the January-February 1998 issue of the Goldfinch.

July 31 Thursday - Spent the day at Ramsey Canyon and around Sierra Vista. In the evening drove up Miller Canyon for owls. Heard Western Screech-Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl and Elf Owl.

August 1 Friday - In the morning we left Ramsey Canyon. We took a good-bye walk up the path and paused at the small shed on the left to take a group photo. Neither Jeff or I could figure out how to get the timer feature on our cameras to work. As we stood there, the three of us posed, and Jeff struggling with his camera, I remarked "I wonder what a trogon sounds like when it laughs?" About 30 seconds after that, the male Elegant Trogon flew into the berry bush, and just about took Jeff's hat off in the process. The male fed briefly from the berry bush, and flew off. As it flew across the path once more we saw a light brown colored, short tailed trogon just behind it. A fledgling trogon! What a treat! After several more minutes of

struggling with the camera equipment, and finally resorting to referring to the instruction manual, we were successful in our quest for a group photo. We then left Ramsey Canyon to bird Fort Huachuca.

Soon after entering Garden Canyon we found a singing Botteri's Sparrow that posed in the scope. In Sawmill Canyon we saw Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, heard Solitary Vireo and Greater Peewee.

Sheelite Canyon was magical. A male Elegant Trogon was defending territory in the lower areas, and we got to within a few feet of him. Further up we saw a Hutton's Vireo. Just before the 5/8 mile marker a pair of Spotted Owls perched just above the path. As we sat silently on the path just beyond the owls and rested, we were treated to some very close looks at Red-faced Warbler. On the way down we saw a family of Canyon Wrens. As we left Sheelite Canyon we found one of our tires was flat, punctured by a sharp rock on the road. After putting on the spare, the gas station just outside the main gate repaired the tire and had us back on the road in less than an hour.

We moved on to the San Pedro River Inn for our last night. On the wire by one of the two ponds was a Tropical Kingbird. Vermilion Flycatchers and Say's Phoebes perched on the fence posts. A White-tailed Kite hunted over the field out back, near the trail to the San Pedro River which is just a 300 yard walk away. We regret we didn't have more time at this special place.

August 2 Saturday - We watched the sun rise at the San Pedro River Inn. Coyotes wailed in the field out back until the owner's dog chased them away. It was our day to leave Arizona. Where had the time gone. On our way back to Phoenix we stopped in Tucson at Ina Road to bird the Santa Cruz River. We added a few species we'd missed, like American Avocet and Killdeer (yes, Killdeer) but our time was limited and we had to get to Phoenix. I was again about to feel the pangs of leaving this wonderful land of birds and desert creatures. Perhaps some day I'll come to stay for good, but for now I'll just look forward to next year's trip.

HOWARD COUNTY ODONATE UPDATE BY BOB & JO SOLEM

The second full year of the intensive Howard County Odonate Survey was a highly successful one. After spending 1996 concentrating on ponds and lakes, 1997's primary focus was river habitat. The Patapsco River produced the rarest dragonfly of the year, the Rapids Clubtail (*Gomphus quadricolor*) which was a second state record. Lakes, ponds, swamps, grassy seeps, and boggy sites added more new records. Two damselflies, the Seepage Dancer and Sedge Sprite, are found in specialized habitats in the eastern part of the county and were good finds for this county. Thirteen new county records were added in 1997. The total county list now stands at 79. The complete Howard County odonate list can be obtained from the Howard County Bird Club website <http://www.abs.net/~dariuse/maryland.html>. If you do not have computer access but desire a copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SSAE) to R & J Solem, 10617 Graeoch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723. Active contributors to this year's effort were Nancy Magnusson, Richard Orr, Bob & Jo Solem, and Jay Sheppard. A list of the dragonflies and damselflies found to date at Centennial Park can be obtained by sending a SSAE to Richard Orr, 5215 Durham Rd-East, Columbia, MD 21044.

BIRD BANDING OPPORTUNITY

The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) needs volunteers to monitor breeding birds at banding stations on Dahlgren NSWC, Ft. Belvoir, Indian Head NOS, Mason Neck NWR, and Patuxent River NAS. Volunteers will receive free training in bird-banding techniques, contribute in a direct way to a program that is fast becoming a key element in an integrated monitoring program for North American birds, and work in areas not normally accessible to the public. In return, volunteers must commit to operate one or more of these stations 8 days per year between May and August. If you are interested and would like additional information, please call Paula Ecker at 410-312-9165.

MOS NEEDS EFM COORDINATOR

MOS Vice-President Norm Saunders is looking for a volunteer to be the MOS director to the Environmental Fund of Maryland. The Maryland Ornithological Society is one of the member organizations of EFM, an umbrella group which facilitates charitable giving through the Combined Federal Campaign and other payroll checkoff programs for charitable giving. MOS has received as much as \$4,000 a year for environmental education work through this. The MOS director to EFM will attend four or five meetings of the EFM Board of Directors (meetings are held in Annapolis on a weekday morning), serve on one of the EFM committees (Access, Campaign, or Public Relations), and report to the MOS Board the activities of EFM. For more information, call Norm Saunders at 301-989-9035 or e-mail him at osprey@ari.net.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS	2
PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS	3
CONSERVATION COLUMN	4

AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS: AUGUST 1 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1997 BY JOANNE SOLEM

Every season brings pleasant surprises. Autumn, this year, was no exception—although almost all observers complained about low numbers of migrant passerines. Centennial Lake was perhaps the most productive body of water overall. Triadelphia Reservoir was drawn down early for maintenance on the dam which resulted in extensive dry areas, not the best shorebird habitat. Duckett Reservoir had excellent mudflats at Brown's Bridge for the first two weeks in August but was then high for the rest of the season which eliminated the attractive flats. No major fallouts of neotropical migrants were reported. A sprinkling of winter invasives was tantalizing—with the hope of more to come.

The first **Pied-billed Grebe** of the season showed up on Lake Elkhorn (LKEK) 9/1 (DE). A **Horned Grebe** was at Centennial (CENPK) on 11/15 (JC;MB;CS) & stayed till 11/23 (DE). The **Double-crested Cormorant** on 8/31 (CENPK) (RO) may have been a summer wanderer. The seasonal high was two on 11/2 at Wilde Lake (WILLK) (DOD).

Great Egrets were widespread with the earliest bird(s) (probably the same one) reported 8/1 at both CENPK (BO) and Vantage Point (MC). The last one did not leave Fore Bay Pond (FORBY) (MBk) until a late 11/10. All reports were single birds. The lone **Little Blue Heron** report was an imm. at Brown's Bridge (BRNBR) 8/2 (J&RS) which stayed till 8/17 (DE). A late **Green Heron** was last seen 11/11 at LKEK (D&PE;JW). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** continued their predictable showing at two Columbia lakes. Four birds in different plumages were noted 8/4 at WILLK (HZ). Two or three were seen most evenings at that location for several weeks (m.obs.). Between 8/20 and 9/30, 1 imm. & 1 ad. were seen sporadically at LKEK (DE).

A flock of 35 **Tundra Swans** on 11/10 over Clocktower La. in e. Columbia (K&BB) and a flock of 12 on 11/12 over Guilford Rd. near Clarksville (MW) were the only reports. A few **Snow Geese** showed up, as usual, with Canadas. Two (1 wh., 1 bl.) were seen feeding in a field just west of Rt. 29 on Rt. 216 on 10/6 (JS). It is likely that the same two birds were the Snows reported in fields near Highland 10/18 (RB). A single white phase goose was at Pigtail (PIGTL) 10/23 (MW). At least 2,500 **Canada Geese** were in fields near Highland Rd. 10/18 (RB).

The highest number of **Wood Ducks** reported was a modest 12 at Clark's farm on Roxbury Rd. on 10/16 (MW). **Green-winged Teal** were seen at four different locations with the first, a female (f), at CENPK 9/3 (KS) and a high of 5 at PIGTL 10/30 (MW). The odd-looking **Wood Duck/Mallard** hybrid that has been around since 1994 was noted at CENPK (KS) on three Oct. dates and on 11/8 at WILLK (JC). **American Black Duck** numbers were low with the high a mediocre 25 at Clark's 10/27 (MW). One **Blue-winged Teal** f showed up 11/19 at Lime Kiln Pond (MW). Possibly the same one or two **Northern Shoveler** f were reported from both CENPK 10/25 (1) (KS); 11/9 FORBY (2) JC; 11/21 CENPK (2) JC and 11/30 FORBY (1) (DE). The first **Gadwall** appeared at Fulton Pond 10/18 (RB), but the most consistent birds were at CENPK. Up to 8

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.

(JC, 11/21) were seen from 10/25 through the end of the season by m.obs. The only **American Wigeons** detected were 2 f at LKEK 10/8 (J&RS). **Canvasback** numbers were low. One f summered and was still being seen 8/31 (KS,RO+). The high count was a measly 2 pr. at LKEK 11/30 (DE). A male (m) **Redhead** appeared at CENPK 11/28 (TO) and obligingly stayed into the winter season. A **Ring-necked Duck** f summered again at CENPK and was last reported 8/31 (KS,RO,MB+). Their numbers were modest with 14 the seasonal high reported from LKEK 11/30 (DE). **Lesser Scaup** were scarce with 4 at CENPK (1 m) 10/12 (J&RS) and 1 at Clark's 11/4 (MW). There were no **Greater Scaup** reports which was not surprising, but no **Oldsquaws** was disappointing. A single imm. m **Black Scoter** made a one day appearance at WILLK 11/11 (DOD;D&PE). As is so often the case with scoters in this county, it was gone the next morning. The only **Common Goldeneyes** were 2 at Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 11/11 (RB) & 1 at CENPK 11/13 (MK). **Bufflehead** numbers were good. The first 5 arrived 10/28 CENPK (HZ) with the peak 11/11-13. On 11/11 reports were as follows: LKEK 44 (DE); CENPK 85 (35 m) (RB;KS); BRDAM 88 (RB); WILLK 25 (DOD;DE), with 24 at PIGTL 11/13 (4 m) (MW). **Hooded Merganser** numbers built from 10/26 (Elliott Rd. Pond) 3 (2 m) (KS) to a peak of 22 at the same location 11/27 (DE), although on 11/11 there was 1 at WILLK (DE), 3 at BRDAM (RB) and 21 at CENPK (RB). **Common Mergansers** were late this year with a single report of 3 m at PIGTL 11/13 (MW). **Ruddy Ducks**, which arrived at WILLK 10/11 (1) (DOD), built to good numbers on 11/11 with 100 at CENPK (RB;KS).

The **Turkey and Black Vulture** roost in the village of Wilde Lake provided entertainment for residents of the area. The roost was first noted in mid-November, 40+ were present by the end of Nov., & the group numbered well over 100 thereafter (MC).

A few observers watched the limited county raptor migration. A group of 7 **Ospreys** were noted between 5:30 & 6:30 p.m. 9/18 over Sanner Rd. (SANRD) (WE). **Bald Eagles** were reported from areas other than Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) & a sprinkling of **Northern Harriers** were found between 9/20 Waterford Farm (WATFD) on Jennings Chapel Rd. (MW) & 11/8 CENPK (J&TDC). **Broad-winged Hawk** numbers were modest with the peak during the third week of Sept.: 9/13 CENPK 151 (MK); 9/18 SANRD 97 (WE); 9/19 Mt. Pleasant (MTPLT) 520 (MK); e. Columbia 124 (DE). A **Merlin** was seen at MTPLT 9/13 (MK) & another at CENPK 10/22 (JC). An early **Peregrine** was at Hugg-Thomas WMA (HTWMA) 8/31 (D&MH).

The only member of the rail family

reported was the **American Coot** which peaked at 18 at CENPK 11/21 (JC) with a few on the same date at WILLK & LKEK.

Shorebirds were relatively few, but some special species were noted along with the expected ones. Two **American Golden Plovers** were located at the Daisy Turf Farm 9/9 (JSt). The earliest **Semipalmated Plover** was at BRNBR 8/15 (RSu) & the last at PIGTL 9/14 (KS). By far the highest number of **Killdeer** was counted at Univ. of Md. Central Farm (UMDCF) 10/18 (BO+). For this Piedmont county the flock of 22 **Greater Yellowlegs** calling as they flew over LKEK 9/9 (DE) was extraordinary. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** lingered at PIGTL till 11/13 (MW). **Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper** numbers were extremely low. Ten was the high for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (BRNBR 8/16) (RSu). The **Least Sandpiper** seasonal peak was 18 at PIGTL on the strangely late date of 11/3 (MW). The three best shorebirds of the season were a second county record **Stilt Sandpiper** in juv. plumage at PIGTL 9/8 (MI); a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at PIGTL 9/9 (JSt) & 9/10 (MI) (last reported in 1989); and single **Western Sandpipers** in two locations: 8/9 BRNBR (DE) & 9/10 BIGBR (MI) (last reported in 1989). A single **Common Snipe** reported from CENPK between 10/15 (JC) & 10/25 (RB) was the only one this season.

Laughing Gull numbers peaked on 9/1 when there were reports from three locations: Rt. 99 & Woodstock Rd. pond 176 (MK); CENPK 40 (MK); Gateway 5 (NMLJS). The last reported were 21 at CENPK 10/7 (J&RS). A single **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen at CENPK 11/16 (MK) & 11/23 (DE). **Caspian Terns** are often observed in flocks of several dozen on TRIRS or on one of the lakes. Not this year. The high total of 11 on a single day was obtained on 9/10 with 3 at LKEK (DE) & 8 at BRDAM (MI). The best tern this season was a **Common Tern** 9/10 just north of BRDAM observed after a storm (MI) in a small flock of Caspians. No **Forster's Terns** were reported this fall.

Cuckoo reports were low. The only **Black-billed** was calling in the Timberleigh (TIMBR) area 8/11 (DN). **Common Nighthawks** moved through between 8/19 when 4 were over Johns Hopkins APL (CS) & 9/20 when 2 were at WATFD (MW). The high was 45 at CENPK 9/1 (MK). (Around noon that day, Mike was entertained by a nighthawk dodging the dogged pursuit of a hummingbird.) The last **Chimney Swift** was detected on the not-very-late-date of 10/9 on Hallmark Rd. (WEB). The last **Hummingbird** reports were all on 9/20.

The third week of Sept. brought two sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers**: 9/14

(Continued on page 3)

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.

- March 12, Thursday "What's New in Central America: Protecting Birds in their Habitat," by Chandler Robbins. Chan returns as speaker on the 25th anniversary of his first program for the Howard County Bird Club.
- April 9, Thursday "A Photo Safari to the Texas Gulf Coast," by Greg Kearns. Join Greg to share in this unique and informative birding experience.
- 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.
- March 3, Tuesday **Deadline for Submission of 1997 Annual Lists** - Please mail as soon as possible to Jane Coskren, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045.
- March 7, Saturday **Waterfowl in Howard County** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Centennial Park concession stand. **Leader: Jane Coskren.** Spend 1/2 day searching county lakes and ponds for a variety of waterfowl. Call leader at 410-381-7344 for more information.
- March 22, 29, April 5, 12, Sunday **Centennial Park Walks** - Meet at 8:00 am at the west end parking lot. Leaders: 4/12 Maud Banks, others TBA. Half day walks around the lake looking for migrants. Call Bonnie for more information.
- March 28, Saturday **Mount Pleasant** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Woodstock Post Office. **Leader: Bonnie Ott.** Be prepared for mud and/or tall grass as we look for resident sparrows and other woodland/field birds. Call Bonnie for more information.
- April 7, Tuesday **Wilde Lake** - Meet at 8:30 am at the boat dock. **Leader: Helen Zeichner.** Walk the paved path next to the lake to look for woodland birds in the surrounding habitat. Call leader at 410-730-3695 for more information.
- April 11, Saturday **University of MD Central Farm** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Howard County Board of Education Building on Route 108 to carpool to the farm. **Leaders: Bonnie Ott/Mike McClure.** We'll be looking for Vesper and other sparrows and open field birds. Call Bonnie for more information.
- April 18, Saturday **McKeldin Area of Patapsco State Park** - Meet at 8:00 am at the parking lot on the Howard County side of the railroad tracks on Marriottsville Rd. **Leaders: Dave and Maureen Harvey.** Wear boots and be prepared for muddy conditions. Call leaders at 410-795-3117 for more information.
- April 25, Saturday **Spring Hawk Migration at Ft. Smallwood Park** - Meet at 8:30 am at the park and ride at Snowden River Parkway and Route 175. **Leader: Ralph Geuder.** Bring picnic lunch, water and sunscreen for this all day trip. Call Bonnie for more information.
- April 26, Sunday **Schooley Mill Park** - Meet at 8:00 am at the upper parking lot. **Leaders: Darius and Paula Ecker.** Join us as we search for birds in this varied habitat. Call leaders at 410-312-9165 for more information.
- April 30, Thursday **Habitat Walk at Font Hill** - Meet at 9:00 on Centennial Lane at Font Hill Gate (short distance from Centennial Lane and Frederick Road light). **Leaders: Bob and Jo Solem.** Look at the habitat, flora, fauna, and birds of this newly re-created wetlands. Call leaders at 301-735-5037 for more information.
- May 3, Sunday **Lake Elkhorn** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot. **Leaders: Darius and Paula Ecker.** Walk around the lake on a paved path in search of warblers, waterfowl and sparrows. Call leaders at 410-312-9165 for more information.
- May 6, Wednesday **Gwynn Acres** - Meet at 8:30 am at Old Columbia Road and Rams Horn Row. **Leader will be present.** Join us on this easy walk on a paved path. Call Bonnie for more information.
- May 9, Saturday **May Count** - Mark your calendar. Details will be in the next issue of the newsletter.
- May 15-17, Friday - Sunday **Maryland Ornithological Society 1998 Annual Conference** - Details will be mailed to you by the MOS.

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.

March 26, Thursday **Elayne Metter**, 1301 North Rolling Road, Baltimore, MD 21228, phone 410-788-4877.

April - NONE

MAY-JUNE 1998 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL IS DUE MARCH 27, 1998. 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 e-mail to Paulae2156@aol.com. Also, please visit the club's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.abs.net/~dariuse.birding.html>.

(Continued from page 2)

Hunt Ridge (CS) & 9/21 Manahan Dr. (BO). Yellow bellied Sapsuckers arrived 9/28 HTWMA (DH+).

The only Horned Larks were 6 on a gravel road at the edge of Symphony Woods, Columbia 9/20 (MB). The last Tree Swallows were 5 at PIGTL 10/23 (MW). The first Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen in Beaverbrook 9/4 (MK). They were widely reported during

the season, but most were not consistent at feeders or locations. Neither of the kinglets was detected in large numbers with a high of 5 Ruby-crowned 10/18 at CENPK (RB). An overall off-white Fish Crow must have been a dramatic sight at Alpha Ridge 11/2 (MK).

The lone Gray-checked Thrush was at DANPV 9/20 (CS). A flock of 75 American Pipits was noted at UMDCF 10/18 (BO+) while 30 were seen near Rt. 97 & Rt. 144 on 11/12 (WE). Cedar Waxwings made a good

showing with the largest flock 150 at CENPK 11/21 (JC). Two Philadelphia Vireos were good: 9/6 Schooley Mill Park (DE) & 9/28 HTWMA (DH+).

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of fall warbler migration was, with a few exceptions, the low number of birds reported. Yellow-rumped were, of course, abundant. They peaked briefly in Oct. 10/18 UMDCF 200+

(Continued on page 4)

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A TROGON LAUGHING (PART II)
HOWARD COUNTY ODONATE UPDATE
BIRD BANDING OPPORTUNITY
MOS NEEDS EFM COORDINATOR
AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS
PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

CONSERVATION COLUMN BY BOB SOLEM

Look at the MOS Home Page for this story on "Harvesting of Horseshoe Crabs." This of you who went to the Chesapeake last year to see the masses of shorebirds feeding on horseshoe crab eggs know why this is so important:

Background: According to the New Jersey Audubon Society, scientific studies of the horseshoe crabs, or horsecrabs as they are called in the Chesapeake area, show a 90% decrease in the number of eggs being deposited on beaches. Aerial surveys show a corresponding decline in shorebird numbers and it has been said that at least six species of shorebirds in the Delaware Bay area are dependent on these eggs. In addition, one and a half million migrating shorebirds use the Delaware Bay as their last refueling stop enroute to the Arctic.

MARYLAND: Key provisions of the forthcoming regulations are reportedly as follows:

1. Specific crab collection permits will now be required for the first time. These permits will be limited to those who had reported catch of crabs last year, which will eliminate non-Maryland trawlers.
2. Numerical limits on trawl landings as follows: 2 trawlers at 2,000 per day 2 trawlers at 600 per day 2 trawlers at 300 per day All others at 100 per day
3. Trawl closure between December 1 and March 31 each year.

4. No hand collecting during spawning season.
5. Monthly reporting of daily activity.
6. A statement in the regulation that sets a goal of 800,000 lbs (160,000 - 200,000 crabs) per year. If the take exceeds the goal, the state has committed to reworking the regulations.
7. Some authorities are pushing for lower landing limits for the trawlers. The following have been suggested: 2 at 600/day, 2 at 400, 2 at 200, and the rest at 100. These regulations must be signed by the Governor so letters of support are still needed.

Proposed regulations are posted in the Maryland Register, and there is a comment period for the public. As soon as there is more information about this, you will be notified.

(Continued from page 3)

(BO+): 10/19 MTPLT 100 (BO); 10/22 CENPK 80 (JC). At least 25 **Palm Warblers** were at UMDCF 10/18 (BO+). Although no **Mourning**s were spotted, a **Connecticut** was at PIGTL 9/8 (MI) and an **Orange-crowned** was well seen 11/11 at CENPK (D&PE).

The first two **American Tree Sparrows** were reported from MTPLT 10/19 (BO) and the last **Chipping Sparrow** 10/25 was in Allview (ES). About 100 **Savannah Sparrows** were seen 10/18 UMDCF (BO+) with another 30 the following day at MTPLT (BO). Eight **Fox Sparrows** were counted at CENPK 11/23 (BO+). The third week in Oct. brought peak **Song Sparrow** numbers: 10/18 UMDCF 175 (BO+) & 10/19 MTPLT 70 (BO). **Lincoln's** were found from 9/30 LKELK (DE) to 10/20

LKELK 1 & MTPLT 2 (HZ,MB).

The high number of **Bobolinks** was 7 on 10/22 at Talbot's Landing (RG). A flock of 25 **Eastern Meadowlarks** was nice at UMDCF 10/18 (BO+). **Rusty Blackbirds** frequented CENPK (1) from 11/9 (DH,MB+) to 11/23 (3) (DE) with a high of 25 on 11/12 (MK,MI).

Purple Finches were widely reported, usually no more than 1 or 2. The high of 12 on 11/6 in Patuxent River St. Park was a combined total of 1 to 3 birds at several locations (JSh). First report was 10/15 CENPK (JC). A flyover flock of 10-12 **Pine Siskins** 10/4 HTWMA (DH) was the earliest report. There were just two other sightings: 11/14 TIMBR (DN) (2); 11/28 Allview (ES) (5). The Maryland **Red Crossbill** invasion which became most widespread during the winter season was not widely detected in the fall in Howard County. A single bird was observed 11/2 CENPK (RO,MK,MB) & 6 made a brief appearance at a feeder on Trotter Rd. (AG). A flock of a dozen **Evening Grosbeaks** made a cameo appearance at a feeder on Mt. Albert Rd. (*vide* G&MM). There must have been a din at CENPK 11/11 from the 350+ **American Goldfinches** present (RB).

Observers: Maud Banks (MBk), Mary Jo Betts (MB), Karan & Bill Blum (K&BB), Rod Burley (RB), Martha Chestem (MC), Jane Coskren (JC), T. Dennis Coskren (TDC), Wes Earp (WE), Ward Ebert (WEb), Darius Ecker (DE), Paula Ecker (PE), Aelred Gess (AG), Ralph Geluder (RG), Dave Harvey (DH), Maureen Harvey (MH), Marshall Iiff (MI), Mike Kerwin (MK), Nancy Magnusson (NM), Grazina & Mike McClure (G&MM), Diane Naengast (DN), Doug Odermatt (DOd), Richard Orr (RO), Tom Ostrand (TO), Bonnie Ott (BO), Kurt Schwarz (KS), Jo Solem (JS), Robert Solem (RS), Jay Sheppard (JSh), Jim Stasz (JS), Chuck Strrat (CS), Eva Sunell (ES), Rick Sussman (RSu), Mark Wallace (MW), Jim Wilkinson (JW), Helen Zeichner (HZ), many observers (m.obs.).