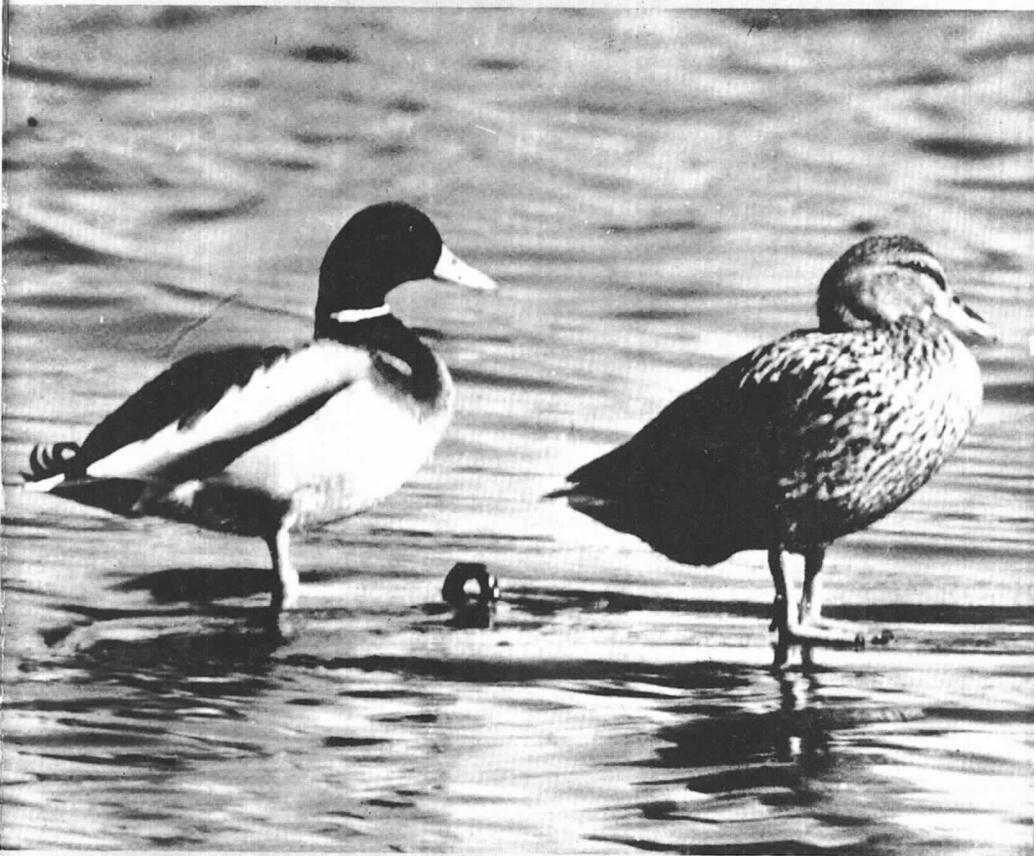


MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Green Spring Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.



Volume 15

MARCH 1959

Number 1

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CONTENTS, MARCH 1959

Occurrence and Measurements of Chickadees	Stephen W. Simon	3
Maryland Nest Summary for 1958	Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher	5
Effect of a Severe Snowstorm	Richard L. Kleen	13
Conservation News	Dr. and Mrs. Hans Krimm	15
1958 County Bird Lists	Richard L. Kleen	16
First Nesting of Cattle Egret in Maryland	G. Ellis Miller	22
Relative Abundance of Adult Male Redstarts	Robbins, Bridge and Feller	23
Helen Miller Audubon Nature Camp Scholarship		25
Junior Column: Rescue of a Horned Grebe	Richard Kelmenson	25
And They Said It Couldn't Be Done	Meade Lloyd	26
The Season--October, November, December	Chandler S. Robbins	28
Scarcity of our Winter Birds	Chandler S. Robbins	34
M. O. S. Membership List		36
Seneca Christmas Bird Count		47
Coming Events		47
Hawk and Owl Bill Introduced in Md. Senate	Krimm and Wood	48
COVER: Mallard Duck. Photograph by Dr. Charles J. Stine		
HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor		

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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OCCURRENCE AND MEASUREMENTS OF BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES AT MONKTON, MD.

Stephen W. Simon

The 46 Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) banded at Monkton, Baltimore County, during the winter of 1954-55 have been discussed by the author in *Maryland Birdlife* 12 (3): 75-85, September 1956. Also mentioned was the one Black-capped Chickadee banded the following year on December 26, 1955. It remained through the spring and summer of 1956 and was last seen on July 25, 1956. It returned two years later when it was caught on March 1, 1958. It did not repeat after that date. A Black-capped was heard singing as late as August 31, 1956, but it was not determined whether or not it was banded. One Black-capped Chickadee was banded on October 4, 1956. It repeated on November 10 and was not seen or heard again that winter.

Another large group of Black-capped Chickadees came to Monkton in the winter of 1957-58. Robbins (*Maryland Birdlife* 14: 26-27) reported that Maryland was at the southern fringe of an invasion. That winter 37 Black-capped Chickadees were banded at Monkton, 9 fewer than during the winter three years before. (Only 10 were banded at Laurel by Robbins as compared with 17 in 1954-55.) The arrival date at Monkton was October 14, 1957, when the first one was banded. The last one was banded and the last one repeated on April 19, 1958. The final departure date was May 2, 1958, when a Black-capped Chickadee was heard singing. (Laurel arrival and departure dates were October 30, 1957 and April 29, 1958.) Table 1 gives a summary of the dates of occurrence at Monkton.

Table 1. Occurrence of Black-capped Chickadees at Monkton

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Banded</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
1954-55	46	10/26/54	6/27/55
1955-56	1	11/ 6/55	8/31/56
1956-57	1	10/ 4/56	11/10/56
1957-58	37 and 1 return	10/14/57	5/ 2/58

For comparison with the data in the earlier article, Table 2 shows the Wing-Tail measurements of Black-capped and Carolina (*P. carolinensis*) Chickadees banded at Monkton since the winter of 1954-55. The measurements were to the nearest 0.5 mm. For convenience, in the table the

0.5 mm. measurements were raised to the next 1.0 mm. (The 6 Carolinas and 9 Black-caps measured at Laurel by Robbins during the winter of 1957-58 fall in the same pattern as the Monkton birds.)

Table 2. Wing and Tail Measurements of Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees Banded at Monkton in 1955-56, 1956-57, and 1957-58

mm.	<u>Tail</u>																	
	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
56		1		1														
57			2															
58	1			2			1											
59			1	2	3													
60			2	1	1	1	2			2								
61				1		2	3	2	1			1	1					
<u>Wing</u> 62					4	5	3	4	1			4	5	1				
63							6	3	1			1	3	1	2			
64						1			4	1			1	1		1	1	
65												1	1	1		3	1	1
66			<u>Carolina</u>							1	1			1			1	
67																3		1
68																1		

Table 3 gives the Tail/Wing ratios for the Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees using measurements to the nearest 0.5 mm.

Table 3. Tail/Wing Ratios of Chickadees Banded since Winter of 1954-55

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>	<u>Range</u>
Black-capped Chickadee	38	.961	.017	.933-1.000
Carolina Chickadee	66	.870	.019	.827- .922

Looking at the measurements of many Maryland chickadees, one sees that there is a greater difference in length between the tail and wing in Carolina Chickadees than in Black-capped Chickadees (Table 4).

Table 4. Difference Between Tail and Wing Lengths

Difference in mm.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Black-capped Chickadee	2	6	12	10	6	2						
Carolina Chickadee					1	2	6	18	16	13	9	1

Wing measurements alone are of little value in separating these two species in Maryland. The difference between the wing length and tail length will separate only about 86 percent of the chickadees. From a sample of 199 chickadees (71 Carolinas and 128 Black-caps), including those banded in 1957-58 by Robbins, all except 2 Carolinas had a wing length of 57 mm. or less, and all except 3 Black-caps had a wing of 59 mm. or more; the zone of overlap was 56 to 59 mm. Ninety-nine percent of the chickadees could be identified correctly by comparing tail and wing measurements with Table 2.

402 Sharp St., Ashland, Ohio

MARYLAND NEST SUMMARY FOR 1958

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher

Several improvements are noted in reports from the 103 participants in the 1958 Nest Study in Maryland. Foremost in aiding the editors was the nearly 100 percent cooperation in the use of standard nest report cards, the use of which simplifies study, and makes it possible to file the results for future use. As usual, some notations are most amusing, some startling, and all of them very useful. An example: "Bald Eagle--seemed big enough for me to take a bath in and be well hidden... One neighbor never lets her little children play outside without a grown person nearby." (Sterling Edwards). And another: about a Starling "2 birds carried nesting material for about 2 weeks. Roofers came and repaired roof, blocking out Starling. Two frustrated and bewildered Starlings! Don't know where they moved." (Sarah Quinn).

Speaking of Mr. Edwards, he should come in for special commendation. His nests were very diversified, representing broad coverage, and his work covered a sizable area in four counties. Another valuable worker is Miss Elizabeth Slater in Anne Arundel County. These two persons have been most useful to the editors in assuming some responsibility to act as "county editors." This scheme has not materialized fully, but it offers promise for improving the whole study method.

Several contributors unwittingly put two nesting actions on single cards--in the case of parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. When a cowbird uses the nest of another species, this is actually nesting activity on the part of two species, and two cards should be filled out. Your editors would like to improve the information on cowbird nest data by having full data on each species on separate cards.

Unusual reports on several species, three of which are first records for the State, make 1958 a good year. The Short-eared Owl was found by John Warren, an observant employee of the Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission. For the past three years it was known that Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were present near Golden Hill, but it was the good fortune of two Fish and Wildlife Service employees, Brooke Meanley and Robert E. Stewart, to actually observe the mated pair in action. Chandler S. Robbins heard young Brown Creepers while on a field trip at the Allegany County Junior Nature Camp at Pleasant Valley, Garrett County, and Rebecca Gregar actually found the young birds to establish the first breeding record for Maryland. Two nests seldom found were reported: Chuck-will's-widow from Dorchester County, and Cerulean Warbler along the Potomac in Washington County. And a species so new to Maryland that the thrill of seeing one has not yet disappeared; the Cattle Egret is making real progress in Worcester County.

The 1958 records include nesting evidence for 119 species--the largest number ever reported in Maryland during a single year. Only one nest each was reported for twenty-seven species. The persons who reported these nests rendered a contribution to our effort out of proportion to their achievement. Several counties reported fewer than four

SUMMARY OF ALL 1958 MARYLAND NESTS REPORTED

	A l n	A n	B l	C l	C r	C l	D l	F r	G r	H r	H r	K r	M n	P n	Q n	S M	T l	W s	W s	W s	T o
Pied-billed Grebe														1							1
Green Heron														1						25	26
Little Blue Heron																			*	*	*
Cattle Egret																			14		14
Common Egret																			*	*	*
Snowy Egret																				3	3
Louisiana Heron																			*	*	*
Black-cr. Night Heron																			1		1
Least Bittern							1														1
Glossy Ibis																				25	25
Mallard	1				1							*									2
Black Duck		2			2	1								2						2	9
Wood Duck					1	1						5	6	1							14
Bald Eagle		1								1											2
Osprey		1									1									1	3
Sparrow Hawk					1						2	1									4
Ruffed Grouse									1												1
Bobwhite		2			2						2							1			7
Clapper Rail		1																			1
Virginia Rail						1															1
Am. Oystercatcher																				2	2
Killdeer		2	1		3								1	1							8
Willet							1													5	6
Herring Gull																	8			3	11
Laughing Gull																			*	*	*
Gull-billed Tern																				2	2
Forster's Tern																				36	36
Common Tern																				256	256
Least Tern															120					14	134
Royal Tern																				88	88
Black Skimmer																				53	53
Mourning Dove		1	2		2	1	3						4	3			1				17
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			1							1											2
Black-billed Cuckoo										1											1
Barn Owl							3														3
Screech Owl												2									2
Barred Owl			1																		1
Short-eared Owl							1														1
Chuck-will's-widow							1														1
Common Nighthawk					1			1													2
Chimney Swift			1		1																2
Ruby-th. Hummingbird		1			3			1			1										6
Belted Kingfisher					1																1
Yellow-sh. Flicker							2	1										1			4
Red-bel. Woodpecker					2						2	1									5
Hairy Woodpecker								1					1								2
Downy Woodpecker					2								1								3
Red-cockaded Woodpk.							1														1
Eastern Kingbird		1	1		7	2	1	1			4	2	1								20
Great Crested Flyc.		1			1						1	1	2								6
Eastern Phoebe	1	2			2	1	1	3	1	2											15
Acadian Flycatcher		1			1				1			2	2								7
Eastern Wood Pewee		1	3		1						1	2									8
Horned Lark																			1		1
Tree Swallow					1			1		1											3
Bank Swallow	669																				669
Rough-winged Swallow					1					2	5										8
Barn Swallow		11	2		7		30			20	38	35	4								147

*Count indefinite, see annotations

nests, and Cecil, Charles and Somerset had none. Caroline County led with 56 species recorded, and Montgomery was next with 51 species.

Each year the organization of contributors becomes more powerful. Adults with ten or more nests to their credit are Elsie Bilbrough, Walter Booth, Winifred Bright, Margarete Butenschoen, Sterling Edwards, Roberta Fletcher, Mrs. Carl Francis, Katherine Goodpasture, Marvin Hewitt, Leonard Llewellyn, Erana Lubbert, Z. Porter, Sarah Quinn, Chandler Robbins, Carol Scudder, Stephen Simon, Elizabeth Slater, Robert Stewart, John Webb, Hazel White and Jean Worthley. Twenty-eight juniors contributed: H. Armistead, K. Brown, S. Dobbs, R. Fletcher, R. Feller, B. Folk, J. Farley, D. Gibson, H. Kaestner, P. Little, M. Low, H. McMullan, T. Moore, B. Miller, A. Nilson, J. Robbins, S. Robbins, B. Robb, M. Resser, T. Ruebush, J. Scudder, C. Smith, P. VanNewkirk, B. Worthley, M. Wilson, B. Wood, J. Workmeister and J. Willets. Juniors who supplied the largest number of records were Dan Gibson, 117 nests; Terry Moore, 37; Trenton Ruebush, 25; and Harry Armistead, 17.

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

- PIED-BILLED GREBE -- A brood of 5 was found at Patuxent Refuge, Sept. 22, by Robert E. Stewart (Maryland Birdlife 14: 97).
- GREAT BLUE HERON -- Although known to nest regularly, no report was received in 1958.
- COMMON EGRET -- Most of the young were out of nests on Mills Island by July 2. Chandler S. Robbins and RES report increase over prior yrs.
- SNOWY EGRET -- 31 banded by RES and CSR on Mills Island, and Middle and South Islands off South Point, Worcester Co., on July 2.
- GREEN HERON -- Walter Booth flushed adult from Montgomery Co. nest, May 23. Many eggs and young found in coastal colonies, July 2 (CSR, RES).
- CATTLE EGRET -- 14 nests were found on Mills Island by Jacob Valentine. For detailed account see Raven 29 (8): 68-96, August 1958.
- LOUISIANA HERON -- July 2, 2 young banded, Mills and South Is. (CSR, RES).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON -- Young in all stages in Mills Is. colony, July 2.
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- Only occupied nest reported was one at Mills Is., July 2; other young birds, nearly grown, were in the treetops. Either many had already left the island, or there was a marked decline this year (Audubon Field Notes 12: 403).
- LEAST BITTERN -- One nest with 4 eggs in grassy marsh at Elliott Island on July 10 (Harry Armistead).
- GLOSSY IBIS -- Nests were found in Red Cedars on Mills Island. Three young were banded on July 2 (RES, CSR) (Maryland Birdlife 14: 76).
- MALLARD -- Apr. 12 nest with 10 eggs, Caroline Co. (Robert Fletcher).
- BLACK DUCK -- Earliest nest this year held 11 eggs, Apr. 7, in Anne Arundel Co. (Hans and Dorothy Krimm).
- WOOD DUCK -- At Whites Ferry, Montgomery Co., 1 brood of 22 young on May 24 (WB). Nest of 14 eggs reported from Kent Co., $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from water in farmyard (Richard McCown).

- BALD EAGLE -- Reported building on Jan. 26, Anne Arundel Co. (Mrs. Barnes); another nest reported from Harford Co. (Sterling W. Edwards).
- OSPREY -- A pair perched on nest, Mar. 28 in Kent Co. (Daniel Gibson); building in Anne Arundel Co., Apr. 3 (V. Henderson, E. Tappan).
- SPARROW HAWK -- A fledgling out of its nest was fed by an adult in an abandoned school near Denton on June 21 (A. J. Fletcher).
- RUFFED GROUSE -- 8 eggs in a Garrett County nest on June 19 (Buddy Folk and Jean Worthley).
- BOBWHITE -- Anne Arundel Co. nest with 18 eggs on June 8 (VH, ET).
- CLAPPER RAIL -- Adults with 3 downy young on June 29 at Churchton in Anne Arundel Co. (H. E. Slater).
- VIRGINIA RAIL -- Nest with newly hatched eggs, Elliott Is., July 8 (HA).
- AM. OYSTERCATCHER -- Young out of nests, July 3, Sinepuxent Bay (RES).
- KILLDEER -- Earliest nest reported on Mar. 28, Anne Arundel Co. (HES).
- WILLET -- Eggs on May 24 on Sinepuxent Bay island (Robbins et al.).
- HERRING GULL -- First nesting record for coastal Maryland on Chincoteague Bay in June (Neil Hotchkiss, Ellis Miller and R. B. McCartney) (Md. Birdlife 14: 93). Talbot Co. (Sharps Is.) had 8 nests, July 1 (HA).
- LAUGHING GULL -- 35 young banded off South Point, Worcester Co., July 2 (William Kiel, RES and CSR).
- GULL-BILLED TERN -- Two nests with eggs in Sinepuxent Bay area (RES).
- FORSTER'S TERN -- Eggs and young at Robins Marsh, Worcester Co., June 27 (NH, EM) and July 2 (CSR, RES).
- COMMON TERN -- Nests with young on June 19 (Mrs. M. B. Donnalld), Ocean City; and many young banded on July 2 (WK, CSR and RES).
- LEAST TERN -- Young seen on June 19 at Ocean City (MBD); 120 nests with eggs in southern Queen Annes County in June (Vernon Stotts).
- ROYAL TERN -- 165 banded off South Pt., Worcester Co., July 2 (RES, CSR).
- BLACK SKLMMER -- An early nest with young on June 19; 63 other nests reported from same area with young and eggs, July 2 and 3 (CSR, RES).
- MOURNING DOVE -- Frederick Co. had a nest by Apr. 21 (Sarah Quinn); Mrs. Donnalld reported a nest used for 2 broods in Montgomery Co.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- Adult feeding young in Baltimore Co. nest on June 4 (Mrs. Carl G. Francis).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO -- Billy Worthley found a nest with 3 young in Garrett Co. on June 14.
- BARN OWL -- Three nests in Blackwater Refuge towers on Mar. 23 (DG).
- SCREECH OWL -- Richard McCown found 2 nests with 3 young each in Kent Co.
- BARRED OWL -- Young owls seen with adult on Johns Hopkins campus in Baltimore on May 18 (Krimm).
- SHORT-EARED OWL -- On May 13, John Warren found a nest of 5 half-grown young in a brackish marsh of Dorchester Co., near the mouth of the Blackwater River. This is the first positive breeding record for the species in the State (Stewart, Atlantic Naturalist 13: 246-247).
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW -- "Nest on ground in open stand of Loblolly Pine, beneath a small partly bent over Sweet Gum, and fairly well hidden by scattered growth of Wax Myrtle" with 2 downy young, June 18 (Brooke Meanley, RES and John Webb) (Atlantic Naturalist 13: 257).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- Nest of 2 eggs in Caroline Co. on May 26 (Tom Robbins); adult with 2 young in nest, June 10, Frederick Co. (Hazel White).
- CHEMNEY SWIFT -- 4 eggs in Baltimore Co. nest, Aug. 12 (Stephen W. Simon).

- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- A bird observed on Frederick nest, May 25 (HW); one Caroline Co. fledgling left nest on June 19 and the second left the same nest June 25 outside a Denton window (John W. Haycock).
- BELTED KINGFISHER -- Adult flew from Caroline Co. nest site, June 9 (MWH).
- YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER -- Making nest in Frederick Co. on May 18 (SQ).
- RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER -- Adult fed 2 young on May 30 in Caroline Co. (Carol Scudder). Immature in same county was fed on Aug. 20 (Alicia Knotts).
- HAIRY WOODPECKER -- Young were heard in a Prince Georges Co. nest, May 16-30 (CSR).
- DOWNY WOODPECKER -- On June 10 an adult was feeding young out of the nest at Greensboro, Caroline Co. (Z. Porter).
- RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER -- Occupied nest found in mature Loblolly Pine about 3 miles from Golden Hill, Dorchester Co., May 30 (Brooke Meanley and RES) (Maryland Birdlife 14: 63). First Maryland nest record.
- EASTERN KINGBIRD -- Building in Caroline Co. on May 3 (R. B. Fletcher).
- GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- May 25 is earliest date in Caroline Co. Adult added pine needles to nest after nestlings were partly grown-- were these added to control vermin? (ZP).
- EASTERN PHOEBE -- Young left a Baltimore Co. nest on May 30 (SWS).
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER -- Young were out of an Anne Arundel Co. nest on June 18 (VH, ET). Howard Co. nest had 2 young on Aug. 15 (Mrs. G. C. Munro and CSR).
- EASTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 2 young fed out of Caroline Co. nest, Sept. 4 (MWH).
- HORNED LARK -- Samuel H. Dyke found a nest of 4 young on May 8 in Worcester Co. The nest was later destroyed by heavy rains.
- TREE SWALLOW -- Adult at nesting perch at Garland Lake, Caroline Co., June 3 (RBF). Nest in box 3 feet above lake at Pleasant Valley in Garrett Co. on June 14 (Stuart Robbins).
- BANK SWALLOW -- 669 nests in good condition were counted near Sandy Point, June 8. Much activity there, July 1, with some nests still under construction and young leaving others; 2000 birds estimated (RES).
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- On June 1, adults were at nesting site at Denton. Walter Booth reported an adult entering a drainpipe in a bank with food, at Little Falls, Montgomery Co., June 29.
- BARN SWALLOW -- Earliest nest building, Apr. 30, in Caroline Co. (Ethel Poore). Montgomery nest had young as late as Aug. 23 (WB).
- CLIFF SWALLOW -- On June 7, Booth saw birds apparently taking food to young in a colony of Barn Swallows on Brighton Dam. He also found Prince Georges County's first nests since 1898 (Md. Birdlife 14:87).
- PURPLE MARTIN -- Building began by Apr. 25. A colony of 30 pairs was destroyed by a Raccoon and a Pilot Blacksnake at the Fletchers'. Other counties reported that birds had left boxes by Aug. 1.
- BLUE JAY -- Caroline County had a nest with 3 eggs, May 14 (ZP).
- COMMON CROW -- A Baltimore Co. nest, 30 ft. up, had 5 young on May 12 (Wilson Fadeley).
- CAROLINA CHICKADEE -- Building on Apr. 12 at Chevy Chase (Mrs. Donald).
- TUFTED TITMOUSE -- Adults building at Denton, Apr. 15 (Winifred Bright).
- BROWN CREEPER -- First Maryland breeding record: 2 adults with 2 young on Meadow Mountain, June 14 (Rebecca Cregar, CSR et al.)
- HOUSE WREN -- Nest started by Apr. 15 at Denton (M. Butenschoen). Late young with heads out of nest in Anne Arundel Co., Aug. 13 (RES).

- BEWICK'S WREN -- Five eggs in a nest in a mail box, May 18, in Allegany County (Leonard M. Llewellyn).
- CAROLINA WREN -- On May 15, a nest with 3 young in Calvert Co. (Trenton K. Ruebush).
- LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN -- Nest in Kent Co., June 24 (DG). Two nests in lower Dorchester Co., July 8 and 10, each with 4 young (HA).
- SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN -- Anna and Brooke Meanley found a nest of 6 eggs in Elliott Island marsh on July 12.
- MOCKINGBIRD -- Butenschoen had a late record of adult bringing young to feed in Yew at Denton on Sept. 11. Color-banded adults nested for second season at Churchton, where they also wintered (HES).
- CATBIRD -- Adults were building in Frederick Co. on May 7 (SQ). Young left a Queen Annes Co. nest on Aug. 30 (RBF).
- BROWN THRASHER -- A Caroline County nest was built by Apr. 20 (MB).
- ROBIN -- Birds were building in Caroline Co. by Apr. 18 (E. V. Bilbrough). Two young left a Federalsburg nest on Sept. 16 (CS).
- WOOD THRUSH -- Howard Co. had an early egg date, May 17 (WB). A Baltimore City nest contained Scotch tape and other debris (Krimm).
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- Steve Simon saw adults carrying nesting material on Apr. 15 and banded 3 young as late as Aug. 5 in Baltimore Co.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- Nest being built at Robbins Nest near Laurel in Prince Georges Co. on May 3 (CSR).
- CEDAR WAXWING -- Pair building on June 7 in Anne Arundel Co. (HES). Gibson reported young being fed in a Kent Co. nest on July 1.
- STARLING -- Building as early as Mar. 10 at Frederick (SQ).
- WHITE-EYED VIREO -- Adults carrying food, June 21, Montgomery Co. (WB).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO -- Adult observed on nest, June 21, near Laurel-- in same tree as above gnatcatcher nest (CSR).
- RED-EYED VIREO -- Baltimore Co. had a nest by May 12 (EL).
- WARBLING VIREO -- On May 16 Mrs. H. C. Heineman found a nest in Allegany Co. On May 28 she saw an adult singing on the nest.
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- Two nests in Washington Co., May 31 (SWE).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER -- Simon found a nest with 5 eggs at the base of a small tree in Baltimore Co. on May 30; it was unsuccessful. He found another nest on June 29 with 4 young that he banded on July 4.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- A nest, on the ground, in Frederick Co. with 3 young and 1 egg on June 14 (WB and James Bruce).
- YELLOW WARBLER -- Jean and Elmer Worthley found a nest with 4 eggs on May 21 in Baltimore Co. Two fledglings and one Brown-headed Cowbird left a Montgomery Co. nest on June 16 (Katherine A. Goodpasture).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER -- 4 nestlings were banded in Garrett Co. on June 14 (found by Homer R. Rizner, banded by CSR).
- CERULEAN WARBLER -- A nest found along the C&O Canal in Washington Co. about 16 feet up in an Elm on May 31 (SWE).
- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 2 nests with eggs on June 18 and 1 with young on June 19, all in Garrett Co. (Worthley, Folk, Wilson, Resser).
- PINE WARBLER -- Young out of the nest being fed in Dorchester Co. (HA).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER -- A nest was built in a Lilac bush near a window in Greensboro, but was abandoned with parasitized by a Brown-headed Cowbird (May 30 to June 6, RBF and ZP).
- OVENBIRD -- Birds building in Frederick Co. by May 11 (I. E. Hamppe). Young being fed in Caroline Co., June 8 (MWH).

- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH -- Adult seen feeding young out of nest on June 14 at Swallow Falls State Park, Garrett County (CSR).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 3 eggs in a Prince Georges Co. nest on May 21 (Ronald Feller).
- YELLOWTHROAT -- Earliest nesting date reported was from Prince Georges Co. with a nest containing 4 eggs on May 23 (David Bridge).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- Edwards reported a Frederick Co. nest, May 18.
- AMERICAN REDSTART -- Birds finished a Harford Co. nest on May 12 (EL).
- HOUSE SPARROW -- Records this year show earliest date Apr. 1 in Caroline Co. This species was reported appropriating nests of other species in several counties.
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- A nest on June 5 had 4 eggs in Kent Co. (DG).
- REDWINGED BLACKBIRD -- Anne Arundel Co. nest had 2 eggs by May 12 (HES).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE -- Adults building on May 21 in Baltimore Co. (J&EW).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE -- Began building in Caroline Co., May 4 (EVB), and in Frederick Co., May 11 (Maryland Ornithological Society field trip).
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- Three young out of nest in Dorchester Co. on June 30 (HA). Many nests with young and a few with eggs in Worcester Co., July 3 (CSR).
- COMMON GRACKLE -- Building in Baltimore Co., Apr. 2 (EL). Breeze Wood and Margaret Low found 30 nests in the ironwork of a Monocacy River bridge on an MOS field trip, May 10. A nestling banded at Adelphi in Prince Georges Co. on May 24 (John S. Webb) was recaptured at Patuxent Research Refuge near Laurel on July 23.
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- Earliest record of young was in the nest of a Song Sparrow on May 20 in Montgomery Co. (KAG).
- SCARLET TANAGER -- Young were in a Garrett Co. nest on June 14 (JW).
- SUMMER TANAGER -- Booth reported a female with nesting material on May 14 in Montgomery Co.
- CARDINAL -- Earliest date was Apr. 28, 3 eggs in Caroline Co. (EVB).
- BLUE GROSBEEK -- A nest on Patuxent Refuge, made mostly of Kleenex, was found on June 5 (Llewellyn and Schmid). A Caroline Co. family (3 young and adults) stayed together from July 1 to Oct. 5 (CS).
- INDIGO BUNTING -- Building in Prince Georges Co. by May 28. Mrs. Scudder spent 3 days locating a nest only 3 feet from the ground in a Caroline Co. alder thicket.
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- Incubating in Montgomery Co. on Aug. 18 (KAG). Adult feeding 2 immatures on Sept. 5 in Caroline Co. (RBF).
- RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE -- Two eggs in Caroline Co. nest, May 24. One nest in Frederick Co. had 5 eggs on June 14 (Booth and James Bruce).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- Adult carrying food in Caroline Co., June 3 (MWH). In Montgomery Co., adult was with young on July 25 (WB).
- SEASIDE SPARROW -- Four young in nest in Elliott Island marsh, Dorchester Co., June 7 (CSR).
- VESPER SPARROW -- Adult carrying food on June 14, Montgomery Co. (WB).
- CHIPPING SPARROW -- Earliest nesting date reported from Caroline Co., May 3 (MB). Young were fed in the same county, Aug. 31 (RBF).
- FIELD SPARROW -- Simon found a nest with 4 eggs in Baltimore Co., May 26.
- SWAMP SPARROW -- 3 young in Garrett Co. nest, June 14 (CSR).
- SONG SPARROW -- First nesting evidence was in Caroline Co., Apr. 13 (EVB).

THE EFFECT OF A SEVERE SNOWSTORM ON THE WINTER BIRD POPULATION
OF THE ST. MICHAELS AREA

Richard L. Kleen.

The St. Michaels area suffered one of the most disastrous snowstorms of recent years when, on February 15 and 16 of 1958, six inches of snow fell upon Talbot County. Winds during the period reached gale proportions and drifts of five and six feet were not uncommon in various sections of the county. The snow remained upon the ground for ten days and temperatures were well below freezing most of the period. Table 1 gives an indication of the weather conditions as they existed during the period of the storm and the week which followed. This weather information was furnished by John Swaine, who operates a meteorological station at Royal Oak, three miles from the center of the St. Michaels Christmas Count area.

Table 1. Royal Oak Weather Record

February 1958 date	Maximum temp.	Minimum temp.	Snowfall 24 hours	Snow on ground
15	39°	20°	1"	1"
16	25°	21°	5"	6"
17	14°	5°	--	6"
18	18°	10°	trace	6"
19	36°	14°	--	5"
20	37°	26°	--	4"
21	44°	17°	--	3"
22	48°	29°	--	2"
23	42°	23°	--	1"

Although the storm was merely inconvenient to man, the birdlife of Talbot County appeared to be seriously affected. There were reports of dead birds from all sections of the county. One birder, hiking from his snow-bound home to St. Michaels, a distance of two miles, counted ten dead and frozen birds along his path. Coveys of Bobwhite (Colinus virginianus), which had been counted prior to the storm, were found to be reduced in numbers. A number of reports were received of birds found dead at feeding stations. Reports of cannibalism among Brown Thrashers (Toxostoma rufum), Mockingbirds (Mimus polyglottos), and Blue Jays (Cyanocitta cristata) also were obtained.

This reduction in our birdlife seemed to be significant. However, it was not until the compilation of the St. Michaels Christmas Bird Count on December 21, 1958, that the great damage to our wildlife could actually be measured through comparison with counts from previous years. Table 2 presents some of the information which was derived from our Christmas Counts. It compares the population of the permanent resident land birds for the past four years. The last column gives the percentage of individuals of the various species found in 1958 as compared to the average of the three previous years.

Table 2. Population Indices for Permanent Residents

<u>Species</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>% of 3-yr average</u>
Bobwhite	215	193	257	124	56
Red-bellied Woodpecker	26	25	65	31	80
Hairy Woodpecker	18	7	16	23	168
Downy Woodpecker	80	41	72	41	64
Carolina Chickadee	347	182	437	134	42
Tufted Titmouse	76	57	78	66	94
Carolina Wren	148	78	117	14	12
Mockingbird	137	129	263	120	68
Eastern Bluebird	153	115	258	126	72
Cardinal	320	491	504	331	76
Song Sparrow	576	418	516	384	76

The most dramatic reduction appeared in the population of Carolina Wrens (Thryothorus ludovicianus). Our wren population dropped from 117 in 1957 to 14 in 1958. The count in 1958 was only 12 percent of the average of the three prior years. The Carolina Wren also decreased from 10 to 2 in the two latest Spring Migration Surveys. The fact that the Carolina Wren is a bird of the underbrush, seldom being found higher than three or four feet, is probably a significant factor in its decimation. A pronounced drop also occurred in the population of seven other permanent resident species: Bobwhite, Downy Woodpecker (Dendrocopos pubescens), Carolina Chickadee (Parus carolinensis), Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis), Cardinal (Richmondia cardinalis), and Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Less noticeable reductions appeared in the populations of the Tufted Titmouse (Parus bicolor) and Red-bellied Woodpecker (Centurus carolinus). The numbers of the Hairy Woodpecker (Dendrocopos villosus) actually increased according to this study.

The storm affected other than the permanent resident species. There were also great reductions in the number of certain less hardy species that regularly winter in Talbot County in small numbers. Towhees, Catbirds (Dumetella carolinensis), Crown Thrashers, Field Sparrows (Spizella pusilla), Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus), and Robins (Turdus migratorius) were much harder to find during our past Christmas Count than in previous years. Our winter visitors also appeared to suffer from the period of snow, as White-throated Sparrows (Zonotrichia albicollis) and Slate-colored Juncos (Junco hyemalis) also were greatly reduced in numbers. Table 3 compares the populations of these two groups for the last two years.

It will be interesting to see how many years it will take for our bird populations to reach the numbers that previously occurred. That they will once again reach these numbers is almost certain. Periods of freezing and snowy conditions during which food is difficult for our birds to obtain have happened since before the beginnings of recorded ornithological history. Population fluctuations are part of the total picture of wildlife. Prior to this storm there were a number of years during which no serious weather conditions occurred in our county. Avian

populations built up. With this storm we must assume that the birds which died were, in the most part, the weaker individuals. Those that remain are generally the stronger and more virile members of the species. In the long run this periodic killing of the weaker individuals improves the species and makes it more able to compete in the harshly competitive society of nature.

Table 3. Population Indices for Less Hardy Winter Residents

<u>Species</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Killdeer	74	10	Rufous-sided Towhee	40	11
Catbird	2	1	Slate-colored Junco	1840	1181
Brown Thrasher	9	1	Field Sparrow	881	122
Robin	129	77	White-throated Sp.	2982	1726

We must remember that only man cares for the individual. In all other creatures, the individual is of little importance. The primary importance lies in continuation of the species. We are assuming a false and foolish attitude when we attempt to look upon wildlife as we look upon man. Let us think of this storm and like storms objectively, not just with a feeling of sorrow and regret at the multitude of dead birds, but also with a feeling of awe at the grand and perfect plan which has brought all this about.

Box 122, St. Michaels

CONSERVATION NEWS

Senator Hubert Humphrey (Minn.) in a recent communication has assured us that he will continue his efforts for action on "The Wilderness Bill" (S.1123; H.R. 1960, H.R. 4367, etc.) in the 86th Congress. Preservation of our wilderness resources is of the greatest importance to the whole nation and of special interest to all nature lovers. The pending measure has run up against strong opposition from some self-interest groups, and its passage depends largely upon public support. Conservationists are now writing to their Congressional representatives and to Hon. Wayne Aspinall, Chairman, House Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Many other conservation measures mentioned in the March and December 1958 issues are still pending. Bills favored by conservationists include the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Historical Park bill; Saylor's bill (H.R. 951) to change Dinosaur National Monument into Dinosaur National Park; bills to establish Indiana Dunes, Cape Cod, Wisconsin Moraine, and Padre Island National Parks. Conservationists also hope to double sewage treatment grants. However, they oppose spending large sums for fire ant control prior to a thorough investigation of the effects of toxic chemicals on wildlife and domestic animals. Your Senators, Hon. John Marshall Butler and J. Glenn Beall, are interested in learning your views on these issues.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Krimm

1958 COUNTY BIRD LISTS

Richard L. Kleen

For the fifth year Marylanders have compiled yearly bird lists for the twenty-three counties of our State. This year the coverage has been more extensive and intensive than ever before, with many MOS members reporting very complete lists for their areas. Fourteen of our counties increased their totals from last year, some of them dramatically. Only nine counties decreased in number of species observed. This year the least well-covered area was Carroll, the only county that did not record at least 100 birds. Five counties recorded 200 birds or over. Worcester led the way as it has in the past four years with 240. Rounding out the charmed 200 circle were Anne Arundel with 216, Talbot with 210, Prince Georges with 204, and Montgomery with an even 200.

This year three species were added to the five-year total. The Harris' Sparrow was reported in Allegany and Montgomery Counties. The Lark Bunting was seen in Dorchester, and a House Finch was shot in Harford. The Lark Bunting and Harris' Sparrows were probably strays from the West. The House Finch, however, was possibly an advance guard from the expanding colony in Long Island, Connecticut, and northern New Jersey.

Of exceptional interest were three hybrids. Brewster's Warblers were observed in Frederick, Montgomery and Howard Counties, and a Lawrence's Warbler in Frederick County. The third was a Cliff Swallow-Barn Swallow cross reported by Walter Booth in Montgomery County.

The total number of species recorded was 286. The county by county total is listed for comparison purposes.

Garrett	100	Montgomery	200	Queen Annes	149
Allegany	142	Pr. Georges	204	Caroline	172
Washington	125	Anne Arundel	216	Talbot	210
Frederick	170	Calvert	167	Dorchester	187
Carroll	69	Charles	114	Wicomico	136
Baltimore	195	St. Marys	164	Somerset	138
Harford	116	Cecil	151	Worcester	240
Howard	163	Kent	167		

Special recognition must be given to those who contributed lists of observations. Almost sixty members and friends of the MOS contributed. The most nearly complete reports were submitted by the following:

Garrett Co.--Dan Folk, Jr.; Allegany Co.--Pan Minke, Charlotte Richardson; Washington Co.--Mrs. L. L. Mallonee, Jr., Dr. Ralph Stauffer; Frederick Co.--Dr. John Richards; Carroll and Baltimore Cos.--Jean and Elmer Worthley; Harford Co.--Evelyn Gregory; Howard Co.--Chandler S. Robbins, Walter Booth; Montgomery Co.--Walter Booth, Seth H. Low; Prince Georges Co.--David Bridge, Ronald Feller; Anne Arundel Co.--Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Friel Sanders, Elizabeth Slater; Calvert Co.--Friel Sanders, Elizabeth Slater; Charles Co.--Dr. and Mrs. Hans Krimm; St. Marys Co.--James M. Banagan; Cecil Co.--J. Whitney Day, Rev. Walden Pell II; Kent Co.--Danny Gibson; Queen Annes Co.--Richard and Martha Dubois, Terry Moore; Caroline Co.--A. J. Fletcher, Terry Moore; Talbot Co.--Richard L. Kleen; Dorchester Co.--Harry Armistead; Wicomico & Somerset Cos.--Samuel H. Dyke; Worcester Co.--many members.

Box 122, St. Michaels

	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	l a a o	o r n a	h t e e	u s a a o	i o 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	
Cooper's Hawk	x x	x x	x x x x	x x	x x x x	x x x	17
Red-tailed Hawk	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	23
Red-shouldered Hawk	x x x x	x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	20
Broad-winged Hawk	x x x x	x x	x x	x x	x x	x x x	15
Rough-legged Hawk	x	x	x			x	5
Golden Eagle	x		x			x	3
Bald Eagle	x x	x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x	16
Marsh Hawk	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	21
Osprey	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	20
Peregrine Falcon			x x x	x		x	5
Pigeon Hawk	x		x x x			x	5
Sparrow Hawk	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	23
Ruffed Grouse	x x x x						4
Bobwhite	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	23
Ring-necked Pheasant.	x x x	x x	x x x	x		x	10
Turkey	x					x	3
King Rail			x	x x	x x	x	6
Clapper Rail			x	x	x x	x	5
Virginia Rail			x	x	x x	x	4
Sora	x			x	x x	x	5
Black Rail					x	x	2
Common Gallinule			x	x	x		3
American Coot	x	x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	18
Am. Oystercatcher						x	1
Piping Plover						x	1
Wilson's Plover			x				1
Semipalmated Plover		x	x x	x x	x x x	x	9
Killdeer	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	23
American Golden Plover					x	x	2
Black-bellied Plover			x	x	x	x	4
Ruddy Turnstone			x		x x	x	4
American Woodcock	x x x	x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	17
Common Snipe	x x	x x	x x x x	x x	x x x x	x x	16
Whimbrel						x	1
Upland Plover	x	x x x	x	x			6
Spotted Sandpiper	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	20
Solitary Sandpiper	x x	x x	x x x	x	x x x x	x x	14
Willet			x x			x x	5
Greater Yellowlegs		x x	x x x	x x	x x x x	x x x	14
Lesser Yellowlegs		x x	x x		x x x x	x	10
Knot						x	1
Purple Sandpiper						x	1
Pectoral Sandpiper				x	x	x	3
White-rumped Sandpiper	x		x	x	x		4
Least Sandpiper		x	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x	13
Dunlin			x		x x x	x	5
Short-billed Dowitcher			x		x x	x	4
Stilt Sandpiper				x	x		2
Semipalmated Sandpiper		x	x x	x x x	x x x	x	10
Western Sandpiper			x	x	x x	x	5
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			x				1
Marbled Godwit						x	1
Sanderling			x	x	x	x	4
Gt. Black-backed Gull		x	x x	x x x	x x	x	9
Herring Gull	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	21

	G A W F	C B H H	M P A C	C S C K	Q C T D	# S W T
	a l a r	l a a o	o r n v	h t e e	u a a o	i o o o
	r l s e	l l r w	n i n t	a M c n	e r l r	c m r t
Cerulean Warbler	x x x	x x x	x x			7
Blackburnian Warbler	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x	x x	x 14
Yellow-throated Warbler		x	x x x		x x x x	x x x 11
Chestnut-sided Warbler	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x	x x	14
Bay-breasted Warbler	x	x	x x x	x	x	x 8
Blackpoll Warbler	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x	x x 14
Pine Warbler	x	x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x 13
Prairie Warbler	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x 20
Palm Warbler	x x	x x	x x x		x x x	x 11
Ovenbird	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 22
Northern Waterthrush	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x	x x x x	x x 17
Louisiana Waterthrush	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x 18
Kentucky Warbler	x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x 19
Connecticut Warbler			x x x			x 4
Mourning Warbler	x	x x	x x x		x	x 8
Yellowthroat	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Yellow-breasted Chat	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Hooded Warbler	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	x	x x 18
Wilson's Warbler	x	x x	x x x		x	x 8
Canada Warbler	x x x x	x x	x x x x	x x	x x x	x 16
American Redstart	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x 21
House Sparrow	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Bobolink	x x x	x	x x x x	x x	x x x x	x x 16
Eastern Meadowlark	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Redwinged Blackbird	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Orchard Oriole	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x 21
Baltimore Oriole	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x 20
Rusty Blackbird	x	x x	x x x	x	x x x	x 12
Boat-tailed Grackle					x	x x 3
Common Grackle	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Brown-headed Cowbird	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Scarlet Tanager	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Summer Tanager		x x	x x x x	x x	x x x x	x x x 14
Cardinal	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	x x x x	x x	x x x x	x	x x	x 14
Blue Grosbeak	x	x	x x x x	x	x x x x	x 12
Indigo Bunting	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x 22
Dickcissel	x	x x				x 4
Evening Grosbeak	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x	x x x x	x 17
Purple Finch	x x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x	x x 19
House Finch		x				1
Pine Siskin	x	x	x x x	x	x x x	9
American Goldfinch	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Rufous-sided Towhee	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 23
Lark Bunting					x	1
Ipswich Sparrow						x 1
Savannah Sparrow	x x	x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x 17
Grasshopper Sparrow	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x	x x x	x 18
Henslow's Sparrow	x		x x x		x x x	x 8
Sharp-tailed Sparrow		x		x x	x x	x 5
Seaside Sparrow			x x		x x	x 5
Vesper Sparrow	x x x x	x x x x	x x x		x x x	x 15
Lark Sparrow						x 1
Slate-colored Junco	x x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x x	x x x x	x x x 21
Tree Sparrow	x x x	x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x 15

	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	o
	r	l	s	e	l	l	r	w	n	i	n	l	a	m	c	n	e	r	l	r	e	m	r	t
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	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	23
White-crowned Sparrow	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				14
Harris' Sparrow	x								x															2
White-throated Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	22
Fox Sparrow	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	18
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	x	x	18
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	23
Lapland Longspur				x																				2
Snow Bunting									x	x										x				4

FIRST NESTING OF THE CATTLE EGRET IN MARYLAND

G. Ellis Miller

The following statement regarding the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) appeared in an article written by Jacob M. Valentine, Jr., which was published in *The Raven* (29:85):

"Five were counted at the Mills Island heronry colony on June 1, 1957 (Neil Hotchkiss), but no nests or young were recognized." Similar statements appear in *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, by Robert E. Stewart and Chandler S. Robbins, page 389, and in Mr. Valentine's paper, "Cattle Egrets Nesting in Maryland" (*Maryland Birdlife* 14:49).

I would like to correct these statements. I accompanied Mr. Hotchkiss on this visit to Mills Island on June 1, 1957, and we did find and recognize a Cattle Egret's nest containing three eggs.

While moving around the heron colony we noticed that one of the Cattle Egrets kept the same perch on top of a cedar tree, except when approached too closely, even then returning to the same perch. Upon examining the nests in this tree I discovered that a nest near the top contained three eggs that appeared slightly larger and more oval than the eggs of the Snowy Egret.

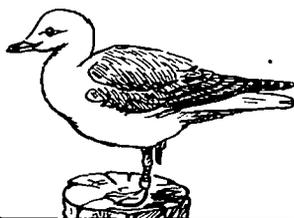
I then secreted myself under a low-growing cedar while my companion wandered off by himself. I was rewarded a half-hour later by seeing an adult Cattle Egret go to the nest. The eggs measured 43.5 x 33.5 mm., 46 x 33 mm., and 46 x 33.5 mm. They were oval in shape and pale blue in color. The nest was placed in an upright fork about ten feet from the ground and was made of coarse sticks with smaller sticks or twigs near the top.

Later I visited a library and found that these specifications agreed with the characteristics of Cattle Egret's eggs, giving further proof of our identification.

During this visit to Mills Island we also were delighted to see seven pairs of Glossy Ibises, and we discovered a nest of this species containing two eggs. They measured 52.5 x 35.5 mm., and 56 x 36 mm., were deep blue in color and elongated ovate in shape.

4414 Gridley Road, Silver Spring

BIRD



BANDING

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF ADULT MALE REDSTARTS
AT AN INLAND AND A COASTAL LOCALITY DURING FALL MIGRATION

Chandler S. Robbins, David Bridge, and Ronald Feller

Banders who operate netting stations in fall along the Atlantic Coast have been impressed, again and again, with the preponderance of immature birds. They have theorized that immature birds are blown off course more readily and that they therefore tend to appear in greater numbers among the heavy concentrations of transients that congregate in the coastal thickets. Without comparative observations from an inland locality, however, it is not safe to accept the theory as fact, for there could be other explanations. For example, in many species the different age and sex groups reach their migration peaks on different dates. If the peak movement of adult male American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*) were to take place either before or after the period when the coastal netting stations are in operation, this alone could result in a low proportion of adult males among the netted birds. Unusually good nesting success also could produce a high percentage of immatures among the migrating population.

The percentage of adult male American Redstarts at the Ocean City netting station has been consistently low each autumn (see Table 1).

Table 1. Proportion of Adult Male Redstarts at Ocean City

<u>Dates of Operation</u>	<u>Total Redstarts</u>	<u>Adult Males</u>	<u>% Ad. Males</u>
Sept. 10-18, 1955	48	2	4.2
Sept. 8-23, 1956	122	6	4.9
Sept. 7-26, 1957	68	3	4.4
Sept. 5-21, 1958	122	4	3.3
TOTAL	360	15	4.2

During the period September 5-21, 1958, 138 American Redstarts were banded at the Ocean City netting station by Chandler S. Robbins, Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Mrs. E. W. Goodpasture, Gordon Knight, Mrs. M. B. Peacock, Arthur H. Fast, Edgar Reynolds, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lubbert. Of these birds, 122 were identified as to sex and the males were further subdivided according to age. For the remaining 16 birds the banders either failed to record age or sex or were doubtful of their determination. In the present comparison these 16 birds (11.6% of the total) can be ignored. (Wing measurements and

weights of unsexed birds were not unlike those of the birds that were sexed.) Netting effort was distributed fairly evenly throughout the period, except on the first and the last day, when the effort was less.

During the same period, as well as before it and after it, David Bridge and Ronald Feller kept careful notes on the number of redstarts of each sex and the number of adult males and immature males that they found during the course of their periodic field trips in Greenbelt, 106 miles west-northwest of Ocean City. Their observations were made on 16 days from August 27 through October 1, generally for 1 hour in the early morning plus $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 hours in the afternoon. On four days (Sept. 6, 20, 27, and 28) field trips lasted about 5 hours, and there was a corresponding increase in the number of redstarts identified. Mr. Bridge and Mr. Feller believe that they saw nearly all of the redstarts that were present in the area that they covered on each trip and that there was very little if any bias introduced by the fact that the adult males are more brightly colored than the females and immature males.

Therefore, we can compare the Greenbelt data with the Ocean City data without fear that any appreciable distortion of the age and sex ratios resulted from differences in the sampling technique. Table 2 shows the ages and sexes of birds at the two stations during five-day periods. Several interesting points are brought out in this table: (1) The sex composition at each station was close to 50-50; (2) The sex composition at each station remained essentially constant throughout the period covered by this study; (3) the age ratio of the males did not vary appreciably at either station during the period; but (4) there was a highly significant difference between the age ratios of the males at the two stations. At Greenbelt, 67% of the males were in adult plumage, while at Ocean City only 6% of the males were in adult plumage!

Table 2. Comparison of Greenbelt and Ocean City Redstarts, Fall of 1958

Period	Greenbelt					Ocean City				
	Days	Ad M	Im M	Fem	% Ad M	Ad M	Im M	Fem	% Ad M	
Aug. 27-31	2	3	0	3	50					
Sept. 1-5	2	2	2	6	20	0	0	1	0	
Sept. 6-10	2	1	3	4	12	3	17	23	7	
Sept. 11-15	0					1	12	8	5	
Sept. 16-20	4	6	1	7	43	0	26	20	0	
Sept. 21-25	2	2	0	2	50	0	6	5	0	
Sept. 26--Oct. 1	4	0	1	5	17					
TOTAL	16	14	7	27	29.2	4	61	57	3.3	
PERCENT		29.2	14.6	56.2		3.3	50.0	46.7		

We thought that a more accurate comparison might be obtained by considering only those days during which observations were made at both stations. However, on those six days every one of the 24 male redstarts banded at Ocean City was in immature plumage! Greenbelt figures for the same six days showed 7 adult males and 4 immature males. At Greenbelt on these six days the males constituted exactly 50% of the total population, and at Ocean City 52% of the birds were males.

The great difference in age ratios at the two stations demonstrates very clearly that it is dangerous to draw conclusions about the reproductive success of a migratory bird species on the basis of observations at a single station.

Although there was a highly significant difference between age ratios of male redstarts at a coastal station and those at an inland station during the fall of 1958, we must not jump to the conclusion that the difference was due entirely to the drifting of the inexperienced immature birds toward the coast during their southward migration on winds with a prevailing westerly component. The data seem to give weight to this hypothesis, but there also may be inherent differences in migration routes of the two age classes regardless of wind conditions. More detailed studies of this species and other species can provide the answer to the problem.

The next step will be to correlate age ratios at both coastal and inland stations with wind direction and wind speed at the time the birds arrive. This presents a wonderful opportunity for amateur ornithologists to make a worthwhile contribution to science. The essential requirement is a planned schedule of observations that can be carried out uniformly during the period of the study.

Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel
8-A Ridge Road, Greenbelt
11-M Ridge Road, Greenbelt

HELEN B. MILLER AUDUBON NATURE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

The Maryland Ornithological Society takes pleasure in announcing that a scholarship fund is being established for the purpose of sending a Maryland teacher or youth worker to the Audubon Nature Camp of his or her choice. An anonymous gift to the M.O.S. makes possible the awarding of the first \$100 scholarship this summer. The scholarship fund, to which additional contributions may be made, is named in honor of our beloved youth leader, the late Mrs. Helen Burns Miller. Applicants (18 years or older) for the 1959 scholarship should send President Charles J. Stine (6305 Belair Road, Baltimore 6, Md.) the following information no later than April 3: a statement of the use you expect to make of the experience gained at camp, your occupation, the camp you wish to attend (Maine, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Texas or California), the 2-week period you prefer, and the name of an M.O.S. member who knows you. We urge members to call this offer to the attention of teachers and youth workers.

JUNIOR COLUMN

RESCUE OF A HORNED GREBE

I found the grebe on the pond when it was frozen. My father took the grebe in the car. Then we took the grebe home. And then we looked up what it was. Then we put it in a cage and gave it some water. December 12, 1958 at 4:30 p.m. Richard Kelmenson, Age 6, Owings Mills

AND THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Meade Lloyd

On last December 6, several junior members of the M. O. S. sponsored a bake in St. Michaels. The bake was held to raise money for an ornithological trip to Florida via Mr. Kleen's chevy. We made fifty dollars on the bake, thanks to the donors, which we used to buy gasoline.

The trip started the day after Christmas. Our destination was Key West and our cargo was much camping gear and six anxious members of the M.O.S., Mr. Richard Kleen, Ronnie Soulsman, Meade Lloyd, Jimmy Voshell, Herndon Steilkie, and Billy Bowers. When we reached "sunny" Florida (actually it was raining) after two hard days of driving and viewing such birds as are known commonly to Marylanders, we made camp at Fort Clinch near Jacksonville, Florida. Quite a variety of birds had been seen so far, including the Hooded Merganser, Red-throated Loon, Snowy Egret, Common Egret, many Black Vultures, and other frequent visitors to Maryland.

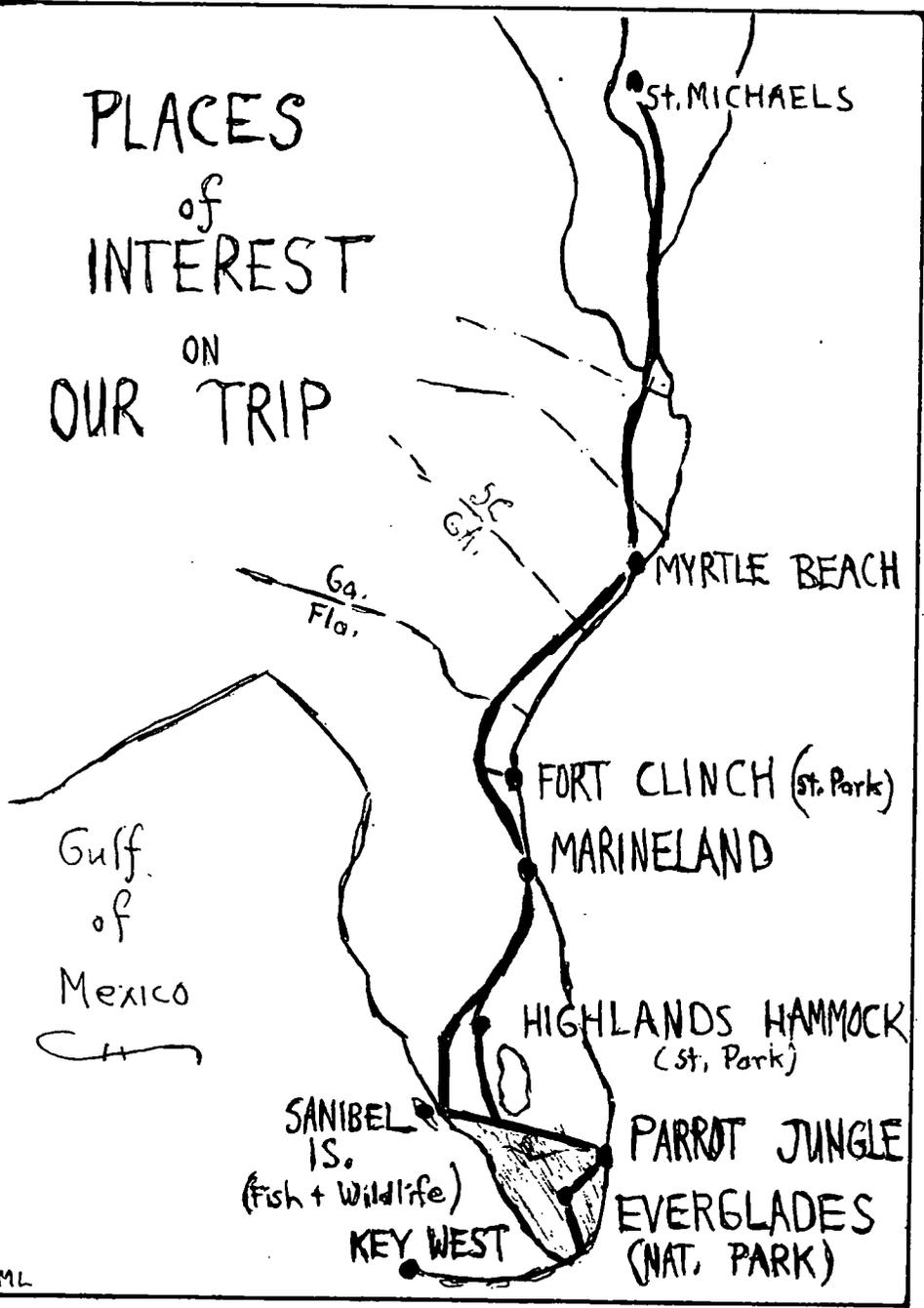
With the weather being warm, averaging 75^o, we made our way toward Key West, camping and stopping at places of interest. Among these were the following: Marineland, where we saw porpoise acts and many varieties of fish. The Parrot Jungle near Miami was one of the most spectacular of all places with many kinds of parrots and other "wild birds" performing and flying. Here we saw a Painted Bunting which actually was wild. The Everglades National Park where we camped for three days and added many new birds including White and Brown Pelicans, all the herons and egrets, Wood Ibis, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Mottled Duck, both gallinules, the small Ground Dove, the Western Kingbird, and many others native to Florida. The Overseas Highway to Key West where we saw the rare Flamingo and Short-tailed Hawk, Anhingas, the Roseate Spoonbill, the Man-o'-war-bird (now called Magnificent Frigate-bird), and others. Sanibel Island, a famous shelling area off the Gulf Coast of Florida, where we saw many species such as the usually timid Pileated Woodpecker and the rare Cabot's Tern. Inland Florida where we viewed the citrus groves, drank all the orange juice we could for ten cents, and drove through the Kissimmee Prairie. On the prairie we saw many Caracaras, the Sandhill Crane, the Scrub or Florida Jay, and hawks of several species. The State Parks of Florida in which we camped were very beautiful. There we found various species such as a Screech Owl, wild Turkeys, and other birds.

This trip was very successful with a count of 141 species of which three were life birds for Mr. Kleen and an average of twenty-five were life birds for the rest of the group. The trip required nine days (December 26 through January 4) and everyone had a wonderful time. We owe our thanks to Mr. Kleen for his time and effort in making this trip a success.

AND THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE - in nine days.

Newcomb, Maryland

PLACES
of
INTEREST
ON
OUR TRIP



ST. MICHAELS

MYRTLE BEACH

FORT CLINCH (St. Park)

MARINELAND

HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK
(St. Park)

SANIBEL IS.
(Fish + Wildlife)

KEY WEST

PARROT JUNGLE

EVERGLADES
(NAT. PARK)

Gulf
of
Mexico

ML



OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1958

Chandler S. Robbins

In the closing months of the calendar year we always note an ebbing of ornithological observations. This is due not so much to a drop in the total population of birds in Maryland, as to a reduction in the variety of back-yard species and to a feeling that there won't be much that is "new" during the remainder of the year. Fewer of the birds that are seen are recorded in notebooks. Because departure dates are not the product of a single day's observations, they can be obtained only by routine list-keeping over a period of days. Consequently, it is not surprising that the number of contributors reaches its lowest point during the present quarter. We wish to express our special thanks to the 74 members who took the trouble to keep and submit notes. Many observers underestimate the value of their notes and neglect to send them in because they feel they are too scanty. One member who contributed 15 dates to the migration tables added the following comment: "I doubt that this will help you but I'll send it anyway so you can get a little idea of our migration." Had these particular notes not been submitted, a whole column would have been omitted from one of the tables for lack of sufficient data.

October was a typical fall month in Maryland, with periodic cold fronts crossing our State at intervals of from 4 to 7 days. Although mean temperatures for the month were 1° to 2° below normal, no hard freeze was reported in the central or eastern counties. November was relatively mild, with no snow east of the mountains. December, in marked contrast to the preceding months, was cold and raw throughout the State. Any stray insectivorous birds that lingered through the mild November had to fight for survival in December. This was especially true in the generally mild coastal areas, where two northeast storms brought copious snowfall that covered the ground from Dec. 11 to Dec. 24. Conditions became most critical on Dec. 16, when the temperature plummeted to -6° at Salisbury. Christmas Counts two weeks later bore silent witness to the effect of these conditions on the less hardy avian species.

Migration tables. As usual, the earliest and latest migration dates for many of the more common species are summarized in tabular form. This permits ready comparison between the various parts of our State, and also makes it easier to compare dates from year to year. The tables also enable us to include more material in the allotted space. The more unusual observations always are repeated under the appropriate species

paragraphs, where localities, observers' names and other information is given. The following persons contributed material that was used in one or both of the tables:

Washington County--Mrs. Lloyd L. Mallonee; Frederick County--Dr. and Mrs. John W. Richards, Sterling W. Edwards; Baltimore County--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, C. Haven Kolb, Jr., Irving E. Hampe, Mrs. Elmer G. Worthley, Hervey Brackbill; Montgomery County--Walter Booth, Seth H. Low, Katherine Goodpasture, Miss Lucille V. Smith; Prince Georges County--David Bridge, Ronald Feller, Chandler S. Robbins, John H. Fales, Mrs. Lois Horn; Anne Arundel County--Mrs. Gail Tappan, Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, H. N. Hall, Martina Luff; Calvert County--John H. Fales, Friel Sanders, H. Elizabeth Slater; Caroline County--Marvin W. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Alicia Knotts, Robert Butler; Central Eastern Shore (Caroline, Kent, and Talbot Counties)--Mr. and Mrs. Clark G. Webster for Kent County; Talbot County--Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lubbert, Richard L. Kleen; Lower Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Chandler S. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin W. Hewitt, Samuel H. Dyke, Robert E. Stewart. Dates in parentheses represent observations on the monthly aerial waterfowl surveys conducted by Charles D. Evans; they probably are not actual arrival dates, but they have been used to fill in where no better dates are available.

Table 1. Fall Arrival Dates, 1958

	<u>Fred</u>	<u>Balt</u>	<u>Mont</u>	<u>Pr G</u>	<u>Anne</u>	<u>Calv</u>	<u>CES #</u>	<u>LES*</u>
Whistling Swan	--	11/ 6	11/11	10/18	11/ 8	11/ 9	11/ 5	11/(9)
Canada Goose	10/ 6	11/16	10/11	10/ 6	--	10/(8)	9/10	10/(6)
American Widgeon	--	--	9/13	--	9/22	10/(8)	9/14	10/(5)
Common Goldeneye	--	--	10/30	11/ 1	11/(8)	11/(8)	11/(4)	11/(6)
Bufflehead	--	--	10/19	11/10	11/28	--	10/24	10/26
Ruddy Duck	--	--	10/12	10/28	10/(8)	10/(8)	9/15	11/(6)
Yellow-b.Sapsucker	9/30	10/ 4	10/ 4	9/20	10/ 4	10/26	10/ 4	9/18
Blue Jay	--	10/ 4	9/19	9/25	9/29	9/28	9/20	--
Winter Wren	--	10/ 5	10/ 6	10/ 5	11/ 5	12/ 8	9/30	--
Hermit Thrush	10/25	10/13	10/19	10/26	9/22	--	10/12	10/18
Golden-cr.Kinglet	10/23	10/ 6	10/19	10/ 7	10/ 4	10/26	10/ 5	10/18
Myrtle Warbler	10/ 3	9/23	10/19	9/29	10/ 2	10/26	10/ 4	10/18
Rusty Blackbird	--	10/ 4	10/18	10/16	9/29	--	--	--
Purple Finch	10/29	10/27	11/ 1	10/ 8	11/ 9	--	11/15	--
Slate-col. Junco	10/11	10/ 2	10/ 4	9/29	9/29	10/11	9/28	--
White-crowned Sp.	--	10/ 6	10/ 4	--	--	--	10/18	10/18
White-throat. Sp.	9/29	9/23	10/ 1	9/29	9/28	10/12	9/29	10/18
Fox Sparrow	10/29	11/ 1	11/ 1	10/25	11/20	--	11/20	--

Central Eastern Shore

* Lower Eastern Shore

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants. Loons and Grebes seldom are seen in numbers exceeding 5 or 10 in Maryland's upland streams and reservoirs. Walter Booth, who visited Triadelphia Reservoir frequently during the fall migration period, reported that he did not see more than 2 Common Loons there on any one day. He did, however, see as many as 16 Horned

Grebes on Oct. 28. He found single Double-crested Cormorants there on several dates, Aug. 5 through Oct. 25.

Table 2. Fall Departure Dates, 1958

	<u>Wash</u>	<u>Fred</u>	<u>Balt</u>	<u>Mont</u>	<u>Pr G</u>	<u>Anne</u>	<u>Caro</u>	<u>Talb</u>	<u>LES*</u>
Greater Yellowlegs	--	--	--	--	10/25	10/ 8	10/ 8	--	11/17
Chimney Swift	10/ 7	10/11	10/ 5	10/13	11/ 8	10/ 9	10/ 1	10/ 4	--
Eastern Phoebe	10/14	10/17	10/12	10/19	10/16	10/16	12/ 7	11/ 5	10/18
E. Wood Pewee	10/19	--	10/ 4	10/ 4	10/11	9/22	--	10/ 5	9/21
House Wren	10/12	9/20	10/ 7	9/26	9/28	9/29	--	--	9/20
Catbird	10/ 5	10/18	10/19	10/14	10/16	--	10/15	--	10/18
Brown Thrasher	9/16	10/18	10/24	--	9/29	10/ 9	--	10/19	10/18
Wood Thrush	--	--	10/14	--	10/ 6	10/14	10/ 7	--	9/20
Swainson's Thrush	10/19	10/22	10/19	9/27	10/24	11/28	9/23	10/12	9/21
Gray-cheeked Thr.	--	--	10/ 7	10/ 4	10/ 7	9/29	10/ 9	--	9/21
Solitary Vireo	--	10/18	--	--	10/16	9/29	--	--	9/21
Red-eyed Vireo	9/ 8	--	--	9/24	10/ 6	9/30	9/29	10/18	9/21
Black-and-white W.	9/18	--	--	--	9/29	9/ 4	9/29	10/ 5	9/21
Parula Warbler	9/22	--	--	--	9/28	9/ 3	9/30	12/16	9/21
Cape May Warbler	--	--	11/ 3	9/27	10/12	10/19	10/14	--	9/28
Magnolia Warbler	9/26	10/ 5	10/19	9/15	10/ 7	9/29	9/30	10/12	9/20
B-t. Blue Warbler	10/14	--	10/ 3	10/18	10/ 6	10/ 7	--	10/12	9/21
B-t.Green Warbler	10/ 3	10/15	10/11	9/25	10/16	9/29	--	10/12	9/20
Blackpoll Warbler	10/ 4	--	--	9/29	10/ 7	10/17	10/ 9	10/12	9/21
Prairie Warbler	9/15	--	9/20	--	9/20	10/ 8	--	9/ 5	9/21
Ovenbird	9/30	11/ 7	9/11	10/ 2	9/26	8/24	9/26	10/ 4	9/20
Yellowthroat	9/18	9/20	10/ 5	--	10/17	10/ 7	9/23	9/13	10/18
American Redstart	--	9/25	9/13	--	10/ 1	10/ 6	9/30	10/12	10/18
Scarlet Tanager	9/23	10/18	10/ 5	10/ 4	10/ 4	11/ 4	10/ 5	10/12	10/18
Rose-br. Grosbeak	9/23	--	9/28	9/23	10/ 7	--	--	10/12	9/21
Indigo Bunting	11/ 1	10/ 3	10/11	--	10/12	9/29	9/12	10/ 5	9/21
Rufous-sid.Towhee	10/17	10/22	--	--	11/ 2	10/18	--	--	10/18
Chipping Sparrow	10/26	10/23	10/24	11/ 1	11/17	11/27	11/ 4	--	10/18

Herons. There was only one Christmas Count report of a southern heron (Little Blue, Common Egret or Green) in Maryland--a Little Blue at Denton on Dec. 20 (Richard Kleen). In the absence of Christmas season reports from the tidal areas of southern Maryland, we can assume that the several late records submitted actually referred to migrants rather than to wintering individuals. Dates later than any previous record for the respective areas are underscored for the benefit of those who wish to keep their copies of Birds of Maryland up to date. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher and Marvin Hewitt saw a Green Heron on Oct. 18 at Hooper's Island in Dorchester County, and Ronald Feller and David Bridge found another on Oct. 21 at Greenbelt. James M. Banagan observed an immature Little Blue Heron at St. Patrick's Creek in St. Marys County, on Nov. 30. Mr. Banagan also noted a Common Egret at Colton's Point, St. Marys County, on Nov. 22, and Mrs. Tappan and Mrs. Henderson watched one at Gibson Island on Nov. 29. At Snow Hill Landing, Paul Springer identified a Louisiana Heron on Oct. 11.

Waterfowl. No unusual migration dates were reported. Notable for the Piedmont were 10 Surf Scoters and 400 Ruddy Ducks on Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery and Howard Counties, Oct. 28 (Booth). Pintails and Mallards were especially common this fall on the Lower Eastern Shore, but Canvasbacks and Redheads were unaccountably scarce. A drake European Widgeon was found at Sandy Point on Dec. 21 (Ted Stiles).

Hawks. On Oct. 18, 20 members participated in a State-wide hawk count. All sections of the State except the Upper Chesapeake Section were represented in the 10 reports. Despite light and shifting winds, there was a fairly good flight along the Fall Line. Feller and Bridge counted 42 hawks of 6 species during an all-day watch at Greenbelt, and Robbins and Stiles saw 90 hawks of 8 species from the Robbins' deck near Laurel between 1:50 and 5:00 p.m., E.S.T. Both pairs of observers counted the same number of accipiters (20 Sharp-shins and 5 Cooper's). The principal difference between the two stations was in the number of Red-shouldered Hawks seen: 45 at Laurel (directly on the Fall Line), and 7 at Greenbelt (about 4 miles out on the Coastal Plain). Observers on Monument Knob and at Emmitsburg saw good variety but very few individuals. Ernest Baldwin, Robert Beaton, and Jerry and Joe Mersereau saw 2 Golden Eagles among 19 hawks sighted at Monument Knob. John Richards observed no eagles at Emmitsburg, but he found an enviable variety of 6 species among the 12 hawks that passed his way. The Hoopers Island flight was disappointing, for only 7 hawks were encountered in 5 hours by the Fletchers and Marvin Hewitt. The other parties each reported 6 hawks or fewer in from 2 to 4 hours of observation. Totals for all parties combined were as follows: 60 Sharp-shins, 56 Red-shoulders, 22 Red-tails, 12 Sparrow Hawks, 11 Cooper's, 2 each of Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk and Osprey, 1 each of Broad-wing and Bald Eagle, and 15 unidentified. Two other Bald Eagles were seen on the same day at Seneca (Baltimore Club trip). The best late-fall flight was of 115 birds reported on Nov. 3 at White Marsh (Douglas Hackman). Among the late departures were single Broad-wings near Halethorpe, Oct. 12 (I. E. Hampe) and over Laurel, Oct. 18 (C. S. and E. C. Robbins), and 2 Ospreys at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Brooke Meanley). A real rarity for Anne Arundel County was a Golden Eagle that flew over the David Howards' garden in Annapolis on Oct. 17.

Shorebirds. The fall shorebird flight was normal in most respects, but there were several late stragglers that are worthy of note: a Solitary Sandpiper with an injured leg at Rocky Gorge Reservoir, Montgomery County on Oct. 30, latest Piedmont record (Booth); a Pectoral Sandpiper in the Elliott marsh, Nov. 17, 5 days past the latest Maryland date (Stewart); a White-rumped Sandpiper at Gibson Island on Oct. 23, the latest Maryland departure west of the Bay (Elise Tappan, Vera Henderson); a Willet at Ocean City, Dec. 30, the first winter record (John E. Wiloughby); and a Marbled Godwit on Assateague Island, Dec. 30, also a first winter record (Harry Armistead, Joseph Beatty and Gordon Knight).

Gulls and Terns. Herring, Ring-billed, and Laughing Gulls reached peaks in excess of 2,000, 1,000, and 1,000, respectively, at Gibson Island on Nov. 7 (Mesdames Henderson and Tappan). Walter Booth reported no gulls at all at Triadelphia Reservoir on this date. Late tern records

from Gibson Island were of single birds, as follows: Forster's Tern on Nov. 20 (2nd latest from there), Royal on Oct. 7 (latest local record), and Caspian on Dec. 21 (second December occurrence for Maryland).

Cuckoos, Swifts. Interest in these two families centered around late dates. At Denton, Roberta Fletcher found a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on Oct. 14 and a Black-bill on Oct. 8. Departure dates for the Chimney Swift ranged from Oct. 1 to Oct. 13, except for a single bird watched at Patuxent Refuge on Nov. 8 by Lois Horn--6 days past the latest Maryland record.

Owls, Woodpeckers. The first Maryland Snowy Owl since 1955 was seen on Dec. 21 at the head of St. Patrick's Creek in St. Marys County, where it was pursued by 7 crows (James Bamagan). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in greater numbers than usual; more were found on the Maryland Christmas Counts (67) than in any previous year. Red-headed Woodpeckers were found wintering only at Greenbelt, Annapolis, Accokeek, the Zekiah Swamp, and Talbot County. Dr. R. K. Burns found a Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Blackwater Refuge on Dec. 31.

Flycatchers. Most of the Maryland records of the Western Kingbird have occurred in the month of September, but there are single observations for the months of November, December, and May. Harold Weirenga provided the first October sighting when he found a single bird at Assateague Island on Oct. 11. As no Eastern Phoebes were found on the Maryland Christmas Counts this year, we can include this species in the fall departure table without any qualifications. A late Eastern Wood Pewee was noted at Fairplay in Washington County on Oct. 19 (Alice Mallonee). The only Olive-sided Flycatchers seen during their autumnal migration were single birds at Emmitsburg on Sept. 18 (Dr. and Mrs. John W. Richards) and Sept. 25 (Ralph Joly).

Jays. Mass migratory flights of Blue Jays, although characteristic of all parts of Maryland west of Chesapeake Bay, apparently do not occur anywhere on the Eastern Shore. The heaviest movement this fall was reported on Oct. 4. Feller and Bridge counted 984 Blue Jays over Greenbelt on this date, and remarked that 521 of them were counted in a single hour. Walter Booth (from sample counts at three observation points) estimated between 5,000 and 6,000 migrating southwestward across Triadelphia Reservoir and upper Rocky Gorge Reservoir from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the 4th. Although no prolonged count was made at Gibson Island, 39 were in sight at one time on the 4th.

Chickadees, Nuthatches. In contrast to last winter, only 2 Black-capped Chickadees were reported from east of the mountains (Gibson Island, Mrs. Henderson). Also, in contrast to a year ago, both the White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce in migration. The only Red-breasts reported were single birds at Unity on Oct. 18 (Seth H. Low) and at Greenbelt from Dec. 7 on (Feller and Bridge).

Thrushes. Hermit Thrushes generally were reported as scarce, although the Fletchers and Marvin Hewitt found a migratory concentration

of 25 at Hoopers Island on Oct. 18. Swainson's Thrushes were found as late as Oct. 19 at Fairplay (Mrs. Mallonee) and Baltimore (banded by Mrs. Cole), and Oct. 24 at Beltsville (Fales); and one was reported from Gibson Island on the extraordinary date of Nov. 28 (Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Tappan, and Mr. and Mrs. Dolf Swing). Eastern Bluebirds continued to be scarce throughout the period; the highest "one man" count was 30 at Gambrills on Oct. 24 (Mrs. Martina Luff).

Gnatcatchers, Warblers. Arthur Paulson found a dead Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at his home in Charlestown, Cecil County, in mid-December, and Mrs. Jay Smith saw 2 live ones at Williston on Dec. 20. This species has never been known to survive the winter in Maryland, although it has twice been seen into the first week of January; it normally departs in September. Seventeen species of warblers were reported in the month of October, but only three in November: Ovenbird, Cape May, and Myrtle. The Ovenbird was seen at Emmitsburg on Nov. 7 by Ruth O. Richards, and a Cape May was banded at Towson on Nov. 3 by Mrs. Richard D. Cole, both establishing new late departure dates for the Maryland Piedmont. A Parula Warbler in Talbot County on Dec. 16 (Kleen) is the latest ever recorded in Maryland. An American Redstart seen at Hoopers Island on Oct. 18 tied the latest Maryland departure date (Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt). Other individual birds seen at late but not record-breaking dates were a Magnolia and a Nashville Warbler at Loch Raven on Oct. 19 (Haven Kolb), a Nashville banded at Unity on Oct. 17 (Seth H. Low), and a Prairie Warbler seen at Gibson Island on Oct. 6 (Mesdames Tappan and Henderson).

Blackbirds, Tanagers. Among the many interesting birds seen by the Fletchers and Mr. Hewitt during their hawk count at Hoopers Island, Oct. 18, were 5 Boat-tailed Grackles and a late Scarlet Tanager. "Latest record here" was the modest comment accompanying the report of a Scarlet Tanager at Gibson Island on Nov. 4 by Mesdames Henderson and Tappan; actually, this is the latest Maryland record except for 2 winter strays.

Finches and Sparrows. Both the Blue Grosbeak and the Indigo Bunting were seen on dates that tied their latest Maryland departure records. Brooke Meanley saw a Blue Grosbeak at Port Tobacco on Oct. 24, and the Fletchers and Marvin Hewitt saw one at Hooper Island on Oct. 18 (where, incidentally, this species is not known during the breeding season). The late Indigo Bunting was seen at Fairplay in Washington County on Nov. 1 by Mrs. Lloyd Mallonee. Northern finches were unusually scarce. Even the Pine Siskin and the Evening Grosbeak were found in only two counties each. There were 2 Dickcissels during this period: 1 banded on Oct. 19 at Unity (Seth H. Low) and 1 at the feeding station of Aelred D. Geis near Clarksville from about Dec. 15 on. Four White-crowned Sparrows seen at Hoopers Island on Oct. 18 by the Fletchers and Marvin Hewitt are believed to be the first ever reported from Dorchester County. Snow Buntings were of regular occurrence in November and December at favored spots along Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Tappan found the first 2 at Gibson Island on Nov. 1, missing their own State record by just one day. The second report came from Sandy Point on Nov. 8 (Philip A. DuMont). These two areas yielded a combined count of 61 individuals on the Dec. 21 Christmas Count.

SCARCITY OF OUR WINTER BIRDS

Chandler S. Robbins

Nearly everyone who has been afield this winter has commented upon the scarcity of several species, or on the scarcity of birds in general. It may be appropriate, therefore, to examine the data that are before us--data to which so many MOS members contributed--to see what evidence there is for below-normal populations in Maryland this winter.

In the March 1958 issue of Maryland Birdlife (14:19-23), we computed the number of birds of several species that we would expect to find on 1957 Christmas Bird Counts. To make the computations, we used the average number of individuals for the past ten years as the base and multiplied this figure by an adjustment factor to compensate for the difference in party-hours of coverage. For purposes of comparison we used only those areas for which counts were available for a minimum of 7 of the past 10 years (loc. cit., p. 20): McCooles, Catoctin, Triadelphia, Loch Raven, Gibson Island, Accokeek, Denton, Southern Dorchester County, and Ocean City. When we compared the 1957 counts with the computed averages, Turkey Vulture, Killdeer, Hairy Woodpecker, Carolina Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, and Song Sparrow were present in normal numbers, while the Bobwhite, Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Robin, Goldfinch, and Rufous-sided Towhee were at least half again as common as was anticipated. Of nearly 40 species checked, the only one that was less than half as abundant as expected was the Red-headed Woodpecker. I should add here that many species that are subject to radical year-to-year change were omitted from these 1957 comparisons.

For 1958, on the other hand, we considered all of the commoner land-bird species except the raptors. The table on the following page includes only those species that were expected to total 50 or more individuals on the nine areas used in last year's comparison. As the 1958 coverage (party-hours) for these nine areas was 1.6057 times as great as the mean coverage for the preceding ten years (1948-1957), the ten-year mean was multiplied by this factor to obtain the expected total for 1958. In Table 1, this expected figure is compared with the observed count. Instead of listing the percentage of change to the nearest whole percent, which is not justified in view of the uncontrollable variable factors inherent in Christmas Counts, the species have been grouped in ten categories, rounded off to the nearest 25 percent.

In comparing this table with Mr. Kleen's Talbot County analysis on pages 13-15 of this issue, it is interesting to note that all but three of the birds mentioned in his tables fell in the same category or an adjacent category in both tabulations. In the three exceptions (Carolina Wren, Field Sparrow, and Rufous-sided Towhee) the State-wide decrease, if any, was less severe than the local decrease.

The large number of low counts in December 1958 may be attributed primarily to three factors: (1) The prolonged cold windy weather and
(continued on page 46)

Table 1. Comparison of 1958 Counts with Mean of 10 Previous Years

<u>Species</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Observed</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Observed</u>
<u>More Than Thrice Normal</u>					
Purple Grackle	10,984	330,234	Brown-hd. Cowbird	7,038	25,623
<u>100% Increase</u>					
Starling	15,755	33,414	Snow Bunting	62	119
<u>75% Increase</u>					
Brown-headed Nuthatch	232	389	Redwing Blackbird	24,955	44,697
<u>50% Increase</u>					
Rufous-sided Towhee	361	506	Common Crow	12,002	16,504
<u>Normal</u>					
Mourning Dove	1,681	1,559	House Sparrow	3,941	3,568
Red-bellied Woodp.	236	219	Rusty Blackbird	105	101
Downy Woodpecker	415	402	Cardinal	1,708	1,563
Tufted Titmouse	615	585	Savannah Sparrow	396	425
Brown Creeper	130	131	Field Sparrow	1,230	1,088
Mockingbird	346	310	Song Sparrow	2,202	2,171
Myrtle Warbler	5,372	5,060			
<u>25% Drop</u>					
Bobwhite	302	228	Golden-cr. Kinglet	347	292
Belted Kingfisher	69	47	Eastern Meadowlark	4,677	3,014
Yel.-shaft. Flicker	378	260	Purple Finch	80	52
Hairy Woodpecker	110	82	Slate-colored Junco	4,911	4,157
Blue Jay	553	371	White-throated Sp.	7,006	5,296
Carolina Chickadee	1,204	841	Fox Sparrow	65	52
Eastern Bluebird	723	474			
<u>50% Drop</u>					
Horned Lark	462	194	American Goldfinch	2,896	1,552
White-br. Nuthatch	116	55	Tree Sparrow	862	344
Carolina Wren	570	327	White-crown Spar.	116	69
Robin	2,429	1,283	Swamp Sparrow	1,253	736
<u>75% Drop</u>					
Killdeer	649	112	Hermit Thrush	143	32
Black-cap. Chickadee	87	16	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	54	15
Winter Wren	116	37	Cedar Waxwing	121	20
<u>100% Drop</u>					
Eastern Phoebe	80	0	Water Pipit	548	15
Tree Swallow	287	3	Boat-tailed Grackle	54	0
Long-bill Marsh Wren	66	6	Pine Siskin	116	0
Short-bill Marsh Wren	76	0			

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 MacSherry, Mrs. Richard, Tidewater Inn, Easton, Md.
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 Mainster, Raymond, 3716 Croyden Rd., Balto. 7. OL3-4441
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 Marvel, Mrs. Albert, Easton, Md.
 Mashburn, Everett, 4048 Nichols Ave. S. W., Washington, D. C.
 Mathews, Miss Elsie, Maple Ave., Ridgley, Md.
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 McCord, Mrs. Harriet, Oxford, Md.
 McCown, Mr. & Mrs. Richard, Chestertown, R. D., Md.

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Miles, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence W., Blakeford, Queenstown, Md.
Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest, Spring, Pa.
Miller, Hon. E. T., Easton, Md.
Miller, Gilbert N., Spring Gap, Md.
Miller, Harry, Spring Gap, Md.
Miller, Irwin E., Grantsville, Md.
Miller, Miss Mary Alice, Wakley Terrace, Route 3, Bel Air, Md.
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Murison, John, Jr., 307 W. Seminary Ave., Lutherville, Md. VA3-0561
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Myers, Miss Lillian C., 514 Washington St. Cumberland, Md.
Myers, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip, 4208 N. Charles St., Balto. 18. TU9-5685
Myers, Mrs. Phillip, Jr., 504 Hampton Lane, Towson 4, Md. VA3-2678
Myers, Mrs. T. W., 4 E. Beech Dr., Balto. 20. MU6-7107
- Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. John, Chestertown R. D., Md.
Neroda, Miss Joanna, 613 Ploy St., Balto. 1, Md.
Nevius, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald, 2 Brookletts Ave., Easton, Md.
Newcomber, George S., 15 W. Madison St., Balto. 1, Md. LE9-2685
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Nibley, David, Frederick, Md.
Nibley, Michael, Frederick, Md.
Nicol, Mr. & Mrs. John W., 227 W. Lafayette Ave., Balto. 17. LA3-2647
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Offutt, Mrs. Harry, Easton, Md.
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 VA3-0513
 Penniman, Nicholas, III., 806 Mercantile Trust Bldg., Balto. 2.
 LE9-5328
 Pepper, Mr. & Mrs. Aldrich, Denton, Md.
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 Poore, Mrs. Byron. Greensboro, Md.
 Poore, Ethel, Greensboro, Md.
 Portello, Frank, 14 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, Md.
 Porter, Miss Linda, RR Denton Road, Greensboro, Md.
 Prest, Mrs. J. H., R. D. #1, Bear, Delaware
 Price, Miss Clara B., Queen Anne, Md.
 Purvis, Mrs. Elgie G., Gunpowder Road, R #2, Laurel, Md.

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 Reese, Mrs. Waiva D., Bonita Ave., Owings Mills, Md. TE3-2348
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 Remsberg, Mrs. Charles H., Oakland Farms, Middleton, Md.
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 VA5-7348
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 Schaffer, Dr. & Mrs. Norwood K., 8 Beechdale Rd., Balto. 10. TU9-0065
 Schaffer, Miss Betsy, 8 Beechdale Rd., Balto. 10. TU9-0065
 Schaffer, Miss Martha S., 8 Beechdale Rd., Balto. 10. TU9-0065
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 Simon, Stephen, 402 Sharp St., Ashland, Ohio.
 Slater, Miss H. Elizabeth, Broadwater Circle, Churchton, Md.
 Smalley, Miss Maude, Salisbury, Pennsylvania.
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 Smith, Mrs. Harold W., 834 Windsor Road, Cumberland, Md.
 Smith, Miss Helen M., Travelers Rest, Easton, Md.
 Smith, Miss Hilda E., 9912 Cherry Tree Lane, Silver Spring, Md.
 Smith, James Hall, Chestertown, R. D., Md.
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 Smith, Mrs. Lida, Claiborne, Md.
 Smith, Miss Margaret, Easton, Md.
 Smith, Mrs. Turner L., R. F. D. #1, Havre de Grace, Md.
 Somers, Mrs. S. G., R. F. D. #1, Denton, Md.
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 Spies, Mr. Taylor, Gobble Green Farm, Easton, Md.
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 Balto. 13, Md.
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 Truslow, Mrs. Claude, Chestertown, Md.
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 Voshell, James, St. Michaels, Md.
- Wagley, Dr. & Mrs. Philip F., 21 Meadow Rd., Balto. 12. DR7-7160
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 Waugh, Dr. & Mrs. Leuman, Petteerton, Md.
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 Westcott, Mrs. Nell, Chestertown, Md.
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 HU6-7600
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 OL3-8399
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 TE3-2582
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 Wright, Miss Sarah, 313 Greene Street, Cumberland, Md.
 Yeckley, Mrs. William, Chestertown, Md.
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 Yoder, Mrs. Verda, Springs, Pa.
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 Balto. 18, Md. BE5-4500
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 * Life Members

SCARCITY OF OUR WINTER BIRDS (continued from page 34)

heavy snowfall of February 1958, which caused high mortality, especially among birds of insectivorous species; (2) a cold December in 1958, with heavy snowfall on the Eastern Shore, which sent late migrants farther south and killed many individuals of the less hardy wintering species; and (3) an abundance of natural food in eastern Canada and the northern States, which made it unnecessary for northern finches and nuthatches to come south to Maryland. The high counts for blackbirds are the result of better coverage of the Ninepin roost southwest of Berlin.

SENECA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This Count was not eligible for publication in Audubon Field Notes because of insufficient coverage. It initially was scheduled for Dec. 27, but was cancelled and later rescheduled for Jan. 1. However, freezing rain kept most observers from participating. In order to preserve the continuity of the Seneca Count, we are publishing here the combined list for the two days. - Dec. 27: 7:45 to 2:00, and Jan. 1: 6:45 to 1:00. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 12. - Mallard, 45; Black Duck, 6; Common Goldeneye, 30; Bufflehead, 10; Turkey Vulture, 150; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bobwhite, 10; Eared Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 16; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 24; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 27; Blue Jay, 5; Common Crow, 39; Carolina Chickadee, 28; Tufted Titmouse, 39; White-breasted Nuthatch, 13; Brown Creeper, 9; Winter Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 18; Mockingbird, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 4; Starling, 124; Myrtle Warbler, 13; House Sparrow, 31; E. Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 91; Am. Goldfinch, 21; Rufous-sided Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 42; Field Sparrow, 20; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 191; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 21. 40 sp.; 1081 indiv.--W. M. Booth, Jr. & Mrs. M. B. Donald, Katherine Goodpasture.

COMING EVENTS

- Mar. 21 KENT COUNTY field trip to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.
 Mar. 22 BALTIMORE Woodcock trip to Loch Raven. Leave Hutzler's parking lot in Towson at 5 P.M.
 Mar. 22 TAKOMA PARK trip to vicinity of Belvoir, Va. Phone Hilda Smith.
 Mar. 25 FREDERICK monthly meeting, 8 P.M., Burr Artz Library.
 Mar. 28 ANNAPOLIS "Early Birding." Meet 7 A.M., 608 Monterey Ave., West Annapolis. Register with Mrs. Garner, Colonial 3-3787.
 Apr. 1 KENT COUNTY monthly meeting. Richard Kleen, "Mexican Birds."
 Apr. 4 BALTIMORE trip to Upper Loch Raven. 7:30 A.M., Hutzler's lot.
 Apr. 5 ALLEGANY trip to Lake Coon and Lake Gordon. 2 P.M. Naves Crossroads.
 Apr. 7 TALBOT Audubon Screen Tour. Puerto Rico USA, Easton Theatre
 Apr. 8 BALTIMORE General Ornithology seminar. First of 5 Wed. evenings.
 Apr. 10 BALTIMORE monthly meeting. "Nature Nearby" by Dr. Charles Stine, Pratt Library auditorium, 8 P.M.
 Apr. 12 TAKOMA trip to Antietam area. Phone Miss Hilda E. Smith.
 Apr. 12 ALLEGANY trip to Lakes Coon and Gordon. 2 P.M., Naves Crossroads.
 Apr. 12 BALTIMORE trip to Leakin Park. Meet at Forest Park Ave. and Windsor Mill Road, 7:30 A.M. Half day. Leader: Cecil Ryan.
 Apr. 13 TAKOMA monthly meeting.
 Apr. 17 TALBOT seminar: "Spring Plumages of Warblers" by C. S. Robbins.
 Apr. 18 BALTIMORE trip to Woodstock. Old Court & Liberty Rds. 7 A.M.
 Apr. 19 KENT trip to Mendinball's at Tolchester. Bring supper.
 Apr. 22 ALLEGANY monthly meeting, Board of Education Bldg., 7:30 P.M. Mr. Ernest Ogden will speak on "Forestry" & lead Apr. 26 trip.

- Apr. 24 TALBOT monthly meeting.
- Apr. 25 ANNAPOLIS trip to Luff's Farm, 7 A.M. Phone Colonial 3-5588.
- Apr. 26 BALTIMORE trip to Patuxent Refuge. Ward's parking lot 7 A.M.
- Apr. 26 TAKOMA trip to Fort Frederick in Washington County.
- Apr. 29 FREDERICK monthly meeting, 8 P.M. Burr Artz Library.
- May 1 ANNAPOLIS meeting & picnic, 3:30 at "Mullikins Delight" at Mitchellville. Register with Mrs. Kirtley, CEDAR 6-8392.
- May 2 STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT. Note correction of date! Make count in area of your choice. Turn in list and coverage details at Statewide Convention next week. See June 1958 issue.
- May 3 Alternate date for Statewide Count only in event of bad weather.
- May 3 TAKOMA trip to Violets Lock, C & O Canal near Seneca.
- May 6 KENT monthly meeting. Prof. & Mrs. David Howard's Warbler film.
- May 8-10 ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION, Hastings Hotel, Ocean City.
- May 11 TAKOMA monthly meeting.
- May 13 TALBOT Audubon Screen Tour. Rocky Mt. Rambles, Easton Theatre.
- May 16-7 ALLEGANY overnight Pymatuning trip. Register by May 1 (PA2-4478)
- May 17 TAKOMA trip to Gambrill State Park, Catoctin Mt. Frederick Co.
- May 24 BALTIMORE trip to Pretty Boy Reservoir. 7 A.M. Hutzler. Lunch.
- May 31 ALLEGANY trip to Garrett Co. Meet 8 A.M. "Antons", Big Savage Mt.
- June 3 KENT monthly meeting. "Bird Nests" by A. J. Fletcher.
- June 8 TAKOMA picnic. Phone Hilda E. Smith for details.
- June 12-14 STATEWIDE adult weekend at Pleasant Valley, Garrett County. Register with Allegany Club or Mrs. Richard Cole (VA3-2650).
- June 13 ALLEGANY trip, Dolly Sods & Roaring Creek. YMCA 7 A.M. Lunch.
- June 13 KENT local bird song trip. Leader: Robert E. Stewart.
- Dec. 23--Jan. 3 Christmas Bird Count period.

 **
 ** HAWK AND OWL BILL INTRODUCED IN THE MARYLAND STATE SENATE **
 **
 ** A bill designed to remove from the "unprotected birds **
 ** list" all species of hawks and owls, vultures, blue jays, **
 ** and kingfishers has been introduced in the State Senate by **
 ** Senator E. S. Northrop (Montgomery Co.). The bill, resem- **
 ** bling the National Audubon Society's model hawk and owl **
 ** law, constitutes an important step toward wise wildlife **
 ** management in Maryland and warrants the support of all **
 ** conservationists. **
 ** Conservationists are writing not only to their local **
 ** Senators, but also to Senator Robert P. Dean, Chairman of **
 ** the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mary- **
 ** land State Senate, Annapolis, asking that his committee **
 ** recommend early passage of Senate Bill 354. **
 ** Mr. & Mrs. Hans Krimm and Mrs. J.E.M. Wood **
 ** Conservation Committee **
 **

