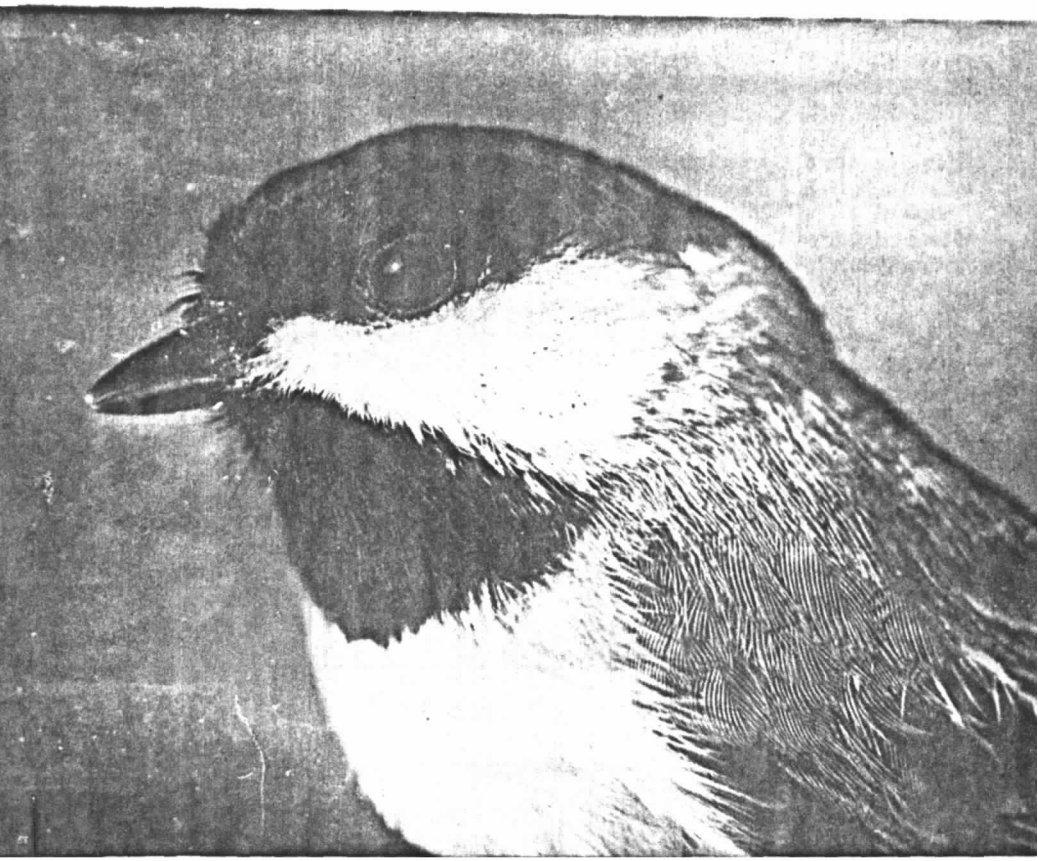
MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.



Volume 19 DECEMBER 1963 Number 4

THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Maryland

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HEADINGS: by Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor

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BANDING AS A SUPPLEMENT TO FIELD OBSERVATIONS

C. Douglas Hackman

Banding has many purposes and facets. Virtually every study that is being conducted on bird behavior and movement utilizes banding as a primary research tool. With the passage of each year more and more technical data are being amassed for research purposes. This collection of data has assumed such proportions that people are beginning to believe that banding consists of nothing more than the recording and compiling of great masses of numerical statistics. Because of this most people view banding as a highly complex technical endeavor and, therefore, fail to see or appreciate its more practical and immediate functions. Banding has several non-technical functions, the most important of which is the supplementing of field observations.

It has been proven that the average field observer has certain fundamental deficiencies. The observer can only be in one spot at a time and can adequately cover only a relatively small area. The observer is also restricted by the quality of his eyesight and hearing. Observational thoroughness and effectiveness are governed by the amount of experience the observer has had. These elements: observer mobility, eyesight, hearing and experience, combine to produce a set - a certain degree of selectivity - in the individual observer so that he will heed certain visual and audio cues to the exclusion of others. The observer, when exercising this selectivity, will miss certain species while he is unconsciously concentrating on others.

There are a number of species that are secretive and virtually silent in migration. Even active, competent field observers miss these species more often than they see them. To illustrate this point; how many of the following species have been seen by visitors to Rock Run Sanctuary: Saw-whet Owl (2), Warbling Vireo (2), Brewster's Warbler (2), Connecticut Warbler (20), Mourning Warbler (14), Savannah Sparrow (1), Grasshopper Sparrow (2), White-crowned Sparrow (2), or Lincoln's Sparrow (4)? The Rock Run banding totals (in parenthesis) indicate that these species regularly occur on the sanctuary. The combination of the extremely dense undergrowth on the sanctuary and the inconspicuous or secretive nature of these species makes them difficult for the observer to detect. Nets, however, capture these and other species with surprising regularity.

Some conspicuous species are relatively difficult to identify in the field. The Empidonax flycatchers (Yellow-bellied, Acadian, Traill's and Least Flycatchers) are the best examples. These flycatchers are very much in evidence during migration periods and are most easily identified when they sing but they seldom are vocal. Because of the great reluctance with which most observers approach the Empidonax flycatchers the vast majority reported each year are birds captured in nets. As an example of this, in the spring of 1963 Rock Run was the only Maryland location to report all four Empidonax species. Why? Simply because it was the only Maryland banding station that was in full operation during the migration peak.

Another less difficult, but still troublesome species for many observers is the Black-capped Chickadee. The first arrivals of this species are usually single birds that are relatively silent and inconspicuous. These single birds mix in with the resident Carolina Chickadees and are easily missed. Does the observer take the chance of calling that strange looking fellow a Black-cap, unless it is a striking specimen, or does he play it safe and wait until there has been an unmistakeable influx into the area before announcing the arrival of this species? There may be a break of from one to two weeks between the arrival of the first bird and that of the bulk of migrants. Regular banding operations will detect the arrival of the Black-caps and most other species with a greater degree of certainty than can the observer.

Banding also provides us with the means for making more accurate estimates of the number of migrants to be found in a particular area. An observer working a small area, for example, would be hard pressed to come up with an accurate count of such an active and mobile species as the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. After only a short period of observation the observer would be completely incapable of stating which of the birds he had already counted. If the observer saw six Ruby-throats in one group and then saw numerous single birds and smaller groups he would, at the end of the time period, be able to say only that he had definitely seen six hummingbirds. He could only add to those six if he saw birds that definitely flew over and out of his study area. With net totals supplementing his observations the bander could arrive at an estimate that had more positive value. Banding totals, by themselves, are excellent indicators of migration progress (Table 1).

Table 1. Rock Run Banding Totals

	September 1963										
Species	1	2	8	9	14	15	20	21	22	28	29
	3	4	9	6	8	1					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird											
Catbird			1	1	5	2	1	5	4	10	3
Swainson's Thrush			1		1	1		3	4	3	5
Magnolia Warbler		9	7	4	2	9	7	9	6	5	1
Ovenbird	1	5	1	1	5			3	4	5	3
American Redstart	2	4	3		5	1		6	1	1	

From such tabulations as this migrational peaks can be detected. These peaks, when correlated with weather patterns, often are quite striking. In this table, it can be seen that the Catbird first appeared on September 8 and that the migration was sporadic until the week end of September 21-22. On the week end of September 28-29 the Catbird migration reached its highest peak and, thereafter, began to decline. When all of the banding totals have been tabulated and studied, simultaneous peaks of a number of species often are apparent.

Several things that are not readily apparent to the observer can easily be pin-pointed through banding. Certain individual birds seem to be highly regular in their migration habits. In all probability most birds display this regularity, but our banding coverage, and perhaps technique, is not refined enough to demonstrate it. A specific example of this regularity is a White-eyed Vireo that was banded at Rock Run on April 26, 1961. The following spring, during a period when nets were in continuous operation, on the first day in which a returning White-eyed Vireo was heard to call we recaptured this bird. The date ....April 26, 1962! This bird returned again on April 21, 1963.

With such species as the White-throated Sparrow it seems that flocks that appear and are banded at a specific time in the fall will reappear at specific time the following spring (Table 2). Long after the migration appears to be over to the field observer there is a steady movement of new White-throated Sparrows into the nets. This movement continues until the middle of December and doesn't start again until late January or early February.

Table 2. White-throated Sparrow Returns

Band Number	Date Banded	Date First Recaptured
30-121526	12/02/61	04/21/62
529	12/02/61	04/25/62
542	12/22/61	03/24/62
544	12/22/61	03/25/62
545	12/22/61	03/25/62
547	12/23/61	10/18/62, 10/18/63

Once enough banding returns have been collected, certain patterns begin to appear. Notice in Table 2 that several birds banded on December 2, 1961 reappeared at the sanctuary toward the end of April 1962 whereas those banded on December 22, 1961 appeared in the middle of March 1962. This may indicate that the birds that arrive first move farther to the south than do the later migrants. If the later migrants do not go as far south, this could explain why they reappear first in the spring. We would like very much to know where these various groups winter. Patterns indicate that flocks are fairly well maintained for, when the birds begin to reappear in the spring, many birds that were banded together are still traveling together.

Once species such as the White-throated Sparrow have moved into the area in the fall it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to discern population shifts by sight observations unless an extremely large move-

ment or turnover occurs. More often than not, a few birds are constantly leaving the area and are being replaced by new birds from elsewhere. To the observer, it might appear that his wintering population is relatively stable. To the bander, however, an entirely different situation presents itself.

If banding operations are conducted on an intensive scale, it doesn't take long for the bander to have the majority of arrivals banded. Once this has been accomplished the bander is in a position to detect population shifts immediately. By carefully recording each bird's number as it is retrapped, it is possible for the bander to tell, within a day or two, when certain birds leave his area.

Each year, in late January or early February, many of the winter resident birds begin a slow, almost imperceptable, movement toward the north. While overall numbers of birds within any particular area appear to remain relatively stable, it is apparent to the bander that the birds are moving. Although it may appear to the regular observer that there is a stable population of perhaps forty birds, in actuality, that population may be replaced completely every nine or ten days. A few birds leave each day and are quickly replaced by several other birds. This means that what the regular observer thought of as a stable flock of forty birds may actually have amounted to 120 or more birds.

Certainly, banding involves a great deal more than has been alluded to here. Nevertheless, by revealing patterns that we cannot readily perceive with our own eyes, banding constantly adds, bit by bit, to the fundamental knowledge we must have to understand our bird populations. Without this fundamental knowledge it would be difficult, if not impossible, to interpret the more technical data that also are collected through banding.

Lilac Lane, Perry Hall

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL AT SANDY POINT

Reynold T. Larsen M. D.

On the afternoon of September 28, 1963, I observed an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) at Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County. The bird was with Herring Gulls on some stakes about 60 yards out from the beach. It was closely observed, both perched and in flight, through 16X binoculars, and could be readily compared both with the Herring Gulls and with several Great Black-backed Gulls which were nearby.

This bird was nearly identical in size with the Herring Gulls, but the head and neck appeared slightly less heavy. The head, neck, underparts and tail were clear white, except for a faint suggestion of streaking on the nape and sides of the neck. The mantle was uniformly very dark gray (the same shade as the nearby Great Black-backed Gulls), and this color blended into blackish wingtips. The wingtips showed a

few small spots of white, and the trailing edges of the upper wing surfaces had a narrow border of white. The bill was yellow, with a prominent red spot near the end of the lower mandible. The legs and feet were a deep shade of yellow, in striking contrast to the pinkish-gray legs of the Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls.

In view of the rarity of this species in North America, and the existence of only two previous records for Maryland, I think this observation is worthy of note.

6246 Dallas Place, Apt. T2, Washington 31, D. C.

AUDUBON NATURE CAMP IN MAINE

Mel Garland

Spruce-forested Hog Island in Maine's Muscongus Bay is camp headquarters for the Maine Audubon Camp which I attended for two weeks in July as recipient of the Helen Miller Scholarship.

Classes were held in outdoor classrooms where one day a group worked over one inch of soil from a square foot of the forest floor to identify the living creatures in this small area and the next day covered miles of water to visit the nesting islands of Double-crested Cormorants, Arctic Terns, Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, and Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls.

We were mobile - boats, cars and legs carried the classes to mainland birding areas, fresh-water ponds and lakes, lobster pounds, and a fishery where many migrating Alewives were taken on their way to spawning waters. Nature's relationships were discussed on the spot. What better place to talk about feeding habits of gulls than on an island where many cast pellets could be examined? My favorite camp activities were the evening lectures on ecology, an eco-system, and the ecology of the Maine coast. These lectures enabled us to tie together all we had experienced.

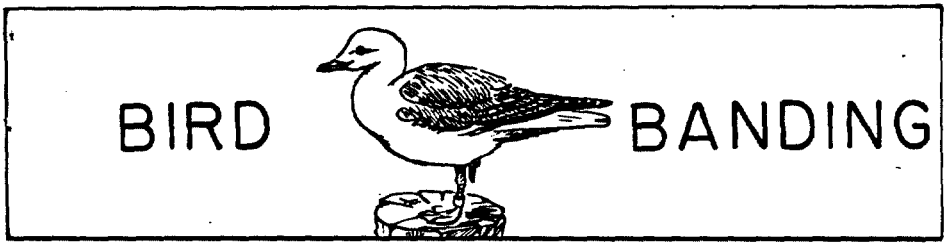
As if all this weren't enough, there were small discussion groups at breakfast, lunch and dinner when each table had six campers and two staff members. Pick a table and you were off again. Then there was the lobster feast on the shore, group singing, classical music on stereo, and Peggy Cadbury, daughter of Bart Cadbury, camp director, who had the most charming way of presenting a folk song.

I wish to express my gratitude to those who, through their support of the Helen Miller Scholarship Fund, made my two weeks of study in Maine possible and also for the chance to hear a Common Loon call across the lake; to watch Wilson's Petrels dance atop the waves; to hear the evening song of the Swainson's Thrush, and so many more experiences; all new, grand and spectacular.

36 Burke Ave., Towson.

Helen B. Miller Audubon Nature Camp Scholarship

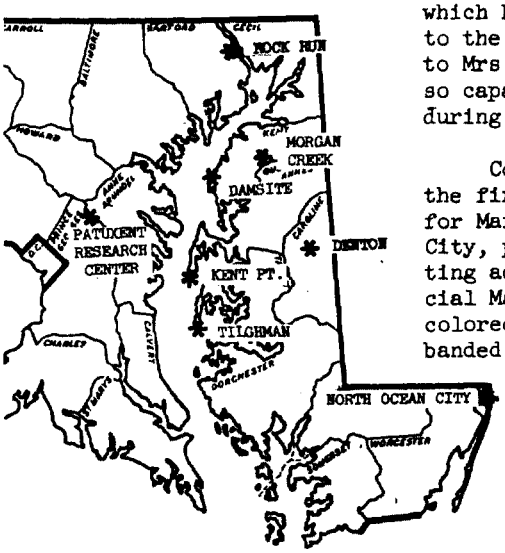
Applicants should apply in writing to President, Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, by January 10, 1964. Candidate must be selected at the Trustees meeting on Saturday, January 11, 1964.



OPERATION RECOVERY IN MARYLAND, 1963

Operation Recovery had a record number of "firsts" in 1963. For the first time the number of birds banded in one day exceeded 1,000—and this happened not at one station, but at two. For the first time a bander's leg was broken during "operations"—and not at one station, but at two. For the first time station accidents immobilized a bander's arm —not at one station, but at two. For the first time a Maryland OR bird was recaptured within a very few days at another Maryland station—even though it flew the "wrong way." For the first time a Maryland OR bird (a Semipalmated Sandpiper from Ocean City No. 2 Station) was recaptured at an out-of-state OR station (South Amboy, N. J., one year and one day later by Mrs. Neil Knorr).

Last year we thought the banding of 11,706 Operation Recovery birds in Maryland was a great accomplishment. This year's total was over 10,000 more. All stations that were in operation both years handled more species in 1963, and all except "Damsite" had more net-hours of coverage and more birds banded than in 1962. Thanks to the irrepressible spirit and tremendous devotion of our President, her station remained in operation except for the period during which her broken limbs confined her to the hospital. Special thanks go to Mrs. Bradley Fisk for assisting so capably at the "Damsite" station during the emergency.



Continuing with the "firsts," the first Rufous Hummingbird specimen for Maryland was obtained at Ocean City, photographs of a Painted Bunting added this species to the official Maryland list, and a Clay-colored Sparrow was the first ever banded in Maryland and the first recorded on the Eastern Shore. Each other station had its own share of first records for the station or for the county. The SEASON report lists many other birds as the earliest or latest ever

recorded in Maryland.

Interesting and exciting as some of the "firsts" may be, the principal contributions of the OR effort this fall lie not in the large numbers of bands applied or the impressive variety of birds banded. They lie rather in the storehouse of records showing changes in abundance of each species, day by day, and station by station; in the continuity of the records over long periods of time; and in the careful daily record of net-hours of operation. The record of net-hours enables ornithologists to apply a common denominator to the daily banding totals in Maryland so that progress of the migration here can be compared with progress in other states and provinces. Because of increased attention to minute details of plumage, eye color, and extent of ossification of the skull, a much larger proportion of the 1963 birds were identified to age and/or sex. This in turn gives greater significance to the weights and wing measurements which are recorded so carefully for almost every bird handled. The high devotion of banders to the objective of obtaining the most information they can about each bird banded was demonstrated several times; on days with heavy flights banders closed many of their nets and reduced their total catch in order to study more fully the birds that they banded.

A summary of the 1963 OR bandings is presented in Table 1. In addition, we have asked each station leader to pen a few words touching on some of the highlights of his or her station. Only those persons who have spent several full days at an OR station can appreciate the boundless enthusiasm that draws the banders from their beds an hour before dawn every day of the season, that keeps them constantly on the "go" through heat, cold, wind, drizzle [we hardly had any rain this fall!], sand, mud, and mosquitoes, and somehow leaves them with enough energy to compile the daily records long after the sun has dropped below the horizon. As the station leaders have thanked their many loyal assistants, I in turn, on behalf of all ornithologists who will utilize the accumulated data in years to come, wish to commend each station leader for the tremendous amount of time, study, and effort on their part that made the 1963 OR project so successful.—Ed.

Table 1. Summary of OR Bandings in Maryland, 1963

Station	New Birds Banded				Net Hours	Birds per 100 Net-hr.	Total Species
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total			
Patuxent Res. Ctr.	134	557	627	1318			84
Rock Run Sanctuary	470	467	509	1446	13418	11	86
Morgan Creek	--	--	953	953	2060	46	55
Damsite, Chestertown	364	889	2299	3552			98
Kent Point	---	640	547	1187	2612	45	68
Tilghman	--	1960	2757	4717	7606	62	83
Denton	27	102	429	558	2345	24	61
North Ocean City	181	2412	5517	8110	22750	96	115
TOTAL	1176	7027	13638	21841			

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

This year the Patuxent Operation Recovery station was operated from August 6 through October 26. Until September 23, the station was run from dawn to 8:00 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to dark on week days, all day Saturday, and parts of Sunday. After school started, the station was run only on Saturday (all day) and on Sunday (until 9:30 a.m.). The 1963 netting operation was moved to a new area this year; this area was generally wood margin bordering the large trees of the bottomland forest along the Patuxent River. There were marshy sections and the large Duvall Pond was nearby. Fifteen to 20 nets were used most of the time.

In general, I was by myself, but on certain Saturdays the Patuxent Bird Club had field trips to the banding station, where many interesting birds were seen and photographed. Glenn Austin also helped at times.

This year 1,312 individuals of 84 species were banded. These included: 6 species of shorebirds, kingfisher, all thrushes including bluebird, 40 Cedar Waxwings, 24 species of warblers including Prothonotary, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Connecticut, and Wilson's, Rusty Blackbird, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, and nine species of sparrows.

Vernon M. Kleen
339 Talbot Ave., Laurel

Rock Run Sanctuary

This year, thanks to an unusually cool August and an increased net potential, Rock Run almost doubled its 1962 Operation Recovery totals. During the fall of 1963 a total of 1446 new birds of 85 species and 1 hybrid species were banded at Rock Run. The commonest species were: White-throated Sparrow, Robin and Magnolia Warbler. Highlights of the season were the 64 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and the Brewster's warbler (for the second straight year). Twenty-nine species of warblers were banded during the Operation Recovery period. Species banded for the first time included: American Woodcock, Yellow-throated Vireo, Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers and White-crowned Sparrow.

C. Douglas Hackman
Lilac Lane, Perry Hall

Morgan Creek

Morgan Creek station is located on Morgan Creek 2½ miles northeast of Chestertown. The area used consists of marsh, timber, open fields (untilled for several years), and brushy low lands with abundant food, particularly berries. This station was set up in the fall of 1962 when Verna and Lawrence Lenz of Huntington Woods, Michigan, and Lucille and I decided to coordinate our vacations and band together each fall. After last year's banding we selected a week in October, 1963, and asked to be included in Operation Recovery with the thought of continuing and perhaps expanding the station from year to year.

Although the 1963 results were about what we expected, we were a little too early for the Sparrows, which will probably always lead our

counts. We set up shop on Saturday, October 5, 1963, at 4 p.m., and operated in bluebird weather until 9 a.m. Sunday morning, October 13, 1963. Fifty-five species and 953 new birds were banded. We had banded over 1000 birds in this same area in 1962, so had hopes of getting some returns and were happy to have two White-throated Sparrows, two Song Sparrows, one Swamp Sparrow, one Indigo Bunting, one Carolina Chickadee, two Cardinals, and one Mockingbird pay us a return visit.

Visitors at our station included John Armstrong, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carswell, Mrs. Bradley Fisk, Mrs. Roxie Laybourne, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, and Chandler S. Robbins. We are deeply grateful for their interest and assistance, and for the knowledge gained working with these other banders. All in all this week was a great experience, and we believe if the opportunity of participating in Operation Recovery presents itself another year, we can do a much more efficient job.

Jerry Gardner
Chesmar, Chestertown

"Damsite"

Operation Recovery at "Damsite" claims no honors this year except I am sure it was the one and only one run from a bedside. With a broken arm and a broken leg, it seemed that there would be no banding at this station for 1963 but due to the tremendous loyalty of family and friends we were able to report a total of 3552 birds banded of 98 species. We were honored with a day of instruction by the Chief without whose enthusiasm we would have fallen by the wayside. We added five new species for this station. Those that gave us the most pleasure were a Blue-winged Warbler and an influx of Black-capped Chickadees. I must admit that after three months of continuous netting I welcomed November 1st.

Dorothy A. Mendinhall
R. D. 2, Chestertown

Kent Point

In order to study fall migration along the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay, we chose to run an Operation Recovery station on Kent Point, the southernmost tip of Kent Island. This point of land appears to be a strategically located stopping point for migrating birds, since it is surrounded on three sides by water. Our netting area is located in the southernmost woodlot. The vegetation consists mainly of loblolly pine, sweet gum, black gum, tulip, and myrtle; the canopy varies from 20 to 45 feet. During five week ends in September and October, with 25 nets in operation, 1187 new birds of 68 species were banded. Warblers comprised 57 percent of the total catch. The commonest species was Myrtle Warbler, of which 323 were banded.

The theory that Kent Point might be a concentration point for migrating birds proved to hold true for diurnal as well as nocturnal migrants. Four thousand Blue Jays were observed on one day, and a high count of 58 Sparrow Hawks was made on another day.

David and Margaret Bridge
4310 Jefferson St., Hyattsville

Tilghman Island

This new station was operated every week end, and a few weekdays, through September and October. The net-lane was set up at the north edge of a pine woodlot, immediately adjacent to and perpendicular to the shoreline of Chesapeake Bay. Thick underbrush along the edge of the woods provided an ideal situation for netting.

Excellent weather conditions prevailed nearly every day of the operation and the advance of several cold fronts gave some very high catches. On the opening day of the station a surprising total of 212 Veeries were netted. On October 5, 1,197 birds of 34 species were banded. White-throated Sparrows, Towhees, Catbirds and Hermit Thrushes were the most numerous species for the day.

By the close of the season, 4,717 birds of 83 species had been netted and banded. The "Big Five" for the period were: White-throated Sparrow (695), Swainson's Thrush (575), Veery (405), Hermit Thrush (377) and Catbird (277). Other birds of special note, captured during October were 2 Saw-whet Owls and a Dickcissel. A Blue Jay (572-43731) banded October 10, was retrapped at the Denton Station on October 17.

The exceptional cooperation received from members of the Talbot County Bird Club greatly contributed to the success of the station.

Jan Reese and Ted Van Velsen
Box 213, Tilghman

Denton

Nets were set up for Operation Recovery at the Fletcher farm, 3½ miles northeast of Denton, on August 24. Banding was conducted every possible day through September and October, for a total of 34 days. In all, 558 individual birds of 63 species were banded or recaptured in the 7-9 nets operated.

Unusual birds make a day's work interesting, and were it not for the O R program, several species would pass through Caroline County unnoticed. The Least Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Solitary Vireo are seldom noted in the fall.

The most abundant species banded was White-throated Sparrow (147), and Myrtle Warbler (31) and Robin (30) were far behind. Many Rusty Blackbirds were feeding on Dogwood berries nearby but only 20 individuals were captured.

A Blue Jay (572-43731) captured on October 17, was the only foreign retrap. In 1962 the only foreign retrap was a Blue Jay (553-37233), banded at Wilmington, Delaware, on September 9, 1961, and captured at Denton on October 17!

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher
R. D. 1, Box 201, Denton

North Ocean City

Two years ago a demonstration of banding was put on at the North Ocean City Operation Recovery station late in October for the members of the A.O.U. who were holding their annual convention in Washington, D. C. We had planned to band three days, but weather permitted only one

day. It was such a success, with an interesting number of species and over five hundred birds, that we decided to band the next year on the same weekend, for a comparison, and we were most pleased. This helped us to decide to keep the North Ocean City OR station open from Labor Day weekend through October 21, 1963.

The trees had grown a little more and the dredge from last year had finished its noisy labors and moved on. Otherwise, the conditions were the same. 1963 was our best year. We banded over 8100 birds of 115 species.

Any way you look at it, collecting, handling, measuring and weighing, that number of birds involved a lot of handwork plus many miles of plowing on foot through the sands and marsh. There were frustrations (Brown Creepers in nets) and excitement with Painted Bunting, Rufous Hummingbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Lark Sparrow, to name a few. Some days the birds flew in so fast the nets had to be furled, as the collecting cages were filled and there were not enough people to help.

We were honored for the first time this year with helpers from the Fish and Wildlife Service staff at the U. S. National Museum; these ornithologists assisted several days on two occasions. To list all the dedicated people who gave of their time and knowledge would take another page, but members of M. O. S., and banders from Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, came and worked from daylight to sundown at different times.

The OR station is not a demonstration project. We work not just to put bands on birds, but to study the individual bird and gather information on comparison of plumage, wing measurement, ageing and sexing, male, female and immature differences, fat accumulation, and weights, to tell us more about the species and their migrating habits. These data are put on punch cards and made available for use of any birder who is interested.

Gladys Cole
625 Valley Lane, Towson

CORRECTED CHRISTMAS COUNT SCHEDULE

Because of conflict with the doe season, many changes have been made in the Christmas Count schedule since publication of the September issue. Please register early with the following leaders.

Dec.	21	Denton	Mr. A. J. Fletcher	Denton 643-W-2
	21	Rock Run Sanctuary	C. D. Hackman, Perry Hall.	ED 5-4437
	22	St. Michaels	R. L. Kleen, St. Michaels.	RI 5-4651
	23	Seneca	David Bridge, Hyattsville	927-0834
	23	Loch Raven	Gerald Elgert, Baltimore.	NO 8-5278
	26	Allegany County	Mrs. Gordon Taylor, Frostburg	OV9-6791
	26	Triadelphia Reservoir	Vernon Kleen, Laurel.	PA 5-6867
	27	Chincoteague, Va.	F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale,	Richmond
	28	Cylburn Park	Mrs. Robert Kaestner, Balto.	DR 7-8990
	29	Lower Kent County	Dr. Gibson, Chestertown.	778-0565
	29	Annapolis & Gibson Is.	Cmdr. E. P. Wilson, Annapolis	CO8-3692
	30	Ocean City	C. S. Robbins, Laurel	PA5-1176
	31	Blackwater Refuge	C. S. Robbins, Laurel	PA5-1176
Jan.	1	Catoctin Mountain	Dr. J. Richards, Emmitsburg.	HI7-4006

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, 1963

Chandler S. Robbins

Although a great many birds are still nesting in early July, migration also is under way at this time, and nearly all the reports that were submitted this fall relate to migrants rather than to summer residents.

The first "cold" front in July can be counted upon to trigger the migration of a few shorebirds and swallows, and occasionally other species as well. Such a front swept cool winds from Hudson Bay into the Middle Atlantic States on July 3-4. Temperatures dropped to the 30's in Garrett County and the low 40's in central Pennsylvania. It is not surprising that a Bobolink turned up at Berlin on the record-breaking date of July 4, that an Upland Plover flew over the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on the evening of July 3, and that seven species of shorebirds arrived at Ocean City in the next two or three days. A second cold front that moved through on July 9 dropped the mercury to the 30's again in Garrett County. The next strong front, which arrived on July 30, dropped temperatures only to the 40's in Western Maryland, but had enough punch to bring the first migrant warblers (Blue-wings) to Rock Run Sanctuary on the 31st. July ended with temperature deficiencies of 0 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees in various sections of the State and precipitation deficiencies of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 1/3 inches except in Garrett County.

August was interesting ornithologically because the succession of five cold fronts the first 13 days stimulated many migrants to put in an early appearance. These fronts crossed Maryland on Aug. 1, 4, 8, 10, and 13; others arrived on Aug. 18, 24, 30, and 31. Most transients arrived within a day or two of a cold front, depending upon the time of day the front arrived, and wind, temperature and sky conditions behind the front. August temperatures averaged $\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ degrees below normal, and precipitation ranged from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above normal in Garrett County to 4 inches below normal in southern Maryland. Incidentally, Blackwater Refuge had the dubious honor of recording the highest official temperature in Maryland in July (99° tie) and August (98°).

The Aug. 31 cold front produced a fine wave of warblers and flycatchers on Sept. 1, which was the best day of the month at Tilghman Island. The next front, on the 4th, became stationary off the coast; the extensive area of heavy overcast and coastal precipitation behind it persisted until winds had shifted to the southwest. Migration during

this period was negligible at Ocean City; the bay-side stations were not in operation on these dates. There was no heavy movement at any Maryland station until the next cold front arrived, at about dawn on the 10th. The Ocean City total rose from 39 birds on the 9th to 188 on the 10th, and 217 on the 11th, which was the best day of the month there. Since this was in mid-week, most other stations were not in operation. The next cold front arrived on the 13th, followed by a wide area of heavy overcast and by rain along the coast; by the time the rain ceased the next night, winds had shifted to northeast, preventing any appreciable influx of new birds along the coast (only 15 new birds at Ocean City). These same northeast winds, however, produced good concentrations at Kent Point (103 birds) and Blackwalnut Point (203 birds) on the 14th.

The only other cold front that passed through Maryland in September moved slowly southward on the night of Friday, Sept. 20. Once again, overcast skies prevented a major influx of birds on Saturday morning. By Saturday night, skies had cleared to the north of us, temperatures dropped to the freezing point in parts of Pennsylvania, and migration was in full swing. Northeast winds and rain along the coast prevented the migrants from reaching Ocean City. However, the 1 a.m. weather map shows that Tilghman Island was at the northwestern edge of the precipitation area at that time. This explains why Blackwalnut Point at Tilghman had a major flight on Sunday the 22nd, with 245 birds, their second best day in September. At nearby Kent Point, which was not in operation on Sept. 1, the 22nd was the best day of the month, with 209 birds banded. Conditions were favorable for migration on Sunday night (clear skies, low temperatures, north-northwest winds), and Monday the 23rd proved to be the second best day of the month at Ocean City (210), the third best at Tilghman (241), and one of the best at Kent Point in spite of the fact that this station was running only part of the day. The commonest birds at Ocean City on Sept. 22-23 were Yellow-shafted Flicker (52), American Redstart (34), Brown Creeper (14), and Catbird (14); the commonest at Tilghman were Swainson's Thrush (186), Ovenbird (40), Catbird (30), and Wood Thrush (26); the commonest at Kent Point were Ovenbird (50), Swainson's Thrush (57), Blue Jay (24), and Black-and-white Warbler (24). The commonest at Rock Run Sanctuary near the Susquehanna River on Sept. 21-22 [not operating on Sept. 23] were Magnolia Warbler (15), Yellowthroat (13), Catbird (9), and Ruby-throated Hummingbird (8). The differences in species composition result in part from different migration routes and in part from the habitats in which nets are operated.

An independent appraisal of this same flight came from Hank Kaestner, who reported "the greatest nocturnal migration I've ever witnessed" at Perry Hall on the night of Sept. 21-22 from 10 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. He estimated that he heard 10,000 chips during this period. He pointed out that low clouds forced the migrants to fly at about 100 ft. until 12:30 a.m. EST; after that, as the clouds broke up, he estimated they flew at about 800 to 1,000 ft. The bulk of the birds heard were thrushes, with an estimated 7-8,000 Swainson's, 1,000 Gray-cheeks, and 120 Veeries, or a ratio of 62:8:1. The netted ratio of these three species the next morning was 8:8:1 at Kent Point, and 9:1½:1 at Tilghman. Other species

Mr. Kaestner identified by ear that night were Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Slate-colored Junco, and White-throated Sparrow. All but the junco were banded at one or more of the bayside stations the next morning. The most notable feature of the September weather was the complete lack of measureable rainfall in part of central Maryland for the first time in recorded history.

A summary of the first fall arrival dates for selected species is given by counties in Table 1. The following observers contributed dates to the table: Western Md. (Allegany and Frederick Counties)--Anderson J. Martin, Walter Booth, Robert W. Warfield; Baltimore City and County--C. Douglas Hackman, Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Hank Kaestner, Haven Kolb; Harford County--Mel Garland, C. Douglas Hackman; Montgomery--Lucille V. Smith, John H. Fales, John S. Weske, Robert W. Warfield, Walter Booth; Prince Georges--Vernon Kleen, Ted Stiles, Ted Van Velzen, Chandler S. Robbins, George Robbins; Anne Arundel--Harold Wierenga, Hal Wierenga, Paul Bystrak, Danny Bystrak, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, William Anderson; Cecil--Vernon Rossman; Kent--Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, Mrs. Bradley Fisk; Caroline--Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin W. Hewitt; Queen Anne--Mr. and Mrs. David Bridge, Mrs. Betty Riedel, Terry Moore; Talbot--Jan Reese, Ted Van Velzen, Don Meritt, Richard L. Kleen, Leslie Schunic; Dorchester & Wicomico--John S. Weske, Samuel H. Dyke; Worcester--Chandler S. Robbins, Mrs. Richard D. Cole, V. Edwin Unger, Samuel H. Dyke, Gerald G. Elgert, Tommy Hearne, Mr. and Mrs. Elting Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Aldridge Pepper, Robert Pepper, James Baird, Mrs. Herbert Church, Mrs. M. B. Donnald, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Douglass, Dr. Fritz Scheider, Dr. R. K. Burns, Walter Booth, Dr. Lester L. Short, Mrs. Roxie Laybourne, Carl Carlson, Mrs. Sarah Baker, Mrs. J. F. Kennedy.

Dates that are underscored in the table represent banded birds; dates underscored in the text are earlier or later than any previous record for that part of the State; numbers underscored are greater than any previous fall count in that section of the State.

Shearwaters and Petrels. Samuel H. Dyke found 2 Wilson's Petrels at Ocean City inlet on July 14, and 2 Cory's Shearwaters offshore from the inlet on Sept. 16, after a northeast storm. These species summer several miles off our coast, but are seen from shore only by those who search diligently and frequently, especially during and just after easterly storms.

Herons. Drought conditions helped concentrate herons in those marshes and ponds where an adequate water supply was maintained. Terry Moore found 50 Great Blue Herons, 55 Common Egrets and 11 Snowy Egrets at one small pond on Kent Island on Sept. 2. Robert Warfield added Snowy Egret to the Frederick County list when he saw one at Lilypons, Aug. 25. He also recorded a late Louisiana Heron at Ocean City, Sept. 28. Of local interest was the first record of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Lake Roland, just outside the Baltimore City limits; it was first seen on May 29 by Elizabeth Fisher and Mrs. Miriam Theobald, and was seen as late as Aug. 15 by Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner.

Table 1. Fall Arrival Dates, 1963

Species	W.Md	Balt	Harf	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Cecl	Kent	Caro	Q.An	Talb	D&Wi	Worc
Canada Goose	--	--	9/21	9/13	9/13	9/ 5	9/19	--	9/27	9/13	9/ 4	9/24	--
Semipalmated Plover	9/ 3	--	--	9/12	--	8/28	--	--	--	--	8/ 2	7/22	7/ 7
Spotted Sandpiper	7/14	--	--	--	--	7/29	--	--	--	--	7/13	7/22	7/ 6
Solitary Sandpiper	7/14	--	--	--	8/ 6	--	--	--	7/29	--	8/25	8/ 2	8/30
Greater Yellowlegs	7/14	--	--	--	7/24	7/29	--	--	--	--	8/ 2	7/15	7/ 6
Pectoral Sandpiper	7/14	--	--	--	8/ 7	7/29	--	--	--	--	8/25	7/22	--
Short-billed Dowitcher	7/14	--	--	--	--	9/29	--	--	--	--	8/14	7/15	7/ 6
Semipalmated Sandpiper	7/14	--	--	--	8/ 9	7/29	--	--	--	--	8/ 2	7/15	7/ 6
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	--	--	8/ 4	8/ 8	9/ 4	--	8/10	8/15	--	--	9/12	--	9/18
Black-billed Cuckoo	--	--	8/ 2	8/ 3	--	--	--	8/15	8/26	--	--	--	9/ 1
Yellow-sh. Flicker	--	--	9/ 7	9/19	--	--	--	--	--	9/12	9/ 8	--	8/24
Yellow-bel.Sapsucker	10/ 6	--	9/28	9/27	9/28	9/28	--	9/24	--	--	9/24	--	9/19
Hairy Woodpecker	--	--	--	10/ 3	--	10/ 9	--	--	--	10/13	9/25	--	10/ 5
Eastern Phoebe	--	--	9/28	--	--	10/ 2	--	9/22	9/28	9/22	9/22	--	9/23
Yellow-bel.Flycatcher	--	--	8/ 5	8/26	9/12	--	8/27	8/ 6	--	9/12	9/ 1	--	8/31
Traill's Flycatcher	--	--	8/10	--	9/ 7	--	--	--	--	--	9/ 1	--	8/31
Least Flycatcher	8/23	--	8/10	8/18	9/ 3	--	9/11	8/18	8/29	9/13	9/ 1	--	8/30
Tree Swallow	--	--	--	8/15	8/13	--	8/11	8/ 2	--	--	8/15	--	8/24
Blue Jay	--	9/16	9/14	9/12	9/21	--	9/21	9/24	9/18	9/21	9/22	--	10/ 7
White-br.Nuthatch	--	10/ 6	9/21	10/12	7/ 6	8/28	--	10/ 1	10/ 5	10/12	10/ 6	7/ 4	9/30
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9/15	9/26	10/11	--	10/ 5	10/17	10/ 3	9/11	9/21	9/13	9/ 1	9/26	9/ 3
Brown Creeper	--	9/30	10/11	10/ 1	9/14	9/21	10/ 1	9/12	10/ 1	9/21	9/23	--	9/12
Winter Wren	--	--	9/28	10/12	--	10/12	10/12	9/24	--	9/22	9/25	--	9/25
Hermit Thrush	--	--	9/10	--	10/ 1	10/21	10/ 7	10/ 5	10/15	10/12	9/25	--	10/ 1
Swainson's Thrush	9/ 3	--	9/ 8	9/26	9/ 4	--	9/ 3	9/11	9/19	9/14	9/ 1	--	9/ 1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	--	9/21	9/28	10/ 6	9/21	9/29	9/11	8/26	10/ 1	9/14	9/ 1	--	9/11
Veery	--	--	9/ 7	--	9/ 2	--	8/22	8/26	8/28	--	8/25	--	8/31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9/15	9/24	9/22	10/ 5	10/ 5	10/ 5	10/ 8	9/21	9/24	9/21	9/ 8	--	9/23
Cedar Waxwing	--	--	8/10	--	9/ 2	--	8/25	10/22	--	--	9/ 8	--	8/25
Loggerhead Shrike	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8/28	9/ 2	9/ 7	8/11	9/ 4
Solitary Vireo	--	--	9/29	10/ 5	--	--	--	10/ 5	9/24	9/ 2	--	--	10/ 9
Black-&-white Warbler	--	8/11	8/ 8	9/ 3	8/ 9	--	8/11	8/19	9/13	9/13	8/25	8/17	8/31
Worm-eating Warbler	--	8/14	8/ 5	--	--	8/27	8/ 2	8/15	--	--	--	--	9/ 1
Blue-winged Warbler	--	--	7/31	--	8/31	--	8/24	9/11	9/ 8	--	9/12	--	9/11
Tennessee Warbler	--	--	8/15	--	9/ 2	--	9/20	8/ 7	--	9/22	9/22	--	9/12
Nashville Warbler	--	8/26	8/10	9/15	9/14	--	--	9/11	--	9/22	10/ 4	--	9/ 7
Parula Warbler	--	--	9/14	--	--	8/30	--	9/14	--	9/23	9/ 8	--	9/ 8
Yellow Warbler	--	8/ 6	--	8/ 1	9/14	--	--	--	9/ 9	--	--	--	8/ 4
Magnolia Warbler	--	9/ 1	9/ 7	9/ 3	8/31	--	9/ 2	9/ 1	--	9/13	9/ 1	--	8/31
Cape May Warbler	--	8/26	9/28	--	9/22	--	9/25	9/20	9/14	9/22	9/14	--	9/ 1
Black-thr.Blue Warbler	9/15	--	9/ 1	--	7/17	--	9/ 1	9/ 1	9/21	9/14	9/ 1	--	8/31
Myrtle Warbler	--	8/20	9/21	10/ 5	--	10/12	10/ 2	8/16	9/30	10/12	9/26	9/21	9/30
Blk-thr.Green Warbler	--	9/ 1	9/ 7	9/26	9/ 2	8/28	--	9/14	9/28	9/15	9/14	--	9/31
Blackburnian Warbler	--	--	8/20	8/26	8/31	8/28	--	8/ 2	--	9/13	--	--	9/10
Chestnut-sided Warbler	--	--	8/16	8/26	8/31	--	--	8/20	--	9/15	9/ 1	9/ 9	9/ 1
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/15	--	--	--	9/22	9/29	9/29	9/ 1	--	9/21	9/22	--	9/ 1
Blackpoll Warbler	--	--	9/14	--	9/17	--	9/28	9/14	9/24	9/14	9/27	9/ 9	9/10
Palm Warbler	--	8/21	--	9/26	10/ 5	9/22	--	10/ 8	--	9/15	10/ 5	9/29	9/12
Northern Waterthrush	8/24	8/29	8/ 7	--	8/13	--	8/11	8/ 6	9/14	9/14	9/ 1	--	8/16
Connecticut Warbler	--	--	9/ 8	8/29	9/14	--	--	9/25	9/18	9/14	9/ 9	--	9/ 1
Wilson's Warbler	--	--	9/21	9/21	9/13	--	9/24	8/27	--	--	--	--	9/ 1
Canada Warbler	--	8/ 3	8/ 5	8/11	8/ 9	--	8/ 4	8/ 7	--	--	8/15	--	8/31
American Redstart	--	8/16	8/10	8/14	9/ 2	--	8/ 4	8/10	--	--	8/15	9/ 9	8/30
Bobolink	--	8/25	--	--	9/ 7	--	8/22	--	8/19	8/10	9/ 8	8/22	7/ 4
Baltimore Oriole	8/20	8/12	8/ 9	8/ 1	9/ 6	--	8/11	8/28	9/ 1	9/ 2	8/25	8/24	8/24
Rose-br. Grosbeak	9/ 2	8/20	9/ 8	9/19	9/ 3	--	--	9/14	9/24	9/14	9/ 2	--	9/ 1
Slate-colored Junco	9/29	9/21	9/28	10/ 5	9/30	10/ 9	9/11	9/29	10/10	10/13	9/14	9/26	9/23
White-throated Spar.	10/ 5	9/21	9/21	10/ 5	9/29	9/24	9/28	9/23	9/18	9/22	9/23	9/29	9/23
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	9/24	10/ 5	--	10/ 6	10/ 8	--	10/ 6	10/ 7	--	9/ 8	--	9/23
Swamp Sparrow	--	--	9/28	--	8/15	10/28	10/12	9/23	10/15	10/12	10/ 4	10/13	10/ 1

Waterfowl. A group of about 15 Whistling Swans spent the summer at Kent Narrows (Terry Moore). Single summering Oldsquaws were noted in Talbot County, July 4-13 (Jan Reese), at Elliott on July 11 (John S. Weske), and at Kent Island on Aug. 17 (Moore). A Fulvous Tree Duck in high plumage was discovered at the West Ocean City pond on Aug. 15 (Dyke) and seen by scores of observers through Sept. 22. Ducks and geese were generally late in arriving, although a flock of Canada Geese on Sept. 4 in Talbot County (Leslie Schunic) was very early, as were 6 White-winged Scoters at Maryland Beach on Sept. 1 (Warfield).

Hawks. The most important advances in our knowledge of hawk migration this fall came from the Operation Recovery stations at Kent Point and Tilghman on the eastern edge of the Chesapeake. Concentrations of Sparrow Hawks were particularly impressive, with as many as 160 counted at Blackwalnut Point, Tilghman, on Sept. 21 (Reese). At and near the same point on Sept. 12, James Baird recorded the activities of 38 Sparrow Hawks, 18 Broad-wings, 14 Sharp-shins, 2 Red-tails, 1 Red-shoulder and 1 Marsh Hawk. One of the Broad-wings and a few Sparrow Hawks took off over Chesapeake Bay in a westerly direction; some of the Sparrow Hawks left Blackwalnut Point in a southwesterly direction, others due south. Most of the Broad-wings, however, disappeared to the east; this species is particularly hesitant about crossing large bodies of water. Much still remains to be learned about the abundance of the various hawk species at Kent and Blackwalnut Points, the relation between hawk abundance and weather conditions, and the routes taken by the various species under different conditions of wind direction, wind speed, sky condition, and visibility. Bald Eagles were reported from eight Maryland counties during the period July-September 1962, but from only two in the same period in 1963. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen at Sandy Point State Park, Sept. 29 and Oct. 3, by Professor Harold Wierenga. An early migrating Sparrow Hawk was seen at West Ocean City on Aug. 7 (Robert W. Warfield), and as many as 160 were counted at Tilghman on Sept. 21 (Reese and Van Velzen).

Shorebirds. An Upland Plover at the Patuxent Research Center on July 3 tied Kirkwood's 1895 record (Robbins). The first shorebirds seen actually migrating at Ocean City this fall were noted by Dyke on July 6: 8 Spotted Sandpipers, 5 Greater Yellowlegs (earliest Maryland arrival), 9 Lesser Yellowlegs (earliest Maryland arrival), 2 dowitchers, and 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper. Mr. Dyke observed the first migrant Ruddy Turnstones and Semipalmated Plover on the following day, July 7, the earliest State migration date for both species. As many as 7 American Oystercatchers were present all summer at Cape Isle of Wight, West Ocean City (Robert W. Warfield). A Common Snipe in the Elliott Island marsh on Aug. 7 provided the second earliest State record (Weske). Professor Wierenga's frequent coverage of Sandy Point State Park was rewarded by his finding 21 species of shorebirds there during the three-month period; worthy of special mention are 2 Golden Plovers on Sept. 13-14 and 1 on Sept. 25, a Whimbrel, Sept. 19-21, a Baird's Sandpiper on Sept. 11, a Stilt Sandpiper on Sept. 7, and the first fall record of Hudsonian Godwit away from the coast, Sept. 18-19. Another Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Ocean City on Sept. 22 (Dyke). At Kent Island,

Terry Moore discovered 5 Knots on Sept. 7, single Stilt Sandpipers on Sept. 2 and Sept. 7 and a Wilson's Phalarope on Aug. 17 and Aug. 21. Two American Avocets on the record early date of July 21 at Elliott Island were joined by 3 others on July 23 and furnished the sixth record of this western species in Maryland (Weske).

Gulls. At Tilghman, Jan Reese counted 23 Great Black-backed Gulls on July 13 and estimated as many as 1,000 Laughing Gulls on July 29. On neither day was there a coastal storm or high winds to account for the large numbers. Sam Dyke estimated 75 Great Black-backed Gulls at Ocean City on Sept. 1; 30 percent were adults. Dr. Larsen's account of Maryland's third Lesser Black backed Gull appears elsewhere in this issue.

Goatsuckers. Since Whip-poor-wills migrate by night and since they seldom call during the fall, we know very little about their fall migration pattern. Very few have been captured at Ocean City in fall, and in 1963 none was banded at either Ocean City or Rock Run Sanctuary. On the other hand, Jan Reese and Ted Van Velzen discovered that Whip-poor-wills are regular in small numbers at Tilghman; they banded 18 there from Sept. 1 to Oct. 6, and they caught at least one on more than half of the September dates their station was in operation. Six Whip-poor-wills were banded in September at the Kent Point station at the southwest tip of Kent Island; this station was in operation only 9 days in that month (David and Margaret Bridge). The first Common Nighthawks were seen on Aug. 13 at White Marsh (Hackman) and Germantown (Warfield), migrating along a squall line in advance of a cold front. Migrating Nighthawks often are found flying in turbulent air in the vicinity of weather fronts or local thunder storms.

Hummingbirds. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded at almost all Operation Recovery stations, but were most numerous at Rock Run Sanctuary where Doug Hackman and Mel Garland banded 64 of them. A Rufous Hummingbird captured at Ocean City on Sept. 12 will be reported in more detail elsewhere (Robbins).

Woodpeckers. Mr. Hackman on the opening pages of this issue points out how banding makes it possible to detect migration in a population where the number of birds present seems to remain quite constant. Since some of our Downy Woodpeckers are in fact permanent resident individuals, and since most field observers do not see Downy Woodpeckers migrating--or do not recognize that the occasional bird they see flying just above treetop height is actually migrating--they assume this species is always sedentary. At the time Birds of Maryland was written, the authors had no evidence of organized movement of this species other than dispersal of immature birds; no migration dates were available. The last few years of Operation Recovery have shown more and more conclusively that in some years a definite migration of both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers takes place. This movement has been most apparent at Ocean City, where 43 Downy Woodpeckers were banded in the fall of 1962 and 95 in the fall of 1963. The heaviest migration in 1963 took place from Oct. 3 to Oct. 13, a period when the station was not operating in 1962--so the 1963 flight may not be any heavier than last year's. Extreme migration dates

ran from Sept. 12 to Oct. 21 in 1962 and from Sept. 11 to Oct. 18 in 1963. The Hairy Woodpecker has always been a scarce bird on the barrier beach in September. The capture of 3 Hairies in September 1963 was typical except for the fact that one of them was a "return" (or perhaps a permanent resident) from last year. In October 1963, however, 20 new Hairies were captured at Ocean City, indicating a definite movement from Oct. 5 to Oct. 17. Dyke found 6 Yellow-shafted Flickers migrating along the barrier beach at Ocean City on the record-breaking date of Aug. 24. A high count of 250 migrating flickers was established at Tilghman on Sept. 22 by Reese and Van Velzen.

Flycatchers. Banding records of more than 150 of the small Empidonax flycatchers show that the Yellow-bellied and Least Flycatchers were the species most commonly captured, followed by lesser numbers of Traill's and still fewer Acadian Flycatchers. The increase in netting activity in August is showing that migrating Empidonaces reach Maryland early in August. As recently as 1959 only the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was known to migrate through Maryland earlier than Aug. 18. Then the Least Flycatcher was seen on Aug. 12, 1960 at Frederick (Jehl), and banded on Aug. 9, 1962 and Aug. 10, 1963 at Rock Run Sanctuary (Garland). A Traill's Flycatcher banded at Rock Run on Aug. 10, 1963 was eight days ahead of the earliest fall date (Garland). Table 1 gives a biased impression of arrival dates for Empidonax flycatchers because Operation Recovery stations in several counties were not manned until these flycatchers were at the peak of their migration period.

Jays. The Blue Jay migration was especially spectacular on the necks that protrude into Chesapeake Bay from the east. At these points great hordes of jays migrating down from the north found that the Chesapeake imposed a barrier to their normal migratory behavior. David and Margaret Bridge, Ted Van Velzen, and Jan Reese watched large flocks of Blue Jays circle for altitude over Kent Point and Blackwalnut Point before starting out over the large expanse of water to the west. At times the birds made a false start across the water, then returned to the shelter of the pine woods. Because of the confusion of flocks arriving at, leaving, and then returning to the points, an exact count of the birds was not possible on the days with heaviest movement. Jan Reese reported a peak of 200 individuals at Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 29, while the Bridges estimated as many as 4,000 at Kent Point on Sept. 28.

Nuthatches. Sam Dyke reported on a probable extension of the known range of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in the Salisbury area, where he found summering birds in old loblolly pines around some of the ponds. As frequently happens, there was a light movement of White-breasted Nuthatches into areas several miles from breeding localities in early July. One was seen in Salisbury on July 4 (Dyke), and one at Laurel on July 6 (Robbins). Two and one-half months passed before a major influx arrived, presumably from the north. Red-breasted Nuthatches, on the other hand, arrived in early September, nearly equaling earliest records in some parts of Maryland. In spite of the early arrivals, numbers remained small until Sept. 22. Judging by the 101 individuals banded at Ocean City, the peak of the flight extended from Sept. 22 to Oct. 17. Only a few individuals were

captured at the Chesapeake stations.

Creepers. In a year when so many northern songbirds are coming south, one wonders whether some of our regular winter residents have also come south in greater numbers than usual. The Ocean City figures indicate that the number of Brown Creepers moving through in September was 50 percent higher than last year. October figures are not comparable because of the greater coverage in 1963; but Ocean City's seasonal total of 479 attests to unusual abundance this year. The peak days were Oct. 5 (118 banded) and Oct. 9 (111 banded); the previous high count was 61 on Oct. 18, 1962.

Thrushes. Thrushes always figure prominently in the Operation Recovery records because their peak migration coincides with the peak banding effort, and because they typically fly close to the ground when foraging. Consequently, their periods of migration are now quite well known despite their retiring habits. Therefore, it is obvious that a Hermit Thrush banded at Rock Run on Sept. 10, nine days ahead of the earliest previous arrival date, was unusual. Douglas Hackman pointed out that this bird "had a very large, warm and moist brood patch that exhibited no signs of feather replacement or of drying and flaking. The bird was quite bedraggled." All of this suggests that possibly it had nested considerably to the south of its normal breeding range, rather than having migrated one hundred miles or more to reach Rock Run. Another revelation from the banding stations was the number of Veeries at Blackwalnut Point. On Sept. 1, Van Velzen and Reese banded 212 Veeries, and on the next day they banded 83 others. The highest Veery total for a whole season at Ocean City was 99 (1962); the 1963 total for Blackwalnut Point was 405.

Vireos. A Solitary Vireo at Kent Island on Sept. 2 broke the earliest arrival date for the Eastern Shore (Moore). No other was seen outside its Garrett County breeding ground for more than three weeks after this date. Philadelphia Vireos were present in normal numbers at the coast, with 17 banded at Ocean City, Sept. 1-24. Warbling Vireos reached a new seasonal high of 5 individuals at Ocean City, the last on Sept. 26 (Mrs. Richard D. Cole).

Warblers. The banding stations demonstrated that at least 20 species of warblers were migrating through Maryland in August. Observers who wait until September to watch for migrating songbirds miss a good bit of the show. Some of the earliest warblers this fall were a Black-throated Blue at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on the extraordinary date of July 17 (Betsy Schaffer), 2 Blue-wings at Rock Run Sanctuary (tying the State record) on July 31 (Hackman), a Golden-wing at the same place on Aug. 3 (Garland), a Blackburnian Warbler banded at Damsite (Tolchester) on Aug. 2, nine days ahead of the State record (Mrs. Edward Mendinhall), a Canada Warbler banded at Loch Raven on Aug. 3 (G? Elgert), a Yellow Warbler banded at Towson on Aug. 6 (Mrs. Cole), a Northern Waterthrush banded at Damsite on the same day (Mrs. Mendinhall), a Nashville Warbler banded at Rock Run on Aug. 10 (State record--Mel Garland), single Tennessee Warblers banded at Damsite on Aug. 7 (tying

the State record--Mrs. Mendinhall) and Rock Run on Aug. 15 (Garland), a Myrtle Warbler banded at Damsite on Aug. 16 (Mrs. Mendinhall) and a male and a female seen at White Marsh on Aug. 20 (Hackman)--both ahead of the earliest fall record, a Palm Warbler seen at White Marsh on Aug. 21, nine days earlier than the record (Hackman), a Connecticut Warbler seen at Travilah, Montgomery County, on Aug. 29 (State record by 5 days--Lucille V. Smith), and another Connecticut Warbler banded at Ocean City on Sept. 1 (Elgert and Robbins). From the records at hand it seems that the only one-day high count of warblers broken this fall was 31 Northern Waterthrushes at Kent Point on Sept. 14 (Bridges).

Bobolinks. A lone Bobolink at Berlin on July 4 tied the earliest fall arrival date (Dyke). No other was seen until Aug. 10.

Finches and Sparrows. Douglas Hackman saw an adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at White Marsh on Aug. 20, two days ahead of the State arrival record. The flight of northern finches had barely reached Maryland by the close of September. Purple Finches were not seen even at Ocean City until Sept. 23. The first Dickcissel at Ocean City on Sept. 1 broke the State arrival date by one day (Robbins) unless the Aug. 4, 1961 bird in Caroline County should be considered a fall arrival. Although Dickcissels were seen or heard on several September dates along the coast, they were not noted at other localities during the present period. A White-crowned Sparrow banded at Ocean City on Sept. 23 (Mrs. Cole) was four days ahead of the State record. Another State record was broken by four days at Blackwalnut Point, Tilghman Island, on Sept. 8 with the capture of a Lincoln's Sparrow (Van Velzen and Reese). Also, at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Vernon Kleen banded a Swamp Sparrow on Aug. 15 which is nine days ahead of the earliest fall migration date for Maryland.

Validity of sight records. Any compiler of sight observations has the unhappy duty of appraising the validity of each record as well as sifting out the more significant ones for special comment. In the previous century few records were acceptable unless supported by a specimen deposited in a museum. Although the art of field identification has now been developed to the point where most North American species can be identified in the field by experienced observers, this fact does not assure that any specific record is necessarily valid. In each instance the compiler must consider carefully all the details supplied as well as his knowledge of the capabilities of the observer and the likelihood that the bird in question occurred at the specified place and time. Each time the SEASON report is prepared, hundreds or even thousands of perfectly acceptable records go unmentioned--even though many of them may have contributed to general statements on certain species or to comments about progress of the migration. On the other hand, a few reports of birds that are rare or out of season are omitted from each summary because insufficient details of the observations have been provided. This does not necessarily mean that the reports are incorrect, just that they are not sufficiently documented. Banders routinely take measurements and/or weights, and these often are sufficient to distinguish closely related species. Banders also can record a feather-by-feather description that

will serve for positive identification of most species; they can also, in many cases, secure photographs to substantiate unusual records. More and more sight records also are being supported by photographs. Lacking a suitable camera, the observer should take careful, complete notes on plumage and actions without recourse to a bird book; the most convincing details often are those that are not mentioned in field guides but are noticed by the observers. After making notes without a book, check to see what other characteristics should have been seen; then append additional notes to your original description telling what other actions or field marks were or were not noticed. Remember, the most carefully identified bird may not turn out to be what you think it is. It might be something even rarer that is not pictured in your books (such as a Rufous Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, or Lazuli Bunting).

Migratory Bird Populations Station
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Laurel

BLACK RAIL IN DORCHESTER COUNTY

Donald Meritt, Age 13

On the way back from a birding and camping trip to Assawoman Wildlife Area in Delaware, Jan Reese and I stopped over at Elliott Island to try to see a Black Rail.

It was about 5 p.m. on June 8, 1963, when we arrived at Elliott Island. We heard that John Weske, who is making a study on the Black Rail as a part of his graduate work at Cornell University, was there. When we found him he told us he was going rail hunting that night at about 9:30. We traveled back and set up camp at Savannah Lake, where we heard 2 King Rails. By the time we cooked supper and ate, it was about time to leave. We traveled up the road and joined Mr. Weske and a group of other birders.

It didn't take long to find a Black Rail, for they were calling all around us. Our party went up the road until we got very close to the rail. Then we played a tape recording of the Black Rail's call and tried to get it to come closer. This didn't work, so we spread out in a line and walked through the tall marsh grass to try to flush the bird. In the light of our flashlights we saw the rail fly up and land in the road. We quickly grabbed it and crowded around for a good look. Mr. Weske took it back to headquarters to band it, weigh it and examine it carefully; he then released it where it had been captured.

We were very fortunate to see this bird, for Mr. Weske had caught only three Black Rails so far this season. The most interesting birds we recorded at Assawoman that week end were Least Bittern, Clapper Rail, and Louisiana Heron; and, at Elliott Island, Black Rail, King Rail, Virginia Rail and Sora. All in all it was quite a successful week end.

Newcomb

PAINTED BUNTING BANDED AT OCEAN CITY

Elting Arnold

While participating in the Operation Recovery Banding station at Ocean City, Maryland, on August 31, 1963, I found in one of the nets projecting into the salt marsh a light greenish bird which I recognized as a Painted Bunting (Passerina ciris). When it was shown to Chandler S. Robbins, he confirmed the identification. By parting the head feathers and examining the skull he found it to be an immature bird. He telephoned Samuel H. Dyke, who came from Salisbury and concurred in the identification. Messrs. V. Edwin Unger and Gerald G. Elgert also identified the bird. Photographs in color and in black and white were taken by Mr. Robbins, and a detailed description of the bird was recorded. The photograph reproduced here shows the bunting bill, the unstreaked sides, back and head, the narrow light eyering, and the lack of wingbars. The colored slides show very clearly the bright yellow-green color which is so characteristic of female and young Painted Buntings. This bird's wing measured 67 mm., its fat class was 1 on a scale of 3, and it weighed 14.5 grams. It was tagged with band number 67-00032 and released.

Painted Bunting 67-00032

No record of the Painted Bunting appears in Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia by Stewart and Robbins (1958). However, a sight record was made near Laurel, where a male was watched for ten minutes on May 1, 1961 by Dr. and Mrs. B. C. Getchell (Maryland Birdlife 17: 28). It appears that our record at Ocean City is the first completely authenticated one for the State of Maryland.

It will naturally be of extreme interest if the banded bird is ever recovered, and certainly of much greater value than having the skin as a specimen. In this case, I believe, thanks to Messrs. Robbins and Dyke, that every reasonable step to verify the identification was made without sacrificing either scientific accuracy in establishing the record for the State, or the potential benefits of having banded and released the bird.

Although banders who capture an extralimital bird cannot always enjoy the advantages of having at hand the learned author of a standard work on distribution and another highly experienced student, they probably can find, in most cases, alternate procedures which will enable the establishment of a reliable record without the necessity of making the bird into a specimen.

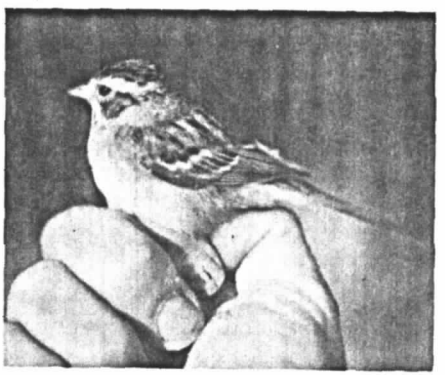
4914 Dorset Ave., Chevy Chase 15, Md.

SECOND RECORD OF CLAY-COLORED SPARROW IN MARYLAND

Chandler S. Robbins

The Clay-colored Sparrow (Spizella pallida) was first detected in Maryland on November 11, 1961, when an immature specimen was collected from a flock of Field Sparrows near Libertytown in Frederick County, Md. by Joseph R. Jehl (Maryland Birdlife 18:3).

A second immature Clay-colored Sparrow was captured at the Ocean City Operation Recovery Station on Sept. 11, 1963. The median buffy streak through the crown, the chestnut cheek patch, the gray band around the nape, and the unstreaked brown rump distinguished it from other species in the genus. It also was decidedly smaller than a Chipping Sparrow. Its wing chord was 60 mm. as compared with 64-73 for the Chipping Sparrow, and 60-69 for the Field Sparrow. The Clay-colored Sparrow had a fat class of 1 (on a scale of 3) and weighed 10.5 grams when banded at 6:40 a.m. The bird was photographed in color and in black and white.



Clay-colored Sparrow 106-29391

Although this is only the second record for Maryland, Jehl pointed out that the Clay-colored Sparrow is being recorded with increasing frequency on the New Jersey coast; five immatures were captured there in 1958 between the dates of Sept. 2 and Oct. 5. None were banded at Island Beach, N. J. in the next three years, but one was netted there on Sept. 13, 1962 and two on Sept. 29, 1962.

The preponderance of September records in the Middle Atlantic States suggests that the fall migration of Clay-colored Sparrows precedes the migration of Chipping and Field Sparrows by at least two weeks.

More frequent checking of borders of weedy fields and of coastal or bayside thickets may show that small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows pass through Maryland regularly in fall.

Migratory Bird Populations Station
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Laurel

NORTHERN FINCH INVASION

Maryland observers should be especially alert for northern finches this winter. Special attention should be given to stands of hemlock, spruce and pines. White-winged Crossbills already are at Baltimore, Hyattsville and Ocean City and Red Crossbills at Salisbury and Baltimore. Look for Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings.

REPORT from the PRESIDENT

Dorothy A. Mendinhall

As I write this a few days before Thanksgiving, I realize that this message will not reach you until before Christmas so it will serve a dual purpose: one, to say how many ways you have contributed to my prayers of Thanksgiving and the other, to wish you Christmas joy. Whatever success we of M. O. S. have achieved is due to the time, money and effort expended so generously and willingly by the members so I give thanks for this great loyalty.

The major achievement since our Convention in Ocean City have been repairs, redecorating and refurnishing of the house at Carey Run, improvement of the road, a beginning made on the parking area, a co-operative program of a forest tree research plantation is being established in co-operation with the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Maryland. Both of our sanctuaries have given many hours of pleasure, education and sociability to young and old alike.

Our Miller Scholarship winner, Mel Garland, returned from Audubon Camp in Maine with a fine record of achievement and praise from the Camp staff for his participation and co-operation. A former winner, Pan Minke, is now a member of the Peace Corps, assigned as a teacher in Tanganyika.

Wonderful reports are made in this issue about our members who cooperated so successfully in Operation Recovery.

Our beloved Editor, Chan Robbins, has received a very special honor from the U. S. Dept. of the Interior for his work on migratory birds.

This summer our two Junior Nature Camps had increasingly successful seasons with capacity attendance while at present the fall educational programs are in session and to date have been attended by over 1500 people.

Congratulations to all you bird banders and get out the "woolies" for the Christmas Count.

Happy Holidays to all!

M A R Y L A N D B I R D L I F E

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Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Center, Laurel.
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Production: Ethel Cobb, Gladys Cole, Mildred Cole, Mel Garland, Shirley Geddes, Doug Hackman, Lois Horn, Karen Johnson.

COMING EVENTS

Dec.	14	BALTIMORE	Birding at Andrew Simon's home, Monkton.
Dec.	21 - Jan. 1		CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS. See Page 97 for changes.
Jan.	2	FREDERICK	Monthly meeting - Speaker: Mr. Russell F. Grater
	3	HARFORD	Dinner Meeting 6:15 p.m., Churchville Presbyterian Church, Churchville. Speaker: Mrs. Edward Mendinhall.
	8	ANNE ARUNDEL	Monthly meeting - lecture "Salesman's Birding" by "Tibby" Stevenson
	10	BALTIMORE	Monthly Meeting 8 p.m. Pratt Library. Films "An Island in Time", "Quetico", "Wings on the Wind".
	11	STATE TRUSTEES	Meeting at Cylburn 12:30 P.M.
	14	TALBOT	Audubon Screen Tour "Wildlife of Eastern Woodlands" by Earl L. Hilfiker
	22	ALLEGANY	Monthly Meeting, Board of Education Bldg., Edgar Reynolds to talk on "Life History Study"
	24	CAROLINE	Monthly meeting. Speaker: Mr. Marvin E. Hewitt
	25	ANNE ARUNDEL	Trip 8:30 a.m. for winter residents, Sandy Point. Meet inside Park.
	26	BALTIMORE	Druid Hill Park, Waterfowl Lake, 2:30 -4:30 p.m. Covered Dish Supper, 6 p.m. Cylburn Mansion.
	28	PATUXENT	Monthly meeting 7:45 p.m., Equitable Trust Bldg. Main St. Laurel.
Feb.	5	KENT	Kent monthly meeting.
	6	FREDERICK	Monthly Meeting. Speaker, Mr. John W. Taylor
	7	ANNE ARUNDEL	Lecture
	8	CAROLINE	Trip to Remington Farms
	14	BALTIMORE	Monthly meeting
	19	TALBOT	Audubon Screen Tour - "The Living Wilderness" by Walter Berlet
	22	ANNE ARUNDEL	Magothy Shores Bird Walk. Leaders: Mrs. Riley and Mrs. Flyger
	22-23	BALTIMORE	Winter Weekend. Ocean City, Elliott Island, Blackwater National Refuge. Make own reservations at Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City, Md.
	25	PATUXENT	Monthly Meeting, Equitable Trust Bldg., Laurel
	26	ALLEGANY	Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. George Hazelwood to show films.
	28	CAROLINE	Monthly Meeting
March	4	ANNE ARUNDEL	Lecture
	4	KENT	Monthly Meeting
	5	FREDERICK	Monthly Meeting. Speaker: Mr. August Salckmann
	6	HARFORD	Dinner Meeting 6:15 p.m., Churchville Presbyterian Church
	8	BALTIMORE	Remington Farms, Chestertown, Md. Leader: Mrs. Richard Cole
	13	BALTIMORE	Monthly Meeting - Nominations of Officers
	17	BALTIMORE	On with the Spring at Lake Roland. First of 11 Tuesday migration walks under leadership of Mrs. Robert Kaestner. Meet Lake Roland 8 a.m.

March	21	ANNE ARUNDEL	Rock Run Sanctuary. Leader: Capt. J. E. M. Wood.
	24	BALTIMORE	See March 17
	24	PATUXENT	Monthly Meeting, Equitable Trust Bldg. Laurel
	25	ALLEGANY	Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Audubon film, "The Bald Eagle".
	25	TALBOT	Audubon Screen Tour "The Right to Live" by Chester P. Lyons.
	27	CAROLINE	Monthly Meeting
	29	BALTIMORE	Courtship of Woodcock at dusk. Meet Hutzler's Towson. Leader, Mr. Haven Kolb.
	31	BALTIMORE	See March 17
April	1	KENT	Monthly Meeting
	1	BALTIMORE	Bird walks at Cylburn, sponsored by Natural History Society on 8 consecutive Wednesdays. Leader: Mrs. Carl Lubbert.
	2	BALTIMORE	Work Day at Cylburn
	2	FREDERICK	Monthly Meeting and election of officers
	3-6	BALTIMORE	Nags Head, N. C. Make plans and reservations with Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Thomas. ID5-6488
	4	ANNE ARUNDEL	Bird Walk 8 a.m. Business meeting, annual election.
	7	BALTIMORE	See March 17
	8	BALTIMORE	See April 1
	11	BALTIMORE	An afternoon at Rock Run Sanctuary. Leader: Mrs. Richard Cole.
	12	ALLEGANY	Duck Walk - Lake Gordon 2 p.m. Meet Nave's Crossroads. Leader: Mr. & Mrs. John Workmeister.
April	14	BALTIMORE	See March 17.
	15	BALTIMORE	See April 1.
	17	BALTIMORE	Annual Spring Lecture - Election of Officers "Land of Early Autumn" by Cleveland P. Grant. Merganthaler H. S. Auditorium, 8 p.m. Admission $1.00. Tickets from Mrs. Robert Kaestner, DR 7-8990
	18	BALTIMORE	Loch Raven for spring arrivals. 8 a.m. Hutzler's Towson. Leader: Charles Buchanan
	19	BALTIMORE	Calvert County Pilgrimage
	21	BALTIMORE	See March 17
	22	BALTIMORE	See April 1
	22	ALLEGANY	Monthly meeting at home of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Leeson, 114 Mary St., LaVale. "Current Research in Ornithology" by Mr. Leeson.
	24	CAROLINE	Monthly meeting
	25	ANNE ARUNDEL	Glen Oban Farm Bird Walk 8:15 a.m.
	25	BALTIMORE	Chesapeake & Ohio Canal - Botany - Bird Walk Leaders: Mrs. Robert Kaestner & Dr. E. Fisher
	26	ALLEGANY	Evening Walk and Nosebag Supper 4 p.m. at Carey Run Sanctuary.
May	2	STATEWIDE	Bird Count
	8-10	ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION, Ocean City, Md.	