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 Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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Cover: Part of a flock of Black-legged Kittiwakes off Ocean City,
 Feb. 2, 1974. Photo by Richard A. Rowlett.



MIGRATING WARBLERS RESPOND TO INSECT OUTBREAK

Paul G. Bystrak

Concentrations of feeding birds are not considered rare, but are most commonly noted among scavengers such as gulls or seed eaters such as doves or finches. It isn't often that one has a chance to observe at close range a similar feeding frenzy in insectivorous birds such as warblers. This opportunity occurred for me and several others as a result of an outbreak of Oak-leaf Skeletonizer, *Bucculatrix ainsiiella* (Lepidoptera: Lyonetiidae), on the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.

This caterpillar is the larva of a very small moth; a full-grown caterpillar is about 5 mm long and 1 mm in diameter. There are two life cycles a year, the second one starting in August. The larvae spend 3-4 weeks feeding **inside** the leaves of oak trees, then emerge and feed on the underside of the leaves making them into "skeletons." After 7-11 days of external feeding, the larvae drop off or are blown away and pupate wherever they land. They regularly travel long distances, either to pupate or to escape disturbances, by "parachuting" on a long silk thread that catches the wind. While not normally a pest, occasional spectacular outbreaks occur, leading to defoliation.

Such an outbreak occurred during October, 1973 in the Willow Oaks (*Quercus phellos*) around the "mall" area of the campus. From the second-floor windows of Symons Hall I was able to watch the birds that responded. I used 7 x 35 binoculars for those that were far enough away, but many were too close. The birds, in their eagerness to feed, were completely unconcerned over the presence of several observers in the windows, or of students passing nearby or underneath. Each morning on 8 different days I counted the warblers feeding in two oaks nearest the building and in an adjacent Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*). In order to monitor the insect population, I also counted the number of pupae on 3 window screen areas (the pupae occurred everywhere and anywhere in the vicinity of the trees).

The results are summarized in Table 1 by date and species. Fourteen species of warblers and 11 other species of birds were seen. The most common and regular species was Cape May Warbler, followed by Blackpoll, Myrtle, Tennessee and Nashville Warblers. The other species listed were irregular in occurrence. As for the skeletonizers,

Table 1. Daily totals of warblers seen and pupae counted in three trees on the University of Maryland campus during October 1973

Warblers	Oct. 5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16
Black-and-white				1				
Tennessee	2	1	2	3	3	2		
Nashville		2	2	3	2			
Parula				2	2			
Cape May	6	4	10	5	5	3		
Myrtle	2	3		3	4	5	4	
Black-throated Green		3						
Black-throated Blue				2				
Blackburnian		2						
Chestnut-sided				2				
Blackpoll	4	6	6	3	3	2		
Yellowthroat				3				
Connecticut			1	1				
Wilson's	1	2						
Total individuals	15	23	21	28	19	12	4	0
Total species	5	8	5	11	6	4	1	0
Mean no. of pupae	-	3	-	-	32	45	68	76

the number of pupae on the screens increased rapidly until October 16, when they ceased to increase.

In Figure 1 the number of pupae are charted against time with a solid line. The birds fed predominantly on larvae and therefore a dashed line which is a mirror-image of the pupa line is plotted to suggest the larval situation over the same period of time. No scale is intended on it. This technique yields an underestimate of the number of larvae since many do not reach the pupal state, but this is probably not a significant underestimate. On the same graph, but using a different scale and a dotted line, is plotted the approximate number of warblers seen in an hour in the 3 trees.

In Figure 2 the daily counts of the most common species of warblers are compared. They are not presented in A.O.U. sequence, but in the order in which they peaked. There seemed to be a kind of succession, or gradual change in the most abundant species from day to day.

Note that the birds increased in number until October 10, when about 25% of the skeletonizer population had pupated, and then decreased rapidly. They decreased at about the same rate as the insects. In Figure 1, the skeletonizer (i.e., larval) population is considered to start at the left at 100% and decrease rapidly as they pupate. The birds during the first few days increase in numbers, presumably as more discover the food source. On October 10 the number and variety peaked and they began to decline at a rate suggestive of the skeletonizers'. This does not imply that the birds are exerting any control over the insects, which would be a very difficult fact to determine.

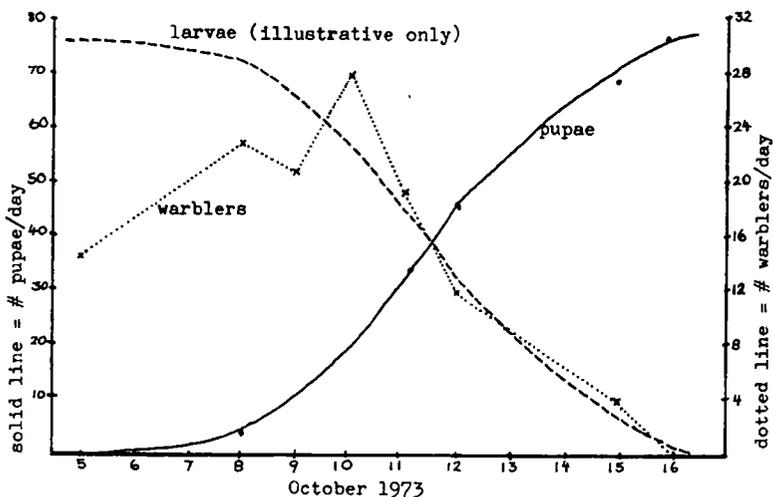


Figure 1. Comparison of daily totals of warblers and Oak-leaf Skeletonizer pupae.

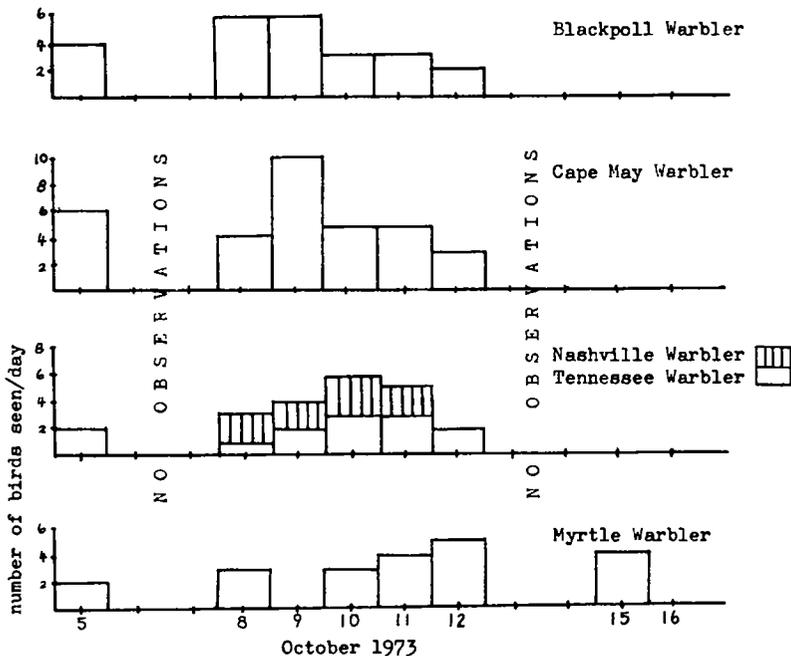


Figure 2. Daily totals of the most common species of warblers.

Watching the birds for an hour or more a day gave me an opportunity to note some feeding behavior. For instance, all the listed species except Wilson's and Chestnut-sided Warblers foraged far above the ground. These two species did not go higher than about 15 feet and foraged mostly in the ivy on the building or in the bushes. In contrast, it seemed strange to see a Connecticut Warbler running along an oak branch 20 feet above students walking to classes, or a Yellow-throat feeding 45 feet up in the branch tips! Cape May, Myrtle, and to a lesser extent, Blackpoll, were the most ubiquitous feeders; they foraged freely in all potential sites, but were least common along the tree trunks and in the ground cover. A high percentage of their diet appeared to be insects that had left the leaves and were in the process of pupating. Nashville and Tennessee Warblers concentrated more on active foraging off the leaves. None seemed to feed extensively on pupae, which by the end of this period literally coated the trunks and branches.

The oak trees sampled here represent 1/40th or 2.5% of the oaks in the immediate area. From other parts of the building and from walking around the mall I was able to verify that all the trees had similar concentrations of birds. Observers interested in seeing fall warblers would probably be rewarded by locating similar infestations of Oak-leaf Skeletonizers.

8809 Hunting Lane, Laurel

SOLITARY COMMON TERN NEST DISPLACED BY MALLARD

Jan G. Reese

On May 19, 1973, I found a solitary Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) incubating a single egg in an inactive Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest on top of an offshore duckblind in the Miles River, Talbot County, Maryland. The nest was 150 meters offshore and 3 meters above water. Terns are infrequently seen in the Miles River, which has no breeding tern colonies. The nearest tern colony is 9.6 kilometers (6 miles) SSW of this location. Three female Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were incubating clutches inside the blind. Mallards have commonly nested in this blind for the past decade.

I marked the Common Tern egg with a felt pen and subsequently found the tern incubating that egg on May 21 and 23, then 3 eggs (2 fresh) on May 31. On June 14 I could not find the tern or its eggs and a female Mallard stood in the old Osprey nest. I did not find the tern on subsequent visits. The Mallard took over the nest site, had 5 eggs on June 28 and successfully hatched a full clutch in the following weeks.

The solitary nesting, the nest site, and the height above water are unusual for the Common Tern. Also, it appears likely that at least 11 days elapsed between laying of the first and second eggs.

Box 298, St. Michaels

DISTANCES AT WHICH SOME YOUNG BIRDS HAVE SETTLED

Hervey Brackbill

It is well known that young birds of permanent-resident species customarily settle in the general area of their birthplace, and that young of migratory species often return to their natal area. Not often, however, does a bander learn just where any of those he marked finally settled. Over the years, color-banded birds have yielded me a few records.

BANDED AS NESTLINGS

Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). A male banded as a nestling on July 1, 1944, in wild land behind 3215 Vickers Road in the Forest Park section of Baltimore, was found dead at 3234 Clifton Avenue on March 4, 1947. It must then have been on its nesting territory. This was six blocks south of the nest in which it was hatched--about 0.46 mile, as measured on a fairly large street map.

Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). One of unknown sex, banded May 21, 1950, in a nest at 4414 Kathland Avenue, also in Forest Park, was found dead on "approximately April 9, 1952" at 4305 Ethland Avenue, 500 yards, or 0.28 mile, to the southeast. On April 9 it must also have been on its territory.

This bird's mother, interestingly, was banded as an immature on September 14, 1948, at 4608 Springdale Avenue in Howard Park, just a bit less than 500 yards west of her 1950 nesting place. But where she was hatched is not known.

Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*). A bird that proved to be a male, which hatched between May 3 and 5, 1973, in a box at 2620 Poplar Drive, my present home in Larchmont, Baltimore County, was found to be feeding young in a nest of its own on May 8, 1974, at 3801 Woodbine Avenue, in Howard Park. This is 1 1/2 miles northeast of its birthplace.

BANDED AS IMMATURES

Several other birds fall into a class with the female Robin mentioned. Although their exact hatching place is unknown, they were still immature when banded, and were on their territories when discovered again as adults.

Cardinal. On September 13, 1951, I banded an immature male raised by a pair that was coming regularly to my feeder at 4608 Springdale Avenue, in Howard Park. The bird therefore was hatched somewhere close by. On April 6, 1952, I found him singing at 4408 and 4404 Springdale, and on about July 31, 1954, he was found dead at 4404.

This son's territory thus was centered just two blocks east of his father's, which extended to 4600 Springdale in that direction. Surprisingly, from late April to mid-August of 1952, and for a week in mid-May of 1954, the son repeatedly came to my feeder, a block inside his father's area.

Another male, banded September 8, 1957, as an immature raised by a pair resident about 2620 Poplar Drive, was found dead January 7, 1958, at 2317 Birch Drive, about two blocks north. Presumably he had settled there.

Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*). An immature that proved to be a female, which I banded September 20, 1953, at 4608 Springdale Avenue, and saw there through January 10, 1954, gave me one of the most exciting surprises of my birding career. For when I moved to 2620 Poplar Drive in June of 1955 she was one of the first birds I saw there, and she was present steadily through her final date of May 25, 1956. She had settled three-fourths of a mile west-southwest of her banding place.

Another immature female, banded at 2620 Poplar Drive on October 7, 1967, remained there through April 13, 1968, then disappeared. In the fall of 1968 she was discovered two miles north-northwest, at 7100 Campfield Road, Baltimore County, in company of an unbanded titmouse, and the two were still there in April, 1969, undoubtedly on their territory.

2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER NEAR BOWIE, MARYLAND

Brooke Meanley and Matthew C. Perry

On May 11, 1974 a pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos borealis*) was observed by the writers at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and adjacent U.S. Forest Service Land near Bowie, Prince Georges County, Maryland. One of the pair was under constant observation for two hours, and two identifiable photographs were made of that bird.

The pair was foraging in a mixed stand of mature Virginia pines (*Pinus virginiana*) and pitch pines (*P. rigida*). There was no indication of nesting. The area was revisited on numerous occasions, but the birds were not seen again. Pines infected with red heart fungus (*Fomes pini*), a condition associated with Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest trees, were not present in this area.

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker, a southern bird, was previously reported from two localities in Maryland: at Assateague Island, Worcester County (Meanley 1943, Auk 60:105) and Golden Hill, Dorchester County (Stewart 1958, Md. Birdlife 14:63-64). Bowie is approximately 60 miles northwest of Golden Hill.

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel



THE SEASON

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 1974

Chandler S. Robbins

April was a month of contrasts, with temperatures bouncing every few days between mid-day seventies and early morning frosts. The frequent warm spells seem to have sent the wintering birds northward ahead of schedule, while cool weather to the south of us held up the arrival of spring migrants. The late arrivals of many species made the generous number of extraordinarily early individuals of other species the more dramatic. Some observers speculated that the rash of tornados on Apr. 3 may have blown early migrants into the Free State; actually, a strong wind flow from the Gulf Coast into Maryland on Apr. 4-5 and similar conditions on Apr. 8, 14-15, 22-23, and May 10 and 15 probably escorted the biggest invasions of tropical transients into our area.

Warm weather in the opening days of April triggered premature development of vegetation. Light freezes on Apr. 10-11, Apr. 20, and May 8 did very little damage to the unfolding leaves and blossoms, so phenologically the season remained advanced and the late April migrants were difficult to see in the thick foliage.

April averaged about 2° to 3° above normal (except close to normal in Garrett County), with a 1-inch deficiency in rainfall. Conditions were reversed in May, with the mercury 1° to 2° below normal and precipitation an inch above average. June was even cooler with a temperature deficiency of 3°, and rainfall ranged from above normal in the mountains to below on the Lower Eastern Shore.

At Friendship Airport, April temperatures went into the 70's on Apr. 2-3, 12-14, 18, 21-22, and 26-30. The 80's were reached on Apr. 22, 28-30, May 14-17, 22, and 24, and on eleven days in June.

The State-wide Bird Count on May 4 (*Maryland Birdlife* 30:83-94) was successful in spite of, rather than because of, the weather. And the bird list for the M.O.S. Convention at Ocean City on May 10-12 totaled a mere 192 species, largely because of weather unfavorable for migration during that period.

The earliest arrival and latest departure dates for each county are summarized in Tables 1 and 2, respectively, with the counties arranged

Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1974

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Balt	Har-T	Howd	Mont	Pr-G	Anne	Chae	Calv	Kent	Care	Tailb	Dorc	Sour	Wico	Worc
	10-yr	1974																			
Common Loon	--	4/13	4/2	5/4	3/31	--	5/4	--	0	4/21	4/5	3/19	5/4	0	4/1	0	3/30	3/31	4/13	0	--
Double-cr. Cormorant	--	4/17	0	0	0	5/11	0	0	0	0	5/19	4/1	4/21	0	4/17	0	4/12	3/31	3/29	0	4/27
Green Heron	4/23	4/20	5/4	5/4	4/20	4/7	4/30	--	4/26	4/6	4/7	4/10	4/27	4/18	4/1	4/21	4/3	4/20	4/13	--	4/28
Little Blue Heron	--	4/28	0	0	4/11	5/11	4/30	0	0	4/27	5/11	4/4	0	0	0	0	5/4	--	0	--	4/27
Cattle Egret	4/25	4/15	0	0	0	4/19	0	0	0	5/4	4/23	3/31	0	4/18	4/12	4/2	3/23	3/19	5/4	5/4	4/26
Snowy Egret	--	3/13	0	0	6/12	0	0	0	0	5/11	4/1	0	0	0	0	0	3/28	3/31	3/30	0	3/9
American Bittern	--	4/33	0	0	0	4/14	--	0	0	4/12	4/20	4/2	--	0	0	--	3/23	4/27	--	0	0
Glossy Ibis	--	4/31	0	0	5/15	0	0	0	0	4/25	3/31	0	0	0	0	0	3/31	3/21	3/30	0	5/4
Broad-winged Hawk	4/22	4/4	4/23	4/20	4/14	4/14	4/14	--	4/11	4/20	4/15	4/15	4/14	4/10	4/21	0	5/4	5/4	0	0	5/11
Semipalmated Plover	--	5/4	5/4	--	5/4	5/11	0	0	0	0	5/13	5/2	0	0	5/4	0	5/5	5/4	0	0	5/4
Black-bellied Plover	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/2	0	0	0	--	0	--	4/27	--	0	5/4
Ruddy Turnstone	--	4/30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/12	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/26	0	0	4/27
Spotted Sandpiper	4/30	4/30	4/26	5/4	4/26	4/28	4/27	5/5	4/26	5/4	4/23	4/17	4/17	5/2	4/29	5/4	5/5	5/4	0	5/4	5/4
Solitary Sandpiper	5/2	4/30	5/4	5/4	5/4	4/28	5/4	5/4	5/2	4/18	4/15	4/3	4/27	0	4/25	5/4	4/7	4/27	0	0	5/11
Willet	--	4/24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/13	0	0	0	5/4	0	0	4/8	4/13	5/4	5/4
Lesser Yellowlegs	--	4/20	0	4/20	5/4	4/28	5/4	0	5/4	4/6	4/18	3/31	4/8	0	4/12	5/4	4/20	3/30	4/27	0	4/29
Pectoral Sandpiper	--	4/12	0	5/4	3/11	--	5/4	0	4/7	5/4	--	3/24	0	0	4/12	0	0	4/8	0	0	5/4
Least Sandpiper	5/4	5/4	5/4	--	5/4	5/11	0	0	5/11	5/4	5/4	4/2	5/4	0	5/4	0	5/10	4/10	5/4	0	4/27
Dunlin	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/3	0	0	0	0	5/19	3/31	0	0	5/4
Short-billed Dowitcher	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/3	0	0	0	0	4/8	0	0	0	5/4
Semipalmated Sandpiper	--	5/4	0	--	5/15	4/28	0	0	0	0	5/4	5/3	5/4	0	4/22	5/4	0	4/10	--	0	5/10
Laughing Gull	4/16	4/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/22	5/4	4/23	5/4	4/12	4/7	3/31	5/4	5/4	3/23
Bonaparte's Gull	--	3/31	4/2	4/2	3/24	0	0	0	0	3/31	3/31	3/19	4/17	0	0	0	2/20	0	0	0	--
Common Tern	--	5/4	0	0	0	5/4	0	0	0	0	5/4	0	0	0	0	0	4/28	5/4	0	0	5/4
Least Tern	--	5/6	0	0	6/2	0	0	0	0	0	5/4	5/6	0	0	5/5	0	5/18	5/11	5/4	0	4/27
Caspian Tern	--	--	0	0	0	0	5/4	0	0	5/4	0	4/11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/4
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/4	5/4	--	--	5/11	4/30	4/30	--	5/17	5/4	5/13	5/1	5/11	5/29	5/17	5/4	--	5/4	--	--	5/4
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/5	5/8	.5/21	--	5/13	5/4	5/4	0	0	5/19	5/1	0	0	0	4/28	5/4	0	0	0	0	0
Chuck-will's-widow	5/2	5/4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/28	5/4	4/29	--	4/28	5/4	5/4	4/27	5/4	0	5/4
Whip-poor-will	4/21	4/26	5/4	4/26	4/25	4/17	4/29	0	4/18	5/4	4/12	4/22	4/15	--	4/27	4/29	--	4/11	4/26	5/4	5/4
Common Nighthawk	5/5	5/10	5/16	--	4/29	5/15	5/14	0	5/13	5/10	5/1	5/13	5/10	0	0	5/4	--	5/7	5/4	5/15	5/11
Chimney Swift	4/15	4/18	5/2	5/4	4/14	4/15	4/14	4/25	5/14	4/13	4/12	4/14	4/16	4/20	4/14	4/14	4/17	4/27	5/4	5/4	4/27
Red-thr. Hummingbird	4/30	4/27	4/26	4/25	5/13	4/28	4/25	4/27	5/4	5/4	4/27	4/14	4/26	4/26	4/16	4/28	4/30	4/27	4/25	5/4	4/28
Budy-headed Woodpecker	5/4	4/4	3/28	5/4	4	4/19	0	0	0	5/4	--	5/11	0	3/7	3/28	0	0	0	5/4	5/4	5/11
Eastern Kingbird	4/26	4/26	5/4	5/4	4/25	4/18	4/30	5/4	4/30	4/21	4/26	4/22	4/21	4/17	4/27	4/15	5/9	4/20	4/27	4/30	5/4
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	4/28	4/29	5/3	5/4	4/29	4/29	5/4	--	5/2	4/27	4/28	4/29	4/27	5/4	4/28	5/1	5/3	4/27	5/4	4/29	4/28
Acadian Flycatcher	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/11	4/30	5/14	5/19	5/10	4/28	4/25	5/4	5/9	5/4	5/4	4/30	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4
Trail's Flycatcher	--	5/19	--	0	6/16	--	5/19	0	--	5/4	5/4	0	0	0	5/25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Flycatcher	5/6	4/29	5/4	--	4/28	5/3	0	0	4/27	4/29	4/21	5/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Wood Pewee	5/4	5/4	5/4	4/26	5/13	5/4	5/23	--	5/4	4/27	5/7	5/14	5/4	5/14	5/4	5/4	--	5/11	--	--	5/11
Bank Swallow	5/2	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/8	0	5/4	0	5/8	5/4	4/12	4/11	5/4	4/23	4/6	5/4	4/12	4/10	5/9	0	5/10
Rough-winged Swallow	4/14	4/16	4/16	5/4	4/7	--	4/20	5/4	4/27	4/14	--	4/2	4/13	5/2	4/17	4/16	4/21	5/4	--	4/7	4/14
Orchard Oriole	5/2	4/28	4/30	5/4	5/4	4/30	4/27	0	4/30	4/27	4/26	4/19	4/20	4/25	4/21	4/28	5/4	4/20	--	5/4	5/10
Baltimore Oriole	4/30	4/28	5/4	5/4	4/24	4/28	4/29	4/28	4/27	4/28	4/26	4/25	4/26	5/5	4/27	4/28	5/4	4/27	5/4	4/20	5/10
Scarlet Tanager	4/28	4/30	5/1	5/1	5/1	4/29	4/30	5/14	4/29	4/28	4/23	4/29	4/27	4/28	4/29	4/25	5/4	5/4	--	--	5/4
Summer Tanager	5/3	5/4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/5	4/23	4/29	5/4	5/8	0	5/4	5/4	4/27	--	--	5/4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/14	5/4	4/29	5/4	5/11	5/3	4/27	0	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	--	5/14	4/30	--	5/4	5/11	0	0	5/4
Blue Grosbeak	4/30	5/4	0	0	0	0	--	5/4	5/22	5/5	5/4	4/29	4/29	5/4	4/22	4/28	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4
Indigo Bunting	5/1	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	4/30	4/23	4/28	4/30	5/4	4/28	5/1	4/13	5/3	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/30	5/4	--	--	5/4	4/28	4/30	--	4/22	4/28	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/4	4/30	5/4	--	--	5/12
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/4	5/4	0	5/4
Sessile Sparrow	--	5/4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/11	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/8	5/4	5/4	5/4
Vesper Sparrow	3/30	4/9	4/9	3/31	4/7	4/9	--	--	4/22	4/28	0	3/24	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0
Chipping Sparrow	3/31	4/4	--	--	--	--	4/2	--	4/1	4/11	4/4	4/5	--	--	4/2	4/7	4/7	3/31	4/12	--	--
White-crowned Sparrow	5/4	5/4	4/22	5/4	4/21	5/4	5/5	0	4/6	5/4	--	5/2	5/4	0	5/4	5/4	4/21	0	5/6	5/4	0
Swamp Sparrow	--	4/22	4/26	5/4	4/21	4/22	4/10	--	4/24	4/7	W	4/11	W	W	4/28	4/3	W	W	W	W	W

	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Ches	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Somr	Wico	Worc
	10-yr	1974																			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/12	4/ 6	4/12	4/14	3/31	4/ 3	4/ 6	--	4/ 7	4/ 3	4/ 1	4/ 3	4/ 9	4/16	4/ 2	5/ 3	W	W	4/14	W	W
Water Pipit	--	3/24	0	0	3/24	--	--	0	--	3/28	2/ 6	3/19	--	0	0	0	4/ 7	0	0	0	--
Cedar Warbler	4/24	5/ 4	5/21	--	5/11	5/ 4	4/26	0	5/15	5/ 4	4/26	4/10	--	--	4/ 2	5/ 4	4/ 1	--	5/ 4	--	5/11
White-eyed Vireo	4/26	4/18	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	4/26	4/14	5/ 4	4/18	4/15	4/14	4/16	4/ 8	4/19	4/25	4/20	5/ 4	4/ 8	4/14	5/ 4	4/14
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/26	4/29	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/18	4/28	4/28	--	4/27	4/21	4/16	5/ 4	4/17	4/29	0	4/30	0	4/28	5/ 4	--	5/ 4
Solitary Vireo	4/28	4/27	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/29	4/ 3	4/21	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/12	4/23	4/21	4/17	--	0	4/27	0	4/27	0	--	5/ 4
Red-eyed Vireo	4/28	4/28	4/27	5/ 4	5/11	4/28	4/25	5/ 4	4/29	4/20	4/22	4/26	4/17	5/ 1	5/ 4	4/28	5/ 4	4/27	5/ 4	4/28	5/ 4
Warbling Vireo	5/ 2	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	4/25	4/28	5/ 4	5/ 4	--	4/21	5/ 4	5/25	4/17	0	4/25	0	0	0	0	0	5/ 4
Black-&white Warbler	4/22	4/16	4/27	5/ 4	4/23	4/28	4/23	5/ 4	4/13	4/13	4/13	4/15	4/13	4/16	4/12	4/16	--	4/11	--	--	--
Prothonotary Warbler	4/26	4/23	0	5/ 4	4/18	0	4/23	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/14	4/16	4/11	4/22	4/29	4/29	4/23	--	4/20	--	5/ 4	4/28
Worm-eating Warbler	5/ 2	4/30	0	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/30	4/29	--	4/29	4/30	4/26	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 8	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	4/27	--	--	4/28
Golden-winged Warbler	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/21	--	5/11	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/25	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/ 4
Blue-winged Warbler	5/ 3	4/29	5/ 4	0	4/29	4/29	4/29	--	4/29	4/26	4/23	4/29	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/28	--	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	0
Tennessee Warbler	5/ 7	5/ 4	5/21	0	5/18	5/ 4	4/30	0	5/ 4	4/26	5/ 3	5/ 1	0	5/11	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville Warbler	5/ 3	4/29	5/ 2	0	4/29	4/28	4/30	--	4/28	4/22	4/29	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parula Warbler	4/25	4/21	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/21	4/28	4/23	1/27	4/20	4/14	4/12	4/14	4/13	4/15	4/27	4/30	5/ 4	4/27	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/28
Yellow Warbler	4/27	4/26	4/29	4/29	4/24	4/28	4/23	4/26	5/ 4	4/28	4/17	4/23	4/29	4/26	4/16	5/ 7	4/14	4/20	4/25	5/ 4	4/28
Magnolia Warbler	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/13	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	4/ 4	4/27	5/ 3	0	5/13	5/ 4	5/10	0	5/11	5/10	0	0
Cape May Warbler	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/23	5/ 4	5/11	4/28	4/30	0	4/30	5/28	5/ 3	4/30	--	0	5/ 4	4/30	5/ 4	5/11	0	0	5/10
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	5/ 2	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 2	5/ 3	4/28	4/30	5/ 4	4/29	4/28	4/29	4/29	5/ 4	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	0	5/ 4	5/ 4
Myrtle Warbler	4/16	4/14	4/20	--	4/ 4	4/22	4/14	4/28	4/29	4/ 6	4/ 4	4/11	4/17	4/18	4/ 1	--	4/14	W	4/13	4/ 7	W
Black-thr. Green Warbler	5/ 2	5/ 4	4/27	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/28	4/30	--	5/ 4	4/28	4/15	4/30	5/ 4	5/ 6	5/ 7	--	0	5/11	0	0	5/11
Cerulean Warbler	5/ 3	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	5/11	4/30	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/27	4/21	4/30	0	5/ 4	0	5/24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackburnian Warbler	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 1	5/ 4	4/30	--	5/11	5/ 4	5/ 6	4/30	--	5/ 1	--	0	0	5/11	0	0	0
Yellow-throated Warbler	4/19	4/15	0	0	0	4/19	0	0	0	4/14	4/23	4/13	4/13	4/29	0	4/15	5/ 4	4/11	--	--	--
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/ 4	5/ 2	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/13	5/ 1	4/29	0	5/ 1	5/ 1	4/26	5/ 1	5/ 4	--	0	5/10	0	5/11	0	0	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/11	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/12	5/11	4/30	0	5/ 4	5/ 2	5/11	4/30	5/18	0	0	0	0	5/11	0	0	--
Blackpoll Warbler	5/ 6	5/ 4	5/19	0	5/12	5/10	5/12	5/18	5/ 4	5/ 2	4/30	--	5/ 4	5/ 3	5/ 2	5/ 3	5/24	0	0	0	5/12
Prairie Warbler	4/25	4/27	4/27	4/20	5/11	4/21	4/27	4/24	4/29	4/27	4/24	4/21	4/15	4/30	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/ 8	4/27	5/ 4	4/ 8	4/28
Pala Warbler	4/18	4/23	5/ 4	0	4/ 7	3/27	4/23	--	5/ 1	4/ 6	4/26	4/12	5/ 3	0	4/13	4/ 3	0	0	0	0	--
Ovenbird	4/27	4/21	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	4/25	4/23	--	4/23	4/ 9	4/ 5	4/21	4/21	4/14	5/ 4	4/19	4/20	4/11	4/15	4/ 8	0
Northern Waterthrush	5/ 2	4/30	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/29	4/28	4/18	0	4/27	4/16	4/15	4/23	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	5/12
Louisiana Waterthrush	4/14	4/ 7	0	5/ 4	4/ 7	4/14	4/ 7	4/ 7	4/ 3	3/29	4/ 3	4/16	4/ 8	4/ 3	0	4/ 9	4/ 7	4/ 8	4/11	--	4/14
Kentucky Warbler	5/ 3	4/30	0	5/ 4	--	4/30	4/30	5/16	5/ 3	4/30	4/26	4/29	4/27	5/ 1	5/ 2	4/30	--	4/28	--	--	5/ 4
Mourning Warbler	--	--	5/27	0	0	5/16	0	0	5/ 9	0	5/17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowthroat	4/21	4/22	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 3	4/22	4/22	5/ 4	4/26	4/20	4/ 7	4/17	4/21	4/26	4/16	4/14	4/13	3/31	4/12	--	4/27
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/ 2	5/ 2	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	4/30	4/25	--	4/30	5/ 4	4/28	5/ 1	4/29	--	5/ 4	4/30	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/29	--	5/ 4
Hooded Warbler	4/30	4/29	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	4/29	4/25	0	5/ 4	4/29	4/23	4/28	4/22	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	--	4/28
Wilson's Warbler	5/ 8	5/ 6	5/ 9	0	5/13	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	--	5/ 5	5/ 8	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/11
Canada Warbler	5/ 6	5/11	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/21	5/11	5/ 4	5/14	5/11	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	5/22	5/11	0	5/19	0	5/11	0	0	0
American Redstart	4/29	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/11	4/30	5/ 2	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/21	4/22	4/28	4/17	4/27	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/11	5/ 4	--	5/ 4	5/ 4
Bobolink	5/ 6	5/ 6	5/ 4	0	5/12	5/14	5/11	0	5/ 4	4/28	4/26	4/23	5/ 4	5/ 6	--	5/10	0	5/11	0	0	5/11
Barn Swallow	4/ 8	4/ 5	4/ 6	4/27	4/ 7	4/ 1	4/ 8	4/25	4/ 7	4/ 6	3/27	3/31	4/ 5	4/ 3	4/ 5	4/ 2	4/ 3	4/ 8	3/30	--	--
Cliff Swallow	--	5/ 4	5/ 1	4/20	5/ 4	5/12	4/30	0	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 5	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin	3/27	4/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	4/13	4/ 9	4/ 7	--	4/ 1	3/29	4/ 3	4/ 2	4/10	4/ 2	4/ 1	--	4/ 6	3/31	--	--	--
Blue Jay	4/27	4/21	3/ 1	--	4/21	4/22	3/ 4	--	4/ 2	4/21	4/29	4/15	4/28	4/23	4/ 8	--	--	--	--	--	4/29
House Wren	4/21	4/19	4/14	4/12	4/ 7	4/21	4/14	--	4/18	4/12	4/11	4/22	4/27	5/ 1	4/25	4/19	0	4/13	4/25	4/27	4/28
Long-billed Marsh Wren	--	5/ 4	0	0	0	0	5/ 4	0	0	5/ 4	4/19	4/15	5/ 4	--	5/ 4	5/ 4	--	3/31	4/27	--	--
Catbird	4/27	4/25	4/25	5/ 4	4/28	4/26	4/18	4/19	4/22	4/14	4/23	4/16	4/14	4/29	4/29	5/ 1	5/ 4	4/11	4/13	5/ 4	5/ 4
Brown Thrasher	4/ 7	4/ 7	4/15	4/ 9	4/14	4/ 6	4/ 6	4/27	4/ 7	4/ 7	3/26	3/26	4/ 8	3/30	4/ 2	4/ 4	4/11	4/11	4/26	W	W
Wood Thrush	4/25	4/23	4/30	4/22	4/26	4/23	4/23	4/30	4/28	4/23	4/16	4/21	4/13	4/24	4/28	4/16	4/28	4/20	5/ 4	4/16	5/ 4
Hermit Thrush	4/13	4/14	5/ 4	--	4/21	4/12	4/ 4	0	4/23	4/21	4/ 2	3/27	4/13	4/19	0	4/11	4/21	4/14	W	W	W
Swainson's Thrush	5/ 6	5/ 4	--	4/15	5/19	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	4/30	4/22	5/ 1	5/21	5/ 6	0	5/10	0	5/11	0	0	5/11
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/ 9	5/11	0	5/15	0	5/18	5/11	0	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	5/13	5/13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veery	5/ 3	5/ 4	5/ 4	5/ 4	0	5/ 4	4/30	0	5/ 3	4/28	4/25	4/22	5/21	5/ 6	5/14	5/16	0	5/11	5/12	0	5/ 4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/14	4/ 8	4/20	4/11	4/12	4/11	4/ 7	4/25	4/ 3	3/28	4/ 5	4/ 3	4/ 5	4/ 3	4/ 8	--	4/21	4/ 8	4/12	--	--

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from northwest to southeast. In the first two columns of dates, the 1974 median is compared with a ten-year median so you can see which species arrived and departed ahead of schedule and which ones were late. These two tables summarize nearly three pounds of reports, so we must resort to a general acknowledgment of the principal contributors for each county. Any record-breaking dates are mentioned in the text, with the name of the observer. The principal reporters for each county in the tables were: Garrett--Mrs. Fran Pope, Dorothea Malec, John Willetts, Kendrick Hodgdon, Carl Carlson; Allegheny--Dorothea Malec, John Willetts, James Paulus, Kendrick Hodgdon; Washington--Daniel Boone, Alice Mallonee; Frederick--Dr. John W. Richards, Paul McKenzie; Baltimore City and County--Clark and Craig Jeschke, Peggy Bohanan, Joseph Schreiber, Haven Kolb, Marion Glass, Gladys Cole, Janet Ganter; Harford--Shirley and Kim Spitler, Rodney Jones; Howard--Dorothy Rauth, Joanne Solem, Rosamond Munro, Craig and Clark Jeschke; Montgomery--Peter and Dr. Robert Pyle, Herb Douglas, Paul McKenzie, Robert W. Warfield, Nancy and Lucy MacClintock, Dr. Thomas Valega, Dr. Fred Evenden, Paul Woodward; Prince Georges--Herb Douglas, Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Samuel T. Lyon, David Holmes, Leonard Teuber, Chandler Robbins, Danny Bystrak, Chris Ludwig; Anne Arundel--Hal and Prof. Harold Wierenga, Mark Hoffman, Danny Bystrak, Dave Linehan, Ellen Gizzarelli, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Rena Bishop; Charles--Leonard Teuber, Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Dr. George B. Wilmot, Mrs. A. D. Sorzano; Calvert--John H. Fales, Chandler and Eleanor Robbins; Kent--Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mendinhall and Margery Plymire (compilers), Floyd Parks, James Gruber, Arlene Delario, and the Carroll family; Caroline--Alicia Knotts (compiler), Marvin W. Hewitt, Roberta Fletcher, Ethel Engle; Talbot--Jan Reese, Harry Armistead; Dorchester--Mr. and Mrs. Harry Armistead; Somerset--Mrs. Richard Cole, Paul, Linda, Danny, and Steve Bystrak, Charles Vaughn; Wicomico--Charles Vaughn; Worcester--David Holmes, Paul McKenzie, Peggy Bohanan, Dr. Prescott Ward, Mark Hoffman, Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, Bob Hahn, Shirley Geddes, Charles Munn.

The same symbols as usual are utilized for missing records: a "0" means the species was not reported from the county, a dash means it was present but no arrival or departure date was recorded, and a "W" shows that migrating individuals could not be distinguished from wintering individuals of the same species. Underscored numbers and dates in the text denote new State or Sectional records.

Loons, Grebes. The peak northward movement of Common Loons took place during the period Apr. 13-19, according to Hal Wierenga. He counted 212 individuals passing Sandy Point or Annapolis during these 7 days, out of a total of 404 birds between Mar. 19 and May 21. The best days were Apr. 15 (57 birds) and Apr. 13 (50). As many as 104 were still present off Ocean City on Apr. 27 (Richard Rowlett). A Common Loon and a Red-throated Loon, in non-breeding plumage, were seen in Chesapeake Bay near Poplar Island on June 1 (Jan Reese). Harry Armistead noted the near absence of Pied-billed Grebes at Deal Island Wildlife Management Area; only 1 bird was found on June 8, where there have been dozens in recent years.

Shearwaters, Petrels, Gannets. On June 2, just after an east-northeast rainstorm, Hal Wierenga and David Holmes counted 54 Wilson's Petrels migrating north past Ocean City inlet between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Richard Rowlett's pelagic trip from Ocean City to Baltimore Canyon (57 miles to the southeast) had recorded only 30 scattered Wilson's Petrels on the preceding day, but a scattering of 9 Sooty Shearwaters and a single Cory's Shearwater (27 miles out) provided some variety on the pelagic trip. Rowlett's Apr. 27 pelagic trip had been too early in the season for shearwaters and petrels, but had yielded a tally of 278 brown-plumaged Gannets and 3 adults, mostly within 20 miles of shore.

Hérons, Egrets, and Ibis. A pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons returned to their Lake Roland nest (between Cockrans Pond and the east side of Lake Roland just south of Woodbrook Lane) on Apr. 1, breaking the Apr. 4 State arrival date for this species (R. Taylor McLean). One in immature plumage showed up at Leitersburg on May 13 (Daniel Boone). Jan Reese reported that the Eastern Bay Cattle Egret colony was not occupied this year; but his almost daily observations of 2 to 20 individuals in the vicinity of Chesapeake City from late April to Aug. 20 suggest the presence of a new colony near the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Reese had a peak count of 250 Cattle Egrets near Chesapeake City on Apr. 23. All 11 species of Maryland herons and bitterns, plus the Glossy Ibis, were on Hal Wierenga's Sandy Point list this spring; most notable were 2 very early Least Bitterns on Apr. 23 (after a cold front abruptly terminated a strong southerly airflow in the early morning), a stray Louisiana Heron on May 9, an early spring Little Blue Heron on Apr. 4, and an early fall vagrant Little Blue on June 28. Unusual for western Maryland was an adult Little Blue seen at Big Pool on Apr. 11 by Boone and many others. Cattle Egrets were found in all coastal plain counties except Charles, St. Marys, and Harford. Two Louisiana Herons at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on Apr. 13 were early for Chesapeake Bay, and a Least Bittern there on Apr. 8 (under weather conditions similar to those of Apr. 23) broke the State arrival record (Armistead).

Swans and Geese. Although Mute Swans have been nesting in Talbot and Kent Counties in recent years, it was not until May 3, 1974 that Hal Wierenga saw his first 2 Mute Swans flying past Sandy Point. The pair of Mute Swans that raised a single young (from 6 eggs) on the South River was found to have escaped from captivity at Shadyside and was scheduled to be recaptured. Two Whooper Swans with black neck collars (numbers 1R13 and 1R14) were on the Patuxent pond about one mile south of Route 50 on Apr. 17 (Hal Wierenga). In Kent County, Snow Geese remained until Apr. 24, and Blue Geese until Apr. 4 (Mendinhalls, et al.).

Ducks. In a year when most of the waterfowl left in March, it was doubly surprising to get the first inland record of a Harlequin Duck in Maryland on Apr. 5. An adult male Harlequin in excellent plumage was discovered on Druid Hill Park reservoir by Peggy Bohanan, who quickly notified other MOS members, enabling many people to share this rarity. Ruddy Ducks were exceptionally numerous in Talbot County last winter, and over 500 were still present there on Apr. 20 and 100 on May 5

Table 2. Spring Departure Dates, 1974

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Bait	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Somr	Worc
	10-yr	1974																	
Common Loon	5/9	5/11	5/4	5/4	5/11	6/3	5/4	0	5/11	--	5/21	5/4	0	5/4	0	6/1	5/11	--	5/12
Horned Grebe	--	4/8	4/20	0	3/31	0	3/10	0	--	0	4/8	4/2	--	5/5	0	4/20	--	--	--
Double-cr. Cormorant	--	5/19	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	5/19	6/5	5/4	0	4/17	0	5/26	5/11	0	6/1
Whistling Swan	4/21	5/4	5/11	0	3/17	4/9	5/4	0	5/5	0	4/10	3/10	5/4	5/4	0	5/4	5/11	5/9	0
Canada Goose	4/30	5/6	--	--	5/6	4/19	4/17	4/7	5/5	--	3/29	5/24	3/3	6/5	6/3	5/8	--	--	6/1
Pintail	--	5/4	3/18	0	--	3/9	5/4	0	--	--	5/4	--	--	5/4	5/4	--	--	--	--
Green-winged Teal	--	4/21	5/4	0	3/31	3/27	0	--	--	--	3/29	--	--	4/28	0	4/21	5/4	--	--
American Widgeon	--	4/8	4/2	0	4/7	4/9	5/4	0	--	--	3/29	3/31	0	4/25	0	--	5/4	--	--
Shoveler	--	4/4	3/19	0	0	0	4/7	0	0	--	3/26	0	0	4/9	4/2	--	5/4	--	--
Ring-necked Duck	--	4/2	5/4	0	4/7	3/17	0	0	0	4/23	0	3/23	0	4/3	4/2	0	0	0	3/22
Canvasback	--	4/7	3/14	0	3/31	0	0	0	0	5/5	4/14	3/23	5/4	--	--	--	5/4	--	3/22
Lesser Scaup	--	4/13	5/4	0	4/15	0	4/13	4/7	0	0	4/10	5/12	4/1	5/1	4/2	5/5	4/8	--	--
Common Goldeneye	--	5/4	5/4	0	--	--	--	3/25	5/4	5/4	3/28	--	3/23	--	--	5/4	--	--	--
Bufflehead	--	4/9	5/4	0	4/7	4/9	5/4	3/28	--	--	5/5	4/4	3/23	--	3/19	5/5	--	--	5/12
Oldsquaw	--	4/10	0	0	4/4	4/1	4/15	0	0	0	4/16	--	3/23	4/10	0	5/5	4/8	--	6/1
Ruddy Duck	--	5/4	3/10	0	4/7	0	4/26	0	--	--	5/11	4/13	3/23	5/4	5/4	5/5	5/4	--	5/4
Common Merganser	--	4/2	5/4	--	4/1	3/9	3/16	0	--	0	4/4	4/20	0	3/31	4/2	0	4/8	0	3/22
Red-breasted Merganser	--	5/4	5/4	0	3/31	4/28	0	0	5/4	0	5/11	5/4	--	5/4	0	4/27	5/4	--	--
American Coot	--	4/15	5/4	5/4	4/7	--	--	0	--	4/23	4/7	--	3/26	4/15	--	4/6	4/27	--	--
Semipalmated Plover	--	5/26	--	5/25	5/26	5/17	0	0	0	--	6/5	0	0	5/4	0	5/26	5/26	0	6/2
Black-bellied Plover	--	5/26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	5/21	0	5/5	5/11	6/8	6/2	6/2
Ruddy Turnstone	--	5/26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	0	0	0	5/26	0	--	6/2
Common Snipe	5/2	5/4	0	5/4	5/9	5/4	0	5/8	--	5/4	5/9	5/4	0	4/26	5/4	4/21	5/4	--	--
Spotted Sandpiper	--	5/25	--	5/25	6/7	5/25	5/23	5/11	5/21	5/29	6/3	5/22	--	5/27	--	5/26	5/11	0	6/1
Solitary Sandpiper	--	5/17	--	5/25	5/21	5/19	5/14	5/11	5/18	5/15	5/20	--	0	5/17	--	--	5/11	0	5/11
Greater Yellowlegs	--	5/12	5/4	0	5/13	5/19	5/4	5/8	5/4	5/11	5/23	5/9	--	5/30	0	5/5	5/11	6/8	6/1
Lesser Yellowlegs	--	5/11	0	5/4	5/26	5/23	5/14	5/11	--	5/11	5/13	5/5	0	5/21	5/4	5/5	5/11	5/9	5/11
Pectoral Sandpiper	--	5/6	0	5/4	5/26	--	5/4	5/8	5/4	5/11	--	0	0	4/29	0	0	5/26	0	--
Least Sandpiper	--	5/16	--	5/25	5/26	5/17	0	5/11	5/11	5/16	5/30	--	0	5/25	0	5/10	5/11	--	6/1
Dunlin	--	5/25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	0	0	0	5/26	5/26	--	6/1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	--	5/25	0	5/25	6/7	5/17	0	0	0	5/11	6/5	--	0	5/25	--	0	5/11	6/8	6/2
Gt. Black-backed Gull	--	5/4	0	0	0	0	3/15	0	0	--	5/12	3/23	3/23	5/4	0	5/19	--	--	6/1
Ring-billed Gull	--	5/4	5/4	0	5/4	3/10	4/2	3/19	5/4	5/19	5/11	4/18	3/24	6/6	5/4	5/26	5/26	5/4	6/4
Bonaparte's Gull	--	5/5	4/16	--	--	0	0	0	--	--	5/12	5/5	0	0	0	4/3	0	0	6/2
Black-billed Cuckoo	--	--	5/21	--	--	5/12	5/4	--	5/11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4/24	4/17	5/4	5/4	4/28	4/17	4/7	5/4	--	5/11	4/8	4/18	3/9	4/8	4/11	5/4	0	--	--
Blue Jay	5/14	5/4	5/4	5/4	6/11	--	5/4	5/4	5/17	5/17	6/11	--	5/24	5/29	5/4	--	--	5/10	--
White-breasted Nuthatch	--	4/7	--	--	4/5	--	5/4	4/29	4/18	3/23	3/25	4/7	--	5/4	3/15	0	0	0	--
Red-breasted Nuthatch	--	5/1	5/4	0	4/24	4/18	0	5/1	0	5/4	5/4	4/13	0	5/4	4/27	0	0	0	0
Brown Creeper	4/22	4/16	5/4	5/4	5/5	4/15	4/6	4/16	5/5	4/14	5/4	3/24	2/10	4/8	--	--	--	--	--

	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Somr	Worc
	10-yr	1974																	
Winter Wren	--	4/26	5/4	--	--	4/15	--	4/11	4/30	4/26	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4/27	--
Hermit Thrush	4/28	5/4	5/4	--	4/21	5/12	5/8	5/4	5/7	5/11	5/11	4/13	5/14	0	5/4	5/4	4/11	--	5/4
Swainson's Thrush	5/24	5/26	5/30	5/30	5/19	5/28	5/30	5/22	5/25	6/1	6/3	5/22	5/20	0	5/21	0	5/11	--	6/1
Gray-checked Thrush	--	5/26	0	--	0	5/26	5/20	5/14	5/28	5/27	5/30	0	5/18	5/13	0	0	0	0	0
Veery	5/17	5/18	--	--	0	5/18	5/23	5/24	5/11	5/21	5/29	5/12	5/18	5/28	5/16	0	5/11	5/12	5/12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4/11	4/16	5/4	--	4/19	4/26	4/7	4/3	4/16	5/24	4/3	3/31	3/31	5/4	--	--	--	--	--
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5/2	5/7	5/4	5/4	5/13	5/10	5/7	5/7	5/11	5/11	5/13	5/4	5/3	5/4	5/3	5/10	4/27	5/4	5/11
Water Pipit	--	4/28	0	0	5/4	--	5/4	5/4	--	4/28	4/1	--	0	0	0	4/7	4/11	0	--
Cedar Waxwing	--	5/21	--	5/21	6/4	--	--	5/21	5/22	6/3	5/30	5/22	5/14	5/13	--	5/19	4/11	5/5	5/12
Golden-winged Warbler	--	5/7	5/31	--	5/20	5/18	5/4	5/4	5/7	5/8	5/4	5/4	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Blue-winged Warbler	--	5/4	5/4	0	5/26	5/16	5/4	5/4	5/15	5/12	5/16	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/7	--	5/4	5/4	0
Tennessee Warbler	--	5/21	5/21	0	5/26	5/20	--	5/22	5/19	5/22	5/16	0	5/13	--	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville Warbler	--	5/11	5/3	0	5/4	5/16	5/4	--	5/11	5/12	5/11	5/11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magnolia Warbler	5/19	5/18	5/21	--	5/13	5/18	5/23	5/14	5/25	5/29	5/22	0	5/13	5/4	5/12	0	5/11	0	6/1
Cape May Warbler	5/10	5/15	0	5/21	5/13	5/16	--	5/13	5/17	5/15	5/16	5/11	0	5/12	--	--	5/11	0	6/1
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	5/14	5/14	--	0	5/13	5/21	5/18	5/15	5/26	5/22	5/16	5/11	5/18	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/11	0	5/12
Myrtle Warbler	5/10	5/15	--	5/21	5/18	5/24	5/14	5/30	5/18	5/16	5/15	5/15	5/18	5/15	--	4/21	5/11	5/9	5/12
Black-thr. Green Warbler	5/11	5/13	--	--	5/13	5/20	--	5/14	5/18	5/22	5/14	--	5/13	5/7	5/18	0	5/11	0	5/12
Blackburnian Warbler	5/20	5/15	--	--	5/13	5/19	5/7	5/14	5/21	5/18	5/16	5/11	--	5/30	0	0	5/11	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/13	5/18	--	--	5/13	5/12	5/26	5/21	5/18	5/18	5/16	5/12	5/18	0	5/20	0	5/11	0	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	--	5/18	5/21	--	5/13	5/28	5/26	5/14	5/18	5/27	5/31	5/18	0	0	0	0	5/11	0	5/12
Blackpoll Warbler	5/28	6/2	5/21	0	6/3	6/1	6/3	6/4	6/5	6/5	5/31	5/27	5/30	6/4	5/28	6/9	0	0	6/1
Palm Warbler	5/4	5/4	5/4	0	4/19	5/6	5/4	5/4	5/11	4/26	5/5	5/4	--	5/4	5/3	--	0	0	5/4
Ovenbird	--	5/23	--	--	5/26	--	5/21	--	5/23	--	5/16	--	--	6/2	--	--	--	--	--
Northern Waterthrush	5/17	5/23	--	0	5/26	5/20	5/19	--	6/4	5/24	5/26	5/22	5/11	--	5/21	0	0	0	5/12
Wilson's Warbler	--	5/26	--	0	5/13	5/26	5/23	0	5/26	5/18	5/30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6/1
Canada Warbler	5/20	5/26	5/31	5/28	5/26	5/30	6/3	5/22	5/26	5/30	5/25	5/22	5/31	0	5/22	0	5/11	0	0
American Redstart	5/27	6/1	6/3	--	6/3	6/1	6/3	5/20	6/4	5/27	5/30	--	6/10	5/28	5/30	--	--	--	6/1
Bobolink	5/16	5/11	--	0	5/14	5/14	5/11	5/16	5/11	5/11	5/30	5/11	5/6	6/5	0	0	5/11	0	5/11
Rusty Blackbird	--	5/9	0	5/4	3/31	5/4	--	--	5/13	5/11	5/9	--	3/10	5/9	5/14	--	4/27	5/4	--
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/12	5/16	--	--	5/13	5/16	5/21	5/15	5/19	5/19	5/20	5/11	5/14	5/22	5/21	--	5/11	0	5/12
Evening Grosbeak	5/6	5/4	5/16	5/11	5/4	5/10	5/4	--	5/11	5/4	5/19	5/4	4/16	4/29	5/4	5/4	5/4	--	5/12
Purple Finch	5/3	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/13	5/4	5/4	5/6	5/6	5/4	5/4	5/4	4/25	5/4	4/11	--	--	5/7	--
House Finch	--	5/4	0	5/4	5/4	1/19	5/4	3/12	0	5/4	5/7	0	4/1	4/14	4/14	--	0	0	5/11
Pine Siskin	--	5/4	4/26	5/4	5/13	5/16	5/4	5/4	5/8	5/4	5/15	5/11	4/16	5/17	0	5/4	0	0	--
Savannah Sparrow	5/6	5/11	--	--	5/19	--	--	5/11	5/12	5/11	5/15	--	5/4	5/9	5/4	5/4	5/11	--	5/10
Slate-colored Junco	5/1	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/7	4/30	5/4	5/9	5/11	4/25	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/3	5/4	4/12	4/11	--	5/12
Tree Sparrow	--	3/24	--	--	3/24	4/4	--	--	--	--	4/3	0	3/4	0	0	2/21	0	0	--
White-crowned Sparrow	5/13	5/11	5/4	5/4	5/16	5/11	--	5/12	5/12	5/11	5/13	5/11	0	5/16	5/11	--	0	5/6	0
White-throated Sparrow	5/14	5/14	5/29	5/14	5/13	5/14	5/20	5/9	5/23	5/14	5/15	5/24	5/13	5/15	5/11	5/12	5/4	5/12	5/12
Fox Sparrow	4/4	3/30	3/25	3/30	3/10	4/1	3/6	4/3	4/1	4/7	4/6	--	3/18	0	3/10	0	0	0	--
Swamp Sparrow	5/7	5/7	--	5/4	4/28	5/11	5/4	5/14	5/14	5/20	5/27	5/4	--	4/28	5/10	5/4	5/4	5/11	--

(Reese). Seven late King Eiders were seen at Ocean City inlet on the May 12 Convention boat trip (Bill Clark, Robbins, and many others). A high inland total of 32 Red-breasted Mergansers on the Potomac River at Seneca on Apr. 7 indicates overland migration at that time (Richard Rowlett).

Vultures, Hawks, and Eagles. The warm weather and south to south-west winds of Apr. 2 proved a stimulus to hawk migration. This was the peak day for Sparrow Hawks in Kent County (Mendinhalls), and at Sandy Point State Park where Wierenga counted 52 of them crossing the Bay from Kent Island. Also crossing the Bay to Sandy Point that day were 40 Turkey Vultures (Wierenga). Seasonal totals for migrating hawks and vultures at Sandy Point were 109 Sparrow Hawks, 74 Turkey Vultures, 30 Red-tails, 27 Ospreys, 24 Sharp-shins (peak of 12 on Apr. 15), 19 Red-shoulders, 8 each of Broad-wings and Marsh Hawks, 4 Black Vultures (Apr. 15), 2 Cooper's, and an adult Bald Eagle (Feb. 26). The best Broad-wing count was of 42 birds on Apr. 20 over the C & O Towpath below Blockhouse Point, Montgomery County (Dr. William Oberman). Three active Bald Eagle nests in Talbot County produced a total of 5 fledglings (Reese), and even the nest so precariously close to Egypt Road just north of Blackwater Refuge successfully reared 1 eaglet. There also were young in at least two other Dorchester County nests (Armistead).

Turkey. Wild Turkeys liberated in Kent County were observed on Apr. 9, Apr. 27, and on the May 4 State-wide Bird Count. The only other counties reporting them on May 4 were the three western ones.

Rails and Gallinules. Hal Wierenga's interesting studies of rails at Sandy Point State Park will be reported more fully by him. For now we can report that 4 or 5 different transient King Rails were present there, Apr. 16 to May 11; a migrant Clapper Rail, his first record for the park, appeared with the Apr. 23 cold front; and Mr. Wierenga provided the second confirmation of Black Rails breeding on the Western Shore. In the Elliott Island marsh, Rowlett counted the calls of 138 Virginia Rails on Apr. 13, and 30 Clappers, 30 Virginias, 8 Kings, 8 Blacks, and a Sora on Apr. 27. No Blacks had called there on Apr. 13. A count between 10 p.m. and midnight on May 10 yielded 15 Virginias, 9 Blacks, and 9 late Soras (Mark Hoffman). Water levels in the Somerset County impoundments were poor for coots and gallinules this year. Armistead could find only 9 Common Gallinules in the Deal Island and Fairmount Wildlife Management Areas on June 8, and no American Coots.

Plovers and Sandpipers. Dr. Prescott Ward, who covered Assateague Island daily from Apr. 27 through May 5, reported the following shore-bird arrivals: male and female Wilson's Plover and Whimbrels on Apr. 27, and 13 Knots on May 4. At Woodend, in the Rock Creek valley of Chevy Chase, Peter Pyle set a record by banding 20 Solitary Sandpipers during the spring migration. Arrival dates for some of the shorebirds not listed in Table 1 were as follows: at Sandy Point State Park by Wierenga, Upland Plover on Apr. 23, White-rumped Sandpiper on May 24, and 6 Western Sandpipers on May 18; and at Leitersburg, 2 to 5 White-rumped Sandpipers, May 15, and Maryland's first inland Ruff, May 15-16

(Daniel Boone). A late Upland Plover was seen in Howard County near Laurel on May 8 (Joanne Solem). Departure dates from Sandy Point (Wierenga) included Upland Plover on Apr. 29, Willet on May 30, and 12 Western Sandpipers on May 29. A Whimbrel on May 26 was a rarity for Dorchester County (Reese). The late shorebird departures from Somerset County on June 8 (Table 2) were by Armistead, all shorebird records from Washington County were from Leitersburg and identified by Boone, and the shorebird dates from Allegany County were from Oldtown by Jim Paulus. We cannot say whether a Willet seen at Piney Point, Kent Narrows, by Jan Reese on June 16 was a very late spring transient or a summer vagrant; no nesting colony is known in the Bay north of Dorchester County.

Phalaropes. A record count of 494 Red Phalaropes was obtained on Rowlett's Apr. 27 pelagic trip, all in a narrow band 50 to 52 miles offshore, as related by him (*Maryland Birdlife* 30:51-55). Only 9 Northern Phalaropes were seen on this sea trip. A Wilson's Phalarope was found by Dr. Tom Valega at Lake Needwood in Montgomery County on May 4. If we can count 45 miles offshore as within Maryland birding waters, this is the first time that all three of the world's phalarope species have been seen in Maryland in the same week. Another Wilson's Phalarope, at Leitersburg on May 15-16, was the first recorded from Washington County (Boone).

Jaegers and Skuas. See Richard Rowlett's account of the Apr. 27 pelagic trip (*ibid.*, 30:51-55).

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers. The only northern gull in addition to the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes on Rowlett's Apr. 27 pelagic trip was the Chestertown Glaucous Gull, last seen this year on Apr. 9 (Carrolls). Over 100 Great Black-backed Gulls were counted in Eastern Bay on June 22, documenting the tremendous increase in summering birds of this species (Reese). Royal and Least Terns had arrived on Assateague Island by Apr. 27, and the first 3 Gull-billed Terns arrived on May 5 (Dr. Prescott Ward). Caspian Terns reached a peak of 13 birds at Sandy Point on Apr. 16. Least Terns arrived there on May 6, but departed by June 3 because of human interference and did not attempt to nest as they have in past years (Wierenga). The status of the Least Tern as a breeding bird in Maryland is rapidly becoming precarious. This is the first year in modern times that observers have not confirmed a single nesting colony in the State. Some isolated colonies must surely still exist, and members are urged to watch for these and report any likely nesting spots found in 1975 so that steps can be taken to give special protection. A stray Least Tern on June 2 at Leitersburg added this species to the Washington County list (Daniel Boone). For the second year in a row, a Black Skimmer was sighted at Deal Island Wildlife Management Area by Armistead and party, June 8.

Parakeets, Owls, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. The only Monk Parakeet sighted was in an orchard near Clear Spring on May 15 (*vide* Boone). The Long-eared Owl that wintered at Sandy Point State Park was last seen on Apr. 7 (Wierenga). On June 22 at 2 a.m., Mark Hoffman heard a Saw-whet Owl calling in the Maryland portion of Cranesville bog. The unseasonably

warm weather of mid-April brought exceptionally early arrivals of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on Apr. 14 (Anne Arundel County, photographed by Dave Linehan) and Apr. 16 (Kent County, seen by the Mendinhalls), and some birds had reached nearly all Maryland counties by the end of the month. The first nesting Red-headed Woodpecker in Dorchester County in many years was discovered on June 1 beside Shorter's Wharf Road on the north edge of the Blackwater River by Jackson and David Abbott.

Flycatchers and Swallows. An early Eastern Kingbird was seen in Calvert County on Apr. 7 (John H. Fales), over a week before another of its kind was spotted in this State. An Eastern Phoebe calling at Hoopers Island on June 15 (Armistead) was near the southern limit of its breeding range; the same observer established the first breeding record for Dorchester County at Beulah on Apr. 28 of this year. Although Hal Wierenga's last Cliff Swallow at Sandy Point State Park was seen on May 23, a migration of other swallows there on May 30 consisted of the following: 45 Trees, 150 Banks, 1 Rough-wing, 75 Barns, and 25 Purple Martins. These observations established new late migration records for the State for the Bank, Rough-wing, Barn, and Purple Martin! A Willow Flycatcher near Fairlee on May 25 was unusual for springtime in Kent County (Craig and Clark Jeschke). Purple Martins are scarce in Kent County this summer as a result of the heavy mortality in May 1973.

Catbird, Thrushes. The warm southwesterly winds on the night of Apr. 7-8, brought a Catbird to the yard of Elise Harmon in Cumberland, breaking the State arrival date for this species; the bird remained for several days (*vide* Dorothea Malec). Exceptionally early reports of catharid thrushes are generally ignored in this column because of the possibility of misidentifications. This spring, however, the early reports were well documented, they fell on days when there had been a heavy migration of early arrivals of other species, and were enforced by unusually early dates for the same thrush species in states to the south. Jim Paulus described in detail a Swainson's Thrush he observed at leisure at Oldtown on Apr. 15, five days ahead of the earliest Maryland record; another was seen at the Clearwater Nature Center in southern Prince Georges County on Apr. 22 (Sam Lyon). Records for this species were also broken this spring at Dalton, Ga. on Apr. 15 and at Birmingham, Ala. on Apr. 5 (see *American Birds* 28:803, 813). Another record-breaker for Maryland (by 2 days) was the Veery seen in Annapolis on Apr. 22 (Harold and Hal Wierenga); compare this with a Mar. 31 bird that broke the arrival record for northwest Florida (*American Birds* 28:813).

Kinglets, Vireos. The only summer record of a Golden-crowned Kinglet came from Swallow Falls, where Mark Hoffman saw a female, June 21-23. This is a new location and new habitat for this species, which has previously been found summering in Maryland only in spruce bogs. The White-eyed Vireo arrival date was broken by one day when Leonard Teuber saw one at Myrtle Grove Wildlife Area and Harry Armistead saw another at Blackwater Refuge, both on Apr. 8.

Warblers. There was an extraordinary winter record of a Black-and-white Warbler at the suet feeder of Lois Downin at Halfway in Washington

County, Feb. 23 and Mar. 2; it favored bacon drippings. The warm spell of Apr. 11-14 brought Black-and-white Warblers to most of the Maryland coastal plain counties, and with the Black-and-whites came a good sprinkling of early vagrants of other species: a Yellow in Talbot County, Apr. 14 (Reese), a Black-throated Green in southern Prince Georges County on Apr. 15 (Leonard Teuber), Northern Waterthrushes at Clearwater Nature Center on Apr. 15 (Lyon), banded at Woodend, Chevy Chase on Apr. 16 (Peter Pyle), and seen and verified by tape recording at Patapsco State Park on Apr. 18 (Dave Linehan and Norm Wiley), and an American Redstart in Talbot County on Apr. 11 (Reese). A few even earlier strays of other species were observed: an Ovenbird seen and heard singing at Silesia on Apr. 5 (Leonard Teuber), followed by one on the 8th at Salisbury (Charles Vaughn) and one on the 9th well up in the piedmont at Damascus (A. E. Bonde); and a Prairie Warbler at Blackwater Refuge on Apr. 8, three days ahead of the State record (Armistead and Gordon Chaplin). A male Bay-breasted Warbler well seen at Severna Park on Apr. 30 broke the State arrival record by one day (Mark Hoffman). Herb Douglas, comparing the average arrival dates of warblers in 1974 with his 10-year average, found the warblers to average 2.7 days early this spring. Interesting high counts for their respective localities were: 7 Magnolias, 3 Black-throated Blues, 4 Canadas, and 1 each of Cape May, Blackburnian, Chestnut-side, and Bay-breast in southern Dorchester County on May 11 (Armistead), a Cerulean at Greensboro on May 24 (Marvin Hewitt), 9 Yellow-throated Warblers at Seneca on Apr. 21 (Rowlett), a flock of 30 Bay-breasts at Sugarloaf Mountain (Paul McKenzie), and 8-10 Bay-breasts together with 50-60 Blackpolls in Norway Spruces in the Towson High School area on May 24 (Joseph Schreiber, Jr.). In spite of the early spring and the heat waves between May 14 and May 24, transient warblers of 8 species were detected into June (Table 2). These included 5 species at Ocean City on June 1 by Peggy Bohanan, most notably the second June record of a Wilson's Warbler and a State tie for the Cape May. Nine counties reported June Blackpolls, with the latest on Poplar Island, June 9 (Danny Bystrak). Late migrating Ovenbirds are hard to separate from the breeding population except at places like the Damsite banding station where they do not nest; the latest there was on June 2 (Mendinhalls). Also late for the Eastern Shore was a Damsite Blackburnian Warbler on May 30. On June 4 at Woodend, Peter Pyle banded his 108th Northern Waterthrush of the season.

Blackbirds, Tanagers. Alice Jones reported a female Yellow-headed Blackbird that spent the first week of April in Talbot County, feeding with Red-wings and cowbirds. It was first seen near St. Michaels by Mrs. William Plate, who has seen the species many times in the west; a few days later it was found on Miles River Neck, directly across the river from the first sighting, by Mrs. Herbert Austin. A male and a female Yellow-head were seen on May 4 on a farm near Friendsville by Helen and Cynthia Vitez. Both Scarlet (Teuber) and Summer (Lyon) Tanagers were first seen in southern Prince Georges County on the early date of Apr. 23.

Finches. House Finches left most Eastern Shore feeders in mid-April, but were still present in six counties as late as the May 4

State-wide Bird Count. A few were still present at the Ocean City feeder on May 11, and the first pair summered at Annapolis although no direct evidence of nesting was noted (Wierengas). A pair summered for the second consecutive year at Frances Cutchall's feeder in Hagerstown. A Blue Grosbeak in Kent County on Apr. 22 (Mendinhalls and others) tied the State arrival date for this species. Last dates for Red Crossbills were May 5 at Myrtle Grove (flock of 25, Len Teuber), May 8 in southern Prince Georges County (Teuber), and May 11 at Indian Springs (15 by Boone). On June 13, Paul McKenzie watched a singing Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the top of Sugarloaf Mountain, where the late E. J. Court found several pairs nesting early in this century.

Sparrows. Three Seaside Sparrows were singing south of Blackwater Refuge on Apr. 8 (Armistead), and one arrived at Sandy Point on Apr. 11 (Wierengas). A great flight of Seaside Sparrows overshot the breeding range while flying in warm southerly winds on the night of Apr. 22-23, and was forced down by rain and/or the approaching cold front; Hal Wierenga estimated an unprecedented 75 Seaside and 25 Sharp-tailed Sparrows on the 23rd in one small marsh at Sandy Point State Park. "Most seemed exhausted and allowed unusually close approach (5 ft.) before flushing." Quite out of its normal habitat was a Henslow's Sparrow, photographed on Apr. 22 in Peggy Bohanan's Baltimore City backyard. A Vesper Sparrow seen near the tip of Sandy Point on May 18 by Hal Wierenga is the latest spring migrant of this species recorded in Maryland since 1893. Stray White-throated Sparrows turned up during the summer in four counties: one was banded on June 17 at the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies (Java Farm) near Edgewater by Patricia Mehlhop, another was banded on Aug. 28 at Woodend, Chevy Chase by Peter Pyle after being seen in June and July; and for the second successive summer one was seen on just one day (July 4) in one of my Breeding Bird Census plots in the Middle Patuxent Valley at Columbia. A White-throated Sparrow singing near a marsh in Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area in western Garrett County, June 30 (Fran Pope), could have been on nesting territory.

7902 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel

Information Needed on Blackbird Roosts

During the past year a great deal of adverse publicity has been generated concerning blackbirds and blackbird roosts. It was the feeling of the Executive Council that a study should be made of the situation, and therefore, a committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Messersmith. The committee will study and report on the situation and recommend an M.O.S. policy concerning blackbirds.

The help of the general membership is needed in order to obtain the truest possible picture of what is happening. Information is needed on the location and size of both recent and present roosts. This should include Starlings as well as cowbirds, grackles, and Red-wings. We request that this information be sent to Dr. Donald H. Messersmith, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Md., College Park, Md. 20742. Please be as precise as possible in both location and size estimates. Any additional notes on blackbirds will also be appreciated.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER BREEDING ON THE COASTAL PLAIN OF MARYLAND

Danny Bystrak

The Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) has recently been split by the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature (1973) into two distinct species: an eastern and northern species to be known as the Alder Flycatcher (*E. alnorum*) and a southern and western species to be called the Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*).

In Maryland the species now called the Willow Flycatcher was considered uncommon in the Appalachian Mountains section and uncommon and local in the northern part of the Piedmont section as a breeding bird (Stewart and Robbins, 1958). In the past nine years, the Breeding Bird Survey and the Atlas projects of Montgomery and Howard Counties have shown that the Willow Flycatcher is now well distributed in the breeding season, even in the southern part of the Piedmont. Although some of the breeding sites were very close to the Fall Line, there were still no records for the Coastal Plain, the only evidence of possible Coastal Plain nesting being a singing male on July 15, 1950 at Kenilworth in the District of Columbia (Stewart and Robbins, 1958), and singing males observed near Elkton on June 26, 1966 and June 9, 1968 (William Clark, pers. comm.).

By 1957 the species was known to nest only as far south as West Virginia (A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, 1957), with one 1946 record from southwestern Virginia (Coffey, 1964). It has now been found defending breeding territory south to the upper Piedmont of Georgia near Atlanta (Cohrs and Cohrs, 1972). The range expansion on the Maryland Piedmont is obviously tied in with the southward range expansion.

In May 1973, while helping with the Howard County Atlas project, I found an open alder-willow swamp along Deep Run in the easternmost part of the county. Even though it was only 5-10 feet above sea level, it looked like a good site for Willow Flycatchers. On June 9 a return visit yielded a singing male, which was still present on June 23.

On June 19 a visit to two other alder-willow swamps farther upstream yielded two more singing males, one of which became very excited at my approach. On June 16 another male was found singing near Columbia at an elevation of about 380 feet on Coastal Plain soils, although the area tends to be more Piedmont in nature.

On June 17 two singing males were found in a wet willow-dotted area near Jessup in Anne Arundel County at an elevation of about 130 feet. One bird was singing very close to the road and an attempt was made to locate the nest. The singing bird became excited for a short while and then became silent, never to call again during my investigation. This area had been examined on June 3, but no Willow Flycatcher was found on that date. As this species is a very late migrant, it is quite possible

the June 17 individuals had arrived after June 3. This is the first suggestion of breeding in Anne Arundel County.

Stewart and Robbins (loc. cit.) list June 9 as a late departure date for the region, which would lend support to the belief that all of the above birds were on nesting territory.

There are many excellent nesting sites for Willow Flycatchers in Anne Arundel and Prince Georges Counties, all of which warrant further investigation. Since the species has recently started nesting in the Piedmont of Delaware (Dyer *et al.*, 1973), it should also be watched for on the Coastal Plain of the northern Eastern Shore of Maryland.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel

IN MEMORIAM - BERTRAM W. HAINES

Bert Haines, born in Rochester, Minn. in 1932, was the son of a physician at the Mayo Clinic. He received a BS degree from Arizona State University in 1954 and a DSc in statistics from Johns Hopkins University in 1958. From 1962 to 1965 he was employed in the Experimental Design Branch of the Biometrics Division at Fort Detrick. In 1965 he transferred to the Department of the Navy, Norfolk, Va. He was a member of the Research Society of America.

While a member of the Frederick Chapter of MOS, of which he was president for one year, he gave a number of slide talks to the membership. He continued to serve as a field trip leader at the Ocean City Conventions even after moving to Norfolk. Bert's hobbies were birding, boating, photography, and sports cars. He was a HiFi enthusiast. While boating he enjoyed his study of shorebirds and marine life.

MOS lost a valuable friend and member with Dr. Haines' recent passing. MOS is grateful for the contribution of \$2,000 bequeathed to the Society through the Naval Air Norfolk Credit Union.

Barclay E. Tucker

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Most of us have had the experience at some time (particularly when interrupted while in deep thought) of answering the one who interrupted us with a completely irrelevant remark. Recently, I had such an experience. Until a couple of weeks had gone by, I didn't realize what had prompted the irrelevant answer that I received or how funny the incident was. I called the President of one of our Chapters to ask who would be the Local Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee for the year 1974-75. The answer related to the church of the Chapter President. It was quite apparent that I wasn't communicating; I thought I had called the wrong person. I identified myself again and explained that I thought I was calling the President of the Chapter of MOS. With that explanation, we were off on the right start. Later it dawned on me why we hadn't communicated at first. I looked in my dictionary. The seventh definition of sanctuary refers to a place of refuge for wildlife; the first six definitions relate to a church or holy place.

Concerning our Sanctuaries, I quote the following sentences from the minutes of the Executive Council meeting of Sept. 28. "Details have been worked out and there remains only to sign the papers on our new Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County. This newly acquired property, to be called Mandares Creek Sanctuary, is the gift of Col. William G. Bodenstein-- the first time we have had a Sanctuary given by the owner!" We are most grateful to Col. Bodenstein for his gift.

We are fortunate in having Col. Bodenstein as the Chairman of our Conservation Committee. His performance last year and this year has been outstanding as he has followed up on events and attended meetings related to conservation.

With our wealth of sanctuaries we are in a position to render a greater service to children and adults. The use of our sanctuaries for education is an important part of their purpose. How to expand this service is a subject being considered by our Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Benjamin Poscover, and by our State Sanctuary Committee, chaired by Mr. Edwin Unger.

The functions of MOS should be the concern of all members. We need more suggestions from members and more volunteers to carry out our purposes. If you can serve as a guide to a group visiting a sanctuary, let us know, and we may be able to serve more of our schools.

Another quotation from the minutes of the Executive Council meeting follows: "It was moved by Col. Devore, seconded and approved unanimously that the \$2,000 bequest received from the estate of Bert Haines be placed in the Sanctuary Fund, with the understanding that it might be used to reduce the Carey Run mortgage if so required." The \$2,000 was from the Naval Air Norfolk Credit Union following the death of Dr. Haines. MOS had been designated as the beneficiary of the account. A tribute to Dr. Haines appears on page 118 of this issue.

Our Bluebird Committee, chaired by Dr. Lawrence Zeleny, deserves our congratulations. Dr. Zeleny reports that the bluebird project resulted in more than 3,000 young bluebirds being fledged this year--more than double last year's total.

It was interesting to read recently of Swiss birders coming to the aid of migrating swallows. The swallows were so cold and hungry that they floundered in their flight over the Alps. Bird enthusiasts captured them, put them on a train, and thus transported them to Italy where they were released.

Volume 15, Number 17 of the Audubon Leader enclosed a leaflet telling about federal flood control policies "that have relieved the tax payer of billions of dollars, enriched the developers, degraded the environment, and left the nation with floods that are more destructive and more costly than ever before." If the projects of the Army Corps of Engineers could be separated into those that are necessary and those that are boondoggles and a moratorium declared on the latter group, we would be doing far more to fight inflation than all the sacrifices that individuals can make will ever do.

Our Treasurer, Gordon MacGregor, just advised me that we have received another generous gift toward payment of the Carey Run mortgage--a gift of stock having a value of approximately \$2,300. Again we are grateful recipients.

Barclay E. Tucker

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, 1974-75

Allegany:	Mr. Dale B. Fuller,	420 Beall St., Cumberland	724-6906
Anne Arundel:	Mr. Richard Heise,	111 Simms Drive, Annapolis	268-5396
Baltimore:	Dr. Roger Herriott,	504 Highland Ave., Towson	823-7033
Caroline:	Mrs. Wilber Engle,	Rt. 1, Box 80, Preston 21655	673-7612
Frederick:	Mr. August Selckmann,	Rt. 2, Frederick 21701	874-2515
Harford:	Col. Leland Devore,	Parade Rest, RD 1, Pt. Deposit	378-3473
Howard:	Dr. Robert Herndon,	5243 Herperus Drive, Columbia	730-0942
Kent:	Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson,	109 Water St., Chestertown	778-0768
Montgomery:	Mr. Paul W. Woodward,	2433 Southgate Square, Reston	620-3017
Patuxent:	Mrs. Ellen Gizzarelli,	549 Maple Ridge L., Odenton	674-9501
Talbot:	Mr. Ray Bryan,	R.D. 4, Box 345, Easton 21601	822-6822
Washington:	Mr. Robert Keedy,	1040 Columbia Rd., Hagerstown	733-7708
Wicomico:	Mr. Charles Vaughn	1306 Frederick Ave., Salisbury	742-7221

COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 20 TALBOT Breakfast Hike. Hosts: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Price.
 22 WASHINGTON Monthly Meeting, Emma K. Doub School, 7:30 p.m.
 22 PATUXENT Monthly Meeting. Longspurs by Dr. Thomas Custer.
 23 TALBOT 20th Anniversary Party, Talbot Country Club.
 26 BALTIMORE Trip to Carroll County. Reuben Morningstar.
 26-28 ANNE ARUNDEL & MONTGOMERY Trip to Hawk Mountain, Pa.
 27 FREDERICK Trip to Washington Monument State Park for hawks.
 27 WASHINGTON Fort Frederick Trip. Meet at parking lot, 1:30 pm
 27 WICOMICO Trip to Chincoteague Refuge. Polly Batchelder.
 28 WICOMICO Monthly Meeting. Wicomico Co. slides, C. Vaughn.
 29 BALTIMORE Fall Social Evening featuring Ellis C. Porter.
- Nov. 1 ANNE ARUNDEL Meeting. Conservation Issues, Col. Bodenstein.
 1 HARFORD Dinner Meeting, Churchville Presbyterian Church.
 2 PATUXENT Trip to Douglas Point, Charles Co. K. Klimkiewicz.
 2 HARFORD Trip to Susquehanna State Park, with picnic.
 2 MONTGOMERY Trip to Wagoner's Gap, Pa., for hawk migration.
 2 BALTIMORE Trip to Blackwater Refuge. Taylor McLean, leader.
 5 BALTIMORE Meeting. Nature Photography by Daniel Lyons.
 6 TALBOT Audubon Film "Bermuda--Land and Sea," Wm. Jahoda.
 7 FREDERICK Monthly Meeting. Landscaping for Birds, G. Edwards
 9 BALTIMORE Trip to South Mountain for hawks. Mike Reid.
 9 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to Blackwater Refuge. Walter Borden, leader.
 9-10 MONTGOMERY Trip to participate in Chincoteague Bird Census.
 9-10 FREDERICK Trip to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.
 15 CAROLINE Meeting. "Birds of the South Pacific" by Hackman.
 16 BALTIMORE Trip to Perry Point & Rock Run Sanctuary. R. Jones.
 16 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to Ivy Neck for late migrants. Emily Joyce.
 16 WASHINGTON Trip to Kent Island for water birds.
 20 ALLEGANY Annual Banquet. "The Cranesville Pine Swamp" Fuller
 20 TALBOT Monthly Meeting, "Great Houses and Great Outhouses
 of Talbot County," by Dickson Preston. Christ Church
 23 BALTIMORE Photography Trip. Leader, Daniel Lyons. See Nov. 5.
 23 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to South Mt. for hawk migration. Jim Cheevers
 23 WICOMICO Trip to Deal Island Wildlife Mgt Area. Sam Cimino.
 25 WICOMICO Monthly Meeting. "Birds and Zoos" by Stephen Grahm
 26 PATUXENT Meeting. "Ecology of White-tailed Kite" Rey Stendell
 26 WASHINGTON Monthly Meeting, Emma K. Doub School, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 1 BALTIMORE Trip to Sandy Pt. & Corcoran Woods. Harold Wierenga.
 1 WASHINGTON Chickadee Trip to Taylor's Landing on the Potomac.
 2 TALBOT Audubon Film "Eastside Story" by Walter H. Berlet.
 5 FREDERICK Annual Dinner. "Australian Birds" by Chan Robbins.
 6 ANNE ARUNDEL Monthly Meeting. Prof. Hugo Gemignani of A.A.C.C.
 6 BALTIMORE Audubon Film "Up-country Uganda" by J & J Goodman.
 7 PATUXENT Trip to Sandy Pt. for Snow Buntings. Hal Wierenga.
 7 HARFORD Trip to Perry Point, & coffee at "Parade Rest."
 8 BALTIMORE Trip to Bombay Hook & Little Creek. Mr & Mrs Plant.
 14 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to Sandy Point. Leader, Harold Wierenga.
 19 MONTGOMERY Monthly Meeting. "Birds of Big Bend National Park,
 Dr. Wm. Oberman. Perpetual Bldg., Bethesda, 8 p.m.

Christmas Count Schedule

- Dec. 14 Denton and Catoctin Mountain
 15 Seneca and Garrett County
 21 Triadelphia Reservoir
 22 Lower Kent County, St. Michaels, Point Lookout
 26 Crisfield (Irish Grove Sanctuary)
 27 Ocean City
 28 Allegany Co., Baltimore, Washington Co., Bowie
 29 Annapolis--Gibson Island and Salisbury
 30 Southern Dorchester County (Blackwater Refuge)
- Jan. 2 FREDERICK Meeting. "Petrified Forest," movie by R. Krepela.
 3 HARFORD Dinner Meeting, Presbyterian Church, Churchville.
 5 BALTIMORE Trip to Chesapeake Bay Center. Dr. W. J. L. Sladen
 7 BALTIMORE Meeting. "Birds on Postage Stamps" by C. Robbins
 and Ducks Unlimited film, "Watching Wild Wings."
 10 ANNE ARUNDEL Meeting. "Monitoring Bird Populations" C. Robbins.
 10 TALBOT Audubon Film "Florida's Cypress Sanctuary" R. Kern.
 11 MONTGOMERY Trip to Cape Henlopen and Ocean City. E. Buckler.
 11 FREDERICK Birds from Hodge's Window. Covered dish lunch.
 12 STATEWIDE Pelagic Trip off Ocean City. Richard Rowlett.
 15 ALLEGANY Monthly Meeting. Dan Folk of Trout Unlimited.
 15 TALBOT Monthly Meeting. Film, "So Little Time."
 18 HARFORD Trip to Bombay Hook Refuge, Delaware. Bring lunch.
 18 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip "Winter Birds on Annapolis Neck" H & J Ford.
 19 BALTIMORE Covered Dish Supper. Osprey studies by J. Reese.
 19 MONTGOMERY Gull Trip. Meet Roaches Run Sanctuary at noon.
 24 MONTGOMERY Trip to Blackwater waterfowl banding demonstration.
 25 MONTGOMERY Trip to Southern Dorchester County. K. Klimkiewicz.
 25 WICOMICO Trip to Ocean City. Mary Humphreys. 7:30 a.m.
 25 PATUXENT Owl Trip to Bolling AFB & Gude's Nursery. Sheppard.
 25 BALTIMORE Trip to Eastern Neck Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, 9:30.
 26 MONTGOMERY Trip to Gude's Nursery. Frank Witebsky 384-5377.
 28 WASHINGTON Monthly Meeting, Emma K. Doub School, 7:30 p.m.
 28 PATUXENT Monthly Meeting. "Columbia Bird Project" A.D. Geis.
- Feb. 1 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to Cove Point, Solomons Is. & Battle Creek
 Cypress Swamp. Meet Parole Plaza, Riva Rd, 8 a.m.
 1 STATEWIDE Pelagic Trip off Ocean City. R. Rowlett, 498-6091.
 2 STATEWIDE Repeat of same Pelagic Trip. Cost \$18.
 2 BALTIMORE Trip to Gibson Island. Meet Gibson Is. gate, 9 am
 Advance registration necessary; call 661-8340.
 6 FREDERICK Monthly Meeting. Members Slide Night. Winchester
 Hall, East Church St., Frederick, 7:30 p.m.
 7 ANNE ARUNDEL Monthly Meeting. "Ospreys of Chesapeake Bay" by
 Jan Reese. County Library, West St., Annapolis, 8.
 8 PATUXENT Annual Feeder Trip. Meet Montgomery at 9th St.,
 Laurel, at 8 a.m. One-half day. Eleanor Robbins.
 15 HARFORD Trip to Aberdeen Proving Ground. Phone John
 Wortman for details, 939-3146.
 15-16 BALTIMORE Trip to Chincoteague. Register by Feb. 5, 889-4601
 15-17 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to Ocean City and Chincoteague. Leaders
 Helen and John Ford. Coordinator Carol Swartz.

- Feb.15-17 HOWARD - Trip to Outer Banks, N. C. Larry Hood, 730-9251.
 17 TALBOT Audubon Film, "The Living Jungle," by Greg McMillan
 Easton High School, Mecklenburg Avenue, 8 p.m.
 19 ALLEGANY Monthly Meeting. Tim Thomas, Cumberland's Nat'l
 Weather Observer. Board of Education Bldg, 7:30pm
 19 TALBOT Monthly Meeting. Film, Golden Eagles. This meeting
 will be at Mayor & Council's office, Easton, 8pm
 20 MONTGOMERY Monthly Meeting. Perpetual Bldg., Bethesda, 8 p.m.
 21 BALTIMORE Annual Meeting & Social Evening. "African Adventure"
 by David Holmes. Reservations necessary: 771-4781.
 23 FREDERICK Trip to Washington Zoo behind the scenes. 662-1338.
 23 TALBOT Trip to Ocean City; details not yet available.
 24 WICOMICO Monthly Meeting. Exploring Southern Swamps with
 John V. Dennis. Asbury Meth. Church, Salisbury, 8.
 25 BALTIMORE Meeting. Panel discussion on building a nature
 library. Covington-Ravesies-Wedge-Collum. Cylburn, 8.
 25 PATUXENT Monthly Meeting. Birding the Indian Ocean with Don
 Messersmith. St. Philips Hall, 6th & Main, Laurel 7:45
 25 WASHINGTON Monthly Meeting. Emma K. Doub School, 7:30 p.m.
 Mar. 1 WICOMICO Chincoteague Trip. Call 742-7221 by Feb. 15.
 1 HOWARD & PATUXENT 2nd Annual Workshop on birding skills. Glen
 Elg Country School. Call Jo Solem, 725-5037.
 2 BALTIMORE Trip to Blue Mount Nursery. Mrs. Wheeler, 825-1204.
 5 KENT Monthly Meeting, Chestertown.
 6 FREDERICK Meeting, MOS Sanctuaries, Edwin Unger. Winchester
 Hall, E. Church St., Frederick, 7:30 p.m.
 7 HARFORD Dinner Meeting, Presby. Ch., Churchville, 6:15.
 8 HARFORD Trip to Eastern Neck Refuge, all day. Call 939-3146.
 8 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to Pelot and Mill Creek Sanctuaries. 544-0565.
 8 STATEWIDE Pelagic Trip off Ocean City. R. Rowlett, 498-6091.
 9 BALTIMORE Trip to Liberty Lake. Mrs. George Fanshaw, 833-6679.
 11 BALTIMORE Trip to Lake Roland. Jane Daniels, 825-9116.
 16 BALTIMORE Woodcock Trip to Loch Raven, 6pm Haven Kolb, 374-9486.
 18 BALTIMORE Lake Roland Trip, 9 a.m. Mrs. Larrabee, 592-7201.
 19 ALLEGANY Monthly Meeting. "Birds and Flowers of Garrett Co."
 by Alverta Dillon. Bd. of Education Bldg, Cbld, 7:30.
 21 BALTIMORE Audubon Film, "Exploring Big Bend" by Charles T.
 Hotchkiss. Dumbarton Junior High, York Rd., 8 p.m.
 23 FREDERICK Trip to Claggett Center, Buckeystown, 2 p.m.
 24 WICOMICO Monthly Meeting. Movie, "Spring Marsh." Asbury Ch.
 25 BALTIMORE Lake Roland Walk. Mrs. Martin Larrabee, 592-7201.
 25 PATUXENT Monthly Meeting. "Spring Flowers" by Paul Bystrak.
 25 WASHINGTON Monthly Meeting, Emma K. Doub School, 7:30 p.m.
 27 BALTIMORE Tree Walk with Md. Natural Hist. Soc. to study
 spring buds. Cylburn, 10 a.m. Gordon Filbey.

May 3 STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT, all Chapters participating.
 May 9-11 ANNUAL CONVENTION, OCEAN CITY. NOTE CHANGE OF HOTEL. Make
 reservations with Conni McCabe, DIPLOMAT MOTOR
HOTEL, Boardwalk at 26th St. Phone 289-7148.

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Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel,
Md. 20810 (725-1176)
Asst. Editor: C. Douglas Hackman, 3033 Woodside Ave., Balto. 21234
Art Editor: William N. Schneider
Production: Romell Decker
Mailing: Barbara Larrabee and committee



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