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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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Number 1

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2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Md.

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MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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## MARYLAND NEST SUMMARY FOR 1957

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher

The greatest change which characterizes this year's study is the number of participants, which nearly doubled over last year's to a total of 105. Some of these studied in more than one county. Another significant figure is the 51 juniors taking part in Talbot County. Not every county may have the advantage of having a science teacher to organize, educate and direct the nest finding activity of such a group of avid juniors: our hats are off to Richard Kleen for a job well done.

An item of interest is the fact that Harford County did not report any nests this year. This shows the importance of individuals in this study, for a single person has reported accurately on at least several hundred nests from another county. It is impossible for your editors to keep contact with, and encourage the membership in this study. We deplore the absence of useful, interesting data from areas where it is known to exist, for instance, the Bank Swallow colony beside Route 50 near the Bay Bridge in Anne Arundel County for which no report was received in 1957. (Most of this colony was destroyed by grading operations—Ed.)

If, however, we achieve the desired participation as suggested in the previous paragraph, it will be absolutely impossible for two busy people to find the time to edit the material accurately and usefully. It is therefore suggested that an editor be named for each county, with a statewide editor to receive the data as edited locally. A serious error can enter **our** data if several persons report the same nest or colony, unless the editors know the persons reporting and the precise nests reported. Another necessary feature is that it is impossible for your editors to know each participant individually, and it is clearly possible that we may be deceived regarding the accuracy of the reporter. It is desired to make this study as accurate as possible. All efforts possible have gone into eliminating unreliable data. It is clear that this can best be achieved by a set of local editors who are more familiar with the origin of the data. Another reason for having local editors is the volume of reports that are beginning to accumulate. With about 1700 nests each from Talbot and Worcester Counties, it is clear that handling such data on a statewide basis requires much time. Unfortunately, much of the data does not reach the editors until after the first of the year, and many months after the nests are completed. Local editors could contact the people who they know are participating, and the time would be in their favor.

	A l n	A n	B l	C l	C r	C r	D r	F e	G r	H r	K n	M n	P r	Q u	S t	T a	W a	W i	W o	Total
	l	n	l	l	r	r	r	e	r	w	n	n	i	e	M	l	s	c	r	
Number of observers	2	5	8	5	14	4	3	2	6	1	2	4	7	6	53	2	1	9	105	
Great Blue Heron										15									x	15
Common Egret																			25	25
Snowy Egret																			75	75
Louisiana Heron																			50	50
Little Blue Heron																			25	25
Green Heron					2	1										19			27	49
Black-cr. Nt. Heron																			25	25
Glossy Ibis																			2	2
Mallard																			1	1
Black Duck					2					3	1		12		6				3	27
Blue-winged Teal							1													1
Wood Duck		1																		1
Red-shouldered Hawk													1			1				2
Bald Eagle										1										1
Osprey										3			1		46				5	55
Sparrow Hawk		1																		1
Ruffed Grouse									1											1
Bobwhite					3											14				17
King Rail																2				2
Clapper Rail																1				2
Oystercatcher																			1	1
Killdeer	1	2			3					2	3				17					28
American Woodcock													1							1
Willet																			2	2
Laughing Gull																			188	188
Gull-billed Tern																			7	7
Forster's Tern																			224	224
Common Tern															15				434	449
Least Tern															15				25	40
Royal Tern																				378
Black Skimmer																			124	124
Mourning Dove		1			5				1	2					11				89	109
Yellow-billed Cuckoo					2		2	2												2
Barn Owl				2									1	1	3				2	13
Screech Owl								1												1
Great Horned Owl		1																		1
Barred Owl																1				1
Chimney Swift																19				19
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird																1				1
Belted Kingfisher																2				2
Yellow-shaft Flicker																2				2
Pileated Woodpecker										1										1
Red-bellied Woodp.															2					2
Hairy Woodpecker																			1	1
Downy Woodpecker					3					1	1				3					8
Eastern Kingbird		1			7											4				12
Gt. Crested Flycatcher					2											5				7
Eastern Phoebe			4		5		3			2	1									15
Acadian Flycatcher			1		2															3
Eastern Wood Pewee					2					1	1									4
Horned Lark																			1	1
Tree Swallow					1															1
Bank Swallow																8				8
Rough-winged Swallow	1				1									1	6					9

	A l l	A n n	B n l	C a l	C a r	C h o r	D o r	F o r	G a o r	H o w	K e e r	M o n n	P r i e	Q u e r r y	S p r i n g	T u t a l	W a s c	W i n t e r	W o o l d	Total
Barn Swallow			1			7					4				212					224
Purple Martin						35	4						1		145					185
Blue Jay			1			2							1		2					6
Common Crow			1			1							1		4					7
Carolina Chickadee			1			2					1		1		1					6
Brown-head Nuthatch																1				1
Tufted Titmouse			1			3		1								1				6
House Wren			1			5		1			1				13					21
Bewick's Wren	2																			2
Carolina Wren		1	1			2		1						1	10					16
Mockingbird		1	2			10				4	9		1		39					66
Catbird	1	1	1			1		2	2		3			1	6					18
Brown Thrasher			3			5					1		2		20					31
Robin	1		19			29		6	1		51		6		163		1			277
Wood Thrush			3			4			2						1					10
Eastern Bluebird		1	3			10		1			1		1		10					27
Blue-gray Gnatcatch.			2			1					1									4
Starling						2		1			1		1		49		1			55
White-eyed Vireo						1								1						2
Red-eyed Vireo			1			1		3							1					6
Warbling Vireo			1																	1
Prothonotary Warbler						1						1								2
Parula Warbler												1								1
Yellow Warbler		1	1																	2
Chestnut-sided Warb.									1											1
Pine Warbler						1														1
La. Waterthrush			1															1		2
Yellowthroat						1														1
Hooded Warbler								1												1
American Redstart									1										1	2
House Sparrow						3						1			172		2			178
Eastern Meadowlark										1					2				1	4
Redwinged Blackbird			2	2		3					1				212					220
Orchard Oriole			2			4									2		1			9
Baltimore Oriole			2			4		1			1				1		1			10
Boat-tailed Grackle																			2	2
Common Grackle			1	24		3	21	8				2	2	20	372					453
Brown-headed Cowbird						1						2			7					10
Scarlet Tanager						1		1				1								3
Summer Tanager						1														1
Cardinal	2		1			5		3			2		1		28		1			43
Blue Grosbeak		1				2							1	1						5
Indigo Bunting						1							1		1					3
American Goldfinch						1														1
Rufous-sided Towhee			1			1									2					4
Grasshopper Sparrow																1				1
Sharp-tailed Sparrow																			1	1
Chipping Sparrow						17		1			1	2			10					31
Field Sparrow						4		1			1				1					7
Song Sparrow			1			3		3	1		1	2	2	1	3					17
Total number of species in county:	4	10	31	3	51	3	3	18	7	1	11	26	19	10	54		6	1	30	105
Total number of nests reported:	6	10	64	28	218	24	7	39	9	1	32	96	30	21	21	1695	7	1	1721	4030

A table has been prepared to show the number of nests reported in 1957 and their geographical distribution. Time and quantity have made tabulation of nest heights, dates, success and other information impractical this year. The cards will be kept on file at Patuxent Refuge and will be available for further study.

Many interesting comments appear on the cards: "Heard commotion near nest, investigated, found blacksnake coiled around nest" (Hewitt); regarding 9 eggs in House Sparrow nest, "No wonder it is so hard to get rid of this pest" (Carol Scudder); "2 p.m. Robin on nest. 5 p.m. Grackle on nest. 12 May--Male Robin chasing Grackle while female Robin fed young in nest. After a few days of fighting each other from the nest, a very peaceful relationship seemed to be established between the Robin and the Grackle. Both fed the young courteously waiting for the other to finish." (Mrs. Carl G. Francis).

Juniors established some new records for themselves, with 3 Talbot County youths locating more than 100 nests: James Voshell, 159; Roy Harrison, 122; and Abbie Wemple, 112. Other juniors with more than 10 nests to their credit are Larry Allen, Jan Ames, Harry Armistead, Eddie Blades, Allen Bryan, Janet Brown, Pat Cole, Mary Cober, Sue Corkran, Joanne Dulin, Joyce Defibaugh, Diana Dyott, Patsy Fairbank, Maxine Garrison, Daniel D. Gibson, Jo Ann Hambleton, Nancy Harrison, M. Haddaway, Harry House, Faye Harrison, Joan Harrison, Lege Harris, Billy Harper, Sue Hinkle, Gus Jones, Billy Jones, James Jackson, David Kemp, Buddy Leonard, Terry Moore, Ginger Murphy, Ann Murray, David McClany, Bill Page, Trenton K. Ruebush, Jr., Patsy Scharch, Bryan Steilke, Bonnie Smith, Shirley Smith, Helen Spurry, Paul Thistlewood and Lynn Weaver.

Adults with 10 or more nests include Elsie V. Bilbrough, Margarete Butenschoen, Allen J. Duvall, Sterling W. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Mrs. Carl Francis, Mrs. Katherine A. Goodpasture, Marvin Hewitt, Mrs. Erana Lubbert, Sarah Quinn, Chandler S. Robbins, Robert E. Stewart, Mrs. Carol Scudder, Clark G. Webster and Mrs. Jean Worthley.

The following county abbreviations are arranged vertically over the table: All(egany), Ann(e) Arundel), Bal(timore), Cal(vert), Car(oline), Cha(rles), Dor(chester), Fre(derick), Gar(ret), How(ard), Ken(t), Mon(tgomery), Pri(nce Georges), Que(en Annes), St. M(arys), Tal(bot), Was(hington), Wic(omico), and Wor(cester).

Selected brief notes of interest are given under the individual species headings. Although all species that were reported are included in the table, some have intentionally been omitted from the annotated list.

GREAT BLUE HERON - First record of a nesting colony at Hail Point, Kent County, on June 14 (D. D. Gibson). For notes on Mills Island colony, Worcester County, see Audubon Field Notes 11 (5): 394.

COMMON EGRET - Young reported on June 1, Mills Island, Worcester Co.

SNOWY EGRET - 75 pairs nesting at Mills Island, June 1 (R. E. Stewart, C. S. Robbins, and A. J. Duvall).

- LOUISIANA HERON - 50 pairs on Mills Island; young banded on June 1.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON - Mills Island colony contained 50 adults and very small young on June 1.
- GREEN HERON - First brood in Caroline County, April 20, and a second brood July 18. A Talbot County nest was found 4 feet high in a bush.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON - 26 young banded on June 12 at Mills Island. 50 adults present.
- GLOSSY IBIS - June 1, 11 adults, one nest with young; 2 young banded on June 12, at Mills Island, Worcester County.
- MALLARD - Nest of 12 eggs found on a Sinepuxent Bay island, Worcester County, June 26 (CSR).
- BLACK DUCK - Earliest record this year, March 4, with nest of 11 eggs in Caroline County (Robert Fletcher and James Morgan).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Adult with 7 well-grown ducklings, Elliott Island, Dorchester County, August 6 (H.T. Armistead).
- WOOD DUCK - Earliest nest April 1; 19 females produced 178 ducklings; latest nest hatched July 12; largest clutch 24 eggs; largest hatch 18 young and smallest hatch 3 young (summary from Patuxent Research Refuge in Prince Georges County by Clark G. Webster).
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK - Nest in Talbot County, April 13, about 40 feet high (Terry Moore).
- BALD EAGLE - Gibson found the only nest reported this year on May 4, about 40 feet high in a pine tree near Rock Hall, Kent County.
- OSPREY - Young reported from Talbot County, May 19 (Murray). Lubbert saw adult carrying eel to young in nest, June 22, Talbot County.
- SPARROW HAWK - Feeding young in Baltimore County, May 15 (Ward and Worthley).
- RUFFED GROUSE - 12 eggs in Garrett County nest May 4 near Frostburg (D. J. Falk, Jr.).
- BOBWHITE - A late nest of 18 eggs, September 21, in Caroline County (John Bilbrough).
- KING RAIL - 3 young at Tilghman, Talbot Co., July 4 (Ray Harrison).
- CLAPPER RAIL - Feeding young at Church Neck, Talbot County, June 25 (James Voshell).
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - 2 young, nearly ready to fly, banded June 12 at South Point, Worcester County (RES, CSR, AJD).
- KILLDEER - Earliest date April 13, Gibson Island, Anne Arundel Co.
- AMERICAN WOODCOCK - First record for Queen Anne County--4 young on April 9 (Wilbur Rittenhouse).
- WILLET - Young banded in Worcester County, June 12.
- LAUGHING GULL - Nests with eggs and young, June 12, Worcester Co.; 129 young banded.
- FORSTER'S TERN - Worcester County nests contained eggs on June 12.
- COMMON TERN - Large colony of 600 adults, Sinepuxent Bay channel, Worcester County; many young out of nests by June 12. Nests on one island completely destroyed by predator.
- LEAST TERN - Small young, north end of Assateague Island, June 26.
- ROYAL TERN - Most eggs were laid by June 12 in Worcester County. Eggs hatching June 26. 347 young banded on July 16.
- BLACK SKIMMER - Eggs in nests on June 12 near Ocean City.
- MOURNING DOVE - Nesting dates ranged from March 31 to July 27.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - Small young at Greensboro, August 5; late.

BARN OWL - Earliest egg date April 6, Dorchester County (WR).

SCREECH OWL - Young on May 27, Frederick County (Sarah Quinn).

GREAT HORNED OWL - Young ready to leave nest in Baltimore County, May 4 (Betty Fisher).

BARRED OWL - Immature in Talbot County on May 1.

PILEATED WOODPECKER - Adults at nest site, Montgomery County, May 5 (Walter M. Booth).

HAIRY WOODPECKER - Nest in Worcester County, with young on May 12.

DOWNY WOODPECKER - Nest records from April 3 to June 10.

GT. CRESTED FLYCATCHER - All nests reported were in newspaper boxes.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER - Nests found from May 29 to July 19.

E. WOOD PEWEE - Nesting activities begun by May 5 in Montgomery County. One used same nest for second brood at Camp Mardela, Caroline Co., August 1 (Charles Schwaninger). One young, Kent Co. August 11 (DDG).

HORNED LARK - Nest with 4 young at Ocean City, May 12.

TREE SWALLOW - Built at Garland Lake, Caroline County, May 21.

BANK SWALLOW - 7 nests observed on May 21 near Skipton, Talbot County (Bonnie Smith).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - Building in Anne Arundel County, April 13.

BARN SWALLOW - Began nesting in Montgomery County, April 3. Another added mud to old Eastern Phoebe's nest in Baltimore County.

PURPLE MARTIN - Building by May 13; most birds gone by July 29. At Denton, two nests contained six eggs each.

BLUE JAY - Bird on nest April 26 in Prince Georges County; adult previously banded, and at least 6 years old (E. C. Robbins).

COMMON CROW - Building March 13 in Baltimore Co. (Jean Worthley).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE - Mrs. Goodpasture noted young with adults at feeder in Montgomery County on June 6, taking food from adults as well as picking up food for themselves. A Caroline County pair nested in a deserted bluebird box, with 7 eggs on May 1. One week later adult was found dead on nest.

TUFTED TITMOUSE - Young being fed on April 21 at Denton, Caroline County. (M. Butenschoen).

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH - A young bird following adult on August 10 at Bellevue, Talbot County (HTA).

HOUSE WREN - Adults destroyed Denton bluebird nest on May 30th.

BEWICK'S WREN - Allegany Co. nest had 5 young in porch eaves on June 3. The porch was later sealed in with an opening in the spouting. Will the bird use this place next year? Another nest, July 15, in garage eaves with 1 young and 4 infertile eggs. Nesting material examined after young had left included a 2-inch nail, a small screw, a metal rivet, about a foot of rope, and a coil of wire (Mrs. Gilbert Miller).

CAROLINA WREN - Building began March '16 in Anne Arundel County.

MOCKINGBIRD - An Anne Arundel County discarded nest was composed of 225 sticks, mostly coarse; center of nest made of fine grasses and dried everlasting blossoms; bottom of the nest contained 122 chokecherry seeds (Mr. and Mrs. Carl Long).

CATBIRD - A Montgomery County junior reported the earliest egg date: May 7 (Trenton Ruebush).

BROWN THRASHER - May 3 was earliest egg date, from Baltimore Co.

ROBIN - 3 eggs in Caroline County nest on April 8 (Mrs. Carroll Bright). Fledglings were still being fed in another Caroline County

nest on August 22. A Prince Georges County nest was started Apr. 5; young left May 22, 47 days later. A Baltimore County nest was used for 3 out of 4 broods from a pair of Robins.

WOOD THRUSH - Nesting activity started May 22 in Baltimore County (Francis).

E. BLUEBIRD - Nest-building started on April 9 in Caroline County.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - Building April 21, Montgomery County (KAG).

RED-EYED VIREO - Female incubating, Baltimore Co., June 15 (Walker).

WARBLING VIREO - A nest in Baltimore County, June 11, 25 ft. in a sycamore tree (Walker).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - Goodpasture found adult building in Montgomery County on April 28. An adult was observed feeding a young cowbird in Caroline County on July 25.

PARULA WARBLER - Nest begun on April 28 within a witches broom in an elm tree, Montgomery County (KAG).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Young in Garrett County on June 17.

PINE WARBLER - Adult carrying food, Caroline Co., April 28 (Bright).

YELLOWTHROAT - Hewitt saw male feeding young cowbird at Greensboro.

HOODED WARBLER - Adult with brood observed in Frederick County, August 11 (S.W. Edwards).

HOUSE SPARROW - Young varied in size from very small to ready to fly in same nest, in a clutch of 7 with two unhatched eggs (Carol Scudder) on a Caroline County farm.

E. MEADOWLARK - Nest of 3 eggs found in Worcester County, May 12.

REDWINGED BLACKBIRD - Nesting started in Montgomery Co. by April 28.

ORCHARD ORIOLE - Walker found an active nest, May 31, Baltimore Co.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - Began building in Caroline County on May 2. A Frederick County nest had young on June 5. Both adults were observed incubating a Baltimore County nest.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE - Nests with eggs, June 12, Worcester County.

COMMON GRACKLE - Nesting began in Caroline County on March 15.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - Parasitized the Red-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

SCARLET TANAGER - Adult carrying food to young, June 2, Caroline Co.

SUMMER TANAGER - Young being fed in Caroline County on June 21.

CARDINAL - Ruebush found Montgomery Co. nest with 2 eggs, April 30.

BLUE GROSBEAK - Nest heights varied from 3 feet to 8 feet, and were in field borders. Earliest nest June 15 in Queen Annes County (WR).

INDIGO BUNTING - Prince Georges County reported building on May 19.

AM. GOLDFINCH - Fledglings fed in Caroline County, September 24.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE - Nest with 2 young on May 20 in Caroline County (Butenschoen).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Talbot County nest contained 4 eggs on May 28 (Joanne Dulin).

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - 1 egg in Worcester Co. nest, June 27 (RES).

CHIPPING SPARROW - Nests active from May 8 through August 4.

FIELD SPARROW - One nest on ground; all others in low bushes. Earliest nest May 12. One used part of old Chipping Sparrow nest.

SONG SPARROW - One used an abandoned Cardinal nest in Caroline County, August 26.

## 1957 COUNTY BIRD LISTS

Richard L. Kleen

Since 1954 a listing of the birds observed in Maryland's 23 counties has been a yearly feature of Maryland Birdlife. Of course both the validity and the reliability of these features depend to a great degree upon the thoroughness and the evenness of the coverage, qualities which cannot be controlled. However, with the notable increase in the interest in birds throughout our State and the entire country, these reports should become more and more valuable. If we could interest these new birders in keeping lists of birds they see through the year, our project would come of age and assume the importance that at present is to a large extent merely projected.

In 1957, 286 species of birds were observed in our State. This is down from a count of 287 in 1956 and from a high of 290 species recorded in 1955. Only two counties reported higher lists than they have ever had in the past. Talbot County reached 227, Kent had 170, and Somerset, formerly the least covered of our counties, recorded 119. The species observed averaged 156 per county. This was the second highest since the inception of the project. A number of the counties sent in surprisingly low lists. Anne Arundel, with 194 species, missed the 200 category for the first time. Charles and St. Marys were down to 111 and 94 from 190 and 180 of two years ago. It was this latter county that provided the lowest list, closely followed by Carroll with 95 and Cecil with 115. All other counties recorded at least 100 species. As in the past, Worcester County led the field with 255 species. In second place was Talbot with 227. Only one other county, Prince Georges with 201, nudged into the charmed 200 circle.

In 1957 the brightest spot in coverage appears to be the Eastern Shore from Kent County south to the Virginia border. A number of active observers are recording ornithological data in this area, and it is rapidly being converted from an area of weak and sporadic coverage to one in which it is strong and consistent. The newly formed club in Kent County has added that area to our list of well-covered Eastern Shore counties.

In 1957 eight species were added to the four year total. The Red Phalarope was reported in Worcester County. Dorchester recorded the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, one of the rarest of shorebirds. Baltimore County reported an Ash-throated Flycatcher, the second of this species ever recorded in our State. Montgomery County added the Baird's Sandpiper, a rare bird in the East, usually confining its migration to the Mississippi Valley. The Wilson's Phalarope was observed in Queen Annes County. The White Pelican surprised birders in Anne Arundel, and the rare Lapland Longspur was observed in both Anne Arundel and Worcester Counties.











	G	A	W	F	C	B	H	H	M	P	A	C	C	S	C	K	Q	C	T	D	W	S	W	T	
	a	l	a	r	l	a	a	o	o	r	n	a	h	t	e	e	u	a	a	o	i	o	o		
	r	l	s	e	l	l	r	w	n	i	n	l	a	M	c	n	e	r	l	r	c	m	r	t	
Tree Sparrow	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x	x			x	17	
Chipping Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	23
Field Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	23
White-crown Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x		x	x	x			x	17	
White-throat Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	23
Fox Sparrow		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x		x	x	x	x			x	x	16
Lincoln's Sparrow		x		x					x	x															5
Swamp Sparrow	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	19
Song Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	23
Lapland Longspur												x												x	2
Snow Bunting								x	x	x														x	4

Other birds reported in only one county were the Black Rail in Dorchester, the Florida Gallinule and Northern Phalarope in Prince Georges, the Long-eared Owl in Talbot, the Red-necked Grebe in Washington, Bewick's Wren in Allegany, and in Worcester, the American Oystercatcher, Hudsonian Curlew, Dovekie, Purple Sandpiper, Knot, Gull-billed Tern, Swainson's Warbler, Ipswich Sparrow, Glossy Ibis, Piping Plover, and King Eider. There were 45 species recorded in every county which is a new high in this category.

There are a number of interesting items in the chart which might be overlooked on a quick perusal. Some might be indicative of a changing avifauna. Others might be the result of coincidence or uneven coverage. Note that all three Phalaropes were recorded in 1957, a unique record. Note that the Gannet, usually confined to our ocean front county of Worcester, was observed in four counties. Note that, although the Common Egret is spread throughout the state rather promiscuously, the smaller Snowy Egret was confined to the lower Eastern Shore. Cattle Egrets were observed in two counties this year. The Pileated Woodpecker was recorded in 15 counties, illustrating the dramatic increase of this species in the past few years. The chart would indicate that the Golden-winged, Nashville, Cerulean, and strangely, the Canada Warblers appear to avoid the Eastern Shore. On the contrary, Pine Siskins were reported in all lower Eastern Shore counties but were missing from most other counties. This distribution reverses the data of other years which appear to indicate the concentration points are inland. Note the four records of the Dickcissel, three in areas where they would be considered accidental. A thorough evaluation of the chart will indicate other areas of interest, perhaps some worth further investigation.

The total species recorded in Maryland counties are listed for comparison purposes.

Garrett	107	Montgomery	191	Queen Annes	188
Allegany	117	Pr. Georges	201	Caroline	166
Washington	156	Anne Arundel	196	Talbot	227
Frederick	159	Calvert	131	Dorchester	179
Carroll	95	Charles	111	Wicomico	122
Baltimore	183	St. Marys	94	Somerset	119
Harford	142	Cecil	115	Worcester	255
Howard	168	Kent	170		

Special recognition must be given to those who contributed lists of observations. Many members of the MOS contributed. The most complete reports were sent in by the following:

Garrett	Allegany Bird Club, Eliot Garvin, Aelred Geis
Allegany	Allegany Bird Club, Leonard Llewellen
Washington	Dr. & Mrs. R. S. Stauffer
Frederick	John W. Richards, Sterling Edwards
Carroll	Jean Worthley
Baltimore	Charles Buchanan, Stephen W. Simon
Harford	Orville W. Crowder, Thomas A. Imhof
Howard	Chandler S. Robbins, Walter M. Booth
Montgomery	Seth H. Low, Walter M. Booth, John H. Fales
Prince Georges	Chandler S. Robbins, Robert E. Stewart
Anne Arundel	Vera Henderson, Paul Jones, Robert E. Stewart
Calvert	John H. Fales, Friel Sanders, Elizabeth Slater
Charles	Everett Mashburn
St. Marys	Everett Mashburn, John W. Taylor
Cecil	Orville Crowder, Richard Kleen
Kent	Daniel D. Gibson, Marvin Hewitt
Queen Annes	Richard & Martha Dubois, Wilbur Rittenhouse
Caroline	Jerry & Roberta Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, Michael Messix, Terry Moore
Talbot	Richard L. Kleen, Harry Armistead
Dorchester	Robert E. Stewart, Wilbur Rittenhouse
Wicomico	Samuel H. Dyke, Chandler S. Robbins
Somerset	Samuel H. Dyke
Worcester	just about everybody

St. Michaels

#### SONG PERIODS OF THE WHITE-THROATED SPARROW AND SLATE-COLORED JUNCO AT BALTIMORE

Hervey Brackbill

Song in nine different months by a species that is only a winter resident? It seems incredible. But it is true of the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). In or near Baltimore City I have heard these birds sing during every month of their stay, my extreme dates for the song being September 28 and May 18.

Going over my notebooks from 1939 through 1957, I find that the number of years in which I have heard song in each of the months is: September, 1 year; October, 7; November, 9; December, 2; January, 2; February, 2; March, 4; April, 17; May, 18. (At Beltsville, one year, Robert E. Stewart saw a belated White-throat sing on June 26. Maryland Birdlife 3: 52, 1947.) In no one winter have I happened to hear song in all of the months, but in that of 1952-53 I heard it in seven: October, November, December, January, March, April, and May.

The trill song of the Slate-colored Junco (Junco hyemalis) has been rarer in fall and winter. I have heard this about Baltimore in only six months, the extreme dates being October 29 and April 26. My records from 1938 through 1957 show: October, 1 year (uncertainly a second year); December, 1; January, 2; February, 7; March, 19; April, 18.

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#### HARRIS' SPARROW WINTERING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Chandler S. Robbins

While participating in the Seneca Christmas Bird Count on January 1, 1958, I checked a number of hedgerows northeast of Darnestown in hopes of finding a White-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia leucophrys). My endeavors were unsuccessful as far as the White-crowned was concerned, but were amply rewarded when a Harris' Sparrow (Z. querula) responded to my "squeaking" and perched atop a honeysuckle hedge beside Riffle Ford Road, 0.3 mile west of its junction with Route 28 at Quince Orchard. This straggler from the Great Plains was easily recognized by its black bib, its pink bill, its large size, and its call note which reminds me of a very weak Evening Grosbeak note. It was subsequently found in the same location by Miss Hilda Smith and Mrs. Katherine Goodpasture on January 5, by Philip A. DuMont, Jackson M. Abbott and Don Lamm on January 8, and by other observers on later dates in January, February, and March.

Harris' Sparrow nests primarily in the Northwest Territories of Canada, and the bulk of the winter records come from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. It seldom occurs east of the Appalachians. One bird believed to be this species was seen near Avilton in Garrett County, Maryland on May 8, 1954 by Kendrick Y. Hodgdon and Mrs. Gordon Taylor. Two individuals were closely studied at Elkridge, Baltimore County, on October 21, 1956 by Gorman M. Bond, Irving E. Hampe, and Robert E. Stewart.

There may have been a slight eastward shift in the fall migration of the Harris' Sparrow in 1957. It was reported as scarcer than usual in parts of North Dakota, and much commoner than normal in the Northern Peninsula of Michigan. In addition to the Maryland bird there are reports this fall or winter of two individuals at Scituate on the Massachusetts coast, one at Jamestown in western New York, and one at Winter Park, Florida.

Observers in the central and western counties of Maryland would do well to make a thorough check of the sparrows wintering in dense hedgerows between large open fields, and to double-check any flocks of White-crowned Sparrows that are found. Diligent search may reveal other Harris' Sparrows wintering in our State.

Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel

## A LOOK AT MARYLAND'S 1957 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Chandler S. Robbins

Bird counting at Christmas time has become a tradition among M.O.S. members--almost as much so as the sending of greeting cards, attendance at religious services, and opening of gifts. Although this counting is essentially recreation, it is taken just as seriously as is participation in a college football or basketball game.

The uninitiated tend to look askance at enthusiastic bird counters who arise hours before dawn, pad themselves thoroughly with warm clothes, and spend the day tramping through the woods and fields counting every bird they see. How futile, when you know you cannot count every bird there is! What good does it do to count some of them when hundreds or thousands of others get away uncounted? If you must count them, why not stay comfortably at home and count them through the window?

During the past Christmas season nearly 200 M.O.S. members hiked a total of more than 500 miles. Their combined mileage by car and boat equaled the highway mileage from Baltimore to Guatemala via Mexico City. An even greater mileage was accumulated driving to and from the various Count areas. Nearly half a million birds were tallied.

In recent years it has been the policy of Maryland Birdlife not to publish the details of the Maryland Christmas Counts, since these are included in the April issues of Audubon Field Notes. This year, however, three groups conducted counts that were not submitted to the Audubon Society. These are being published elsewhere in this issue of Maryland Birdlife. It is hoped that all these areas can be covered more intensively in future years.

After an area has been worked in about the same manner for several years, enough data accumulates to enable comparisons to be made between different years and between this area and other areas in the same year. Some of the changes that are noted from year to year are due to chance; others are a result of weather conditions on the day of the Count; others stem from differences in coverage; and still others represent actual changes in the number of birds present. By averaging the results from several years we can reduce the influences of weather conditions, peculiarities of coverage, and chance variations, and make it easier to recognize true changes in bird populations.

During the present winter many people have reported more Tufted Titmice and White-breasted Nuthatches than usual--in some cases more than ever before in their experience. Several feeding station operators have been feeding more Blue Jays than normal. Most have commented upon the scarcity of juncos. Are the first three species actually more common here this winter, or has a scarcity of natural foods forced them to descend upon feeding shelves? Are juncos really reduced in numbers this year in Maryland, or has the open weather of the early winter made them less conspicuous at feeders?

To answer these questions I have selected 9 Christmas Count areas, well scattered throughout Maryland, all of which have been covered for at least 7 of the 10 years prior to the current winter.

The nine areas used in the following comparisons are McCoolle in Allegany County, Catoclin Mountain in Frederick and Washington Counties, Triadelphia Reservoir in Montgomery and Howard Counties, Loch Raven in Baltimore County, Gibson Island in Anne Arundel County, Denton in Caroline County, Southern Dorchester County, and Ocean City in Worcester County. All the above Counts have been published in Audubon Field Notes, although the Gibson Island data from 1954 on have been combined with those from Annapolis. Since Gibson Island's record extends 4 years farther back than does the combined area, only Gibson Island's counts have been used in the present study. For those species that I chose to investigate, I computed the mean number of birds seen per year and the mean party-hours of coverage in each of the 9 areas. Since the number of individual birds seen is roughly proportional to the amount of time spent afield, it is necessary to allow for any differences between 1957 party-hours and the mean party-hours for the preceding 10-year period. Thus we may divide the mean number of birds for the 10-year period by the mean party-hours for that period and multiply the quotient by the number of party-hours for 1957. This gives us the number of individual birds of a given species that would be expected on the 1957 Christmas Count if the population were the same as the average for the 10-year period. We may now compare the number of birds expected with the number actually counted. Slight changes, of course, could not be detected, as they would be masked by the effects of the conditions mentioned on the preceding page.

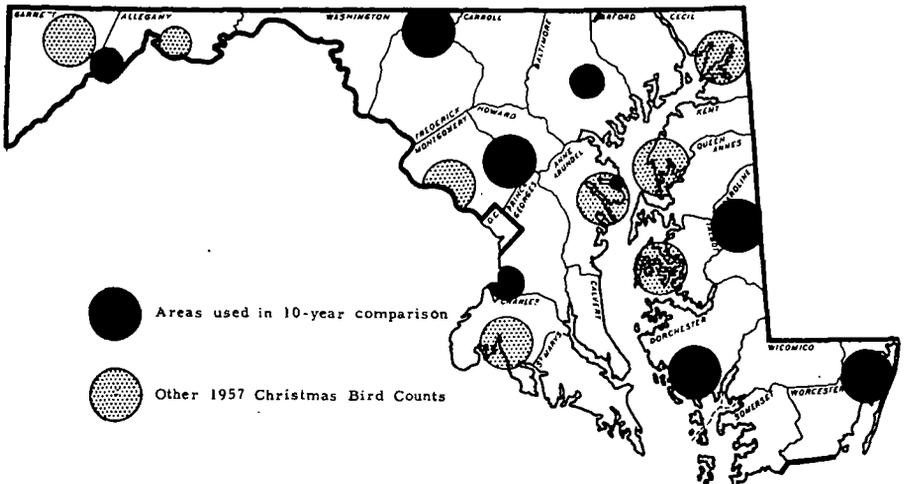


Fig. 1. Location and approximate size of Maryland's 1957 Christmas Bird Count areas

Table 1. Species close to normal abundance in 1957

<u>Species</u>	<u>Expected number</u>	<u>Observed number</u>
Turkey Vulture	1686	1522
Killdeer	457	500
Hairy Woodpecker	78	80
Carolina Chickadee	846	893
Brown Creeper	93	85
Brown Thrasher	33	33
Hermit Thrush	106	102
Song Sparrow	1636	1543

Table 1 shows eight species whose recorded abundance in 1957 was within 10 percent of the expected total, and Table 2 lists seven species whose 1957 totals were at least half again as high as anticipated. Some additional comment is required to interpret the figures in Table 2. In the case of the Mockingbird there has been a gradual increase during the ten-year period. In Southern Dorchester County, for example, the number of Mockingbirds per 100 party-hours ranged from 3 to 5 birds in the first 3 years (1947-49) as compared with from 16 to 29 birds in the last 3 years (1954-56). In 1957 the figure jumped to 48 Mockingbirds per 100 party-hours. Similar but less dramatic increases have been taking place at Catoctin Mountain and the Triadelphia Reservoir area.

Table 2. Species 50% above normal in 1957

<u>Species</u>	<u>Expected number</u>	<u>Observed number</u>
Bobwhite	200	323
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	11	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	69	145
Mockingbird	240	430
Robin	1490	3979
American Goldfinch	1948	3355
Rufous-sided Towhee	235	465

White-breasted Nuthatches, like their Red-breasted relatives, are very erratic in winter, especially on the Coastal Plain. There were good numbers on the 1951 and 1954 Counts, and in some areas in 1953 also. But during the other years in the period under consideration they were scarce or absent entirely in many areas of Maryland. The mean figure is not representative of a "normal" year, but is a compromise figure lying somewhere between the low total of a non-flight year and the high of a flight year. The 1957 totals, however, tied or exceeded the highest ever for all the Coastal Plain counts except Denton (where it was 2 below 1954's peak).

The high figure for the Robin is misleading, because it was due almost entirely to the count from one area--Ocean City. In every other area this species was below normal. Similarly, the high Rufous-sided Towhee count can be traced to a single party on the Ocean City count; in all other counts it was near or below normal.

Some species whose State total was near the expected figure were far below normal in certain areas and way above normal in others. The Blue Jay, for instance, totaled 340 in 1957, or 15% less than the expected number of 400. But as shown in Table 3, the Triadelphia figure was

Table 3. Distribution of Blue Jay populations

	Mc- Coole	Cat- octin	Tri- delph	Loch Raven	Giban Is.	Acco- keek	Den- ton	Dorch Co.	Ocean City
10-yr mean	3.8	86.7	122.6	3.9	4.3	38.0	35.2	20.8	22.2
10-yr party-hrs	10.3	44.2	38.1	11.1	22.2	25.4	48.5	58.6	117.6
1957 party-hrs	12	31	59	11.5	34	28	52	77	147
Expected no. 1957	4	61	189	4	7	42	38	27	28
Observed no. 1957	8	38	44	3	5	100	55	9	78

less than 25% of normal, while at Accokeek and Ocean City there were record high counts running more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the expected total. At feeding stations in the Triadelphia area, however, there was no indication of a scarcity of this species; evidently a high proportion of the birds in the Count circle were taking advantage of feeding stations, probably a result of failure of the mast crop. The same failure is blamed for the scarcity of Red-headed Woodpeckers, which were down to about one-tenth of their average total.

Although no other species showed as much as a 50% decline for the State as a whole, there were many local variations of this magnitude. For those observers who are interested in comparing the status of certain species in their own areas with the Christmas Count results, Table 4 summarizes the relative abundance of many of the commoner species. An "equals" sign (=) indicates that the 1957 count was within 25% of the expected figures; moderate local decreases ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of normal) are indicated by " $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and greater decreases by " $\frac{1}{4}$ "; increases up to four times the normal are designated by "2", and greater increases by "4". A zero means that although the species had been seen in prior years it was not found in 1957.

Species such as the Slate-colored Junco, which declined in 8 of the 9 areas and showed a combined drop of about 30%, were quite evidently below their usual numbers in Maryland this winter. The American Goldfinch was well above normal in two-thirds of the areas and below normal in only one; such consistent trends, together with the total increase of 70% leave little doubt that the recorded abundance of this species this winter is quite real and not due to chance. In the case of the Tufted Titmouse the preponderance of increases supports the belief of feeding station operators that this species is unusually abundant this winter. It would be interesting to know whether there is any connection between this abundance of the Tufted Titmouse in Maryland and the many reports of birds of this species straying into New England this winter.

The relatively low population of Black-capped Chickadees in 1957, a "flight" year, will surprise many field observers. In most years only the

Table 4. Relative local abundance of selected species in 1957

Species	Mc-Coole	Cat-octin	Triadelp	Loch Raven	Gibson Is.	Accokeek	Den-ton	Dorch Co.	Ocean City	Total
M. Dove	=	4	=	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	2	+60
Flicker	=	=	=	0	2	2	=	=	2	+20
Red-belly	4	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	2	2	2	2	2	+40
Downy	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	=	=	=	=	=	2	2	+30
Blk-cap Chick.	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	$\frac{1}{4}$	=	0	=	=	-20
Titmouse	2	=	2	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	2	=	2	+40
Red-br. Nut.	=	=	$\frac{1}{4}$	=	=	4	2	=	0	+10
Creeper	=	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	=	=	=	=	=	-10
Winter Wren	=	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	+40
Carolina Wren	2	2	=	2	=	2	2	2	2	+20
Bluebird	=	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	=	=	2	2	2	+20
G. Kinglet	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	=	2	+20
Myrtle W.	2	$\frac{1}{4}$	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	-20
Cardinal	=	2	2	=	=	2	=	2	2	+30
Purple Finch	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	=	=	0	=	2	-30
Goldfinch	4	=	2	=	=	2	2	2	2	+70
Pine Siskin	=	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	=	0	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	2	-20
Junco	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	=	-30
Tree Sparrow	=	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	-40
Field Sparrow	=	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	-30
White-throat	0	=	=	=	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	=	2	+10
Song Sparrow	$\frac{1}{4}$	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	=	=	-10

first two counting areas in the table report this species. Most of the other areas turned in Black-cap counts only in 1954; but these counts were so high that even a series of "zero" years failed to drag the mean down to the 1957 total. Although 7 of the 9 areas had Black-caps this year, all but two areas (Catoctin and Triadelphia) had fewer than 5 individuals.

Despite the early deluge of reports of northern finches last fall, the Christmas figures point up the scarcity of these birds by midwinter. The Purple Finch and Pine Siskin are included in Table 4. There were no Christmas season reports of crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks, or Redpolls. And only 4 of the 16 Maryland Christmas Counts contained Evening Grosbeaks.

Without the full cooperation of all Christmas Count participants in keeping accurate records of coverage as well as of birds, and without their efforts to work their assigned areas in a uniform manner year after year, comparisons such as those presented above would be quite meaningless. The small amount of extra effort put forth in the interest of providing usable data has converted the hobby of a couple of decades ago into a valuable research tool today.

## BITTINGER, SPRING GAP, AND CHESTERTOWN CHRISTMAS COUNTS

The following three Christmas Bird Counts, although not eligible for publication in the April 1958 issue of Audubon Field Notes with the other Maryland Counts, are of considerable interest to Marylanders. They are published here so that they will be available for comparison in future years.

Bittinger, Garrett County, Md. (Grantsville and Casselman Valley to Pleasant Valley, The Glades and Deep Creek Lake via Route 295).--Dec. 28; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heavy overcast in a.m., mostly cloudy in p.m.; temp. 32° to 39°. Five observers together. Total party-hours, 7 (5 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 30 (6 on foot, 24 by car).

Mallard, 10; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 7; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Blue Jay, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 77; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 (identified by eye-ring, short tail, and wing bars); Starling, 23; House Sparrow, 45; Cardinal, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 1.

Total, 14 species; 179 individuals.--Allen, Blaine and Daniel Folk, Margaret Rankin, Charlotte Richardson (compiler).

Spring Gap, Allegany County, Md. (C & O Canal, east to Mill Run Road, north to Williams Road, Gravel Ridge Road, Brice Hollow Road, Frog Hollow and Cresaptown). Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Temp. 33° to 50°. Six observers. Total party-hours, 7 (5 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 35 (5 on foot, 30 by car).

Cooper's Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bobwhite, 20; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 1; Common Crow, 16; Black-capped Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 1; House Sparrow, 5; Cardinal, 51; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 100; Tree Sparrow, 3; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 1.

Total, 20 species; 246 individuals.--Mrs. Herbert C. Heineman, Pat Little, Bernie, Gilbert and Helen Miller, Phil Van Newkirk.

Chestertown, Kent County, Md. (Chestertown to Eastern Neck Island).--Dec. 29. (No details of coverage or number of observers.)

Horned Grebe, 9; Great Blue Heron, 3; Whistling Swan, 2,005; Canada Goose, 32,021; Snow Goose, 21; Blue Goose, 19; Mallard, 6,055; Black Duck, 3,562; American Widgeon, 460; Pintail, 800; Redhead, 5,602; Ring-necked Duck, 2; Canvasback, 7,000; Greater and Lesser Scaup, 2,460; Common Goldeneye, 14; Bufflehead, 6; White-winged Scoter, 1; Common Scoter, 250; Ruddy Duck, 32; Turkey Vulture, 81; Red-tailed Hawk, 7; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 11; Sparrow Hawk, 7; American Coot, 400; Great Black-backed Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 155; Ring-billed Gull, 17; Mourning Dove, 15; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 125; Carolina Chickadee, 7; Tufted Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 15; Eastern Bluebird, 1; Starling, 160; House Sparrow, 72; Eastern Meadowlark, 19; Redwinged Blackbird, 30; Cardinal, 40; American Goldfinch, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 70; Tree Sparrow, 12; Field Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 21.

Total, 55 species; 61,639 individuals.



OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1957

Chandler S. Robbins

October was a cold month, not only in Maryland, but throughout most of the United States. Locally, the most striking feature of this month was a violent northeast storm on the 6th. Although winds reached hurricane speed as the storm center moved northwestward across Maryland, the storm was not of tropical origin and no southern birds were swept into our area. Samuel Dyke, who braved the storm at Ocean City, was rewarded by finding a lone Red Phalarope, the fifth record of this species for Maryland, and the latest fall occurrence by two days. Meteorologically, November was close to normal, and December was warm and wet. The larger ponds and reservoirs remained open throughout the period.

The following persons were the principal contributors (3 or more dates) to the migration tables in this issue: Washington County--Alice Mallonee; Frederick County--John W. Richards and Sterling Edwards; Baltimore County--Stephen W. Simon, C. Haven Kolb, Jr., and Walter Booth; Montgomery County--Walter Booth, John H. Fales, Katherine A. Goodpasture, and Seth H. Low; Prince Georges--Chandler S. Robbins and Francis M. Uhler; Anne Arundel County--Carl and Bunny Long, Vera Henderson and Elise Tappan; Kent County--Dan Gibson; Caroline County--Roberta B. Fletcher; Talbot County--Richard L. Kleen; and Lower Eastern Shore (Dorch., Som., Wico., and Worc. Cos.)--Samuel H. Dyke and Cornelius W. Wallace.

**Waterfowl.** At one time or another, most of us have paid visits to some of the Piedmont reservoirs in hopes of finding stray "sea" or "bay" ducks among the more common Black Ducks, Mallards, and mergansers. Many such trips are disappointing, and there is a tendency to consider it a waste of time to make frequent trips to those impoundments that have fluctuating water levels that prevent the growth of waterfowl food plants. During the present period Walter M. Booth put on a spectacular demonstration of what can be found on Triadelphia Reservoir if it is frequently visited during "bad" as well as "good" weather. During the fall he identified 24 species of waterfowl on Triadelphia. These included such unexpected counts as 200 Buffleheads (Nov. 6), and about 65 Oldsquaws (Nov. 22), and the first local record for Brant (6 on Oct. 27). On Nov. 23 during a northeast storm, his record included totals of 27 Canvasbacks, 35 scaup, 9 Common Goldeneyes, 5 Buffleheads, 27 Oldsquaws, a White-winged Scoter (first record for Triadelphia), and 90 Ruddy Ducks. Booth believes that no less than 20 species of waterfowl were on the

lake that day, although several species that were present both before and after the storm were not actually seen during the rain. In addition to the waterfowl there was a Common Loon, 2 Red-throated Loons, 26 Horned Grebes, and 41 Coots. Rarities in the tidewater areas included a European Widgeon at Gibson Island, Dec. 23 (Mrs. W. L. Henderson and Mrs. Gail Tappan), and 1 to 3 King Eiders at Ocean City Inlet, first spotted on Dec. 22 by Samuel Dyke. Snow Geese, still a rarity west of the Chesapeake, were seen at Gibson Island, 5 on Dec. 14 (Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Kidd). High counts of interest included 2,000 Canvasbacks at Frazier Flats in Caroline County, Dec. 21 (C. Guthrie); 2,000 American Widgeon on the Wicomico River in Charles County, Oct. 22 (Stewart); and 15,000 scaup, 7,000 Canvasbacks, 8,000 American Widgeon and 1,000 American Coots on the Susquehanna Flats on Oct. 15 (C. D. Evans, R. E. Stewart, and D. P. Fankhauser).

Shorebirds. Between July 27 and Nov. 24 Walter Booth identified 16 species of shorebirds at Triadelphia, where the summer's drought and repair work on the dam kept water levels low enough to expose extensive flats. Prize records for the early fall included Semipalmated Plover (July 27 to Sept. 7), Ruddy Turnstone (1 on Sept. 7), Lesser Yellowlegs (peak of 25 on Aug. 3), and Baird's Sandpiper (1 on Sept. 7). Late observations were Spotted Sandpiper on Oct. 27, Greater Yellowlegs on Nov. 3, Pectoral Sandpiper on Nov. 9, and Black-bellied Plover and Dunlin on Nov. 24 (Booth). Patapsco Lake also came under Booth's scrutiny, the most unusual find there being 2 Sanderlings on Aug. 31. A Solitary Sandpiper at Gibson Island on Nov. 11 was 9 days after the State departure record (Mrs. W. L. Henderson and Mrs. Gail Tappan).

Gulls and Terns. Booth saw 2 Bonaparte's Gulls at Triadelphia Reservoir on Oct. 27 and 2 Forster's Terns at the same place on Sept. 7 --both first records for that locality. The latter species was last seen on the Susquehanna Flats and in Talbot County on Nov. 2, but 7 lingered at Gibson Island until Nov. 13.

Owls. Three northern species of owls were in evidence during the period. Six Saw-whet Owls were reported and 3 of these were trapped and banded; one trapped by Steve Simon at Monkton on Oct. 17 is the second earliest fall arrival for Maryland. Short-eared Owls were noted in Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Kent, and Worcester Counties, with high counts of 3 on Nov. 2 at Hillsmere Shores near Annapolis (Mr. and Mrs. Henry Page, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Long, and others) and 17 on the Southern Dorchester County Christmas Count on Dec. 31. The only Snowy Owl report came from Leitersburg, Washington County, where one was killed on Dec. 26.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. Owing to failure of the acorn crop, Red-headed Woodpeckers have been missing from some of their usual winter haunts. Even in Seneca Swamp, where 50 to 100 often winter, there were virtually none this winter. A migrant was seen at Gibson Island on Oct. 3, and a wintering bird has been frequenting the suet feeder of Mrs. James Hunter in Glyndon since Dec. 13. The most extraordinary occurrence of this period was an Ash-throated Flycatcher identified by Stephen Simon; details are being submitted to The Auk. The greatest concentration of Eastern Phoebes ever recorded in Maryland was a count of 52 in 100 yards of shoreline at Blackwalnut Point, Tilghman Island, during a northeast wind on Oct. 5 (Richard Kleen).

Chickadees, Nuthatches. Maryland lay at the southern fringe of the

Black-capped Chickadee invasion. Monkton in northern Baltimore County was the only station to report more than ten birds (Simon banded 21). Most feeding stations in the Piedmont had a few individuals. North of Baltimore the Black-capped outnumbered the Carolina, but to the south the Black-cap was in the minority. Only stragglers reached any part of the Coastal Plain. Tufted Titmice reached record numbers at rural and suburban feeding stations. White-breasted Nuthatches retained their high numbers of the early fall, but Red-breasts showed a sharp decline during November.

Table 1. Fall arrival dates, 1957

	Fred	Balt	Mont	Pr.G	A.A.	Kent	Caro	Talb	L.E.S.
Horned Grebe	-	-	10/20	-	10/8	-	-	-	11/3
Whistling Swan	-	-	11/5	-	10/26	-	11/22	10/27	10/3
Gadwall	-	-	11/7	10/29	11/7	-	-	-	10/4
American Widgeon	-	10/12	10/25	10/21	10/2	-	-	-	9/20
Scaup (Lesser or Gr)	-	-	10/20	-	10/30	-	-	-	10/29
Redhead	-	-	11/4	-	10/31	-	-	-	11/21
Canvasback	-	-	11/4	10/21	10/31	11/16	-	-	11/21
Common Goldeneye	-	11/26	11/22	-	10/31	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	10/20	10/1	11/10	11/16	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	10/20	11/7	10/29	-	-	-	-
Oldsquaw	-	-	11/6	-	11/26	-	-	-	11/3
Hooded Merganser	-	-	11/3	10/29	11/2	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	9/27	-	10/8	9/21	-	-	9/22
Saw-whet Owl	-	10/17	-	11/20	11/5	-	11/3	-	11/11
Blk-cap Chickadee	11/1	10/14	-	10/30	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	10/21	9/28	-	10/27	-	11/16	-	-	10/13
Hermit Thrush	10/22	10/1	-	10/5	10/11	-	-	-	10/13
Evening Grosbeak	-	10/12	10/19	10/16	10/26	12/15	10/13	10/22	11/4
Tree Sparrow	11/15	11/26	-	12/4	11/24	-	-	-	-
White-crown Spar	9/28	10/6	10/13	10/21	-	-	10/3	10/12	-
Fox Sparrow	11/5	10/20	-	10/23	-	11/16	-	-	-

Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes. At Tilghman Island (Talbot County's "Little Cape May"), Dick Kleen and others counted 200 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and estimated at least 300 others present on Oct. 12. The previous high fall count for the State was 155 at Patuxent Refuge on Oct. 27, 1943. Cedar Waxwings were widespread, shifting from place to place as the berry crops became depleted. By the close of the period only a few scattered flocks remained as far north as our State. The Northern Shrike, a rare visitor this far south, was discovered near Blackwater Refuge on Nov. 11 (Don Lamm and J. D. Hare) and remained through the end of the period; a second bird was observed at Sherwood, Talbot Co., on Dec. 29 (Bill Noble).

Warblers. Nineteen species of warblers were reported in October, 2 in November, and (thanks to Christmas Count coverage) 6 in December. The most noteworthy find was a Cerulean Warbler at Towson on Oct. 1 (Mrs. Herbert Strack); Bent gives only one later record for the entire United States. Other unusually late warblers were a Black-and-white at Hillsmere Shores on Nov. 2 (Longs), an Ovenbird at Kensington on Oct.

Table 2. Fall departure dates, 1957

	Wash	Fred	Balt	Mont	Fr.G	A.A.	Caro	Talb	L.E.S.
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	11/3	11/5	-	11/14	-	-	11/28
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	11/3	11/9	9/20	-	-	-	10/27
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	10/26	11/13	11/13	-	11/3	12/1
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	10/12	10/12	-	-	10/27
Chimney Swift	10/1	10/11	9/30	10/10	10/8	-	10/3	10/21	-
Eastern Phoebe	10/9	-	10/27	-	10/7	-	11/4	-	10/13
Tree Swallow	-	10/30	-	-	-	10/11	10/22	-	12/1
House Wren	9/25	-	9/22	10/13	-	-	-	10/12	9/29
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	10/27	10/12	11/12	11/20	10/15	10/13	-
Solitary Vireo	-	10/1	-	10/7	-	10/10	-	10/12	-
Nashville Warbler	-	-	10/4	-	-	10/13	-	9/14	-
Blk-thr. Green W.	10/10	10/1	10/12	10/7	-	10/8	-	10/12	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	11/22	-	11/3	10/13	-	11/12	-	-	-

23 (banded by Mrs. Goodpasture), a Mourning banded at Monkton on Oct. 3 (Simon), and a Wilson's seen in Baltimore on Oct. 2 (Erana Lubbert).

Orioles. Maryland has never had a winter record of an Orchard Oriole, although small numbers of this species are found every few years in the interior of North Carolina; wintering orioles should be carefully examined. An Orchard Oriole seen on Oct. 23 at Annapolis by Prof. and Mrs. David Howard was 10 days beyond the latest previous record for Maryland. Wintering Baltimore Orioles have been found in more places than ever before. Between Nov. 1 and Feb. 15, reports were received from Barnesville, Rockville, Baltimore and suburbs (at least 4), Annapolis (at least 2), Greensboro, Easton, and Rich Neck in Talbot County.

Evening Grosbeaks. After an initial very early flurry of Evening Grosbeaks, reports came in slowly. No reports prior to December were from feeding stations; but as the natural food supplies diminished, small flocks descended to feeders in January and February. Early reports included 7 at Monkton on Oct. 12 (Andrew Simon), 1 at Patuxent Refuge on Oct. 12 (Robert E. Stewart), 2 at Denton on Oct. 13 (Mrs. C. Bright), 1 at Laurel on Oct. 14 (Robbins), 6 at Unity (Seth H. Low) and 8 at Bethesda (V. F. Hogan) on Oct. 19, and 20 at Cabin John on Oct. 20 (C. S. and E. C. Robbins). All the above are earlier than the previous extreme arrival date for Maryland. In the more southern counties, arrivals were chalked up as follows: 2 or 3 at Rock Point in Charles County (Stewart) and 1 at Trappe in Talbot County (Achsa Henderson) on Oct. 22, 14 at Tilghman on Nov. 3 (Kleen and Ray Harrison), 2 at Salisbury on Nov. 4 (Samuel H. Dyke), 1 at Princess Anne on Nov. 19 (Dyke), 6 at Ocean City on Nov. 28 (Dyke), and 5 at Elliott on Nov. 30 (Stewart).

Other finches. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were widely reported during the fall but were only locally common by the close of the period. At least 200 Pine Siskins were seen at Tilghman on Oct. 12 (Kleen). There were single reports of both crossbills. The White-wings, 6 of them, were quite appropriately found at Finchville crossroads, northeast of Eldorado in Dorchester County on Nov. 25 (Dyke). There were unconfirmed reports of both the Common Redpoll and the Pine Grosbeak. A Dickcissel at Jane Offutt's Easton feeder, Dec. 12-17, broke Caroline County's monopoly on the only winter records for the Eastern Shore.



### SUPPORT THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL HISTORICAL PARK BILL

Elting Arnold

As many members of the Maryland Ornithological Society know from personal experience, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal property along the Potomac River from Washington, D. C., to Cumberland is a unique historical monument and recreational facility. Its basic feature is continuity. Nowhere else has one of the canals which meant so much in the history and growth of our country been preserved for its full length, with its structures essentially intact for all to see. Nowhere else can birders, hikers, and other outdoorsmen find an opportunity such as that afforded by the unbroken towpath and other features of the canal. No other major river valley in the East remains unspoiled enough to offer a chance for the creation of a riverside recreational park, in relatively natural surroundings, stretching from sea level into the heart of the mountains. The growth and spread of population is destroying such unique continuous areas at a time when more people are coming to appreciate the need of all people in present and future generations to have such places. Here people may learn some of the history of our country. Here they may learn about birds, mammals, and other animals, as well as the rock formations, and the plants that support these animals. Here, away from the city streets, they may regain perspective and a sense of values.

When Justice Douglas led his famous hike along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal from Cumberland to Washington in 1954, it seemed that the preservation of the Canal as an historical and recreational area of outstanding national and local significance would be assured. In 1956 Senator Beall and Representative Hyde (of the Sixth District of Maryland) introduced identical bills to create the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. These bills, which were reintroduced into the present Congress as S. 77 and H.R. 1145, provided for a park of not to exceed 15,000 acres, including several thousand acres to be devoted to a short scenic parkway along Town Hill ridge below Cumberland. The bills authorized the National Park Service to enter into cooperative arrangements with the State of Maryland and its local subdivisions for wildlife propagation, wilderness conservation, public recreation, and related purposes. They also authorized the granting of easements to give local persons and interests access to the Potomac River.

These bills received the whole-hearted support of numerous conservation, recreation and historical groups, both local and national. How-

ever, the Maryland Board of Natural Resources and various persons and groups in the Hagerstown area opposed the bills. When the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs held hearings on the bill last June, the opponents' views were fully presented and were in effect rejected by the Committee. The bill was favorably reported and was passed by the Senate by a large majority.

This year, hearings on the bill should be held by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives, with a view to its passage by the House. Meanwhile, the opponents of the bill have increased their efforts. Their objections, which were summarized in a statement issued by the Maryland Board of Natural Resources, are unsound, and several are actually misleading. Although there is some genuine misunderstanding, the real purpose of many of the opponents is to dismember the Canal property so that it can be used for local purposes, including private profit or exclusive private use.

It is believed that the people of Maryland as a whole strongly favor the creation of the historical park, but the vociferousness of the opponents may mislead the House Committee. Conservationists all over the State need to rally to the support of the bill. To help ensure the passage of H.R. 1145 at the present session of Congress, all members of the Maryland Ornithological Society should write at once to the Hon. Clair Engle, Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C., urging that early hearings on the bill be held and that it be favorably reported and passed. Also write your own Congressman and persuade others to follow your example.

4914 Dorset Ave., Chevy Chase, Md.

#### BE AN ACTIVE CONSERVATIONIST

Elizabeth C. Wood

Ernest Swift, Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation says: "Only in direct ratio to individual responsibility will we have any national responsibility in the management of resources."

In other words let each one of us think about conservation, talk about conservation with anyone we meet, search for new ways that we may help ourselves and others understand the issues and take appropriate action. I know you are all interested and many of you are doing things to help, but the task is so gigantic and moneyed interests and machines press so relentlessly against the few remaining semi-natural habitats that we must be ever more alert and effective if we are to save many wild places in which our native plants and animals may grow and future generations of people may study the natural sciences. In your library consult Farb, Peter. Is a forest working for your town? Reader's Digest 68 (405): 123-125, Jan. 1956; Green, Charlotte Hilton. Greensboro's Camp School. Nature Magazine 49 (7): 371-374, Aug.-Sept. 1956; Taylor, Billie. Wisconsin's school forests. American Forests 63 (10): 16-19ff., Oct. 1957. Mr. G. Flippo Gravatt (3413 Tulane Dr., University Hills, Md.) representing

Nature Conservancy (4200 22nd St., N.E., Washington, D. C.) will be glad to help any local community wishing to establish a school forest. Wisconsin began in 1928 to set aside their 368 school forests. Surely we do not want Maryland children to be completely denied them.

I am writing my Senators and Representative that I support legislation: (1) preventing Japanese from taking North American salmon in small mesh nets; (2) assuring that Idaho Power Company provide and maintain adequate fish handling equipment or be prevented from completing dams in Hells Canyon (Gabrielson found that a high federal dam which was proposed for Hells Canyon would do little damage, would provide so much more power and water storage than the three low company ones that no other dams in the region need be built; other dams already proposed would exterminate fish and elk); (3) establishing experimental salt water treatment plants; (4) establishing a public lands management study commission; (5) establishing the old C. and O. Canal as a National Historical Park; (6) appropriating funds to study the effects of new insecticides on soil, wildlife, and human beings before additional areas are blanketed by spray; (7) increasing U. S. Forest Service leadership in securing cooperation among foresters, not withdrawing cooperation in tree planting as is now proposed; and (8) opposing any extension of Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Let military lands already owned in other states be used for missile testing.

101 Old Crossing Lane, Annapolis

## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. James Anthony, Chestertown  
 Miss Sophia Baker, 102 North Hanson St., Easton  
 Mrs. Charles R. Baldwin, Box 147, Braddock Heights. SKYline 3-7488  
 Mrs. Earl Burky, Talbot Lane, Easton  
 Miss Charlotte Fletcher, St. John's College, Annapolis  
 Miss Mary H. Fletcher, 1131 W. Wakefield Drive, Belleview Apts.,  
 Alexandria, Va. South 5-4166  
 Miss Elizabeth S. Grayson, 4411 Greenway, Baltimore 18  
 Dr. & Mrs. Noel Gross, R.F.D. 6, Frederick. SKYline 3-7451  
 Miss Nola Gross, R.F.D. 6, Frederick. SKYline 3-7451  
 Mr. & Mrs. Herman Hollerith, Jr., Oxford  
 Mrs. Elsie Hovey, 26 Lee Ave., Takoma Park. JUNiper 7-7349  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Memdinhall, Chestertown  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mullican, 503 Lee Place, Frederick. MONument 2-1338  
 Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Nibley, Fort Detrick. Ext. 2236  
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert P. Orth, Route 4, Easton  
 Miss Virginia Scrocco, 3201 North Charles St., Baltimore 18  
 Mr. Phillips Shively, 607 State St., Lancaster, Pa.  
 Mrs. Elizabeth H. Smith, Bayberry Cottage, Oxford  
 W. Aubrey Walker, Rigby's Lot, Easton  
 Rev. & Mrs. Merval Weaver, 117 W. 2nd St., Frederick. MONument 3-6434  
 Miss Barbara Weaver, 117 W. 2nd St., Frederick. MONument 3-6434  
 Mr. F. J. Weirether, 214 E. Church St., Frederick. MONument 3-4680  
 Mrs. J. McKenny Willis, Jr., Sally's Delight, Easton

# COMING EVENTS

- April 13 Baltimore trip to Noble's Mill area of Deer Creek in Harford Co. Meet 7 a.m., Hutzler park. lot, Towson. Rodney B. Jones
- 13 Kent trip to Bombay Hook Refuge. 11 a.m. foot of High St.
- 13 Takoma trip to Paul Bartsch's "Lebanon". Meet 7 a.m. 419 Elm.
- 14 Takoma monthly meeting at Recreation Center. 8 p.m. "Trees".
- 17 Takoma breakfast trip to Violet's Lock. Meet 7 a.m. 419 Elm.
- 19 Baltimore trip to Lake Roland. 8 a.m. Lake & Roland Avenues.
- 20 Talbot migrant breakfast hike. Meet Easton Library 7:30 a.m.
- 20 Baltimore trip to new area W. of Belair Rd. Overlea Loop 8 a.m.
- 25 Baltimore annual meeting, Pratt Library, 8 p.m. W. Bryant Tyrrell, top notch nature photographer, will present his film, "From Maine to Florida".
- 25 Talbot monthly meeting. Easton Library 8 P.M.
- 27 Baltimore trip to Patuxent Refuge. Ward's park. lot. 7:30 a.m.
- 27 Talbot migrant breakfast hike. Meet St. Michael High. 7:30 a.m.
- 30 Baltimore trip to Woodstock. Woodstock Bridge 8 a.m. E. Lubbert
- May 3 STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT. Make count in area of your choice. Turn in list and coverage details at Statewide Convention next week.
- 3 Avid Avists annual meeting and picnic at Martina Luff's
- 3 Baltimore trip to Patapsco Valley. Irving Hampe, Arbutus 1211
- 4 Takoma trip to Port Tobacco. Meet at Thomsen' 419 Elm 7 a.m.
- 9-11 ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION at Camp Greentop in Catoctin State Park west of Thurmont, Frederick Co. Details later.
- 12 Takoma monthly meeting at Recreation Center. 8 p.m. "Trees".
- 16-18 Talbot weekend trip to Ocean City.
- 18 Baltimore trip to Loch Raven. Meet at Hutzler park. lot 8 a.m. Bring lunch. Leader: Charles Buchanan, IDlewood 5-8305
- 18 Takoma trip to Seneca. Meet at the Thomsens' 419 Elm 7 a.m.
- 24-25 Baltimore trip to Ocean City (not State Convention). For information call Miss Burner, Liberty 2-0797. Leader C. Robbins.
- June 8 Takoma annual picnic. Supper trip 4 p.m.
- 8 Baltimore trip to Sugar Loaf Mt. Leader Mrs. Elmer Worthley
- 13-15 Statewide outing for adults at Pleasant Valley Camp, Garrett County. Members in central and eastern Maryland register by June 4 with Mrs. Alma Goldberg, 621 St. Johns Rd., Baltimore Tuxedo 9-5536
- 16-21 Reserve these dates for Pleasant Valley Junior Camp. Details will be announced at Annual Convention, May 9-11
- 19-21 Baltimore trip to N. J. Pine Barrens. Phone Dr. Chas. Stine
- 21 Baltimore trip to Liberty Dam 3 p. m. Liberty & Ward Chapel

Allegany, Caroline, Frederick, and Harford programs were not received in time for inclusion in this list; please consult local announcements.

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Mrs. Gilbert M. Miller of Spring Gap, Md., known to us as Helen Burns Miller, passed away on Mar. 27, after brief illness. Remembered by our members as the genial and vivacious director of Allegany County Junior Nature Conservation Camp, she was also serving as one of our Trustees and as a member of the Editorial Board. Her loss will be sorely felt by the M.O.S. and we extend our deepest sympathy to her fine family.

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