

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland



Volume 13

SEPTEMBER 1957

Number 3

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2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Md.

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COVER: Junior Campers and Helen B. Miller. Photo by W. Bryant Tyrrell

HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Maryland

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*Published quarterly by the
Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland*

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PLEASANT VALLEY - A JUNIOR NATURE AND CONSERVATION CAMP IN WESTERN MARYLAND

Helen B. Miller

"I looked up as I came out of my cabin this morning and there was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the top of a tree," Sandra, age eleven, exclaimed excitedly.

"Come quick - we've found a Redstart's nest near our cabin. The female is there now," a command from two sixth-grade boys.

"Please, if we get an adult leader can we plan a five-thirty (A.M.) trip to the Upper Bog. We do want to go there and there's no time during the rest of the day."

These words and many more of similar expression have been the keys which are "opening the doors" of nature to young people and their adult leaders at the Pleasant Valley Junior Nature and Conservation Camp in Garrett County, Maryland, during one week in June each year since 1949. The site is a 4-H Camp area owned by the University of Maryland Extension Service and is a particularly rich location for bird and plant life. This camp is co-sponsored by the Allegany County Board of Education and the Allegany County Bird Club, a Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, and affiliated with the National Audubon Society. The venture began in 1948 with 26 Juniors, 4 adult leaders and 2 cooks at a weekend camp located at the Green Ridge Mountain Club shelter in Allegany County. The adults who served as leaders have been the backbone of the staff in succeeding years; 3 have attended the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine, and 1 the Oglebay Park Nature School in Whelling, West Virginia. From the first all adult leadership has been voluntary and has proved to be the best possible group of leaders. During each



Pileated Woodpecker at nest



Gladys Cole bands one of 39 birds in camp

devoted to handicraft, art, games and swimming. Handicraft is developed around information, specimens, and interests discovered in the morning classes. Thus fern and tree leaf spatter prints appear to decorate the dining hall, animal tracks are molded, sketches drawn, and fingerpainting done; all become related to the world many are exploring for the first time. Evening activities are varied depending upon weather conditions. At least twice a campfire is held with singing, nature observations, and just watching the fire burn--while the last thrush calls and the frogs begin their chorus. The magic of a campfire circle by a quiet lake



Most recent beaver dam built in 1957



Fern structure is explained by Jim Cook

week Soil Conservationists, Game Wardens, and Forest Wardens visit and talk with the campers.

The classes, which are an hour long with a recess between, run from 9:30 to 12 o'clock and are planned according to the interests and knowledge of the staff for that year. Basically these include birds, flowers and ferns, insects, and trees. However, in 1954 beavers moved into the area and have changed the ecology of the stream and added a class all their own. After an hour's rest, the afternoons are

overhung with huge Sugar Maples is an inspiration to young and old. On other evenings rollicking square dance music and calls ring out and folk dancing has full swing. The dances used are those taught in the schools; they prove very popular. Nature films are on hand to use if it rains but the other activities come first. Each day which began with the early bell at 6:30 for the pre-breakfast bird walk ends with singing of taps at 9:15.

All photos by W. Bryant Tyrrell

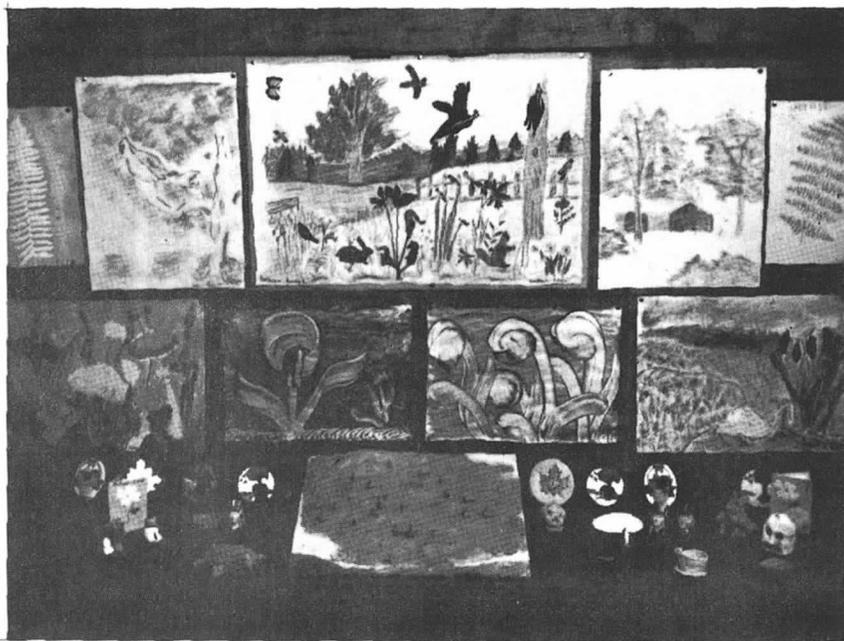
Always an interesting feature is the museum. Empty containers placed in the Library soon fill with snakes, frogs, toads, newts, insects, leaf galls, fungi--anything of interest which can be carried in. Conservation laws are stressed and no picking of plants or flowers is allowed in the camp area. If specimens are needed a leader tells the campers where and what to pick. "Litterbug" activity is an integral part of the camp program. The camp superintendent has stated that this camp is one of the cleanest during the season. A nature library of reference books, recordings, and charts is taken to camp each year; but these, too, are used mainly when it rains. Outdoor living, appreciation of the world around us,



Billie Taylor inspects new beaver work

a kindred feeling with those who share these experiences are the criteria on which the camp hopes to build a better life for those who attend.

Since the camp is for Juniors from fifth to ninth grades inclusive, higher level work is expected of the eighth and ninth grade boys and girls. Special projects are set up for them, such as check lists, maps, ecological studies, and wall charts. Complete lists of birds, other animals, nests, and plants found are kept each year. A few Juniors have attended all through High School, then, while in college, have returned as adult leaders or have gone to other camps as counselors. The Allegany



Handicraft exhibit

County Bird Club has furnished nature leaders for local Scout and 4-H camps from former Junior and adult campers.

The food is excellently planned and handled by the head of the County School Cafeteria system, and prepared by two efficient cooks who head a kitchen and dining room staff of 4 or 5 older boys and girls. Transportation to the area is by school bus and delivery truck (for baggage). Insurance is maintained for everyone who attends during the week. All these services are paid for by the camper's fee which is kept at a minimum by the interested co-operation of the Allegany County Board of Education. Rustic cabins which sleep ten campers each are scattered among the tall maples and oaks, while the center of activity is the large Dining Hall. In 1957 a much-needed new shelter was added which proved invaluable during the few wet periods of camp.



Marsh Hawk nest found by campers

Over the nine-year span at Pleasant Valley attendance has averaged at 90 Juniors. Of these at least half are first year campers. In 1957 115 persons attended for the week of June 18-22. This includes 102 Juniors and 13 adults.

Pleasant Valley is located in the middle of Garrett County with the elevation ranging from 2,500 to 3,000 feet in the area covered by trails used by this camp. Deep Creek Lake is ten miles away, and beautiful Swallow Falls State Park an hour's drive. The new Deep Creek Lake State Park is closest to the area and in the future



Jean Worthley explains the role of fungi in nature and in the future should provide accessible lake shore study. As a spot for nature study the site is ideal and the Allegany Bird Club hopes to be able to continue this activity as an integral part of its year's program.

Mrs. Gilbert M. Miller, Director
Junior Nature and Conservation Camp
Spring Gap, Allegany County, Md.

* * *

A BEWICK'S WREN NEST IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

Helen Burns Miller

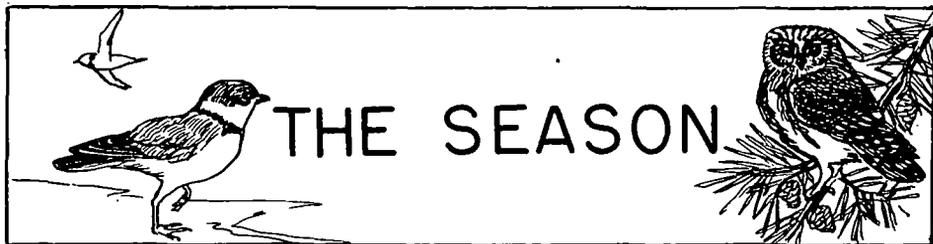
Several years ago we realized that we had Bewick's Wrens (Thryomanes bewickii) and House Wrens (Troglodytes aedon) nesting here on Martins Mountain in Allegany County--three mountains east of Cumberland--just off Route 51. In 1956 we had only Bewick's Wrens. I didn't pay too much attention to their activities but was very happy to have the cheery little wrens whose song is much sweeter and less hectic to live with than the House Wren's. The male arrives early in April and his clear "Oh, Sweet Marie-e-e" with a rising inflection at the end is most welcome along with the songs of the Eastern Phoebe and Robin. I might add that because we live in a large, commercial orchard our bird population is quite limited owing to the constant spray and cultivation program.

This April we were building a new porch on the back of our house and this fact is most important in the account of my friendship with a Bewick's Wren family. These were birds I could not ignore because they moved in with us and now we can boast of a built-in Bewick's Wren nest. Here is how the story goes.

The male had been busily putting sticks and odds and ends in every conceivable nook and cranny. We would surprise each other going in and out of the garage, tool and wood shed. The porch at this time was rafters and uprights with a roof. The wren liked to perch and sing on the braces and we would enjoy a "coffee break" together. At close view the Bewick's Wren is so beautiful with his jaunty eye stripe and spectacular spotted tail. It was a busy time of the year for both of us and after a time I noticed he was concentrating on a corner of the porch up under the eaves. By now the female had joined him and in no time they had a nest. Now came the problem: the wrens had beat the carpenters who were due anytime. Of course we wanted the porch finished but we wanted the wrens to stay, too. They did and soon had five eggs. Then we were worried, but each week passed and the carpenters did not arrive. So all was well. It was such fun watching them and I'm sure they had as much fun watching us. From her vantage point she could see me wash dishes and hang out clothes. He sat on the clothes line and TV antennae near by and entertained us both. With the help of a mirror I noted the arrival of five young, and activity stepped up. There was no more singing and the adults could slip in and out of that corner with a variety of insects wonderful to behold. They never minded people on the porch--by this time the floor had been laid but the screening still had to be put up. The parents frequently approached the nest together with food, and after she fed her tidbits he would give her part of an insect which she would "chew" and then feed to the young.

Then it happened. On Monday, June 3rd, five carpenters descended on the porch and hammering rang out from one end to the other. The young were so large I knew they would be leaving soon, but what a tragedy to have something happen now. The men were most understanding and said they could "fix it." While they ate lunch on one end of the porch the parents would frantically feed their patient family. The rest of the time they fussed at the men, at me and at everything in general. It is an experience to see a wren scolding with its beak full of an insect.

By Wednesday the screen was up and it was pitiful to see the mother flying around and the father "raising Cain" at this development. However, a carpenter cut a hole in the framework beside the nest and placed a small strip of wood in it. The wrens didn't find it and I suggested a ladder might be placed under it since they had been using the ladder when it was available. Immediately the mother went up and was almost catapulted into the nest. We watched her discover her way back out the opening. Later when the spouting was put up the men cut a hole in it also. From then for two days the birds never missed a minute's work. The last day the carpenters sealed the ceiling so we missed the exodus from the nest. But I heard and saw them all in the berry vines and we hope the whole family will live to tell the story to their grandchildren.



APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 1957

Chandler S. Robbins

Why was the spring migration so disappointing? Where were the transient warblers? Why were the thrushes so late? Why didn't the migrating birds come through in flocks as they usually do? And when the May transients were so late in arriving, why weren't they also late in departing?

Under similar circumstances a generation ago we might have asked these same questions. But most likely we would not have been able to supply satisfactory answers. Now, thanks to a much better network of active field observers interested in solving migration puzzles--and thanks also to more accurate knowledge of the complex sea of air through which the migrants travel--we can offer logical explanations for some of our present problems.

No sooner had the migration gotten under way than letters began to fly back and forth between key observers in the eastern half of the country. They contained reports of abundance, of scarcity, of lateness, of tremendous waves of migrants grounded by violent weather fronts, of streams of transients blown far off course. As each day passed, new clues were received and were gradually pieced together with the aid of weather maps. At the hub of this reporting network was Aaron M. Bagg of Dover, Mass., who was preparing The Changing Seasons report for the August 1957 issue of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES. Those interested in further details of a fascinating story are referred to Mr. Bagg's excellent analysis, replete with weather maps.

Very briefly, this is the way Maryland fitted into the picture. The latter half of April was quite uniformly warm, with an abundance of southerly winds. In fact, despite cool weather in the first half of the month, April ended up as the sixth warmest on record! What an ideal situation for producing a rash of early arrival dates. We could not expect to encounter marked waves of transients because we did not have the alternations of good and poor flying conditions that dam up the birds and cause hordes of them to move or to be grounded on certain days. But scattered individuals of several species did arrive a week or more ahead of schedule. Nighthawks, for instance, were noted as early as Apr. 20 (within one day of the State record) at Towson (Dick and Gladys Cole) and Apr. 25 at Easton (Dick Kleen). In almost any other year 2 Ruby-throated

Hummingbirds seen at Silver Spring on Apr. 24 (John H. Fales), or singles at Denton on Apr. 26 (Roberta Fletcher) or Hagerstown on Apr. 27 (Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Stauffer) could have qualified for earliest arrival dates. But this year a Ruby-throat that tied the State record at Gibson Island on Apr. 11 predated the advent of mild weather, and forced us to conjecture that it was swept into our area by a violent storm that passed through Texas on Apr. 7 and whipped through Annapolis with gusts of 80 m.p.h. at dawn on the 9th. Chimney Swifts arrived just as we would have expected under the circumstances: None until the weather turned warm, a single bird at Denton (Mrs. Fletcher) on the second day of warm weather, and then small numbers at new localities every day--but no great surge at any one time.

Although the stage appeared set for a grand parade of early arrivals at the end of April, the cast failed to put in an appearance. What happened down in the tropics to detain them I am unable to say. But there is ample evidence to show that while we were combing Maryland on our State-wide Bird Count on May 4, many of the migrants we were seeking were still more than a thousand miles southwest of here, winging their way across the Gulf of Mexico. Francis M. Weston, of Pensacola, Florida, has been reporting to the Fish and Wildlife Service on bird migration for exactly 50 years; on May 4 and 5 he observed "the greatest precipitation of migrants that I have ever seen." Other reports of unusually heavy influxes of transients came in from Louisiana and the upper Texas coast at the same time. Many of these birds doubtless stopped in or passed over Maryland later in the month, but without alternating warm and cool air masses to keep them concentrated in conspicuous waves.

Other individuals that normally would have passed through our State were evidently thrown off course in late April as they were crossing from the West Indies to the United States mainland. The Bermuda "High" was stronger and closer to the Florida coast than is usual for April and May, and its clockwise circulation produced steady easterly winds almost continually from Apr. 14 to May 2 in the vicinity of the Florida peninsula. A Black-whiskered Vireo was collected on the southwest coast of Louisiana, the first record for that State. Also, typical east coast transients such as the Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warblers were carried westward to the Gulf shores of western Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. With them, undoubtedly, were many thousands of individuals of other species that are not rarities in those areas, and so were not recognized as being diverted from their normal routes. Even if these birds eventually found their way to their ancestral nesting grounds in eastern Canada and the northeastern states, it is reasonable to assume that many of them took routes that lie to the west of Maryland (or at least to the west of those counties where our most active observers are located).

Heavy nighttime showers can produce precipitations of birds if the timing is right--that is, if the rain starts late enough at night so plenty of migrants are in the air, and if conditions to the south of us are such as encourage birds to take flight. On the morning of May 15, Charles Buchanan was fortunate enough to witness such a local wave at his Baltimore home. A heavy shower occurred in the middle of the night, and on the following morning Mr. Buchanan identified 12 species of warblers

in less than an hour "just by walking around and around the house." No other Maryland observer wrote of such an experience this spring. At my home in Laurel, the only transient warblers found on the morning of May 15 were 6 Black-polls and a Canada.

Table of Spring Arrival Dates.--For those observers who wish to compare their arrival dates with those reported from other counties, or to compare 1957 dates with those of other years, we are presenting a table of first dates for eight Maryland counties. Dates early enough to constitute State records will be given in detail under the Family headings. The first two columns of dates are the median arrival dates for last year and this. The median is not a computed average, but the middle number of a series that has been arranged in order of increasing values. Where there were 6 or 8 dates in the table (that is, no middle date), I used the average between the two dates nearest the middle of the series. By using median dates rather than the earliest dates we can compare the approximate times of general arrival instead of single isolated dates. Median dates have an advantage over mean dates, also, because a single extremely early or extremely late date will affect the mean, but not the median. From these median dates it is evident that the bulk of the 1957 arrival dates were not much earlier or later than those of 1956; in fact, just about as many dates were earlier in 1956 as in 1957.

Thanks are extended to the dozens of observers who contributed to the dates in Table 1. Space does not permit a complete list of names, but those members who contributed the largest number of records from each county were the following: Allegany Co.--Helen B. Miller, Charlotte Richardson and Dan Folk, Jr.; Washington Co.--Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Stauffer and Mrs. Lloyd Mallonee, Jr.; Frederick Co.--Sarah E. Quinn, Mrs. Austin L. Hoffman, and John W. Richards; Montgomery Co.--Seth H. Low, John H. Fales and Orville W. Crowder; Baltimore City and Co.--Charles M. Buchanan, Stephen W. Simon and Mrs. Albert Walker; Prince Georges Co.--Chandler S. Robbins, Robert E. Stewart and John H. Fales; Anne Arundel Co.--Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Mrs. G. Tappan and Prof. and Mrs. David Howard; and Caroline Co.--Marvin W. Hewitt, Mrs. Roberta B. Fletcher and Mrs. Alicia Knotts.

Grebes, Gannets.--Small numbers of Horned Grebes show up each spring on inland ponds and lakes. A count of 39 individuals at Frederick on Apr. 26, however, is the best inland concentration ever recorded in Maryland in spring. Gannets occur more frequently in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay than is indicated by published records. Flying over the lower Bay on Apr. 3, Bob Stewart estimated 15 to 20 Gannets in Pocomoke Sound, and 8 to 10 others in the center of the Bay off Calvert and Dorchester Counties. On May 4, Philip A. DuMont and others counted 48 Gannets over the ocean at Ocean City, but by a week later nearly all Gannets and sea ducks had left for Canada.

Hérons.--We have few early spring arrival dates for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, simply because no one has bothered to make systematic checks on their few known nesting areas during early and mid-April. One seen 5 miles above Seneca on Apr. 13 by Orville Crowder was 5 days ahead of the earliest Maryland record. The only "white herons" seen out-

Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1957

	Median		Alle	Wash	Fred	Mont	Balt	Pr.G	Anne	Caro
	1956	1957								
Green Heron	4/22	4/24	--	5/ 1	--	--	4/27	4/18	4/16	4/24
Broad-winged Hawk	4/22		--	--	--	4/21	4/20	4/20	4/21	0
Spotted Sandpiper	4/24	5/ 2	--	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/27		4/22	5/ 4
Solitary Sandpiper	4/27	4/25	--	5/ 4	--	4/28	5/ 4	4/14	4/22	4/16
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/ 5	5/ 4	--	5/11	--	4/29	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	5/ 4
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/11		--	5/11	--	--	5/18	5/25	5/19	0
Whip-poor-will	4/19	4/21	--	--	--	4/18	4/21	4/18	4/21	4/21
Nighthawk	5/ 3	5/ 2	--	4/28	5/ 7	5/11	4/20	5/11	--	4/26
Chimney Swift	4/ 6	4/20	4/26	4/22	4/20	4/21	4/19	4/18	4/21	4/17
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	5/ 3	4/27	5/ 4	4/27	--	4/24	5/ 4	5/ 8	4/11	4/26
Eastern Kingbird	4/28	4/23	--	4/28	4/27	4/23	4/26	4/23	4/20	4/21
Crested Flycatcher	4/27	4/28	--	4/28	5/ 4	4/27	4/28	4/28	5/ 4	4/28
Acadian Flycatcher	5/ 5	5/ 4	--	4/28	--	4/28	5/ 4	5/ 5	5/11	5/ 9
Eastern Wood Pewee	5/ 6	5/ 4	--	5/10	--	4/28	4/27	5/11	5/11	4/27
Rough-winged Swallow		4/18	--	4/21	--	4/21	4/13	4/22	3/29	4/16
Barn Swallow	4/ 4	4/ 7	--	4/24	4/20	4/ 7	4/13	4/ 1	4/ 4	3/30
Cliff Swallow		5/ 4	--	4/26	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	5/ 4	5/ 4
Purple Martin	3/27	3/27	4/18	--	3/25	4/28	4/20	3/27	4/21	3/22
House Wren	4/26	4/16	4/13	4/20	4/12	4/13	4/20	4/12	4/21	4/18
Catbird	4/28	4/25	5/ 4	4/27	4/26	4/22	4/20	4/27	4/24	4/22
Brown Thrasher	4/ 5	4/ 7	4/27	4/17	4/12	4/ 1	4/12	3/26	4/ 1	4/ 2
Wood Thrush	4/27	4/22	4/27	4/24	4/14	4/22	4/22	4/24	4/20	4/21
Olive-backed Thrush	5/ 5	5/ 4	5/ 4	--	5/ 4	4/29	5/18	5/ 4	5/17	5/ 4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/ 5		0	5/19	0	--	5/18	5/25	0	5/15
Veery	4/30	5/ 4	--	0	5/ 4	5/ 9	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 1	5/19
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/ 7	4/13	4/21	4/27	--	4/13	4/11	4/ 9	4/19	4/ 7
White-eyed Vireo	4/28	4/27	4/28	--	5/ 4	--	4/27	4/21	4/27	4/27
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/30	4/28	4/27	5/ 4	--	4/21	4/28	4/24	--	5/ 6
Blue-headed Vireo	4/24	4/22	5/ 4	5/11	--	4/18	4/22	4/18	4/20	4/26
Red-eyed Vireo	4/29	4/27	4/27	5/ 4	4/27	4/21	4/27	4/24	4/26	4/27
Warbling Vireo		5/ 1	5/ 4	4/27	--	5/11	4/27	4/29	0	5/ 3
Black & White Warbler	4/22	4/22	4/27	4/27	4/27	4/23	4/20	4/18	4/19	4/12
Worm-eating Warbler	4/30	4/28	4/27	4/28	--	5/ 4	4/28	4/27	4/21	0
Blue-winged Warbler	5/ 4	4/28	0	4/28	5/ 4	0	4/29	4/28	5/11	4/28
Tennessee Warbler			0	0	--	4/28	5/15	4/27	5/10	0
Parula Warbler	5/ 1	4/21	4/21	4/22	--	4/20	4/21	4/20	4/21	4/28
Yellow Warbler	4/28	4/24	4/21	4/22	--	4/28	4/27	4/25	4/24	4/20
Magnolia Warbler		5/ 4	--	0	--	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	4/27
Cape May Warbler		4/27	0	4/27	--	4/27	--	4/27	4/30	5/ 4
Black-thr Blue Warbler	5/ 2	4/28	4/28	--	--	4/28	4/27	4/27	5/ 4	4/28
Myrtle Warbler		4/21	4/28	4/25	4/20	4/21	4/20	4/19	4/26	--
Blk-thr Green Warbler	5/ 2	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/10	5/ 4	4/24	4/26	4/27	5/ 4	0
Blackburnian Warbler	5/ 1		--	5/ 4	--	--	5/ 4	4/30	5/ 4	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4/30	5/ 2	4/21	5/ 4	--	--	4/26	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 4
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/11		0	0	--	5/22	5/22	5/10	5/11	0
Black-poll Warbler	5/ 5	5/ 4	--	5/13	--	5/ 4	--	5/ 8	5/ 4	5/ 4
Ovenbird	4/28	4/25	4/27	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/21	4/23	4/21	5/ 4	4/21
Northern Water-thrush	4/29	5/ 2	5/ 4	0	--	4/28	5/22	5/ 1	4/27	5/13
Louisiana Water-thrush	4/15	4/13	4/13	--	4/14	4/14	4/13	4/18	4/12	4/ 6
Kentucky Warbler	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/22	4/28	5/ 9	5/ 4
Yellow-throat	4/28	4/21	4/21	5/ 1	--	4/21	4/27	4/24	4/20	4/18
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/27	4/28	5/ 4	4/27
Hooded Warbler	4/29	4/30	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 8	4/27	4/22	4/24	4/26
Canada Warbler	5/ 5	5/ 4	--	5/ 4	--	--	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/22
American Redstart	4/28	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	--	4/17	4/27	4/21	5/ 4	5/ 4
Bobolink	5/ 3	5/ 4	0	5/13	--	4/22	--	5/ 4	5/11	5/ 4
Orchard Oriole	4/30	4/28	0	4/28	5/ 4	4/27	5/ 4	4/27	5/ 1	4/24
Baltimore Oriole	4/28	4/27	5/ 4	4/27	5/ 4	4/28	4/26	4/26	--	4/24
Scarlet Tanager	4/29	4/28	4/27	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/28	4/27	4/27	5/ 4	4/21
Summer Tanager		5/ 7	0	0	0	5/11	5/17	5/ 7	5/ 4	4/27
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/ 5	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/13	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/23	4/24	5/ 7	0
Indigo Bunting	4/29	4/27	4/27	5/ 2	--	5/ 4	4/27	4/25	4/27	4/17
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/29	4/23	0	4/24	--	4/20	4/27	4/23	0	4/20

side of their nesting areas were an immature Little Blue at Denton on Apr. 26 (Roberta Fletcher) and Cattle Egrets near Easton on May 6 (reported to Jerry Fletcher). The latter species summered in Maryland for the first time; 5 were counted at the Mills Island heron colony on June 1 (Neil Hotchkiss), but no nests or young were recognized. Louisiana Herons, which were first discovered in the Mills Island colony in 1946 and had increased to an estimated 8 pairs in 1953, jumped to an estimated 50 pairs this year. They now outnumber both the Little Blue Heron and the American Egret. As many as 11 Glossy Ibises were present on June 1 (Hotchkiss) and 2 out of a brood of 4 large young were caught and banded on June 12 (Stewart). The Mills Island colony apparently had a successful season this year.

Waterfowl.--The only significant observations reported were a scattering of late departure dates, as follows: 15 each of Snow Geese and Blue Geese at Eastern Neck Island in Kent County on Apr. 11 (Stewart) and 7 Snow Geese over nearby Kent Narrows on May 4 (Dick and Martha Dubois); an American Golden-eye at Gibson Island (Mesdames Tappan and Henderson) and 7 in Talbot County (Dick Kleen), all on May 4; and 3 Redheads at Gibson Island on May 11. The last Buffle-heads and Old-squaws were observed at Gibson Island on Apr. 21, but there were inland reports of Buffle-heads on Apr. 23 in Washington County (Dr. and Mrs. Stauffer) and on Apr. 26 (12 birds) in Frederick County (Bill Shirey). Inland Old-squaws were recorded at Frederick (12 birds) on Apr. 20 (Shirey) and Williston on Apr. 10 (C. Guthrie).

Hawks.--Gibson Islanders identified 8 species of hawks on Apr. 21 in the first hawk flight ever observed at that bayside location; they obtained their first local record for the Broad-winged Hawk and their third for the Duck Hawk. A late date for migrating Ospreys was May 22, on which day Seth Low spotted 2 flying northward over his farm at Unity.

Rails, Shorebirds.--A rarity for Gibson Island was a Clapper Rail discovered there on Apr. 15 by Mesdames Tappan and Henderson. These same sharp-eyed observers found 8 species of shorebirds there, including their first local Upland Plover on Apr. 19 and their second Piping Plover on Apr. 7. A Woodcock found dead in a road near Denton on June 21 (Roberta Fletcher and Margarete Butenschoen) is the only positive evidence of summering in that county in recent years. This species is believed to nest at least locally in every county in Maryland, but there are pitifully few nest records from some areas. One of the most unusual birds of the spring season was a Wilson's Phalarope that appeared in the Dubois' marsh at Kent Narrows on June 6 (Martha Dubois); this is the fifth Maryland record, and the second for the spring migration period. Other shorebirds seldom seen inland in Maryland were identified at Patuxent Refuge by Francis M. Uhler as follows: Northern Phalarope on May 20, White-rumped Sandpiper on May 22, and Red-backed Sandpiper on May 23.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers.--Laughing Gulls are continuing to increase as nesting birds in the Sinepuxent Bay area, and to displace the Common Terns that formerly nested so abundantly on certain of the channel islands. At least 200 nests were present on islands off South Point on

June 12, and 228 young were banded on this and subsequent visits by Stewart, Allen Duvall and Robbins. Forster's Terns had two layings at Robins Marsh in Chincoteague Bay, but few if any young were raised this summer. Common Terns had only moderate production; there was very heavy mortality on several islands. One of the most successful colonies was the one at the Ocean City bridge. Royal Terns are showing an amazing increase, at the expense of the Black Skimmers, whose nesting habitat they are occupying off South Point. A total of 378 Royal Tern nests was tallied, all but 19 with one egg each; 347 young were banded (Stewart and Duvall).

Thrushes.--Only one observer (Charles Buchanan, May 25) reported any thrush as being common this spring. Several active reporters went all spring without seeing a single Hermit Thrush, Veery, Gray-cheek, or a combination of two of these; note that no arrival date for the latter two species in 1957 was as early as the median arrival date for 1956. For a while we held out hope that a late flight would pass through--but if it did, it was not evident in most of the areas that are visited regularly by our members. The latest Gray-cheek date for Caroline County tied the May 21 date of last year; in every other case where comparisons are available, the last Hermit, Veery and Gray-cheek departed earlier in 1957 than in 1956.

Vireos, Warblers.--The only Philadelphia Vireo reported was seen at Hagerstown on May 11 by the Stauffers. As already mentioned, warblers were scarce throughout. For the first time since 1953 no Mourning Warbler was reported. More surprising than this was the total of only 7 Nashville Warblers; but one of these was of considerable interest, being one of the very few spring records from the Eastern Shore (Pocomoke Swamp, May 12, by Marshall Johnston, Bob Sundell and Bill Shirey). There is no indisputable Maryland record of the Sutton's Warbler (a supposed hybrid between the Parula and Yellow-throated Warblers), although one or two are found every few years a few miles across the West Virginia line. On Apr. 16 Orville Crowder watched a Yellow-throated Warbler in full song 5 miles downstream from Shepherdstown, W. Va., on the Maryland side of the Potomac; 6 days later Parula Warblers moved into this same area. A thorough search here might prove very rewarding.

Tanagers, Sparrows.--The Summer Tanager, a species which nested regularly in Baltimore County at the turn of the century, is now a rarity there at any season. One seen near Cockeysville on May 17 was the highlight of Charlie Buchanan's spring report. Juncos responded to the warm weather by leaving most localities between Apr. 18 and 25; only 4 individuals were found in May. White-throated Sparrows also left ahead of schedule, with only small numbers seen after the first week of May. Except for one demented bird that was banded at Monkton on May 29 (Steve Simon), the latest departure was on May 16 at Laurel.

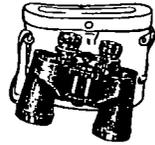
Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel

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COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 7-22 Operation Recovery. Intensive bird banding and migration observations simultaneously at Ocean City (C. S. Robbins), Tilghman Island (R. L. Kleen), Claiborne (W. M. Davidson), and Kent Narrows (R. P. Dubois). Contact local leaders for details. Some stations will be operated until the end of September.
- 15 Frederick field trip to Thurmont area. Leave Baker Park band shell, 2 p.m.
- 21-22 Talbot trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Kempton, Pa.
- 22 Takoma field trip to Violet's Lock. Meet 419 Elm Ave., 7 a.m.
- 22 Baltimore trip to Owings Mills. Bird and plant walks. Meet at home of leaders, Dr. and Mrs. Elmer G. Worthley, Bonita Ave., Owings Mills. Bring lunch and bathing suit. Reisterstown 732-J-3.
- 23 Caroline regular meeting, Camp Mardella, 8 p.m.
- 25 Frederick regular meeting. Movie: Exotic Birds of Florida C. Burr Artz Library, Record and W. Second Sts., 8 p.m.
- 28 Baltimore trip to Upper Loch Raven. Meet Hutzler parking lot Towson, 7:30 a.m., Leader, Charles Buchanan.
- 29 Talbot breakfast hike at Oakley. Meet Easton Library, 8 a.m.
- Oct. 4 Talbot monthly meeting. Bird Migration by Chandler Robbins. Easton Public Library, 8 p.m.

- Oct. 5 Annapolis trip to Hillsmere Shores for waterfowl, 7:30-10 a.m.
 6 Baltimore trip to Catoctin National Park. Meet at Catoctin Headquarters gate, Route 77, 9 a.m. Bring lunch.
 6 Talbot trip to Baltimore Zoo.
 6 Frederick trip to Reich's Ford road. Meet band shell, 2 p.m.
 11 Baltimore monthly meeting, Pratt Library, 8 p.m. "Land of the Curly Grass" - a trip to the New Jersey Pine Barrens, by Dr. Charles J. Stine.
 12 Baltimore trip to Cylburn, newest link in Baltimore City Parks. Meet at Cylburn, 9 a.m. Leader, Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
 13 Takoma trip to Skyline Drive, Va. Meet at 419 Elm Ave., 7 a.m.
 14 Takoma monthly meeting. Identification of Trees. Movie.
 20 Baltimore trip to Liberty Dam, new section of Patapsco State Park. Meet at Liberty and Ward's Chapel Roads, 8 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader, Mrs. Carl G. Francis. Northfield 5-3943.
 20 Frederick trip to Woodsboro and LeGore. Band shell, 2 p.m.
 25 Caroline monthly meeting, Greensboro High School, 8 p.m.
 26 Annapolis trip to Blackwater Refuge. Meet at Dutch Mill, 8 a.m. Leader, Mrs. J. E. M. Wood. Colonial 3-3229.
 27 Baltimore field trip to "Possum Cove", Pretty Boy Lake. Meet at Hutzler Parking Lot, Towson, 8 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader, Dr. Elizabeth Fisher, Hopkins 7-0676.
 30 Frederick monthly meeting. Travels in Africa by Dr. Alfred Webb. C. Burr Artz Library, Record & W. 2nd Sts., 8 p.m.
- Nov. 2-3 Baltimore trip to Hawk Mountain. Dr. Elmer G. Worthley.
 4 Talbot paid lecture. River of Wailing Bird by Allan D. Cruickshank. Tidewater Inn, Easton, 7:30 p.m.
 8 Baltimore monthly meeting. Isle Royale National Park (movie) by William Overlease. Pratt Library, 8 p.m.
 9 Baltimore bus trip to Blackwater Refuge. Meet at Sam Smith Park, 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch. Leaders, Dr. Elmer Worthley and Percy Jones. MOhawk 4-2261.
 11 Takoma monthly meeting. Identification of Trees. Movies
 11 or 12 Annapolis Audubon lecture. Community Hall, 8 p.m.
 17 Takoma field trip to Battle Creek Cypress Swamp. Meet at Elm Ave., 7 a.m.
 22 Talbot trip to Blackwater. Meet Easton Library, 8 a.m.
- Nov. 24 Baltimore trip to Perry Point and Charlestown. Meet at Edgewood Diner, Rt. 40, 8:30 a.m., or Perry Point Guard House, 9:30 A.M. Bring lunch. Leader, Rodney Jones. HUNter 6-3442.
 25 Caroline monthly meeting. Health Dept. Bldg., Denton, 8 p.m.
 27 Frederick monthly meeting. Movie to be announced. Artz Lib.
- Dec. 6 Baltimore monthly meeting. Highlights of the Natural History of Calvert County by Romeo Mansueti. Pratt Library, 8 P.m.
 7 Annapolis "quickie" to Sherwood Forest, 7:30 to 10 a.m. Meet at Douglas Miner's home, Sherwood Forest.
 8 Baltimore trip to Sandy Pt. Meet Light & Redwood Sts., 8 a.m.
 9 Takoma monthly meeting. Identification of Trees. Movie
 21 - Jan. 1 Christmas Bird Counts. Ocean City, Blackwater, St. Michaels, Denton, Annapolis and Gibson Island, Seneca, Tridelphia, Catoctin Mountain, and McCoolle. Dates to be arranged shortly. Write editor or local clubs for details.