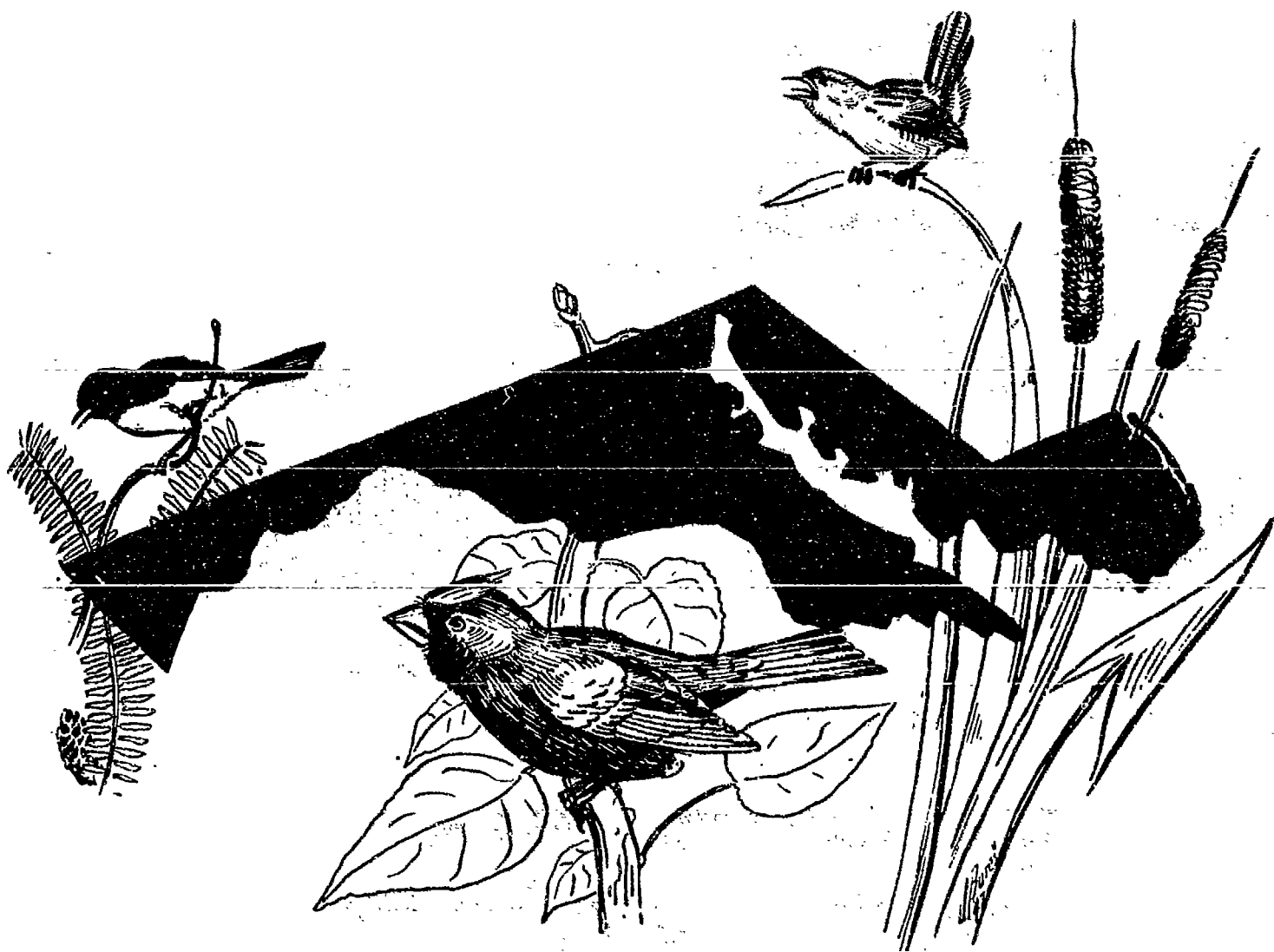


MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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May - June, 1947

No. 3

A TRIP FOR SPRING MIGRANTS

On April 19, Bruce Overington, Bob Stewart, Bill Pruitt and the writer made a trip to Western Branch, a tributary of the Patuxent River to check new spring arrivals. We spent an entire day in the river bottom country about 10 miles northwest of Upper Marlboro, and left the woods at dusk with a list of 71 river bottom birds.

The day was one of those above-average birding days; it was warm and sunny all day, but not too hot. Many of the spring wild flowers were at the height of blooming and the woods was full of all sorts of lovely bird songs.

As we walked through the bottom, in places the forest floor was covered with Virginia Bluebell as far as the eye could see, and here and there along our path were little patches of Durchman's Breeches, Adder's Tongue, Saxifrage, Bloodroot (coming in late), toothwort and various kinds of violets. Also in bloom was the Redbud, or Judas Tree. The leaves of many of the trees were beginning to come out, especially the Tulip Poplar, which along with the River Birch was probably the predominant tree of the river bottom country.

The first new migrant noted was the prairie warbler, singing from a scrubby thicket along the border of the flood plain. Soon afterwards as we proceeded through the bottomland, we recorded nine other warblers. The prothonotary, yellow-throated, pine, black and white, parula, redstart, Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird and (northern) yellow-throat. Other "firsts" for us were the white-eyed vireo, American bittern and vesper sparrow. Probably the most common spring arrival, and one that had been coming in for two weeks or more, was the blue-gray gnatcatcher. This species was closely followed in abundance by the redstart, rusty blackbird and cedar wax-wing.

Adding to the pleasure of any trip of this sort at this time of the year are the nesting birds. Many birds were building nests, especially the woodpeckers, and several species were already incubating. All of the woodpeckers (downy, hairy, red-bellied, red-headed) except the flicker (and they probably were, too) were seen chiseling out their nesting cavities, and a pair of pileateds were already busy incubating their eggs. Their nest was placed in a dead red maple stub some forty feet from the ground. We knew as soon as we spotted the nest hole that it was a pileated's because of the triangular-shaped orifice, and we also knew it was in use when a piece of down or small feather was noticed at the nest entrance. As we sat some thirty yards distant from the nest tree, in plain sight of the birds, we saw the big woodpeckers exchange incubating duties and perform some of their courtship antics.

Further up the stream from the pileated nest site and about sixty feet up in a river birch, a great blue heron was flushed from its nest and eggs. It immediately circled around and came back to its nest. This species had had eggs for several weeks by this time.

Three red-shouldered hawks were flushed from their nests and a phoebe was seen building under one of the bridges that we crossed. When we drove up into the higher land at noon, we came across a pair of migrant shrikes, one of the less common breeding birds in Maryland, getting ready to nest.

Other migrants noted on the trip were as follows: Broad-winged hawk, purple grackle, cowbird, Henslow's and savannah sparrows, chimney swift, barn swallow, purple finch, red-wing, mourning dove, kingfisher, brown thrasher, killdeer and robin.

Permanent and winter residents, not mentioned above, were the ruby and golden-crowned kinglets, brown creeper, bob-white, meadow-lark, black and turkey vultures, sparrow, red-tailed and Cooper's hawks, myrtle warbler, wood duck, barred owl, winter and Carolina wrens, chipping, field and white-throated sparrows, slate-colored junco, towhee, mockingbird, cardinal, white-breasted nuthatch, hermit thrush, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, blue jay and bluebird.

Brooke Meanley

BREEDING CENSUS UNDER WAY

As a result of a number of trips by individuals and small groups over our Breeding Bird Census area at Lake Roland, nesting pairs are being added to the record regularly. The task will extend into July - for goldfinches even through August - and all members are invited to take part. Maps are available at the Society office, or from Miss Burner, Mrs. Kaestner, Miss Cooley or Mr. Crowder.

We understand that the Sunday Sun rotogravure magazine wishes to take photographs of the project on June 14, and the censusers are to be on hand to point out nests. The regular field trip on Sunday, June 15, will permit everyone to see what is being done on the area this year.

To permit orderly specialization, census leaders have been designated for each of the five subdivisions of the territory, following the breakdown shown on the map in the last issue of Maryland Birdlife. These section leaders will be glad to compare records with those made by any additional observers who are able to cover the area from time to time.

Section 1	Joe Gentile, Charles Buchanan	Section 3	Florence Burner
Section 2	Rockwell Smith	Section 4	Mr. & Mrs. Strack
		Section 5	Alice Kaestner

Mrs. Kaestner and Miss Burner are co-ordinating trips to the area, and Miss Cooley is planning to compile the final report.

O. W. Crowder

B I R D M E M O R I E S ...

by Newell Warner, WCBM

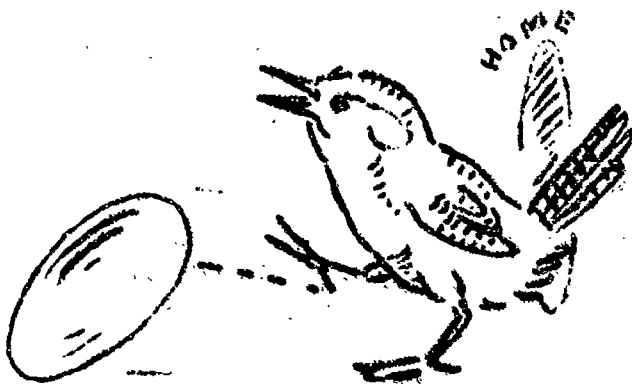
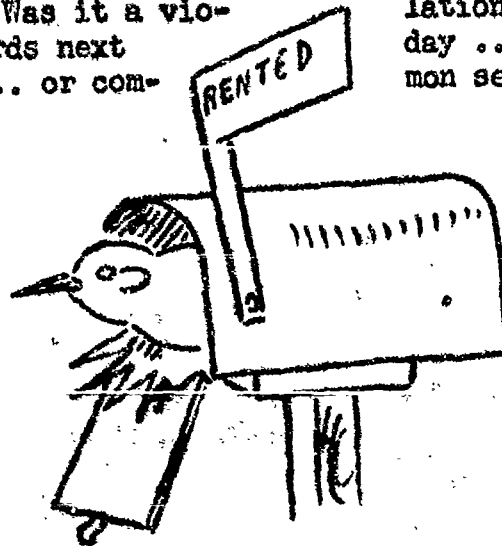
(On the recent club broadcast over WCBM, Mr. Warner added a rapid-fire list of bird incidents of his own experience. We asked for more, and here they are.)

... The battered ukulele nailed to our back porch post because nobody could get music out of it. A wren built in it, and paid rent with its singing.



... The covey of quail flushed from our garden one October. Four, mistaking a newly painted house for a skyline, flew against the house and were killed. PROBLEM: This was before hunting season. Was it a violation to eat these birds next day ... or common sense?

... The dual-purpose mailbox at the roadside, serving the birds undisturbed for the nesting season.



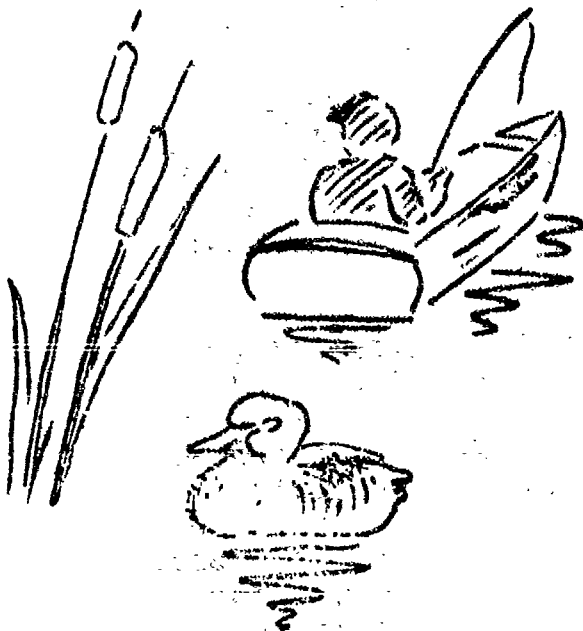
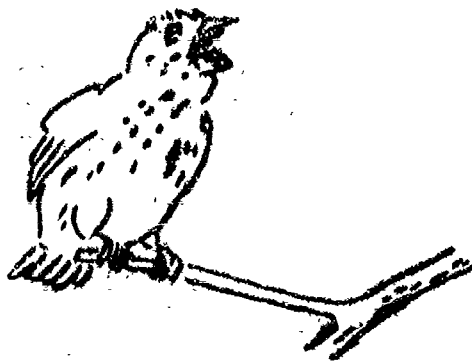
... The wrens' revenge ... Bluebirds stole their nest and rolled their eggs out. The wrens waited until the bluebirds had eggs, and returned the compliment during the bluebirds' absence. The wrens retained possession.

... Stray cats in breeding season waylaid nesting quail and so depopulating the species ... and a nesting bird simulating injury, fluttering away to protect the nest. I have followed them often just to give them the satisfaction of fooling me.



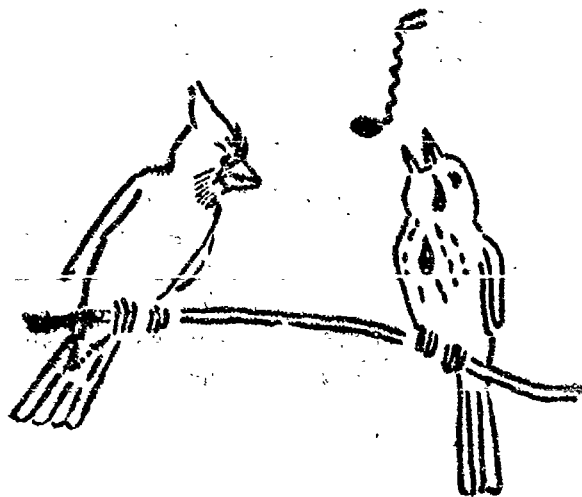
BIRD MEMORIES - Continued

... The fledgling, able to take care of itself, but dogging mother for more food as they hop over the grass and into the weeds. Is there a definite weaning time for birds, or do they, like so many humans, pass the buck as long as possible?



... Walks through the woods with my super-intelligent chow-spitz, who tip-toed when I did, without signal, tailed instinctively, and spotted grubbing covies before I could hear the rustling leaves... And October ducks suspicious of any strange sound and its source. Creep as you will, they shy away long before you are in camera range ... but they tolerate your boat in almost neighborly fashion - until the first November gun blast.

... Sunrise symphony ... all birds singing their own melodies without discord, each theme easily followed by the listener. If that many people sang different tunes simultaneously, the law would step in. (This was 5 A.M. extra compensation for me when I was working the morning shift at WCBM ... and you might add many a glorious sunrise.)



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SUGGESTIONS WANTED

This is the time of advance planning for next year's club program. Where would you like field trips to go next season? What topics, and what special speakers, should be included in the meeting programs? Should there be an annual dinner meeting and, if so, when? Do you think an 8-session seminar or study course in ornithology next winter would be helpful? The reply card attached to the June meeting notice will give you space for brief comments on these subjects, but it is hoped that you will find time to write a longer letter about club activities and the coming year's program. Address it to the chairman of the committee concerned, or to Orville W. Crowder, Chasc, Maryland.

STATE BIRDS

At the 1947 session of the State Legislature the Baltimore Oriole became officially the state bird of Maryland. However, this bird with its orange-and-black of the Lord Baltimore coat of arms had long been the unofficial state bird.

By an act of the Legislature approved March 30, 1882, the Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*) acquired a specially privileged status. Section 16 of the Act reads: "No person in the State of Maryland shall shoot, or in any manner catch, kill or have in possession, any kind of the species known as Baltimore Oriole *Icterus*, or molest or destroy the eggs or nests of said bird in the said State". Section 17 imposes as a penalty for each offense, a fine of \$10 to \$20, or in case of default, a jail sentence of 10 to 60 days. It is interesting to note that this was long before the general protection of song birds by law.

Dr. Shankle, writing in 1934 (*), pointed out that Marylanders then considered the oriole their bird, and that the Legislature so considered it in 1882 when it passed the special protective law. An autonomous acceptance by a people, over a long period of years, of a symbol such as a bird or flower, is certainly a more forceful and enduring adoption than a law passed by a legislature. In fact, a law about such matters is of no effect until the people, generations of people, accept the law and take its substance to their hearts. The earlier states seem to have thought it unnecessary, or futile, for legislatures to pass laws adopting birds and flowers.

Just as Mr. Franklin found grounds to dislike the eagle, Dr. Shankle mentions habits that do the oriole no credit. The oriole eats grapes, cherries and peas! But he likes, also, caterpillars, canker worms and other insects. So the gardener gets an even break.

Dr. Shankle's book, a good one, reposes on an open shelf near the desk in the Peabody reading room. Its number is 973 S 528.

Maryland appears to have clear and exclusive claim to the oriole as it has not been selected, or mentioned as a candidate for official honors, in any other state. A very interesting and colorful wall chart published by Woman's Day, the A & P Magazine, carries a fine article on state birds by Donald Culross Peattie, with splendid illustrations by Fritz Kredel. The new Maryland Ornithological Society service department will supply 16x22 reproductions of this chart for 10¢. The state birds shown are based on information supplied by the National Audubon Society as of November, 1946. After making the cor-

(*) Shankle, George Earle. State Names, Flags, Songs, Birds, Flowers and other Symbols. New York: H. H. Wilson Co., 1934.

rection for the recent action of the Maryland Legislature, the roster of state birds appears as follows:

0 Ala.	Flicker	0 Mont.	Western Meadowlark
0 Ariz.	Cactus Wren	0 Nebr.	Western Meadowlark
0 Ark.	Mockingbird	U Nev.	Mountain Bluebird
0 Calif.	California Quail	V N.H.	Purple Finch
0 Colo.	Lark Bunting	0 N.J.	Goldfinch
0 Conn.	Robin	U N. Mex.	Roadrunner
0 Del.	Blue Hen Chicken (1)	V N.Y.	Bluebird
D.C.	Wood Thrush	0 N.Car.	Cardinal (3)
0 Fla.	Mockingbird	U N.Dak.	Western Meadowlark
G Ga.	Brown Thrasher	0 Ohio	Cardinal
0 Idaho	Mountain Bluebird	U Okla.	Bob-white
0 Ill.	Cardinal	G Oreg.	Western Meadowlark
0 Ind.	Cardinal	0 Penna.	Ruffed Grouse
0 Iowa	Goldfinch	U R.I.	Bob-white
0 Kansas	Western Meadowlark	0 S.Car.	Mockingbird (4)
0 Ky.	Cardinal	0 S.Dak.	Ringnecker Pheasant (5)
0 La.	Brown Pelican	0 Tenn.	Mockingbird
0 Maine	Black-capped Chickadee	0 Texas	Mockingbird
0 Md.	Baltimore Oriole	V Utah	California Gull
0 Mass.	Black-capped Chick. (2)	V Vermont	Hermit Thrush
0 Mich.	Robin	U Va.	Robin
U Minn.	Goldfinch	V Wash.	Goldfinch
0 Miss.	Mockingbird	U W.Va.	Tufted Titmouse
V Mo.	Bluebird	V Wis.	Robin
		0 Wyo.	Western Meadowlark

0 - Official V - By popular vote
 U - Unofficial G - By Governor's proclamation

- (1) Delaware: formerly Cardinal, unofficial.
- (2) Massachusetts: formerly Veery, unofficial.
- (3) North Carolina: formerly Carolina Chickadee, unofficial.
- (4) South Carolina: formerly Carolina Wren, unofficial.
- (5) South Dakota: formerly Western Meadowlark, unofficial.

Adele (Mrs. Leslie N.) Gay

* * * * *

"You ask in the Bulletin who will remedy the lack of bird counts west of Montgomery County. I think that you can count on one from Washington County next year". --- Bill Green, Hagerstown

* * * * *

GRACES QUARTER CENSUS: A second breeding census area at Graces Quarter was recently laid out by Chan Robbins, Eleanor Cooley, Orville Crowder and Bill McHoul, and censusing begun. The area is less accessible than the club's Lake Roland project, but has the advantage of being all one habitat - 30 acres of beautiful climax coastal forest.

The SEASON

Our last report had reviewed a mild winter and the outlook at the end of the period seemed to indicate another early spring. On Feb. 19, however, there was a sudden drop in temperature and the next day a snow of nine inches (at Baltimore) suddenly descended. From that date until March 12 daily mean temperatures were below normal, and despite some rain in March there was still a good bit of snow on the ground at Loch Raven on March 8. The rest of the period brought the usual fluctuating spring weather. There were a few days of unusual warmth in early April but, on the whole, spring was a little backward as judged by the writer's records of the past twenty years. Daily mean temperatures at Baltimore show an accumulated deficiency of 61 degrees in the period under review.


There has been a small and gratifying increase in the number of observers reporting to this department but we still do not have sufficiently distributed records to indicate the real effect of seasonal variations. For example, our earliest dates for land migrants do not seem to be representative. Thus, we have: purple grackle, March 14 at Guilford (Baltimore); Savannah sparrow, March 16 at Carroll Island (Crowder); phoebe, March 27 at Chase (Crowder); yellow palm warbler, April 7 at Lake Roland (Miss Cooley); brown thrasher, April 11 at Govans (Kolb); house wren, April 12 at Beltsville (Miss Cooley); blue-gray gnatcatcher, April 12 at Halethorpe (Bowen); and tree swallow, April 13 at Halethorpe (Bowen). The pine siskins which were the chief feature of the winter were last reported on March 16 at Graces Quarters (Crowder). Last date for tree sparrows was March 23 at Halethorpe (Bowen). Strangely, only one nesting report came in: a red-tailed hawk on a newly built nest near Pikesville on March 29 (Mrs. Kuch).

Waterfowl along the upper Bay were under frequent observation during March. Of especial interest were 1500 whistling swan observed March 1 and 30 on the Gunpowder (Crowder); 3650 canvasback on the Susquehanna Flats on March 15 (Crowder); 10,000 buffleheads near Millers Island on March 16, "the largest concentration I have ever seen" (Tyrrell); and 2000 ruddy ducks at Carroll Island on April 13 (Tyrrell).

Miscellaneous observations of interest: First osprey at Chase, March 29 (Crowder) and first solitary sandpipers at Halethorpe April 12 (Bowen). Migrating flocks of robins warbling softly in the snow were seen at Loch Raven on March 1 but the first one was not observed in the suburbs at Govans until March 17 (Kolb). Evening grosbeaks were reported at Halethorpe on April 5 and 13 (Bowen). Details of this occurrence will be published later. The great horned owl was heard several times in the period near Halethorpe (Bowen).

Haven Kolb

AT THE FEEDING SHELF



This department of Maryland Birdlife will carry news of feeding station visitors, suggestions for attracting birds, and reports on the effectiveness of various foods. Your contributions are welcome. If you maintain a feeder, jot down a few notes on a postal card and mail to Mrs. Alice Kaestner, 612 E. 34th Street, Baltimore 18; or telephone her at Chesapeake 8485. Mrs. Kaestner has taken on the duties of Program Chairman, but will continue to collect feeding station reports until a new chairman is appointed. At this season of the year, it is interesting to note which species continue to use our feeders and which desert them for natural sources of food. We should like to have reports, also, on the extent to which the maintenance of feeding stations in the spring seems to attract species to nest in the vicinity.

The following feeding stations have been sending in regular reports during the past winter, giving us a nice start toward an even geographic coverage of the area. More than 30 species of birds were reported at these feeders in January and February.

Dickeyville	Mrs. M. L. Deen	2552 Pickwick Road
Catonsville	Mrs. A. P. Rusk	Woodlawn Avenue
Mount Washington	Miss Anne Gephart	6104 Maywood Avenue
Raspeburg	Miss Elizabeth Shantz	108 McCormick Avenue
Lake Roland	Mrs. Leslie N. Gay	Hollins Avenue
Bolton Street	Mrs. C. E. Leber	1712 Bolton Street
Homeland	Mrs. Frank V. Giggins	323 Buxton Road
Pikesville	Mrs. H. F. Kuch, Jr.	816 Olmstead Road
Charles St. Avenue	Mrs. Kenneth Ekin	Boyce Avenue
Near Hyattsville	Mr. L. McCormick-Goodhart	"Langley Park"

On January 1, Mrs. Kenneth Ekin decided to expand her feeding operations somewhat, and with something of a shock made a few discoveries about bird appetites. By March, 50 pounds of bird seed had gone down small throats, besides quantities of suet and bread scraps. During the "big snow", consumption reached a top of five pounds a day!

Alice Kaestner

RARE FEEDING STATION CALLER AT LANGLEY PARK

At Langley we feed the birds on two balustrades; one is opposite the office window about 5 feet above the ground, the other edges my wife's bedroom porch at the western end of the house and is about 25 feet above the ground. A few feet away there is a substantial white oak, which acts as a convenient jumping-off-place toward the balus-

trade. My wife and whoever is in the room thus get splendid views of the birds, since a French window giving onto the porch is only 7 feet from the balustrade.

On Friday, March 21 at 1:30 P.M. I happened to be talking to my wife and watching the birds -- the weather being cool and calm -- when greatly to my surprise I saw a bird entirely new to me. The bird was nervous and more or less disturbed one or two feeding juncos. It stayed in full view about a minute. It made a motion of pecking at the seed on the balustrade but I am not sure that it fed. The bird was none other than a male PINE GROSBEAK with that beautiful crimson on its head and an even brighter red on the sides of its rump. Eaton's "Birds of New York" was in the room and the plate immediately confirmed our guess as to its identify.

Leander McCormick-Goodhart

A FEEDING STATION EPISODE

On January 22, while photographing purple finches and goldfinches on the feeding shelf outside our dining room window in Takoma Park, I noticed one of our mockingbirds come in for suet, which they always eat, ignoring the raisins put out especially for them. Promptly all the other birds left. As I was getting set to photograph the mockingbird, there was a great commotion with considerable flying of seed, as the bird scurried from the far edge of the feeder and flattened itself as much as it could against the window frame. Looking up to see what had happened, I got a fleeting glance at a hawk -- either a sharp-shinned or a Cooper's -- passing between our house and the neighbors', about 12 or 15 feet from the ground.

The mockingbird was a very frightened bird, and stayed crouched and flattened against the window frame for fully five minutes, long enough for me to take my camera off the tripod, climb up on a chair not more than a few inches from the window, and take several photos of it. Even the noisy shutter of my old Graflex did not frighten it away. Only when in my haste I accidentally bumped the window above it did the bird leave.

Just two weeks later, on February 5, when walking down the street not more than half a block from our house, I saw a sharp-shinned flying leisurely along from 10 to 12 feet off the ground. When it got to the opening between our house and the neighbors', it turned and went between them - no doubt a regular course, for we have quite a number of birds around. One morning I counted 12 species at this window feeder, with as many as 9 birds of three species at one time.

I suppose it is not an infrequent thing for sharp-shinneds to be seen in town around feeding stations, but our section is well built up, with very few vacant lots, and this is the first time I have even seen one here.

W. Bryant Tyrrell



GRACES QUARTER AND CARROLL ISLAND, March 16. - This joint trip with the Washington Club under the leadership of Dr. Barnes brought out 50 observers for a gala duck day. Postponed from its scheduled date two weeks earlier because of tightly frozen creeks, the new date caught the peak of the northward waterfowl migration.

The morning session covered Graces Quarter, with many land birds but none interesting enough to take attention from the water panorama. At one point the view from the duck blinds overlooking Dundee Creek encompassed 25,000 ducks, with redheads and baldpates chalking up three-quarters of the total.

After luncheon at the Crowder cabin on Bird River and some woodcock stalking along the nature trail there, the caravan moved to famous Carroll Island, the first group bird trip there since the wartime closing of the area. Close studies of ring-necked ducks and an exciting visit to an active bald eagle's nest were the climax to a memorable day.

Final counts showed a day's record of 63 species and 30,000 individuals. Top numbers in the waterfowl count were: 10,500 redheads, 7,900 baldpate; 6,250 scaup (Both species); 2,500 ruddy duck; 627 whistling swan; 330 canvasback; 325 black duck. Only 100 of the large wintering flocks of Canada geese remained. Among the land birds were 7 bald eagles and 9 pine siskins, and one each of savannah and Henslow's sparrows.

O. W. Crowder

GUNPOWDER FALLS, March 23. On March 23, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Strack and Willard Strack led our bird walk to the hill country about the Natural History Society's cabin, between Bel Air Road and Gunpowder Falls. The sixteen observers felt troubled as sleet began to crackle against the windshields on the way out, but a good fire in the great fireplace of the cabin soon warmed us up. The sleet disappeared and a wintry sun shown hazily through light clouds. The steep, heavily wooded hills which led us down to the boulder-strewn Gunpowder were a delight to the eye and a challenge to unused muscles. A few alder catkins were out and little green leaves were pushing up through the moist leafmould. Mr. Strack found one hepatica blossom, unusually blue. Fifteen species of birds were observed, cedar waxwings and a screech owl being especially noteworthy. Song sparrows and a field sparrow were practising their notes in an undertone in preparation for the spring symphony.

When we returned to the cabin, we found our hostess waiting with piping hot soup, her own brew. A number of last year's bird nests were observed and identified, the most beautiful being those of an indigo bunting and of a red-eyed vireo.

Dixie Orum Stollenwerck

PATUXENT REFUGE, April 13. The third annual trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge was planned to see the early spring arrivals, but for the 38 members who participated the most interesting sight certainly was the bird trapping and banding being carried on there.

Chandler S. Robbins, our member who is engaged in the work of this preserve, was group leader. The morning half of the trip consisted of a four-mile walk through the woods and fields in the area. For our examination Chan exhibited song, swamp and white-throated sparrows and juncos which he removed from the numerous traps in the preserve. Using these birds as subjects, he gave trip participants an excellent lecture on the identification of sparrows. Later we were able to learn the calls of the pileated woodpecker and the red-shouldered hawk, both of which called for us clearly and from near by. Highlight of the afternoon ride to the lakes on the refuge was the banding of a sparrow hawk and a female kingfisher which were caught in hawk traps and were closely examined by members.

The official count for the day was 58 species.

W. B. Green

LAKE ROLAND, April 27. The principal feature of the day was a group coverage of the breeding bird census area between Lake Roland Dam and the Falls Road. Twenty-three people were present on one of the most beautiful days for a bird walk, and recorded 26 species of birds within the census area.

Myrtle warblers, yellow warblers and Maryland yellow-throats were in abundance. The excellent performance of a yellow palm warbler was of interest to all, permitting such close observation that the features which distinguish him from the yellow warbler could be seen readily by everyone. A blue-gray gnatcatcher performed some of the antics for which he is noted. Wood ducks, a red-tailed hawk and a Cooper's hawk flew over the census grounds.

After a period of three hours on the census area, the group left to visit the beautiful garden at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gay, on Hollins Road. Here, six additional species were observed. A blue-headed vireo was readily identified in spite of the fact that he would not sing, and other addition to the list were redstart, house wren, mockingbird and catbird. Lunch in the garden was an enjoyable end to the morning walk.

Harold Passmore

NEW CHECK LIST: A new four-page Lefax size check list, with room for recording numbers of each species seen on five trips, has been published by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. It seems to combine the good features of all other check lists, and except for the regrettable omission of two common warblers, the 300 listed species fit our area better than any existing lists. It has been adopted for official records of our field trips, and is recommended for personal use by all observers. It is available from the Maryland Society's Service Department at 2¢ a copy, 10 copies for 15¢, or \$1.00 a hundred.

ALLEGANY ACTIVITIES!

Bird club activities in the Cumberland area have been brisk these days, spark-plugged by our energetic member from Martins Mountain, Helen (Mrs. Gilbert) Miller. Walks have been scheduled for each week-end in May and the ornithological quiet which has prevailed in Allegany County seems to have been broken with enthusiasm. And unlike the situation in Baltimore, Junior bird work has been an important part of the program from the start.

Discussion of such things as organization and membership have been deferred in favor of getting right to work looking at birds, but already many new memberships have come in to testify to the seriousness of Western Maryland interest.

In each issue of Maryland Birdlife under the heading "Allegany Activities" we will group reports of events in the area, together with short field notes. It is hoped, too, that the Allegany area will be represented often in the longer accounts of bird study results carried among the feature articles.

O.W.C.

ALLEGANY COUNTY REPORT FOR APRIL

Friday night, April 19, approximately 75 men, women and children met in the Board of Education Building, Cumberland, to meet Mr. Orville Crowder, President of the Maryland Ornithological Society. This meeting was arranged by Miss Mildred Willison, Elementary School Supervisor, and Miss Nan Livingston, representative of the Conservation of Natural Resources Council for Elementary Teachers. Invitations were sent to all members of the Council, and the public was invited. It was inspiring to note that the room and seating facilities were almost too small for the number which attended.

Miss Willison opened the meeting by explaining the purpose of the gathering, which was to further interest in conservation and bird study. Jimmy Deetz, junior at Fort Hill High School was then introduced. Jimmy and his friend Walton Roby began bird studying in 1945. In 1946 they broke their daily record of 61 species "in the pouring rain". They made the trip to Hawk Mountain in the fall of '45 and again in '46. Jimmy explained how they carried out their bird study all on their own. He concluded his talk with a ringing plea for conservation of bird life by further legislation, with stress on preservation of beneficial hawks.

Mrs. Gilbert Miller was introduced, and in turn presented Mr. Crowder to the group. This was a most noteworthy talk because it was the first time a speaker had come to Allegany County to present the idea of "bird watching". Mr. Crowder gave a most interesting and informative talk, including hand books, reference books and resources

to aid in further study. He also explained the organization and work of the Maryland Ornithological Society. He concluded with colored motion pictures from the National Audubon Society.

At 6:00 A.M. the next morning a group of 30 met for a bird walk. After a brief jaunt up Camden Avenue section of Haystack Mountain, where cowbirds were the chief interest, they went by car about 15 miles north to Lake Koon, in Pennsylvania. Here the first observation was for swallows -- rough-winged, barn, tree and purple martin -- seen through Mr. Crowder's telescope. Redwings were all around. Numerous ducks were seen on the lake. This brief exploratory trip wound up on the side of a hill where a territorial dispute of field sparrows was watched with interest.

Back to Cumberland and a hasty breakfast, and Mr. Crowder met with 40 school children and 8 adults at 10:00 A.M. at Mount Royal School. This walk was organized by Miss Livingstone, and the children represented 19 different schools, some from Cumberland and some from parts of the county as far away as Westernport. A blue Jay's nest in a cedar at the rear of Mrs. Holzshu's home on Braddock Road was viewed by every child before the trip departed for Lake Gordon.

At Koon Dam the group was divided into three units with Mr. Crowder, Jimmy Deetz and Walton Roby as leaders. Outstanding observations were scaup ducks, baldpates and a pied-billed grebe on the lake, a Louisiana water thrush through the telescope and bald eagles soaring over the dam. By this time it was hot, and 40 very tired and thrilled children rode back to Cumberland.

(Mrs.) Helen B. Miller

ALLEGANY SCHEDULE FOR MAY

- May 3rd Adult Walk: Canal Towpath from Johnston Heights School
7:00 A.M. Leaders: Jimmy Deetz, Walton Roby and Helen Miller
- May 10th Children's Walks: Nine, at places to be chosen by leaders:
7:30 A.M. Eckhart - Imogene Caudill, Lillian Hamilton
 Midland - Catherine Manley
 Mt. Savage - Agatha Witte, L. Barncord
 Oldtown - Helen Miller
 Frostburg - Myra Taylor, Ina Watson
 Westernport - Beulah Beck
 Cumberland (Haystack Mtn.) - Robin Andrews
 Cumberland (Constit. Park) - Nan Livingstone, Walton Roby
 Cumberland (Valley Road) - Mildred Willison,
 Jimmy Deetz
- May 17th Children's Walks
7:30 A.M. Repeat previous schedule
- May 24th Adult Walk: Haystack Mountain
7:00 A.M. Same leaders as May 3rd

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO READ IN "MARYLAND BIRDLIFE"?

There are wide differences of opinion about what should go into bird club publications. Some serious bird students feel that there is little excuse for publishing anything but reports of bird studies that contribute in some measure to the science of ornithology. Others take their birding in a lighter vein and like news of club activities with a bit of a social touch.

A case in point is the cover of last month's Maryland Birdlife. It depicted in sketch form the birds seen on the club's Kent Island trip, against an outline map of the island. We had immediate enthusiastic comments from the lighter-vein birders. But one of the purist group told us that it was a waste of space and should have been replaced by a simple list giving accurate quantities of each species seen on the trip.

Recently we have been trying to keep one foot on each side of the fence and include both serious ornithological observations and chatty stories of the sport of birding. Sometimes the serious observations are few because those who can write them fail to do so. The present issue, for example, has less such contributions than we should like.

Haven Kolb, who has done a splendid job of editing Maryland Birdlife in its early stages, is giving up the responsibility in order to have more time for other ornithological pursuits, although he will continue to edit "The Season" page and serve on the editorial board. A small staff is being set up to divide the many tasks of publication, and this is a fine time to consider the contents of future issues.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO READ? Should half the Bulletin be studious articles and half a breezy report of Society doings? What do you want more of, and what less?

Please take a postal card and express yourself freely. Send it to me (Orville W. Crowder, Chase, Md.) or to the Society address. And don't mind being a radical -- there are already several at both extremes!

O. W. Crowder

PETERSON AND CARROLL ISLAND: Following a March inspection trip over the waters of the Susquehanna Flats Refuge, Roger Tory Peterson stopped over with us for a brief twilight visit to Carroll Island. He praised the area in no uncertain terms, and promised us his participation in our next Christmas Census, and a goodly list of species, if we would assign him to the island, which is within the census area. It goes without saying that we closed the deal then and there.--O.W.C.

TYRRELL AND EAGLE NESTS: Mr. W. Bryant Tyrrell, whose eagle pictures in a recent Saturday Evening Post attracted much attention, wants to know the location of all eagle nests in this area. If you know of any, drop him a line. Address: 246 Park Avenue, Takoma Park 12, Md.

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS MR. HARWELL

If any parents accompanied their Scout sons and daughters to the Bird Lecture at the Art Museum the evening of April 26th from a sense of duty, their reward exceeded all bounds. After being introduced by our president, Mr. Crowder, Mr. Harwell stepped back to the piano and struck a high "b" with one finger. This was the prelude, and the Outdoor Symphony had begun. He explained that this high note was the first he whistled as a very young child. His mother encouraged him to listen to birds and imitate them. He has been whistling bird songs ever since until today he has the unbelievable repertoire of 350 species memorized and set down on the musical staff.

His first notes led off into the whistle of the song sparrow, so familiar in our Baltimore shrubbery. Other voices "which begin where Lily Pons leaves off" followed in quick succession. Occasionally he turned to get his key from the piano. Up and down the treble clef he ran in amazing whistles, chortles, trills from pitch so high that the notes fairly ran off the top of the keyboard, down to the lowest bird voices, that of the owls. One could hear the barn owls conversing. He asks "Who?" and she replies satisfactorily an octave higher, "Who!"

Along with the amazing music, the audience was being initiated into interesting and useful bird lore. The wood thrush, the robin and the bluebird belong to the thrush family, and there are twelve other species in this group. Owls and the beneficial species of hawks are protected in only three states in the United States, with a proportion no better in Canada -- something should be done about this in Maryland! - And so, on and on.

From time to time the spontaneous laughter and clapping of children and grown-ups alike swelled the music of this one-man orchestra. A one-man orchestra it was, but when Mr. Harwell sat at the piano, playing McDowell's "To a Wild Rose" and some of his own compositions, it seemed that all the birds of the forest were filling the auditorium with their songs.

The colored movies began, and again the birds played the leading roles. From the wild life of the Everglades with its Seminole Indians, the audience followed the steps of the naturalist across the great fields of the Dakotas to the western parks - Yellowstone, Glacier, up into Canada. And there he left us, high in the remote country off a glacier in the company, not of birds, but of curious and friendly wild goats!

Dixie Orum Stollenwerck

CLUB OFFICE: A small room which will become the permanent office of the society has been turned over to us by the Natural History Society, in appreciation of the honorarium included in the Ornithological Society budget. It is located on the first floor of 2101 Bolton Street, and is being redecorated for occupancy in June.



A REGIONAL FIELD LIST FOR MARYLAND

A valuable new pocket-sized publication is "A Field List of Birds of the District of Columbia Region", 40 pages. It is the combined work of John W. Aldrich, Irston Barnes, Roger Tory Peterson, Chandler S. Robbins, Robert E. Stewart and Richard Tousey, and is published by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia.

It is a list of all the birds known to occur in Maryland, with very convenient diagrams indicating the relative scarcity, the season when they may be expected, the dates of nesting, the type of habitat in which they may be found and the section of the state where they are most plentiful. All this information is conveyed at a single glance, once one becomes accustomed to the diagrams used. The reference to "District of Columbia Region" in the title is unfortunate and misleading, as the territory embraced extends from Garrett County to Ocean City and Cape Charles, and includes the State of Delaware and the northern third of Virginia.

This is recommended most highly. It should be a companion to your favorite bird guide on field trips, and a home reference booklet as well.

The Supply Section of the Maryland Ornithological Society has a stock of the books, priced at 25¢ each. By arrangement with the Washington club, we can also offer our club members quantity lots at the price of \$1 for 8 copies. At the latter price, the booklet becomes an excellent inexpensive record book, since the pages facing the diagrams are ruled to provide a field check list for 12 trips, or perhaps a record of first-appearances and other dates.

THE NEW PETERSON GUIDE

The eagerly awaited revised edition of Roger Tory Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" has been experiencing the printing and publishing delays common throughout the industry, but is at present expected in the bookstores by the end of June. It is being published by Houghton Mifflin, and the price has been set at \$3.50.

Advance information bears out the early belief that the famous Peterson guide will remain the 'bible' of field observers. There are 60 full-page plates, compared to 39 in the former edition. The number of color plates has been increased to 36, figuring 511 birds

in full color. A legend page faces each plate, giving the page number of the full description for each illustration and a one-line condensed description which tends to facilitate identification from the illustration page alone.

There is a section "Similar Species" for each bird in the text, and song descriptions have been expanded. A "Life List" is provided in the front of the book, and end papers portray Flight Silhouettes and Common Roadside Silhouettes.

" MARYLAND "

Many of our members are aware that MARYLAND, the quarterly journal of the Natural History Society of Maryland, is an attractive and highly informative publication devoted to features of natural sciences within our native state. Often it includes bird articles of special interest to members of the Ornithological Society.

The April 1947 issue contains two such articles. Haven Kolb writes in interesting detail about a Lock Raven owl's nest under the title, "Breeding of the Long-eared Owl near Baltimore". The second account is "Observations on the Nesting Habits of the Black Vulture in Anne Arundel County, Maryland", by Dr. Caleb Dorsey. His experiences with a black vulture nest in a partly demolished stable make interesting reading, and the study is one of the northernmost of this species yet published.

Copies of MARYLAND are sent to members of the Natural History Society. The Ornithological Society recommends membership in the Natural History Society for this and a number of other good reasons, and we will be glad to furnish application blanks and additional information upon request.

O. W. Crowder

C L U B M E E T I N G S

M A R C H: Bird Art became a much more definite and tangible business when Joseph Bures finished with us at the March meeting. He told some fascinating facts of the history of bird painting, reviewed the painters whose works have become familiar through their illustrations in popular bird books, exhibited a number of his own recent bird paintings, and left us with a wall display of bird pictures typical of each of the best-known contemporary artists.

A P R I L: Brooke Meanley touched a responsive chord at the April meeting by talking about unusual nesting birds of our own area, with a number of fine pictures of upland plover in Worthington Valley proving the chief center of interest. We all wanted to leave forthwith and hunt out this elusive bird.

“Member Memos”

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members, who joined the society during February, March and April:

- February -

Mr. Charles R. Gaither, 4000 Windsor Mill Road (16)
 Mr. J. Talbott Booth, 511 Dunkirk Road (12)
 Mr. Frederic W. Arnold, Snow Hill, Md.
 Mr. William Weber, 1012 N. Bentalou Street (16)
 Mrs. Wm. C. Burris, 406 E. Lorraine Avenue (18)
 Mrs. W. Hampton Webb, 308 W. Lanvale Street (17)
 Mrs. Frank M. Rogers, 2601 Lyndhurst Avenue (16)
 Miss Margaret E. Haile, Reckord Building, Towson (4)
 Miss Elizabeth Slack, 8 Bishops Road (18) (Jr. member)
 Mr. George Drumm, 4011 Chatham Road (7)
 Dr. & Mrs. Wm. A. Bridges, Eudowood, Towson (4)
 Mrs. Frederick H. Vinup, Gibson Island, Md.
 Miss Adele E. Malcolm, 130 Bedford Street, Cumberland, Md.
 Mrs. James Pringle, 508 Virginia Avenue, Towson (4)
 Mr. Edward H. LaFleur, 200 Ninth Avenue, Brooklyn Park (25)
 Mr. Albert C. Baker, 5001 Herring Run Drive (14)
 Mr. Charles Cake, 313 Eastway Court (12)
 Billy Morrill, 534 Stevenson Lane, Towson (4) (Jr. member)
 Mr. W. Allen Rhode, 13 Overbrook Road, Catonsville (28)
 Sgt. C. F. R. Barclay, 10 E. Midland Road (20)
 Mrs. H. Streett Baldwin, Hydes, Md.
 Mrs. Lisle Q. Owens, 121 Edgewood Road, Towson (4)

- March -

Mr. Carl A. Moesta, 2442 Edmondson Avenue (23)
 Mrs. C. O. Bracken, 13 E. Read Street (2)
 Mr. Sidney Hollander, 2513 Talbot Road (16)
 Miss Agatha W. Witte, Church Hill, Mount Savage, Md.
 Mrs. John R. Cupit, 3700 N. Charles Street (18)
 John H. Patten, 7117 York Road (12) (Jr. Member)
 Mr. Joseph H. Murray, Jr., 821 Wellington Road (12)
 Mrs. J. Edward Murray, 412 Woodlawn Road (10)
 Mrs. Charles H. Hodges, 5602 Wexford Road (9)
 Mrs. Georgia Sweeney, 3920 Fernhill Avenue (15)
 Miss Etta Wedge, Owings Mills, Md.
 Mrs. Mabel J. Hoyler, 206 Rockwell Terrace, Frederick, Md.
 Mrs. Bolling W. Barton, Pikesville 8, Md.

(continued on next page.)

New Members (March) - Continued

Mr. Joel W. Woodruff, 1636 N. Calvert Street (2)
 Mrs. Jesse S. Myers, 632 St. Johns Road (10)
 Johnson Heights 6th Grade Bird Club, (Jr. group)
 c/o Miss Isabel Screen, Narrows Park, Cumberland, Md.
 Miss Margaret E. Baker, 311 Schley Street, Cumberland, Md.
 Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin H. Kaestner, 509 Charles St. Avenue (4)
 West Side School 4th Grade Bird Club, (Jr. group)
 Richard A. Johnson, Sec'y., Cumberland, Md.
 James Duffy, 207 Beall Street, Cumberland, Md. (Jr. Member)

- April -

Mr. Frank Kidd, 4304 Mainfield Avenue (14)
 Miss Angela Kidd, 4303 Mainfield Avenue (14) (Jr. member)
 Miss Judith Kidd, 4304 Mainfield Avenue (14) (Jr. member)
 Mrs. W. Robert Teeter, Box 162, Elkton, Md.
 Miss Dorothy W. Lawson, 417 Southway (18)
 Mrs. Leila M. Bell, 7211 Oxford Road (12)
 Mr. Oliver B. Isaac, 5234 Benson Avenue (27)
 Mr. J. E. Harrison, 315 E. University Parkway (18)
 Mr. Newell A. Warner, 4911 Arabia Avenue (14)
 Mr. Stefan Einarsson, 2827 Forest View Avenue (14)

The total club membership at the end of April was 281, well along toward the 300 goal set last fall, as compared with a total membership of 129 at the end of April, 1946.

The two "Junior Group" memberships listed above were spontaneous, and an interesting demonstration of junior enthusiasm in the Allegany County area. Richard Johnson, secretary of the Fourth Grade Bird Club of West Side School, Cumberland (of which our member, Nan Livingstone is sponsor) wrote a business-like letter asking whether their Junior Audubon Club could be a junior member of the Maryland Ornithological Society as a group, and so receive MARYLAND BIRDLIFE and keep in touch with bird matters within the state. It was a new idea, but we immediately responded with a tentative "yes" which was later confirmed by the Executive Council. The news spread quickly, and a Junior Group membership from Miss Screen's sixth grade club at Johnson Heights School got to us before the West Side Club had a chance to reply. When the West Side membership arrived, two days later, it was accompanied by a separate Junior Membership application from James Duffy, the fourth grade president, who decided he wanted to be a direct member of the Society.

The statewide nature of membership, considered highly desirable from the outset, is rapidly becoming a realized objective. There are now members in 14 of the 23 counties - the missing ones being Garrett, Carroll, Harford, Calvert, Kent, Caroline, Talbot, Wicomico and Somerset.

JUNIOR PAGE

This is our first "Junior Page". You can expect it every issue, and while adult members may read it to see what the youngsters are doing, it is meant to be for Junior members, and most of the articles will be by juniors. There are three age groups of juniors:

Grade School Group	ages 8 to 12	grades 3 to 6
Junior High Group	ages 12 to 15	grades 7 to 9
High School Group	ages 15 to 17	high school

We treat the High School Group like the adults (except that they save 50¢ on their dues!), so the Junior Page is really for the others - that is, for our birders up to about 15 years of age. Of course, this includes all members of the Junior Audubon Clubs who send in "Junior Group Memberships" for the whole club.

We are starting the Junior Page a little ahead of time, because the Society's real junior work will not get under way until fall. We have been waiting to find someone to head up the junior work in the Baltimore part of the Society. The Allegany unit is already way ahead of the rest, and even the Annapolis juniors are being heard from more than Baltimore. We had a Hagerstown junior, Martha Stauffer, wading mud flats with us on the Ocean City trip; and an enthusiastic bird observer, Rodgers Tull Smith (12), has just become the first junior member from Frederick. Harry Miller, of Spring Gap, was the first junior outside the Baltimore area. Actually, there are more than 20 junior members in Baltimore, so you'll be hearing from them on the Junior Page.

BIRDS I SAW

Today I looked out the window. I saw a pair of flickers, a robin, a cardinal and a black-throated sparrow. I became very interested in the pair of flickers because they were playing Follow The Leader. I could see the yellow under the birds' wings and tail, and the white spot on the rump as they flew. I saw a mother robin pulling at a piece of cloth and then she got some sticks. The father robin just sat there watching. The mother robin went to the cherry tree. The children said the robin was building its nest.

Barbara Ann Kave (age 10)

Our Cumberland junior correspondence is pretty heavy these days, and often there is a very bright spot in the letter in the form of a bird picture. James Runner (age 10) sends a crayon drawing of a male cardinal looking out over a green countryside. Richard Johnson encloses a crayon portrait of a flicker complete with all field marks.

working on a rotting tree trunk, bearing the note "first seen April 19". James Duffy fills the second page of his letter sheet with a drawing of a cedar waxwing, probably the first study of this bird ever done with a ball-point pen! Maybe that business of writing under water will come in handy, James, for a sketch of a duck's feet!

A CARDINAL'S NEST

Our class went on a field trip April 28. First we saw what damage a forest fire had done to a nearby woods where we had taken a walk last fall. Then we went up to the Ridgedale Reservoir, from which the West Side people get their water. We walked through a trail in the woods and got some top soil for our room's flower garden.

We saw a cardinal's nest in a bunch of hawthorne bushes, very well protected by thorns. The female cardinal flew off the nest and some of us looked in. We saw two bluish-white eggs with brown spots. Today, Sabra Hunt came to school and said the eggs had hatched and there are two little babies.

Richard Johnson (10)

Arthur Wright keeps us posted on bird matters about Annapolis. He tells us, for example, that on May 17 at Lt. Com. Berry's place at Arnold he and his brother Pickett took time off from a work trip to look at birds, and that it took half an hour for them to identify an olive-backed thrush. He adds: "There are lots of thrushes out there and I don't think all of them are olive-backs!" Arthur, don't let anyone hear us, but between you and me we are still having trouble, after 12 years of birding, getting our olive-backs, gray-cheeks and veeries separated! Thank heavens the wood thrush looks different and the hermit thrush has a reddish tail.

A BIRD WALK

Ralph and I went on a bird walk, and it was very interesting. We saw a Baltimore oriole, kingbird, ovenbird, ruby-throated hummingbird, goldfinch, song sparrow, bluebird and many other birds that we could not identify. When we came to school, we asked our teacher about some of the birds we could not identify. We asked her about this bird: It was a pretty big bird with a long bill and a white back with black spots all over it. We also asked about a bird that made a noise like a steamboat. We didn't see it.

Jerry Hart (10) and Ralph Isiminger (10)

If you're a member of a Junior Audubon Club, you may want to know that there were 5,123 junior club members like yourself in Maryland on May 1. Next year, we're going to try to have twice that many. If you go out with friends from other schools this summer, tell them about your club and the fun of watching birds. Then when clubs are being set up again next fall, we'll have some good bird missionaries helping to form new groups where there weren't any this year.

THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2101 Bolton Street

Baltimore 17, Maryland

OFFICERS

President:

Orville W. Crowder
Chase, Maryland

General Secretary:

Miss Pearl Heaps
1916 Park Avenue (17)

Recording Secretary:

Compton Crook
Ruxton (4), Md.

Vice President:

J. Harold Passmore
2603 Lyndhurst Ave.

Treasurer:

Herbert P. Strack
529 Sussex Road (4)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(in addition to officers)

Ray J. Beasley
4629 Keswick Road (10)

Mrs. Herman F. Kuch
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Irving E. Hampe
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Rockwell Smith
1802 Dixon Road (9)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Field Trips:

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Legislation:

Mrs. Leslie N. Gay
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Program:

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Bird Records:

C. Haven Kolb, Jr.
5021 Midwood Ave. (12)

Supplies:

Mrs. H. W. Newell
901 E. Belvedere Av. (12)

Membership:

Mrs. H. P. Strack
529 Sussex Road (4)

Censuses:

Miss Eleanor Cooley
R F D, Berwyn, Md.

Education: (open)

Feeding Stations: (open)

Junior Work: (open)

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE is published bimonthly, except July-August, on the 1st of the "even" months. Copy closes one month earlier. Example: The September-October issue is published October 1 and copy closes September 1.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Maryland Ornithological Society may be made to the treasurer, remitting \$1 for one year's dues. Dues for juniors under 18, or for representatives of Audubon Jr. Clubs, are 50 cents.

COVER DESIGN for this issue, and sketches in "Bird Memories" are by Joseph Bures. Department headings by Romeo Mansueti.