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Cover: Sandhill Crane near Madonna, Md.  
April 11, 1982. Photo by Jean Kirkwood.



## FIRST SPRING RECORD OF SANDHILL CRANE IN MARYLAND

DENNIS KIRKWOOD

On Easter morning (April 11), 1982, my wife and I took a walk around our farm and two neighboring farms that border Little Deer Creek in northwestern Harford County. Our locality is three miles north of Madonna and three miles east of Shawsville. All three properties are typical upland habitat of mixed hardwood forest, grass pastures, cultivated fields, and small ponds and riparian bottomlands. Many of the fields were in corn stubble from the fall harvest.

Quite by accident we discovered a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in a corn stubble field on our farm. While Jean went for a camera and to notify others, I watched the bird walk the field, apparently gleaning waste corn and possibly invertebrates in the moist soil.

The crane took flight, calling twice, and landed in another corn field closer to the creek. We were able to get pictures (see front cover) at a fair distance before the bird again took flight and went out of sight, downstream. All of this activity took place between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The bird was observed by eleven other birders on April 11-12, and photographed by one other person. The crane was always found along the creek in corn stubble fields or wet meadows. Once, Red-winged Blackbirds seemed to "mob" or bother the crane enough to make it fly. On several occasions it flew at a considerable height, making large circles over the three farms. It often called in flight.

The weather before Easter was extremely harsh, with strong winds and even snow on April 6 and April 9. According to neighbors, the crane may have arrived late the previous week (April 8 or 9); it was last seen late on April 12.

This is the first documented spring record for Maryland and the first at any season for the Maryland Piedmont.

## NESTING HABITS OF THE BARRED OWL IN WESTERN MARYLAND

JAMES G. DEVEREUX AND JAMES A. MOSHER

The Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is a common owl in the eastern United States with evidence that its range is expanding to the Pacific Northwest. Its famous eight-hooted call may be the most recognizable of all birds of prey calls. In spite of these facts, the Barred Owl is a difficult species to study because of its nocturnal habits and inconspicuous nest sites. These owls nest in cavities or in tops of hollow tree stubs, and only occasionally are found in old hawk or squirrel nests.

Except for an occasional down feather clinging to the vegetation in the vicinity of their nest trees, Barred Owls rarely leave sign that may indicate their presence. Mutes produced by young raptors and which are usually found at the base of hawk nest trees, are not seen at Barred Owl nest trees. Though it is fairly easy to elicit a response from Barred Owls by imitating or playing a recording of their calls, we found that they did not respond to them while sitting on the nest. Incubating and brooding females did, however, respond to the calls of their mates. We assume that females, while on the nest, do not respond because they either detect our presence or distinguish the call of their mates from other owls. Barred Owls rarely flush from their cavities when the tree is hit or scratched with a stick. We encountered one owl, nesting in the top of a hollow tree stub, which did not flush until the climber was half way up the tree using climbing spikes. This nest would otherwise have been passed by except that a down feather was seen clinging to the bark of the tree.

Barred Owls remain in Maryland all year long although they maintain territories only during the breeding season. Eight nests were found in the mountains of Allegany County, Maryland, during the springs of 1981 and 1982. Food habits, productivity, and nest site habitat descriptions are being reported elsewhere (Devereux and Mosher, in review). Table 1 provides a brief summary of data collected at each nest site.

All eight nests were found in old growth timber stands, where large cavities would typically be found. Though Barred Owls are usually associated with wet areas, the average distance to water from these eight nests was 218 meters, with only one nest on a flood-plain. This "owl-wetland" association may have originally come about because of the intense logging that took place during the 1800's and early 1900's, forcing Barred Owls to use areas free of logging pressures such as swamps, marshes and floodplains.

Ninety-five hours were spent observing the nocturnal activity at two of the nest sites. Blinds were built 2-3 days after the young hatched and approximately 15 and 20 meters from the nest trees, respectively. Two car headlights wrapped in red cellophane and powered by a 12-volt car battery were used to observe the cavities. There was one young in each cavity and though they could not be seen, we could still record the coming and going of the adults. The average amount of time the adults spent brooding each week is recorded in Table 2. It is apparent that as the

Table 1. Summary of data collected at eight Barred Owl nests in Allegany County, Maryland.

Nest type	Egg no. <sup>a</sup>	Egg date <sup>b</sup>	No. hatched	Hatch date	Banding date	Fledging date <sup>c</sup>	No. fledged	Comments
Top of hollow tree stub	2	3/16	2	4/13	—	?	?	5/15-no young in nest; found raccoon scat in nest
Top of hollow tree stub	2	?	0	—	—	—	0	4/28-nothing in nest; found 1 egg that rolled out of nest
Top of hollow tree stub	3	?	3	?	5/15 (?) <sup>d</sup>	?	?	
Top of hollow tree stub	3	3/15	1	4/12	—	?	?	5/14-no young in nest
Cavity created by disease	2	3/19	1	4/16	5/7 (19 days) <sup>d</sup>	—	0	Young was predated 25 days old
Top of hollow tree stub	2	3/22	2	4/19	5/12 (23 days) <sup>d</sup>	5/20 (31 days) <sup>d</sup>	1	1 young died and was cannibalized by sibling when 28 days old
Top of hollow tree stub	2	4/1	1	4/29	5/18 (19 days) <sup>d</sup>	5/29 (30 days) <sup>d</sup>	1	
Old stick nest	3	3/20	3	4/18	—	—	0	4/25-nothing in nest; young apparently predated

<sup>a</sup>Based on number of eggs and/or young found in nest

<sup>b</sup>Based on back dating from hatch dates using 28 days incubation period (Bent, Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Part 2, Dover Publ., New York, 1961)

<sup>c</sup>Young left nest on this date but were still unable to fly

<sup>d</sup>Age of young

young get older, the adults spend less and less time in their cavities. The adult female is presumed to do all the incubating and brooding while the male does most of the hunting; however, we could only speculate on this because the adults we observed were not banded for identification.

Table 2. Average amount of time young Barred Owls were brooded each week during nocturnal hours, based on observations of two nests.

Age of young (days)	Total time observed (min)	Brood time* (min)	% brood time
1-7	995	584	59
8-14	1655	717	43
15-21	1900	55	3
22-28	1170	134	11
Totals	5720	1490	26

\*Time an adult was in the cavity

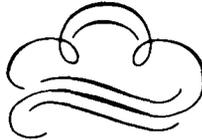
Only once did we see a food exchange between the adults and on only two other occasions did we see the female enter the cavity with food. Most of the time she entered the cavity too fast for us to see if she was carrying prey. When the male

brought food for his mate and young, he perched in a tree within 20-30 meters of the cavity and gave the eight hooted call or a variation. The female would look out or perch on the lip of the cavity for several seconds, then fly to him. At that time they began caterwauling, a series of calls, which if never heard before would give the impression of two owls fighting each other. The female then took the food from the male and flew back to the cavity.

The male also came to the vicinity of the nest when the female made what were presumed to be food begging calls. These high pitched "squeals," which sound nothing at all like the Barred Owl's hoot, have been described as similar to those of rats. The young in the nest could also be heard producing these squeals but much softer than those of the adult. The adult would squeal inside or outside the cavity until the mate arrived. Though we have never heard this squaling except during our observation periods, we definitely consider it a reliable indication of the presence of an active nest of this otherwise secretive animal.

We thank J. Coleman, M. Kopeny, D. Lyons, F. Presley, R. Whetstone and K. Titus for their time and assistance in various aspects of this study.

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## STATEWIDE BIRD COUNTS: 1970-1979

JAMES STASZ

The first of a series of summary charts of past May Counts is included in this issue. Each of the ten Statewide Counts in this decade contributed to the data base: this simple tabulation answers the question "How many years was the species reported?" The maximum score for any county is 10, but because of lack of coverage some years, Carroll, Harford, and Somerset have maxima of 9, and Cecil, St. Mary's, and Talbot only 7. A species seen every year in every county during these 10 years would have a Total score of 218. This chart does not give any indication of *how many*; although House Wren and Green Heron have the same Total score of 194, this represents 6307 wrens and only 1836 herons; by this method the 20,361 Herring Gulls have a Total of only 147, because the large flocks were locally distributed.

This chart is meant to be an aid to May Count observers and compilers in determining what is usual and unusual in each county. There are no hard and fast rules that can be used to designate what is unusual from just the Total Score: Carolina Chickadee has a near perfect 196, but any from Garrett County should be described in detail, and the low-scoring Black-capped Chickadee in the same flock would need no special notes except as a standard of comparison. Purple Sandpipers have a Total of 10, but if they are on the Ocean City Jetty, no details would be needed. In some counties the scores are more meaningful: Baltimore and Montgomery were usually extremely well covered, any special indicated by a “—” or “1” should take special attention from contributors in these areas. Calvert County has rarely had more than a single observer reporting, but the birds should be comparable to those of Anne Arundel and Charles counties on its flanks.

The rarities are listed below rather than included in the table.

Red-necked Grebe: 1979, Baltimore  
 Northern Fulmar: 1978, Worcester  
 Sooty Shearwater: 1978, Worcester  
 Wilson's Storm Petrel: 1978, Worcester  
 Northern Gannet: 1978, 1979, Worcester  
 King Eider: 1974, Worcester  
 Swallow-tailed Kite: 1970, Baltimore  
 Northern Goshawk: 1977: Allegheny; 1978, Prince Georges  
 Piping Plover: 1973, 1977, Worcester  
 Wilson's Plover: 1973, 1977, Worcester  
 Lesser Golden Plover: 1972, Worcester; 1978, Kent  
 Purple Sandpiper: 1970-1979, Worcester Co. *only*.  
 Marbled Godwit: 1976, Worcester  
 Wilson's Phalarope: 1974, Montgomery; 1978, Gar., Was., Fre., How., Bal., Ann.,  
 Wor.  
 Northern Phalarope: 1978, Worcester; 1979, Garrett  
 Red Phalarope: 1978, Worcester  
 Parasitic Jaeger: 1978, Worcester  
 Pomarine Jaeger: 1978, Worcester  
 Black-headed Gull: 1979, Baltimore  
 Gull-billed Tern: 1976, St. Mary's  
 Arctic Tern: 1978, Worcester  
 Ringed Turtle Dove: 1971-1973, Baltimore  
 Monk Parakeet: 1974, Harford or Cecil  
 Long-eared Owl: 1974, Allegany  
 Rufous Hummingbird: 1971, Frederick  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1970, Baltimore; 1971, Carroll  
 Connecticut Warbler: 1978, Baltimore  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1974, Garrett  
 Western Tanager: 1970, Anne Arundel; 1979, Montgomery  
 Dickcissel: 1970, Baltimore; 1975, Howard  
 Common Redpoll: 1978, Garrett  
 White-winged Crossbill: 1972, Allegany  
 Lark Sparrow: 1978, Garrett

Table 1. Number of Years Recorded on the May Statewide Bird Count, 1970-79

Species	Gar.	All	Was.	Fre.	CrI.	Mon.	How.	Bal.	Har.	Cec.	Pr.G.	Ann.	Cal.	Cha.	St.M.	Ken.	Que.	Car.	Tal.	Dor.	Wic.	Som.	Wor.	Total
Common Loon	9	9	6	3	1	1	7	7	10	3	4	10	—	5	4	8	6	—	7	10	—	1	7	115
Red-throated Loon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3
Horned Grebe	2	3	3	—	—	4	2	3	1	2	3	6	—	6	3	2	3	—	5	7	—	1	2	58
Pied-billed Grebe	8	5	4	3	—	2	2	7	3	5	6	7	—	3	—	4	—	3	—	2	—	2	3	68
Double-crested Cormorant	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	1	5	—	6	5	5	—	2	3	9	2	4	10	59
Great Blue Heron	7	6	5	6	2	10	5	10	7	6	10	9	1	10	5	10	10	10	7	10	6	9	10	171
Green Heron	10	9	6	10	5	10	8	10	6	5	9	10	6	10	7	10	10	10	7	10	5	9	10	194
Little Blue Heron	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	6	—	1	4	3	—	2	—	5	—	5	5	37
Cattle Egret	—	—	1	3	—	2	—	4	2	1	2	6	3	6	5	4	5	6	4	10	6	9	10	89
Great Egret	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	2	4	5	—	9	5	7	5	2	7	10	3	9	10	83
Snowy Egret	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	5	—	—	4	4	6	1	2	9	2	9	10	58
Louisiana Heron	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	2	3	8	21	
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	—	1	1	1	3	2	5	1	—	1	3	—	—	1	3	—	—	10	1	3	6	43	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	—	—	1	2	—	8	1	10	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Least Bittern	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	9	—	—	1	—	21
American Bittern	3	3	1	4	—	8	2	6	1	—	9	7	1	2	—	1	1	6	—	9	1	2	1	57
Glossy Ibis	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	2	3	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	8	1	7	10	42
Mute Swan	—	1	1	1	—	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	5	5	7	—	—	1	1	38	
Whistling Swan	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	5	2	1	5	2	1	1	3	8	4	2	5	7	—	1	—	51
Canada Goose	5	1	6	5	1	10	7	9	8	6	10	8	—	8	2	10	8	9	7	10	2	3	8	143
Brant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	5
Snow Goose	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	8
Mallard	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	2	10	4	10	9	10	7	10	9	6	10	201
Am. Black Duck	6	5	4	2	—	9	6	10	4	5	10	10	1	8	3	10	10	10	7	10	9	8	10	157
Gadwall	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	—	6	3	—	4	—	4	—	—	1	10	1	3	1	41
Common Pintail	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	4	1	—	—	21
Green-winged Teal	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4	1	—	3	—	6	1	2	2	10	—	—	1	37
Blue-winged Teal	9	7	5	5	1	10	3	10	6	2	10	5	—	8	2	10	5	5	4	10	1	3	2	124
American Wigeon	3	1	—	—	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	6	2	—	—	6	1	1	—	34
Northern Shoveler	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	6	1	1	1	17
Wood Duck	10	10	9	10	4	10	8	10	7	6	10	9	—	9	1	10	2	10	3	10	3	3	7	163
Redhead	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	8
King-necked Duck	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Canvasback	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	7	2	—	1	1	1	—	4	30
Greater Scaup	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	15

Species	Gar.	All.	Was.	Fre.	CrI.	Mon.	How.	Bal.	Har.	Cec.	Pr.G.	Ann.	Cal.	Cha.	St.M.	Ken.	Que.	Car.	Tal.	Dor.	Wic.	Som.	Wor.	Total
Lesser Scaup	8	7	3	1	—	2	1	2	—	—	2	5	—	2	1	5	3	4	6	8	—	1	—	61
Scaup sp.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Common Goldeneye	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	3	—	2	—	2	1	—	2	2	—	—	1	20
Bufflehead	9	2	1	3	1	2	1	7	—	—	1	7	—	2	1	6	3	—	4	2	—	—	1	48
Oldsquaw	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	4	22
White-winged Scoter	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	—	—	2	15
Surf Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Black Scoter	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5
Ruddy Duck	4	3	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	6	—	2	1	10	—	2	6	5	—	—	—	46
Hooded Merganser	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	17
Common Merganser	4	2	1	—	—	7	3	3	—	—	1	2	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	51
Red-breasted Merganser	6	3	2	1	—	5	—	3	—	—	1	5	—	2	2	6	1	—	3	6	—	—	1	48
Turkey Vulture	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	8	6	9	9	6	10	6	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	209
Black Vulture	1	1	6	8	2	8	7	10	—	—	5	5	1	8	6	8	—	7	5	7	2	5	7	114
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	5	3	1	1	6	3	8	4	2	7	8	1	4	—	1	3	3	—	2	—	3	—	72
Cooper's Hawk	4	7	2	1	1	2	1	6	1	2	4	5	—	3	—	2	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	45
Red-tailed Hawk	7	8	5	8	1	10	7	10	8	5	10	10	1	8	3	9	4	9	5	9	8	3	5	153
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	5	2	9	5	10	10	10	5	3	10	10	2	8	4	9	1	10	4	8	4	4	4	146
Broad-winged Hawk	10	9	9	9	5	9	9	10	6	2	7	10	1	6	—	7	1	2	3	2	—	—	—	117
Rough-legged Hawk	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5
Golden Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Bald Eagle	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	6	5	—	4	5	8	2	4	5	10	1	1	1	60
Northern Harrier	3	4	3	1	—	4	2	7	2	4	2	2	2	2	—	5	1	4	1	9	3	7	1	69
Osprey	8	8	6	10	5	10	5	10	7	3	10	10	7	10	7	10	9	10	7	10	6	9	10	187
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Merlin	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	17
American Kestrel	10	9	8	10	2	9	9	10	7	6	10	8	2	5	4	10	8	10	4	3	5	5	5	155
Ruffed Grouse	10	9	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Bobwhite	5	10	10	9	8	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	6	10	10	10	7	10	9	9	10	209
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	2	10	10	8	10	10	10	8	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	84
Wild Turkey	10	9	4	4	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
King Rail	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	5	1	—	2	1	6	—	8	—	10	—	2	—	42
Clapper Rail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	4	9	27
Virginia Rail	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	9	3	1	6	—	2	—	6	—	2	—	10	—	3	1	57	
Sora	1	1	1	2	—	2	1	7	1	—	2	7	—	2	—	5	—	—	10	1	2	—	—	45
Black Rail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	11
Common Gallinule	2	1	2	—	—	3	—	6	1	—	5	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	10	—	3	—	41
American Coot	9	6	2	5	—	6	2	8	—	1	8	7	—	3	1	6	4	2	1	7	—	2	7	89
American Oystercatcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	9	10
Semipalmated Plover	3	1	1	3	—	—	—	4	1	—	2	6	—	—	—	5	1	4	1	9	3	4	5	55





Table 1. Number of Years Recorded on the May Statewide Bird Count, 1970-79

Species	Gar.	All.	Was.	Fre.	CrI.	Mon.	How.	Bal.	Har.	Cec.	Pr.G.	Ann.	Cal.	Cha.	St.M.	Ken.	Que.	Car.	Tal.	Dor.	Wic.	Som.	Wor.	Total
American Crow	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	6	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	217
Fish Crow	—	3	6	9	4	10	9	10	9	6	10	10	8	10	6	9	6	10	7	10	6	9	10	177
Black-capped Chickadee	10	10	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Carolina Chickadee	—	—	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	8	10	7	10	10	9	10	196
Tufted Titmouse	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	8	10	6	10	10	8	10	213
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	10	9	9	4	10	10	10	4	4	8	8	—	4	—	9	—	5	—	1	5	1	6	128
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	3	5	2	—	6	5	8	1	—	3	8	—	3	1	7	1	7	4	—	1	1	4	80
Brown-headed Nuthatch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	5	8	1	8	6	34
Brown Creeper	9	5	6	2	1	8	2	7	1	2	4	5	—	3	—	4	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	63
House Wren	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	6	6	10	10	5	6	2	10	7	10	5	10	9	9	10	194
Winter Wren	4	—	2	1	—	2	3	4	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	23
Bewick's Wren	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Carolina Wren	5	9	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	6	10	10	10	10	7	10	8	—	7	10	9	9	10	208
Marsh Wren	3	2	—	2	—	7	1	10	6	1	9	9	1	8	2	10	5	8	2	10	1	6	2	104
Sedge Wren	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	5	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	8	—	3	—	29
Northern Mockingbird	7	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	214
Gray Catbird	10	10	9	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	9	10	7	10	9	10	6	10	9	9	9	212
Brown Thrasher	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	8	10	7	10	10	10	6	10	10	8	10	214
American Robin	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	218
Wood Thrush	10	10	8	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	9	5	10	7	10	6	10	8	6	9	202
Hermit Thrush	6	3	4	5	3	8	8	10	3	1	6	7	2	2	1	5	2	4	3	—	—	2	5	90
Swainson's Thrush	4	4	1	3	1	9	8	9	3	—	7	6	3	2	—	1	2	1	—	5	—	—	—	67
Gray-cheeked Thrush	—	—	1	1	—	5	2	2	—	—	5	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	25
Veery	9	9	3	6	2	10	9	10	3	1	6	8	1	3	1	5	3	7	2	1	—	1	4	104
Eastern Bluebird	10	9	8	10	6	10	10	10	7	1	10	9	7	10	7	9	5	10	4	7	3	4	5	171
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	10	10	8	10	8	10	10	10	8	4	10	10	7	10	2	9	6	10	6	10	6	9	8	191
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	3	4	—	1	2	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10	9	9	7	3	10	10	10	7	3	8	10	5	4	—	9	4	4	6	3	—	2	4	137
Water Pipit	1	—	7	7	—	6	2	7	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	3	3	8	1	2	—	—	—	61
Cedar Waxwing	3	5	8	7	1	10	6	8	5	2	9	8	3	5	—	7	2	5	5	2	3	4	4	116
Loggerhead Shrike	—	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	12
European Starling	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	9	10	7	10	10	9	10	217
White-eyed Vireo	8	7	5	8	4	10	10	10	8	5	10	10	9	10	4	10	7	10	6	10	8	9	9	187
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	7	6	6	2	10	10	10	4	1	10	10	5	9	—	4	5	8	1	6	2	6	8	134
Solitary Vireo	10	5	6	6	2	8	9	10	3	2	8	9	2	1	—	4	4	3	1	3	1	—	4	101

	Gar.	All.	Was.	Fre.	CrI.	Mon.	How.	Bal.	Har.	Cec.	Pr.G.	Ann.	Cal.	Cha.	St.M.	Ken.	Que.	Car.	Tal.	Dor.	Wic.	Som.	Wor.	Total
Red-eyed Vireo	8	9	8	9	8	10	10	10	8	7	10	10	9	10	4	10	6	10	6	10	7	7	10	195
Philadelphia Vireo	—	2	3	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Warbling Vireo	—	9	10	8	—	10	6	9	6	7	5	2	—	—	—	9	5	6	—	—	—	—	2	94
Black-&-white Warbler	10	10	7	7	7	10	10	10	7	5	10	10	7	8	3	10	7	10	7	9	7	4	9	184
Prothonotary Warbler	1	5	6	4	—	10	6	9	5	3	9	9	—	10	1	10	5	10	3	10	8	5	8	137
Swainson's Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5
Worm-eating Warbler	3	8	5	5	5	10	7	8	2	1	3	9	2	5	1	6	1	9	1	9	5	2	9	117
Golden-winged Warbler	5	7	4	1	2	5	5	7	1	—	3	6	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	51
Blue-winged Warbler	3	3	4	8	5	10	10	9	5	2	9	9	3	5	—	6	3	9	2	3	2	2	3	115
Brewster's/Lawrence's	—	—	—	—	—	L	—	—	—	—	BL	B	—	—	—	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Tennessee Warbler	4	7	4	4	—	8	7	8	—	1	5	7	—	2	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	63
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Nashville Warbler	9	7	6	6	—	9	4	9	2	1	7	8	—	3	—	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	78
Parula Warbler	9	9	7	6	6	10	10	10	7	7	10	10	9	10	2	9	6	9	4	7	6	6	9	178
Yellow Warbler	10	10	9	8	5	10	10	10	9	7	10	9	6	10	1	10	8	10	5	10	6	7	10	190
Magnolia Warbler	8	7	3	4	1	7	6	9	2	—	6	7	1	1	—	6	2	2	2	2	1	—	3	81
Cape May Warbler	7	5	2	6	—	8	7	9	3	1	5	7	—	—	—	4	3	3	2	—	—	—	2	74
Black-throated Blue Warbler	9	6	7	8	4	10	8	10	4	5	7	10	5	5	—	9	3	7	5	3	2	2	4	133
Myrtle Warbler	9	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	6	10	10	10	9	5	10	10	10	6	10	9	6	10	207
Black-thrtd. Green Warbler	10	7	4	5	1	10	9	9	2	1	7	8	4	3	—	5	1	3	1	1	—	—	2	93
Cerulean Warbler	8	9	4	4	—	10	9	7	2	1	9	5	—	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	74
Blackburnian Warbler	9	6	5	4	—	9	6	8	2	1	4	8	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	68
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	4	4	2	1	9	4	4	—	—	2	2	5	7	—	6	2	5	2	8	4	1	7	80
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8	8	2	3	2	10	7	9	4	5	8	8	3	4	—	6	2	2	—	—	—	—	3	94
Bay-breasted Warbler	4	3	3	1	—	5	2	4	—	—	2	4	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	34
Blackpoll Warbler	2	3	2	1	1	8	3	6	1	3	5	9	3	4	—	5	3	4	4	3	1	3	2	76
Pine Warbler	6	8	4	1	—	5	8	9	—	1	10	10	6	9	6	9	8	10	7	10	7	7	9	150
Prairie Warbler	10	8	4	4	3	10	10	10	8	3	10	10	—	10	3	9	4	10	5	9	5	7	8	160
Palm Warbler	6	—	4	3	1	7	5	6	2	2	3	7	—	1	—	7	2	2	1	—	—	—	3	62
Ovenbird	10	9	6	7	5	10	10	10	7	7	10	10	9	9	2	10	5	10	6	10	8	8	10	178
Northern Waterthrush	9	10	7	7	1	10	9	10	3	—	9	9	1	3	—	5	2	7	1	2	1	1	5	111
Louisiana Waterthrush	9	9	8	10	6	10	10	10	7	4	10	10	9	10	1	4	4	10	4	—	3	1	7	154
Kentucky Warbler	2	4	2	6	2	9	9	8	5	5	9	10	6	8	1	8	4	10	4	7	2	1	5	127
Mourning Warbler	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Common Yellowthroat	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	6	10	10	10	6	10	9	9	10	215
Yellow-breasted Chat	7	8	7	7	4	10	8	10	6	5	9	9	1	9	1	9	5	8	4	10	2	5	4	148
Hooded Warbler	6	5	2	4	1	7	10	9	2	5	10	10	9	9	—	3	—	2	—	—	3	1	9	107
Wilson's Warbler	3	1	—	2	—	6	3	5	1	1	4	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
Canada Warbler	4	5	1	1	—	6	4	7	1	—	5	5	—	1	—	5	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	51
American Redstart	9	9	7	9	2	10	10	10	6	4	10	10	10	10	—	8	5	7	3	7	6	5	9	168

Table 1. Number of Years Recorded on the May Statewide Bird Count, 1970-79

Species	Gar.	All.	Was.	Fre.	CrI.	Mon.	How.	Bal.	Har.	Cec.	Pr.G.	Ann.	Cal.	Cha.	St.M.	Ken.	Que.	Car.	Tal.	Dor.	Wic.	Som.	Wor.	Total
House Sparrow	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	6	10	10	9	10	215
Bobolink	10	4	3	3	2	8	8	10	2	1	10	6	5	6	1	3	3	5	2	6	—	4	2	104
Eastern Meadowlark	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	6	10	6	9	10	212
Red-winged Blackbird	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	217
Orchard Oriole	3	7	8	8	—	10	10	10	6	6	9	9	6	8	2	10	7	10	4	10	5	6	6	161
Baltimore Oriole	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	8	6	10	10	4	8	1	10	6	10	4	8	5	4	5	175
Rusty Blackbird	7	7	4	3	—	10	3	7	2	—	9	7	—	1	1	4	1	2	—	2	—	2	2	75
Boat-tailed Grackle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	10	2	8	10	31
Common Grackle	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	7	10	10	8	10	217
Brown-headed Cowbird	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	9	6	10	10	10	10	3	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	212
Scarlet Tanager	9	10	8	7	6	10	10	10	7	5	10	10	7	10	3	9	6	10	5	10	7	4	8	181
Summer Tanager	—	1	—	1	—	6	3	1	—	—	5	7	2	6	—	2	1	9	2	9	1	3	3	62
Northern Cardinal	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	9	218
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8	8	6	6	—	10	8	9	3	3	8	9	4	5	—	8	4	5	5	2	1	2	4	119
Blue Grosbeak	—	2	2	1	—	5	6	5	5	2	8	9	7	7	2	9	7	10	4	10	4	4	6	115
Indigo Bunting	9	9	8	8	4	10	10	10	7	5	9	9	6	9	2	10	5	10	6	9	6	4	7	172
Evening Grosbeak	9	9	8	5	1	7	6	8	3	1	8	8	3	6	1	6	—	7	5	2	7	3	4	117
Purple Finch	10	10	8	10	2	10	8	10	5	5	8	7	1	5	—	8	2	5	1	—	1	—	1	118
House Finch	3	6	6	3	—	7	3	10	4	1	7	6	2	—	—	7	—	1	1	—	—	—	4	72
Pine Siskin	4	6	1	2	—	6	6	6	1	2	5	6	—	—	—	4	—	4	1	1	1	1	—	57
American Goldfinch	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	5	10	10	10	5	10	8	9	9	212
Red Crossbill	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	12
Rufous-sided Towhee	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	6	10	10	9	9	6	10	9	10	6	10	9	9	10	211
Savannah Sparrow	8	4	7	4	1	10	10	10	6	2	10	10	4	9	2	9	8	10	4	10	1	6	8	153
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	3	7	7	4	8	10	10	6	4	9	8	6	7	3	10	7	10	3	9	—	2	2	138
Henslow's Sparrow	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	15
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	9	—	3	6	27
Seaside Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	7	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	10	2	4	7	36
Vesper Sparrow	10	6	9	8	3	6	9	8	1	—	6	6	1	—	—	5	6	10	1	—	—	—	—	95
Northern Junco	8	6	7	3	3	7	7	7	5	3	4	7	2	5	3	5	1	8	—	2	—	1	2	96
American Tree Sparrow	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Chipping Sparrow	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	6	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	10	217
Field Sparrow	10	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	8	6	10	10	9	9	4	10	10	10	6	10	7	8	8	203
White-crowned Sparrow	9	10	10	9	—	9	10	8	3	1	6	7	3	4	2	10	5	10	5	5	2	—	1	129
White-throated Sparrow	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	9	7	10	8	10	7	10	9	9	9	213
Fox Sparrow	5	6	1	1	—	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Lincoln's Sparrow	—	—	1	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Swamp Sparrow	9	7	7	6	2	10	9	10	8	4	9	10	2	7	—	6	5	7	3	6	3	3	9	144
Song Sparrow	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	9	7	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	9	7	10	9	8	10	214



## THE SEASON

### SUMMER SEASON, JUNE 1-JULY 31, 1982

ROBERT F. RINGLER

This summer was marked by stormy weather in June when temperatures averaged 2-2.5° below normal and precipitation was about 1.5 inches above normal. Purple Martins and terns were particularly affected; early nesting attempts by terns were washed out along the coast. In July both temperature and precipitation were near normal.

Much of this year's nesting information comes from the Carroll and Garrett County Breeding Bird Atlas projects and Jim Stasz's work in the Nature Conservancy's Nassawango Preserve. In addition, Henry Armistead continued his surveys of colonial nesting birds on the Chesapeake Bay islands. Check Table 1 for results of this year's survey. For more detailed information on these sites see *Maryland Birdlife* 34: 99-151.

Contributors: Jack Abbott, Henry T. Armistead, John & Peg Barber, Glen Bennett, Warren Bielenberg, Rick Blom, Larry Bonham, Dan Boone, Martha Chestem, Les Coble, Ric Conn, David Czaplak, Barbara Dowell, Truman Doyle, Sam Dyke, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle, Jerry & Roberta Fletcher, Bob Folker, John Gregoire, Bill Hayes, Marvin Hewitt, David Holmes, Dennis Kirkwood, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Alicia Knotts, Walter Kraus, Manuel Lerda, Alice Mallonee, Debbie Mignogno, Doug Murphy, Ron Naveen, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Jim Orgain, David Pardoe, Jan Reese, Chan Robbins, Jo Solem, Jim Stasz, Charles Vaughn, David Wallace, Mark Wallace, Robert W. Warfield, John Weske, Hal Wierenga, Claudia Wilds, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Paul Woodward.

In the text that follows, the abbreviation WMA is Wildlife Management Area. A "+" following one observer's name indicates that there were at least two other observers.

*Loons, Grebes.* Late departing Common Loons included one in non-breeding plumage at Westminster Reservoir on June 6 (Ringler), 2 near Bellevue on June 12 (Armistead), and 1 on the latter date at Assateague (Dyke). A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was at Hughes Hollow above Seneca on June 5 (Bonham) and one was near the mouth of the Manokin River in Somerset Co. on July 4 (Mignogno). Armistead's count of 5 Pied-billed Grebes at Deal Island WMA on June 26 was the lowest there in many years and continues the recent declining trend of this species as a breeder in Maryland.

Table 1. Estimated Number of Breeding Pairs of Selected Species on Islands of the Central Chesapeake Bay, Summer 1982

Species	Localities:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Great Blue Heron		60	70	103	5	7	1	—	8	4	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	303
Green Heron		10	5	10	1	2	3	—	8	—	3	—	—	3	—	3	1	—	1	50
Little Blue Heron		3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	10	—	—	15	—	15	63
Cattle Egret		200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	5	—	—	50	—	15	305
Great Egret		20	10	—	10	1	15	—	—	—	20	—	—	3	—	—	5	—	15	99
Snowy Egret		50	—	—	20	5	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	20	—	2	50	—	5	192
Louisiana Heron		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	25	—	2	20	—	10	77
Black-crowned Night Heron		—	—	6	25	16	4	—	4	—	45	—	—	100	—	15	15	—	35	265
Yellow-crowned Night Heron		—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	15	—	—	15	—	10	20	—	5	67
Glossy Ibis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	25	—	5	20	—	10	85
Osprey		15	5	22	—	3	3	1	12	?	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61
American Oystercatcher		—	4	2	1	2	2	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	19
Greater Black-backed Gull		—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	25	28
Herring Gull		—	9	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1750	—	1774
Forster's Tern		—	15	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	149
Common Tern		—	473	—	—	—	—	289	—	—	—	10	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	775
Little Tern		—	116	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	116
<b>Total</b>		<b>358</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1775</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>4432</b>

Localities: 1. Poplar Island, 2. Barren Island, 3. Bloodsworth Island, 4. Pone Island, 5. Adam Island, 6. Holland Island, 7. Spring Island, 8. South Marsh Island, 9. Deal Island, 10. Cherry Island, 11. Manokin River, 12. Barnes Landing, 13. Frances Gut, 14. West Troy Island, 15. Round Hammock, 16. Pines, 17. Easter Point, 18. Hog Neck. Number 1 is in Talbot County, 2 through 7 in Dorchester County, and 8 through 18 in Somerset County. Numbers 10 and 12 through 18 are part of Smith Island.

*Pelagics.* There were 3 pelagic trips this summer. The totals for most species are in Table 2 (Naveen). In addition a dead Sooty Shearwater was found on the beach at Assateague by Orgain, Blom, and Ringler on June 12 and the same group saw an immature Northern Gannet off-shore the same day.

Table 2. Pelagic Species Counted off Ocean City, Summer 1982

	June 12	June 26	July 17
Northern Fulmar	14	0	0
Cory's Shearwater	224	1042	6
Greater Shearwater	905	1317	9
Sooty Shearwater	165	327	0
Manx Shearwater	7	3	0
Leach's Storm Petrel	35	1	0
Wilson's Storm Petrel	3200	627	1724
Northern Gannet	1	0	0

The Northern Fulmars are the first ever seen in Maryland waters in June and the gannets were also record late individuals. The numbers of Manx Shearwaters and Leach's Storm Petrels were record counts for the State.

*Brown Pelican.* Brown Pelicans were frequently seen along the Virginia coast this summer and several sightings were made in Maryland by Frank Zelenka, a naturalist at Assateague National Seashore. On July 1 he saw 9 flying south over the ocean at about 11 a.m. in the vicinity of the state park. On July 6 he saw 10 flying south over the ocean at 4 p.m. in the vicinity of North Beach. Two dove to feed. On July 9 he saw 15 flying south over the ocean at 3 p.m. at North Beach. On July 11 he saw 11 flying south over Sinepuxent Bay and then east to the ocean over the North Beach campground at 6 p.m. The last sighting was by Frank's son Jeff Zelenka on Aug. 15 when he saw 2 flying south over the ocean at North Beach at 6 p.m. The time and direction of the sightings seem to indicate that the birds were roosting in Virginia and ranging widely to feed during the day. Unfortunately there is little birding activity in the Ocean City area during the summer and there was no further information concerning the birds' habits.

*Cormorant.* Summer records of Double-crested Cormorants continue unabated. This year we had 16 at Assateague on June 12 (Blom +), 60 at Mills Island on June 13 (Dyke), 335 at Barren Island on June 5 (Armistead +), 6 at Poplar Island on July 10 (Armistead +), 3 at Ocean City on July 11 (Stasz +), 100 at Holland Island on July 15 (Mignogno), and 3 in the District of Columbia on July 23 and 12 there on the 26th (Czaplak).

*Hérons, Ibis.* Gregoire estimated 700+ nests of Great Blue Herons at The Nature Conservancy's Nanjemoy Preserve on June 11. Post-breeding dispersal of herons was rather low in numbers this year with the highest count (8) reported at Lilypons in Frederick Co. in July by Dave Wallace who also counted 27 Green Herons there. There were 10 Cattle Egrets at Denton on June 2 (Fletchers), 6 at Triadelphia Reservoir, Howard County on June 9 (Pardoe), and 1 at Fort McHenry on June 16 (Bielenberg). Dispersal of Great Egrets began with one found at Westport in Baltimore on July 6 (Ringler). Warfield counted 303 flying past West Ocean City returning to roost on July 7 and there were 9 at Triadelphia on July 29

(Chestem). A Snowy Egret was at Piney Run Park, Carroll County on July 31 (Blom, Ringler). At Deal Island WMA on June 26 Armistead counted 27 Louisiana Herons, 7 Least Bitterns, and 27 Glossy Ibis, the highest totals noted for each species this year. Two adult Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Irish Grove on June 13 (Stasz) were the first for the sanctuary. Other wandering Glossy Ibis were 2 near McDaniel on June 6 (Effinger) and one at Lilypons, July 20-25 (D. Wallace +).

*Waterfowl.* Two Mute Swans at Barren Island on June 5 (Armistead +) were far south of their normal breeding area in Chesapeake Bay. Two Whistling Swans at Deal Island WMA on June 3-4 (Mignogno) were summering even farther from their nesting area. Canada Geese continue to thrive as breeders in the State. Nistico noted 2 pairs each with downy young at Myrtle Grove WMA on May 31 and also found them in southern Prince Georges County in late July. In addition a single Canada Goose was at Greensboro on June 8 (Hewitt) and 6 at Piney Run on July 25 (Ringler). Mallards also continue to increase as breeders with the help of protected man-made locations such as the sewage lagoons at Denton where 115 Mallards were counted on July 11 (Ringler). At Deal Island WMA on June 26 Armistead counted 121 Black Ducks (including an adult with 1 young), 28 Gadwalls, 1 Green-winged Teal, and 46 Blue-winged Teal (including a female with 7 young). A female Gadwall was flushed from a marshy area on Assateague on June 12 (Blom, Ringler) and 2 stayed in Howard County through June 13 (M. Wallace). A drake Common Pintail was at Deal Island WMA on June 4 (Mignogno) and a drake Blue-winged Teal at Back River on June 9 (Ringler), neither expected as breeders at those locations. Also at Deal on June 14 were 2 drake American Wigeons (Wierenga, Mignogno). The high-count of Wood Ducks was 65 at Lilypons in July (D. Wallace). As usual a few non-breeding diving ducks summered in the State. The following were found: 2 Lesser Scaup at Barren Island on June 5 (Armistead +), a drake Oldsquaw in breeding plumage at West Ocean City on June 26 (Warfield), a female Black Scoter at Poplar Island on July 10 (Armistead +), a drake Ruddy Duck at Assateague on June 12 (Dyke), a female Red-breasted Merganser at Assateague on June 12-13 (Blom +) and another on the Manokin River on June 27 (Wierenga, Mignogno).

*Vultures, Accipiters.* Stasz found the nest of a Turkey Vulture with two young at Nassawango on June 16, and Robbins and Lerdau found another in a heavy tangle of greenbrier at Irish Grove Sanctuary on May 26. Boone reported that Black Vultures have spent their third consecutive summer at Indian Springs WMA, indicative of this species' spread north and west in the State. At Irish Grove, Stasz noted a Cooper's Hawk on June 27 and different Sharp-shinned Hawks on June 30, July 2, and July 10. Either species would be a rare breeder on the Lower Eastern Shore.

*Bald Eagle.* For the third consecutive year a marked increase in nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the Chesapeake Bay region has been documented. Jack Abbott's survey of eagle nests tallied 56 nesting pairs in Maryland of the 105 total for the region. A total of 57 young hatched from 35 of the Maryland nests and 56 of these fledged. Of the unsuccessful nests, some were abandoned for interesting reasons. A nest on the South River in Anne Arundel County that normally raises one or more eaglets each year was abandoned because people performed logging and soil percolation test operations around the nest site while the eagle was incubating. A nest in Dorchester County had an adult Bald Eagle incubating on March 5 and a

Great Horned Owl incubating on March 24! A nest in Talbot County was seen from the air to have two eggs, but only one hatched and apparently fledged. Unfortunately the egg could not be collected for analysis because the landowner would not permit the tree to be climbed. Six nests in Maryland produced three eaglets each—one each in Calvert, Kent, Talbot, and Caroline Counties, and two nests in Dorchester County. A pair of eagles near Mallows Bay in Charles County which has been observed annually since 1962, the first year of the aerial nest surveys, has built five different nests, the last one in 1975 and had had no success until this year when one eaglet was raised. Another pair that has nested near Ordinary Point on the north side of the Sassafras River in Cecil County since at least 1962 has built 10 different nests over the years and was successful in raising an eaglet in 1967, but none before or since until this year when one eaglet was raised in a new nest built this year. These stories are a tribute to the birds' persistence in the face of a shrinking environment.

*Harrier, Osprey, Falcons.* Wierenga counted 5 Northern Harriers at Clay Island, southeast of Elliott on June 14. Wandering Ospreys seen in mid-summer were one at Fort McHenry on June 6 (Bielenberg) and singles at Lilypons on June 18 and July 20 (D. Wallace). The female Peregrine Falcon named Scarlett, resident in downtown Baltimore, fledged three young which were brought in from Cornell this year. The male Peregrine named Ashley remained in the city and took up temporary residence at the State Office Building from at least July 19. This site is approximately one mile from Scarlett's nest at the USF&G Building. Stasz noted the first returning American Kestrel on the Lower Eastern Shore at Liberia Church in Somerset County on July 5.

*Pheasant, Rails.* Wilkinson heard a Ring-necked Pheasant near Harmans in Anne Arundel County on June 1 and 17, on the fringe of their breeding range. Summering Soras were heard by Wierenga at Deal Island WMA on June 6 and 20, and at Elliott on June 19. Another Sora, at Hughes Hollow on July 29 (Woodward), may have been an early fall migrant. The maximum count of Black Rails heard at Elliott this summer was 8 on June 10 by Wierenga who also heard one at Sandy Point through July 2. Stasz heard one Black Rail at Irish Grove through June 19. Hayes noted 2 Common Moorhens at Goose Island, DC from Apr. 26 into June. Armistead's high count at Deal Island WMA where Common Moorhens were once very common was only 7 on June 26.

*Shorebirds.* There were 8 American Oystercatchers on Barren Island on June 5, plus a nest with 3 eggs and an empty nest scrape. On Pone Island on May 29 another Oystercatcher nest was found containing 2 eggs and a ball the size of a tennis ball and located next to some unexploded shells approximately 10" across (Armistead +). This is part of the Navy's Bloodsworth Island gunnery range. Only 3 Wilson's Plovers were seen on Assateague on June 13 (Hayes, Bennett). The Doyles reported that the Killdeer nesting on the gravel roof of Boonsboro High School had fledged one young by May 31. The high count of Piping Plovers on Assateague was 20 on June 12 (Blom +). There were also 14 Black-bellied Plovers on Assateague that day and another 3 were seen in the District of Columbia on the 13th. Unusual for the season were 2 Hudsonian Godwits at Stevensville on June 11-12 (Folker +). Reports of Whimbrels included 16 late northbound birds over Tangier Sound at Deal Island on June 1 (Wierenga) and 12 early southbound birds at Assateague on June 27 (Dyke). An Upland Sandpiper in western Howard County

on July 20 (M. Wallace, Solem) was probably an early migrant. Also early was a Solitary Sandpiper at Back River on July 4 (Ringler). Willet nests with 4 eggs each were found at Frances Gut on May 31 and Barren Island on June 5 (Armistead +). Late spring Ruddy Turnstones were 6 at Barren Island on June 5 (Armistead +) and 1 at Ocean City on June 12 (Ringler +). A female Wilson's Phalarope was on Assateague on June 12-13 (Ringler +). Interesting records of Short-billed Dowitchers were 2 on Assateague on June 12 (Ringler +), 9 at Ocean City on June 29 (Folker +), 17 near the mouth of the Manokin River on July 4 (Mignogno), 9 at Germantown on July 14 (Warfield), 1 at Lilypons on July 18 (Mike Welch), and 1 at Irish Grove on July 25 (Stasz). Also among the shorebirds on Assateague on June 12 were 9 Red Knots, 4 Sanderlings, 20 White-rumped Sandpipers, and a Dunlin. Another 35 Sanderlings were at Barren Island on June 5 (Armistead +) and one had returned to Ocean City by July 19 (Warfield). Other late White-rumps were 3 at Back River on June 6 (Ringler), 8 at Elliott on June 10 (Wierenga), and 2 on Assateague on June 13 (Hayes, Bennett). There were also 2 Dunlins among the Barren Island group on June 5.

*Jaegers, Gulls.* On the June 12 pelagic trip out of Ocean City observers listed 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 3 Parasitic Jaegers, 9 unidentified jaegers, and 1 South Polar Skua (Naveen +). Armistead tabulated the Herring Gull colonies he visited this year and the data are summarized in Table 3. He also noted that the total breeding population of Herring Gulls on Smith Island may be as many as 3000 pairs though he did not visit all the colonies there this season. He also estimated the number of Herring Gulls on Barren Island to be about 745 birds on June 5.

Table 3, Herring Gull Breeding Data, 1982

Location (Date)	Number of nests with eggs/young						Total Nests	
	0/0	1/0	2/0	3/0	4/0	2/1		
Easter Point (Smith Island, May 30)	66	236	246	570	1	6	5	1130
Holland Island (May 29)	2	1		1				4
Frances Gut (May 30-31)			1	4				5
Barren Island (June 5)		3	2	6				11

Armistead also found the nest of a Greater Black-backed Gull on West Troy Island that contained 3 eggs on May 30. A few Greater Black-backs summered in Washington, DC for the first time this year (Czaplak). A sub-adult Lesser-backed Gull was seen on the beach at Deal Island on June 13 (Blom +). Weske reported that John Buckalew's estimate of Herring Gull colonies in coastal Maryland showed them to be much reduced in number from past years at Robbins Marsh and Outward Tump and totally abandoned at Cedar Island. Czaplak estimated 400 Ring-billed Gulls in Washington on June 13.

Table 4. Common, Forster's, and Little Tern Breeding Data, 1982

Location (Date)	Species	Number of nests with eggs/young										
		0/0	1/0	2/0	3/0	4/0	1/1	0/1	2/1	1/2	0/2	Total
Spring Island (May 29)	Common Tern		5	38	245	1						289
	Forster's Tern		2	12	20							34
Barren Island (June 5)	Common Tern	65	103	244	3	13	12	16	8	9	473	
	Little Tern	6	11	65	32	2					116	

Two Arctic Terns and a Roseate Tern were seen off Ocean City on the June 12 pelagic trip. The Little Tern nests on Barren Island were on a newly created spoil bank. Mignogno estimated 50 Royal Terns at Holland Island on July 15. A colony of Royal Terns on Horsehead Tump apparently failed this year. Barbara Dowell and Mike Erwin found 160 nests there early in the season, but Weske found only 79 nests with eggs on July 2. Dowell noted that no young were produced though adults continued to visit the site in diminishing numbers throughout the season. Weske knows of no successful Royal Terns nesting in Maryland this year. Folker reported 4 adult and 2 immature Sandwich Terns at Ocean City on June 29 and at least 1 was present on July 4 (Holmes). Single Caspian Terns were seen in the District of Columbia on June 1 (Hayes) and July 21 (Czaplak). The only Black Terns reported were 1 at Ocean City on June 29 (Folker +) and 2 at Jug Bay on the Patuxent River on July 31 (Gregoire). Sightings of Black Skimmers included 3 at Jug Bay on June 1 (Gregoire), 35 at Barren Island on June 5 (Armistead +), 15 at Deal Island on June 13 (Ringler +), and 100 at Holland Island on July 15 (Mignogno).

*Dove, Kingfisher.* Bielenberg reports that the Ringed Turtle Doves at Fort McHenry fledged at least one young bird this summer though it shows signs of deformity around the bill similar to other young reared at this location in previous years, probably the result of too much in-breeding. Mignogno saw a Belted Kingfisher at Little Deal Island on July 15, probably an early wanderer from a nesting site farther up the bay.

*Flycatchers.* Warfield noted his first migrant Eastern Kingbird at West Ocean City on July 24. Kirkwood found that Eastern Phoebes successfully nested on a rock ledge about one foot above a small stream in Harford County. At least one Alder Flycatcher returned to the bog near Monkton where they probably nested last year as evidenced by Wilkinson seeing one there on June 6. Stasz noted "Traill's" Flycatchers at Irish Grove Sanctuary on July 16 and 26, probably early migrants. An Eastern Pewee at Fort McHenry on June 14 (Bielenberg) was probably a late northbound bird as they do not nest in the vicinity.

*Swallows, Corvids.* Nests at Hughes Hollow fledged 127 young Tree Swallows this year (Woodward). At Greensboro 50 migrant Tree Swallows were present on July 24 (Fletcher). Klimkiewicz noted that Purple Martin production was poor this year owing to the cold snap in April and the cool wet weather in June. The huge martin roost in Salisbury began forming in late June and Vaughn estimated 25,000 birds there by the end of July. David Wallace saw 2 Northern Ravens at Gambrill State Park on July 23. Another nesting note from Bielenberg at Fort McHenry was that American Crows raised 4 young in a nest in a White Pine near the Visitor's Center and Fish Crows had a nest atop a light pole in the Maryland Port Authority parking lot adjacent to the fort.

*Creepers, Wren, Thrushes.* The Keedys found the nest of Brown Creepers under the loose bark on a dead locust tree at Dam #5, Washington County on May 26. A Brown Creeper was found in Battle Creek Cypress Swamp on June 19, another likely nesting location (Tim Conn +). Woodward found another creeper singing at Hughes Hollow on July 6. To indicate how well this species has consolidated its hold on the Eastern Shore, Stasz estimated 25+ creepers singing on territory

along 12 miles of creek in the Cypress Swamp, Milburn Landing, Nassawango, Sturgis Mill Creek area this summer. Dowell found a Winter Wren singing amid an active strip mine area on Dans Mountain through June. A Hermit Thrush was observed on a nest with 4 eggs in Garrett County on May 25 (George Fenwick, Wayne Klockner, Boone). Totally unexplainable is the Swainson's Thrush seen singing in Roland Park in Baltimore on July 3-4 (Murphy). The song was also recorded by Bill Ellis for confirmation of the identification.

*Gnatcatcher, Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrike.* Interesting observations at Irish Grove this summer were a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on June 24 and a pair of Cedar Waxwings from June 18 on (Stasz). Boone found Golden-crowned Kinglets nest building in red spruce near Rock Lodge, Garrett County on May 13. Golden-crowns were again found in June in Northern Carroll County in the planted spruce plantation where they were seen last summer (Blom, Ringler, Wilkinson). A Loggerhead Shrike was seen along Route 381 north of Benedict on June 12 (Gregoire) and Boone found shrikes feeding a fledgling southeast of Thurmont on June 14.

*Vireos, Warblers.* A Solitary Vireo was singing through June 29 on Sideling Hill, Washington County (Boone). A Warbling Vireo in Denton on June 10 (Nuttie) was very unusual, as was a Black-and-white Warbler at Denton from June 7 through the 30th (Knotts). Armistead reports that Warren Kucera and Jon Janosik found a Worm-eating Warbler nest with 6 eggs near Henrys Crossroads, Dorchester County on May 23. The young had hatched by May 30 and fledged by June 13. The Barbers banded a female Worm-eating Warbler with a brood patch in Leakin Park in Baltimore on July 3. Adult Blue-winged Warblers with fledged young were seen in Carroll County near Arters Mill on June 27 and at Carrollton on July 3 (Ringler). Stasz located a Blue-winged Warbler in the Nassawango area that remained through June 8. A Brewster's hybrid was seen and heard in a scrubby clearcut area adjacent to Bear Swamp on the Eastern Shore from June 5 through at least June 25 (Dyke + ). Boone heard a Nashville Warbler singing in Cranesville Swamp in late June. A male Black-throated Green Warbler was singing in white cedars near Bear Swamp, Wicomico County from early June (Boone + ). This is the first evidence that the species may be nesting on the Coastal Plain in Maryland though they can be found both north and south of here. Wallace found an adult feeding a fledgling Black-throated Green at Catoctin on July 5. Stasz found 5 Ovenbird nests in the Nassawango area but at least two failed. Jo Solem noted a Louisiana Waterthrush at her home near Laurel in Howard County on July 20 and marked that as the beginning of the "fall" warbler migration. A Common Yellowthroat at Fort McHenry on June 3 (Bielenberg) may have been a late migrant. Another late spring bird was an American Redstart at St. Michaels on June 7 (Reese). However, the redstart at Tanyard on July 29 (Engle) was probably going the other way.

*Icterids.* The summer wanderings of Bobolinks are becoming more difficult to interpret. Case in point is one at Rumbly Point on June 24 (Dowell, Manuel Lerdau) and another flying north near Bellevue on July 4 (Armistead). One heard in southern Frederick County as it flew over on July 25 (Ringler) was more likely a southbound migrant. North of its normal range along the bay was a male Boat-tailed Grackle at Tilghman Island on July 10 (Armistead, Mignogno, Wierenga).

*Finches.* Among the late departing finches this spring were a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at St. Michaels on June 7 (Reese) and 2 Pine Siskins at Bryans Road, Charles County on June 5 (Nistico). Two adult and 3 young House Finches were observed in Denton during July (Nuttle).

*Sparrows.* An adult with fledgling Savannah Sparrow was near Ottersdale in Carroll County on July 24 (Ringler) and one was heard singing in southern Frederick County on July 25 (Wilkinson, Pete Webb). The high count of Henslow's Sparrows in the Elliott Island area was 8 on June 10 (Wierenga). Boone found 3 singing Henslow's Sparrows in a meadow near Dan's Rock on Aug. 6, a potential new breeding location. Stasz and the Vaughns found a Sharp-tailed Sparrow nest with 3 eggs + 2 Brown-headed Cowbird eggs at Irish Grove on May 30. Boone found Northern Juncos in two breeding locations along Backbone Mountain south of US 50 this summer. A few summering White-throated Sparrows were seen: one near Williamsport on June 4 (Mallonee), one singing in Leakin Park on July 12-13 (Barbers), and one at the FBI Building in Washington on July 23 (Nistico). None of these are likely to nest at the above locations. Two colonies of Swamp Sparrows were discovered in Carroll County (Ringler, Blom). One is along Big Pipe Creek near Bachman Mills (June 20 and July 3). The other is near Winfield (June 27, July 18, Aug. 1). Wierenga noted 2 Swamp Sparrows at Sandy Point on July 2.

*Addenda.* Dan Boone would like to contribute the following notes from the summer season of 1981: a Solitary Vireo summering in the Frederick Watershed; a singing Winter Wren near the summit of Backbone Mountain south of Roth Rock in July; a Henslow's Sparrow singing at Carey Run in early August; a Nashville Warbler singing from a bog east of Finzel near Frostburg Reservoir in late June and also in Cherry Creek Bog along Foxtown Road in mid-June; at least two pairs of Golden-crowned Kinglets in Wolf Swamp from late May through mid-July, in Swallow Falls State Park, and in a hemlock grove south of Cranesville Swamp, both in June; and in a bog along Backbone Mountain south of US 50 Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Red-breasted Nuthatch on June 5 and a Northern Junco singing there in August. He also observed a Short-eared Owl flying over an extensive, flat rye field just before sunrise west of Denton in early June.

*3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207*

## 19TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

For the second time in history the I.O.C will convene in the New World. Dates for the scientific program, poster papers, round table discussions, special interest group meetings, and workshops in Ottawa, Canada, are June 22-29, 1986. Pre- and post-congress excursions and early morning bird walks are planned. Registration forms and additional information are available from Dr. Henri Ouellet, Secretary General, 19th I.O.C., National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8. The deadline for registration and submission of papers is January 1986, but early registration for the exciting field excursions is essential.

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE CASE OF THE HOOK-BILLED KITES

J.S. Borthwick. 1982. St. Martin's Press, Incorporated, 175 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., 10010, \$12.95

Using the birdwatching scene as a backdrop for a murder mystery had 2 strikes against it in my mind. It's good solid information that I want when I read a book about birds and I've made a lifelong practice of never reading murder mysteries. However my resolve was weakened by a Christmastime virus and since the book was small enough to hold comfortably, read it I did. If I wasn't going to be able to go on my two Christmas count assignments, I would have to get my birdwatching vicariously. The book was amusing enough. The characters, listed for your convenience in the front of the book, were all recognizable. You've met them: the little old ladies in tennis shoes, the brash overconfident men, the skeptical, aloof young woman, the intense young man, the precocious kid. The bird information was correct, though the mystery was rather weakly constructed in spite of its international implications and its ornithological twist. I was thinking as I read further into the book, putting my prejudices aside, that it wasn't bad at all, when the skeptical, aloof young woman, who was beautiful besides, said of the birdwatching group among whom she found herself: "But why do they all wear those rag bag clothes?" That was hitting too close to the mark. I finished the book but without enthusiasm. I do recommend it, however, for one of those rare moments when you're not taking your birdwatching seriously.

*Joy Wheeler*

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