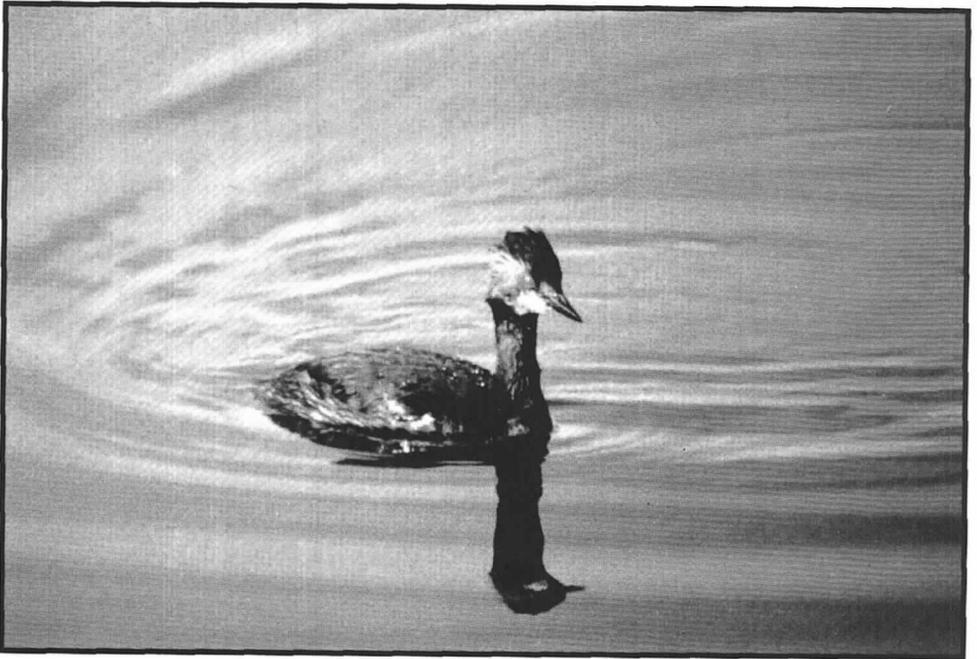


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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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**Cover:** Eared Grebe found 30 March 1993 at Centennial Park, Columbia, Howard County, Maryland. Photo 4 April 1993 by Peter Osenton.



## AN EARLY OVENBIRD NEST FOR MARYLAND

MARK S. JOHNSON

Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) are forest-interior breeding birds of primarily Eastern North America that often prefer to breed in large tracts of mature forest (Robbins et al. 1989, Gibbs and Faaborg 1990). They are reported to prefer open, leaf-covered locations on the forest floor, which may explain why most nests are discovered alongside woodland trails (Bent 1953).

While surveying a riparian forest tract in Harford County (approximately 125 ha) at 10:15 on 7 May, 1994, R. Metker and I identified an early Ovenbird nest. Initially, we spotted an Ovenbird running in a semi-circle along the ground, its head down and wings out from the body, though not fully extended. These movements were indicative of injury-feigning behavior of an incubating female. We immediately stopped and searched at ground level. We found the nest about 1 m from where I flushed her. I was able to count 5 eggs in the nest. All eggs were identified as Ovenbird eggs, as they were all of the same size and shape, and wreathed in brownish specks at the larger end (Harrison 1975).

According to Bent (1953), eggs are laid, one per day, one to three days after completion of the nest. Given this is true, this nest probably was completed no later than 1 May or 2 May, and the five eggs were laid no later than 3-7 May. The earliest egg date for Maryland (Robbins and Bystrak 1977) is given as 7 May. That nest, found on 7 May 1972 near La Plata in Charles County by Edward H. Schell, contained six eggs when found (Maryland Nest Record File), so laying may have started one day earlier than in our nest.

We returned on 30 May and found the Harford County nest unoccupied, save for one egg. The egg was cold, and subsequent analysis revealed no embryo. The nest was approximately 18 cm in outside diameter, covered with primarily dead beech leaves and leaf skeletons. The interior was weaved from dead grasses amongst fallen leaves on the forest floor. The entrance was just above ground level. The nearest living vegetation above the leaf litter was 20+ cm away. Many saplings and older trees were in the vicinity. The nest was at the terminal end of a declining grade, although at least 50 m from the floodplain of Bynum Run.

Almost directly over the nest was evidence of surveying activity, where saplings were cut and stakes were set, as this forest is slated for housing development. The probability of total nest failure was high since the mean incubation period for Ovenbirds is 12.5 days, the fledging period ranges from 8 to 12 days, and a bird was seen

within 25 m of the original nest exhibiting the same behavior on 30 May, indicating a probable re-nesting attempt. No evidence of fledglings were seen or heard in the immediate area.

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## DECEMBER RECORD OF SOLITARY VIREO IN ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

TERESA SIMONS AND JIM PAULUS

On the afternoon of 19 December 1992, while participating in the Allegany County Christmas Bird Count (CBC), we observed a Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) at the intersection of Winchester and McKenzie roads southwest of Cumberland in Allegany County, Maryland. The intersection lies near the southwest corner of Pinto Marsh at an elevation of about 850 feet (260m).

We were working in an area that had been cut over many years before. None of the trees was over 25 feet (7.6 meters) tall, and much underbrush was present, especially Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). The time was about 2:10 p.m., the wind was calm, the sky was mostly cloudy, and the temperature was about 36° F (2° C).

We were recording the numerous birds that were flitting around in the brush when a small bird flew across the road and landed in a tree about 30 feet (9.1m) away and slightly above eye level. Using our binoculars, we both recognized the bird at once as a Solitary Vireo and made the following observations. The thick bill was black. The head was blue-gray with very obvious white spectacles. The back was greenish and the wings were darkish with pale edges to the primaries and secondaries. Two whitish

wing bars were very prominent. The tail was darkish and the legs appeared black. The underparts were clear white except for the flanks, which were yellow with faint streaking.

The bird stayed in the open most of the time, moving slowly and deliberately as vireos do. We did not hear it call during the ten minutes we watched it. It ate one of the black Japanese honeysuckle berries, then flew back across the road to a tall oak (*Quercus* sp.). We last saw it as it flew over the ridge and out of sight.

Other birds present at the time were Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

This is the first winter season report of Solitary Vireo for Allegany County and the westernmost for Maryland. Eight December and January reports have been published, four from the Eastern Shore and four west of Chesapeake Bay. All reports are of single birds. The Eastern Shore reports are: 15 December 1991 near Hebron on the Salisbury CBC, 19 December 1982 on the St. Michaels CBC, 30-December 1988 near Purnell's Crossing of the Pocomoke River in Worcester County (*Md. Birdlife* 45(2):75), and 14 January 1989 at Pocomoke State Park (*Md. Birdlife* 45(2):75). The Western Shore reports are: 18 December 1974 at Thurmont in Frederick County (*Md. Birdlife* 31(1):39), 20 December 1986 on the Port Tobacco CBC in Charles County, 23 December 1979 on the Bowie CBC in Prince George's County, and 3 January 1973 at Pennyfield in Montgomery County (*Atlantic Naturalist* 28:127). There are no February reports for Maryland.

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## THE FALLOUT OF AMERICAN WOODCOCKS AT POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK, MARYLAND

PATTY CRAIG

In St. Mary's County the "Blizzard of '93" consisted mostly of high winds and torrents of rain. It snowed before dawn on Saturday, 13 March, but the rains quickly melted it off. It poured all day, and in the evening we had sleet, freezing rain, and snow. I had heard that Pt. Lookout, at the mouth of the Potomac River, was almost evacuated because of flooding. So when the sun came out about noon on Sunday, my husband, Glen, and I drove to the park. I wanted to see if the winds blew anything in or the rains had flooded out any rails. It was not rails that I found, but twenty American Woodcocks (*Scolopax minor*) and eight Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) just standing beside the road. The woodcocks stood there resting or feeding on earthworms. Occasionally, they moved in their slow-motion, rocking walk to get a little closer to the worms or a little farther from the road. By this time the temperature was mild enough that the ice and snow melted by the roadside, but lingered in the woods and shadows. Therefore, feeding was good by the roads and ditches and little attention was paid to the motorists.

After telling Anne Bishop about the fallout, she and I returned to Pt. Lookout about dusk. This time we counted 161 woodcocks and eight snipe on the berms. None of these birds ever flushed or did more than move a little closer to the woods. During the next week I checked on the woodcocks several more times with the following results:

Date	Time	Woodcock	Snipe
14 March 1993	12:00 p.m.	20	8
14 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	161	8
15 March 1993	8-8:30 a.m.	17	4
15 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	199	22
16 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	134	13
20 March 1993	8:00 a.m.	4	0
21 March 1993	6:00 p.m.	0	4

On the evening of 15 March, when I observed the greatest number of woodcocks, only fifteen flushed. On the sixteenth the majority of the woodcocks and snipes flushed or "trotted" off to the woods.

I always began my 3-mile (4.8 km) survey at the intersection of Scotland Beach Road and Route 5 just south of the Confederate Prisoners' Monument. The driver would drive slowly and I would count the birds at the edge of the road from that intersection until we reached the point. Not until 20 March did I go into the woods, and at that time no woodcocks or snipe were to be found. Previously, most areas except the main road were blocked off, making parking difficult, and I worried about disturbing the seemingly exhausted woodcocks.

In general, when I surveyed at dusk it was too dark to count very accurately by the time we reached the point. However, once (16 March) there was enough light to try to count on my way out. I did not complete the count, but it was obvious that there were more woodcocks beside the road on the way out than on the way in. This seems to justify my theory that there were many more woodcocks in the woods that I never counted. During the day on 16 March, Robert Boxwell was able to park and walk into the woods. He flushed "hundreds" of woodcocks. That evening, on my way home, six woodcocks were flying in Ridge, Maryland. This could have marked the beginning of the resumption of their spring migration. They were virtually gone when I next checked on 20 and 21 March.

I believe the concentration of woodcocks was a local phenomenon in the vicinity of Point Lookout, as I wandered through about 10 acres of good woodcock habitat on my property seven miles north of the Scotland intersection on 15 March without finding any woodcock.

*P. O. Box 84, Lexington Park, MD 20653*

## OBSERVATION OF A GRAY SQUIRREL EATING AN ADULT CARDINAL

JOANNE K. SOLEM

When I returned to the house in mid afternoon of 15 February 1994, my husband, Bob, mentioned that a male Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) had hit a dinette window. It lay about four feet from the house on top of the icy snow cover. From the angle of the head, the cardinal appeared to have broken its neck. Several hawks had become intermittent visitors to the yard during this severe winter, so I left the dead bird hoping a hawk would find it. It was not surprising, therefore, when Bob looked out about 5:00 p.m. and noted that the cardinal was gone. I could see that there were about a dozen small red-tipped gray feathers lying scattered on the snow. Because of the thick ice covering the snow, there were neither footprints nor wingprints to provide a clue as to what had removed the dead cardinal.

About 5:30 p.m. I happened to glance out the kitchen window, which also faces the back yard, just as a small dark object drifted across the patio and settled on it. To my naked eye it looked like a scorched piece of paper that might have escaped from a neighboring chimney. With binoculars I could see that it was, instead, a dark, fluffy feather. I glanced up seeking the source. Sitting on a branch 20 feet up in a beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) was a gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). It held in its front paws the dead cardinal which it was eating. No attempt had been made to remove the large bright red feathers, so the bird was easily identifiable. I watched the squirrel for a few minutes, but, because we were on our way out, I did not wait to see how long it fed on the bird.

The following morning I checked beneath the tree where the squirrel had been sitting. A pile of downy red-tinged gray feathers had drifted to the base of a nearby tree, and a few downy feathers were trapped on the branches of understory shrubs, but there was no sign of a carcass or of any of the large red feathers.

The gray squirrel is considered to be mainly vegetarian in its food choices, but Paradiso (1969) says they will eat an occasional bird's egg or small bird. Diagrams in Martin et al. (1961) show that 98% of the winter diet of gray squirrels is derived from plants. Insect foods make up most of the remainder. The statement is made that some individuals eat birds' eggs or nestlings on occasion.

Undoubtedly, gray squirrels are highly opportunistic, especially under weather conditions that make it difficult to locate food. After this observation, I will no longer assume that small piles of feathers in wooded areas indicate the remains of a meal by a bird of prey or one of the more frequently observed mammalian predators.

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# THE SEASON



## SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1 - MAY 31, 1993

**DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH**

Following the pattern set in the preceding summer and fall, the spring season was rather cool and moist. Wet conditions delayed some waterbirds and a major snowstorm in mid-March detained a few more migrating species. The passerine migration was again dismal, adding more justification for the fear that the problem is more than a local or cyclical trend.

*Observers:* Henry and George Armistead, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Carol and Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Patty Craig, Randy Crook, Richard Crook, Lynn Davidson, Fritz Davis, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Paul Fritz, Inez Glime, Jim and Patricia Gruber, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, Dick Homan, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Stauffer Miller, Carol Newman, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, William Scudder, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Teresa Simons, Don Simonson, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Connie Skipper, Dan and Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, David Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Erika Wilson, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted at Eastern Neck NWR by Jim and Trish Gruber.

*Abbreviations:* DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

*Locations:* Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Brown's Bridge (Howard), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Fairmount WMA (Somerset), Figgs Landing (Worcester), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Green Ridge (Allegany), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaqundi (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Meadows Lake (Garrett), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Monument Knob (Washington), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), New Germany SP (Garrett), Noland's Ferry (Frederick), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield

(Montgomery), Pigtail Landing (Howard), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Plum Tree Path, Columbia (Howard), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany), Tuckahoe SP (Caroline unless noted otherwise), Violettes Lock (Montgomery).

*Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses.* **Red-throated Loons** were found in small numbers this spring with 1 at DC on March 7 and March 28 (Janni), 3-5 at Bellevue on March 13 (Armistead), and single sightings at Deal Island WMA on March 20 (Brodericks), at North Beach on April 4 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff), at Loch Raven on April 8 (Simon), at Cobb Island on April 11 (Jett), and at Point Lookout on April 24 (Hoffman). **Common Loons** included 7 at Eastern Neck NWR on March 21 (Grubers), 45 at UMCF on April 25 (Farrell, Solem+), and a pair at Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County throughout May (Mike Callahan). Steve Simon reported the high for **Pied-billed Grebes** with 43 at Loch Raven on March 1, Harry Armistead found one in salt water at Oxford on May 30, and Jack Foehrenbach discovered another at Quaker Neck on May 31. The 24 **Horned Grebes** at Triadelphia on March 28 (Farrell, Solem) were unusual for Howard County, and the 300+ in DC the same day may be a DC record (Janni). Paul Nistico recorded April 5 as the departure date for 50 Horned Grebes at Eastern Neck. **Red-necked Grebes** were also noted this spring with 1 at Ocean City on March 14 (Reese) and 1 at North Beach on April 4 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff). Jan Reese spotted a **Sooty Shearwater** at the Ocean City inlet on May 26, and the Brodericks notched a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** there after a storm on March 14.

*Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants.* **Northern Gannets** began with an adult off Holland Point on March 13 (Armistead), and other reports included at least 3 adults at North Beach on April 4 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff), 22 birds at Bellevue on April 4 (Armistead), 50+ at Irish Grove on April 10 (Ricciardi), 1 at Cobb Island on April 11 (Jett), 6 at Point Lookout on April 17 (Davidson), and 14 at Ocean City on May 26 (Reese). Patty Craig spied 2 **Brown Pelicans** at Point Lookout on April 18, Reese noted 3 at Ocean City on April 24, and Hoffman checked off 3 at Crisfield and 7 at Smith Island on May 8. **Great Cormorants** continue to be a spring presence with 5 at Ocean City on April 3 and 18 there on April 4 (Grubers), 1 at Point Lookout on April 17 (Davidson), 1 breeding plumage adult flying north over McKeldin on April 18 for the first Carroll County record (Ringler, Stasz), and another at Ocean City on April 24 (Reese). Inland **Double-crested Cormorants** continue to proliferate including 1 at Centennial on March 31 (Ott, Bockstie), 29 at Town Hill the same day (Paulus), 8 at Loch Raven on April 12 (Simon), 33 at Town Hill on April 14 and 8 there on April 15 (Paulus), 151 at Back River on April 18 (Scarpulla), 17 flying over Piney Run on April 20 (Ringler), 23 at Brighton Dam, Howard County on April 25 (Chestem), 75 at Trappe on May 9 (Reese), and 10 near Knoxville on May 17 (S. Miller). Ocean City remains a stronghold for Double-crested with 300 on April 2 (Grubers), and over 550 on April 24 (Reese).

*Hérons, Ibis.* An **American Bittern** was heard singing at Deal Island WMA on April 9 (Hoffman), and others were widespread with 3 at Hughes Hollow on April 13 (Janni), 1 at Libertytown Marsh, Frederick County on April 15 (S. Miller), 2 seen flying over a highway in DC on April 21 (Jett), 1 at Point Lookout on April 26 (Craig), 1 at Piney Run on April 28 (Ringler), 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 30 (Mackiernan), 1 in DC on May 1 (Janni, O'Brien+), 1 calling at Hughes Hollow on May 8 (O'Brien+), and another the same day near Mason Springs (Jett). Gail Mackiernan reported a **Least Bittern** at Hughes Hollow on April 30. Migrant **Great Blue Herons** were five groups totaling 21

at Town Hill on March 31 (Paulus) and 10 at Hughes Hollow on April 2 (Simonson). Dave Walbeck observed 3 on nests at Little Patuxent Oxbow near Maryland City on April 12. The **Great Egret** noted by Reese at Taylors Island on March 7, prior to the snowstorm, probably wintered there. Doug Lister saw 2 at PRNAS on March 31, and solitary Greats were inland at Hughes Hollow on April 2 (Simonson), near Big Pool on April 4 (Bob Keedy), at Centennial on April 8 (Farrell, Ott+), at DC on April 11 (Ed Bruce), at Eastern Neck on April 14 (Grubers), at Cumberland on April 19 (Simons), and at Lilypons on April 24 (Lola Oberman) and April 26 (Warfield). Two Great Egrets were at Loch Raven on May 30 (Simon). The first reported **Snowy Egrets** were 2 at Turner Creek, Kent County on April 2 (Maggie Duncan). Others included 3 at Easton on April 4 (Reese), 70 at Fairmount WMA on May 1 (Hoffman), 1 at Centennial on May 4 (Solem, Chestem+), and 1 at Eastern Neck on May 30 (Grubers). John and Brenda Bell discovered an adult **Little Blue Heron** at Plum Tree Path on April 19, and Mark Hoffman counted 20 **Tricolored Herons** at Fairmount WMA on May 1. Migrating **Cattle Egrets** were 1 in Worcester County on March 22 (Walbeck, Kevin Smith), 2 at Piscataway Park on April 18 (Ron Kagarise), 5 north of Hagerstown on April 28 (Bob Keedy, Cam & Norma Lewis), 1 at Germantown the same day (Warfield), 1 near Allens Fresh on May 1 (Jett), 1 east of Hagerstown on May 2 (Harold Winger), 1 at Frederick on May 3 (S. Miller), 6 at Hains Point on May 3 (Janni), 1 at Johns Hopkins Road, Howard County on May 9 (John Jahney), and the high of 65 at Bozman on May 24 (Reese). Single early **Green-backed Herons** were at Triadelphia, Montgomery County on April 10 (Saunders), and at Centennial on April 14 (Chestem). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** of note were 1 at Mill Creek, Anne Arundel County on April 13 (Walbeck), 1 at Germantown on April 16 (Warfield), 2 adults at Centennial on April 17 (Chestem), and 2 adults at Lake Kittamaquindi on May 21-22 (Chestem, Zeichner, Wilkinson). The largest tally for **Glossy Ibis** was at Fairmount WMA where there were 80 on May 1. Others of note were 1 at Smithville on April 4 (Scudder), 1 at UMCF on April 6 (Solem, Bockstie), 11 near Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 9 at Easton on April 16 (O'Brien), 1 at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on April 17-18 (David, Joseph, & Marguerite Walbeck), 2 near Point of Rocks on April 18 (S. Miller), 2 flying over Fort Smallwood Park on May 2 (Ricciardi), and 5 at Whitehall Beach on May 15 (Walbeck).

*Swans, Geese.* A single **Tundra Swan**, seen since last July, remained at King's Creek, Talbot County throughout the period (O'Brien), and high counts included 1000+ at Queenstown, 5000+ in the Chestertown vicinity and 700+ near Easton on March 5 (Reese), 12,000 migrating over Eastern Neck on March 10 (Grubers), 4 flocks totaling 720 flying over Ellicott City on March 10 (Ott), 130 at Benedict on March 19 (Wilson), a peak of 150 at Piney Run on March 21 (Ringler), 3000 at Eastern Neck on March 21 (Grubers), 600 at Wye Mills on March 21 (Reese), 1000+ at Centreville on March 22 (Reese), and 600 at Barclay on March 24 (Reese). Stauffer Miller found 2 near Knoxville on May 8, and Marvin Hewitt discovered another at Denton on May 27. Jan Reese found a **Mute Swan** incubating 7 eggs in a nest at St. Michaels on the early date of March 8, 1 was at Piney Run throughout the period until March 21 when it apparently left with some Tundra Swans (Ringler), 68 were at Eastern Neck on May 3 (Grubers), and a depressing 215 were tallied at Hooper Island on May 8 (Armisteads). Dotty Mumford discovered a Greenland race **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Piney Run on March 20-21, for the first Carroll County record. The last large flocks of **Snow Geese** remaining in March were 3000 near Chestertown on the 5th, 4000 at Wye Mills on the 19th and 2000 at Kennedyville on the 20th (Grubers), over 700 at Elkton on the 23rd (Reese), and 20,000 at Kennedyville on the 27th (Grubers). A blue adult was noted at Blackwater on May 1 (Armistead+). A **Brant** was seen at Denton on March 8 (M.

Miller), another was in DC on March 28 (Janni), and 72 were counted at Ocean City on April 24 (Reese). Large numbers of migrating **Canada Geese** included 15,000 over Eastern Neck on March 10 (Grubers) and 610 in 5 flocks over Ellicott City the same day (Ott). Connie Skipper found 2 pairs of adults with 7 goslings at Bittinger on the early date of May 28. A small race goose was at Wye Island on March 2-3 (O'Brien, Michael Guilfoyle).

*Puddle and Aythya Ducks.* Exotics for the season were a female **Ruddy Shelduck** near Laytonsville from April 16 (Jim Felley) to May 8 (Robert Hilton), and a drake **Falcated Teal**, found during the winter, seen off and on at Piney Run through April 19 (Ringler). Puddle duck numbers were low, probably reflecting the declines in northern breeding populations because of dry conditions. The highest count for **Green-winged Teal** was only 65 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+). **Northern Pintails** included 200 at Ocean City on March 14 (Reese) and 22 at Greensboro on March 22 (Hewitt). Leo Sweeney reported a **Northern Pintail X Mallard** hybrid at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on March 31. Inland **Blue-winged Teals** included 1 at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on March 7 (Wilkinson), and 1 at Pinto Marsh on March 8 (Simons). **Northern Shovelers** of note were 10 at Cumberland on April 2 (Simons), the last 30 at Remington Farms WMA on April 5 (Nistico), and 2 males at Triadelphia Mill Pond on April 20 (Chestem).  **Gadwalls** included 2 at Patuxent River Park on April 24 (Nistico), 100 at Deal Island WMA on April 26 (O'Brien), and 30 at Fairmount WMA on May 1 (Hoffman). Steve Simon tallied 170 **American Wigeons** at Loch Raven on March 8, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** was found this spring at Grasonville on March 8 (Ben Hren). **Canasbacks** remain scarce with 15 reported inland by Farrell at Centennial on March 1-4 (1 male still there May 25), 350 with one albino at Cambridge on March 7 (Reese), and 12 at Piney Run on March 21 (Ringler). A **Redhead** was observed at Choptank from March 1 to April 3 (D. Ford), 22 were at Loch Raven on March 8 (Simon), 8 were near Cumberland on March 11 (Simons), another was at Lilypons the same day (Warfield), 9 were at Piney Run on March 21 (Ringler), and 5 were found at Emmitsburg on March 28 (John Cupp). Steve Simon noted the high for **Ring-necked Ducks** with 400 at Loch Raven on March 21; 1 was still present on May 21-26. Bob Ringler identified 2 **Greater Scaup** in flight at Piney Run on March 20, 2 were at Rocky Gap on March 21 (Simons), 1 was noted at Emmitsburg on March 28 (John Cupp), and 500 were tallied at Eastern Neck on April 8 (Grubers). Jan Reese had a big day for **Lesser Scaup**, tallying over 1000 at each end of the Preston Lane Memorial Bridges and 500 at the east end of the Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge, Calvert County, and another 1000 at the west end of the same bridge in St. Mary's County, all on March 3. The Grubers estimated 10,000 at Eastern Neck on March 10, and Mark Hoffman found 90 along the Nanticoke in Wicomico County on April 9.

*Eiders, Oldsquaws, Harlequin Ducks, Scoters.* **Common Eiders** found this past winter were still present at Ocean City where 2 females and 1 immature male were noted on March 6 (Osenton, Greg Gough). A male **Harlequin Duck**, present since December, was seen at Ocean City through April 24 (Reese). Good sightings of **Oldsquaws** for Howard County were the 2 males found at Triadelphia on March 21 (Farrell, Solem), the 3 birds at Brighton Dam, Howard County on March 22 (Chestem), and a male at Centennial on April 15 (Chestem, Bockstie). Simons reported 3 more Oldsquaws at Rocky Gap on March 29, 1 was at Greenbrier Lake on March 31 (Dave Weesner), 2 were spotted at Denton on April 1-2 (Hewitt), 1 was north of Frederick, a very unusual location for spring, on April 2 (S. Miller), 600 Oldsquaws were tallied at Bellevue on April 9 (Armistead+), 9 flocks (numbers unknown) flew overhead at Washington Monument SP between 11 p.m. and midnight on April 13 (Weesner), 1 was

identified at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Simons), 1 was present at DC on April 22 (Ted Unseth), 1 was at Piney Run on April 30 (Ringler), and a male was at Hooper Island through May 5 (Wilson). There were 30 **Black Scoters** at Hooper Island on May 1 and 115 **Surf Scoters** at Bellevue on April 4 (Armistead+). Other Surf Scoters were 6 at Cobb Island on April 11 (Jett), 1 immature or female at Centennial on April 22 (Farrell), and another off St. Clement's Island, St. Mary's County on May 31 (Anne Hobbs). **White-winged Scoters** were not to be left out with a male at Emmitsburg during March 15-30 (S. Miller), another at Rocky Gap on March 28 (Simons), and another off Bay Side Beach on May 29 (Shirley Geddes).

*Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Mergansers.* Steve Simon counted 42 **Common Goldeneyes** at Loch Raven on March 12 and 51 **Buffleheads** there on April 12. A nice count of 340 Buffleheads was made at Seneca on April 2 (Dave Czaplak). Dave Weesner noted a **Hooded Merganser** at Greenbrier SP on April 29. **Common Mergansers** were 34 at Piney Run on March 6 (Ringler), a female at Annapolis on April 17 (Mary Ann Mason), 2 found during the Washington County Spring Count on May 8 (Laura Grove, Mary Corderman), and 2 males at Triadelphia on May 24 (Magnusson). Large numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 375 at Eastern Neck on March 21 (Grubers), 44 at Rocky Gap on March 29 (Simons), 25 at Centennial on March 29 (Chestem), and 200 at Ocean City on April 2 (Grubers).

*Diurnal Raptors.* C. Adams noted an early **Osprey** at Denton on March 6, another was seen in Salisbury (Osenton, Gough), and another near Annapolis the same day (Bob Etgen). Others included 1 at Chestertown on March 7 (Grubers), 2 at Vienna on March 7 (Edgar & Alice Jones), 1 at Wye Mills on March 10 (O'Brien), 1 at Triadelphia on March 28 (Farrell, Solem), 1 at Lake Kittamaquindi on May 29 (Chestem), and 11 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Simons). Details were submitted for **Mississippi Kites** this season, seen more and more frequently in the north recently, with 1 report at Fort Smallwood Park on May 12 (Paul Fritz), and another there on May 28 (Ricciardi).

## TABLE 1. HAWK MIGRATION AT TOWN HILL, ALLEGANY COUNTY, SPRING 1993

*compiled by Jim Paulus*

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	3/31	4/15	35	19 on 4/15, 7 on 4/9
Bald Eagle	3/2	4/15	9	3 on 3/30, 2 on 4/4
Northern Harrier	3/7	4/15	21	9 on 3/30, 6 on 4/15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/20	4/18	125	38 on 4/15, 19 on 4/14
Cooper's Hawk	3/21	4/15	15	6 on 4/15, 3 on 4/3
Northern Goshawk	3/9		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/7	4/14	20	4 on 3/26, 3/30 & 4/8
Broad-winged Hawk	4/12	4/18	349	279 on 4/15
Red-tailed Hawk	2/9	4/18	232	42 on 3/31, 24 on 4/9 & 4/15
Golden Eagle	2/18	4/14	20	7 on 3/7, 3 on 3/6
American Kestrel	2/28	4/17	23	7 on 3/31 & 4/15
Merlin	3/30		1	
Unidentified			63	
Total	2/9	4/23	914	387 on 4/15, 89 on 4/14, (32 days, 121 hours)
				69 on 3/31

Another sighting of a Mississippi Kite was reported on May 22 at the Chatham Mall in Howard County (Farrell), and there were at least three other reports without details. Erika Wilson observed a female **Northern Harrier** gathering nesting materials and carrying them to a marsh nest near Elliott Island, Dorchester County on May 5, and Bonnie Ott noted a late **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Ellicott City on May 20. Local **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived in Dameron on April 9 (Craig), and an even earlier one was seen flying over DC on April 3 (Janni). Paul Nistico noted Broad-wingeds arriving in Charles County on April 14. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was present at Deal Island WMA on March 6 (Osenton, Gough). **Bald Eagles** provided Howard County with a confirmed breeding record this year at Triadelphia (Solem). The Grubers notched an adult **Golden Eagle** at Urieville Lake, Kent County on March 22, and Mike O'Brien checked off an immature Golden near Little Orleans on April 18. High counts for the **American Kestrel** were 25 at Eastern Neck on March 10 and 45 on the wires between Chestertown and Easton on March 12 (Grubers), and over 60 flying over Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary's County in about one hour on April 3 (Craig). **Merlin** reports included 1 at Dameron on March 17 (Craig), 1 at Denton on March 19 (Short), 1 at Bellevue on April 4 (Armistead), 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 17 (Simons), 1 at Point Lookout SP the same day (Davidson), and 1 at Annapolis on April 24 (Ringler, Stasz). Sightings of **Peregrine Falcons** were solo birds at Galena on March 27 (Grubers), in DC on April 1 (David Cohen), and at Hains Point on April 4 (Janni).

**TABLE 2. HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK,  
SPRING 1993**

*compiled by Jim Paulus*

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	3/7	5/15	61	14 on 3/7, 8 on 4/24
Turkey Vulture	2/28	5/28	2750	350 on 4/3, 306 on 4/4
Osprey	3/7	6/13	449	62 on 4/15, 45 on 4/13
Mississippi Kite	5/11	5/28	2	
Bald Eagle	3/6	5/24	22	4 on 4/25 & 5/15
Northern Harrier	3/15	5/11	152	34 on 4/3, 21 on 4/15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/6	5/24	2204	425 on 4/15, 225 on 4/25
Cooper's Hawk	3/2	5/28	549	63 on 4/15, 57 on 4/4
Northern Goshawk	3/8	3/9	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/2	5/11	239	44 on 3/6, 43 on 3/22
Broad-winged Hawk	4/12	5/28	731	184 on 4/15, 138 on 5/24
Red-tailed Hawk	2/28	5/15	335	30 on 4/25, 27 on 3/21
American Kestrel	3/6	5/28	1331	362 on 4/3, 185 on 4/11, 156 on 4/4
Merlin	3/26	5/2	41	8 on 4/11, 5 on 4/13
Peregrine Falcon	5/7		1	
Unidentified			150	
Total	2/28	6/13	9019	
(62 days, 350.4 hours)				

*Gallinaceous Birds, Rails.* **Ring-necked Pheasants** on the Eastern Shore were 1 at Taylors Island on March 7 (Reese), a male at Wye Mills on March 24 (Reese), and 2 birds at Greensboro on April 22 (Hewitt). Thirty-three **Wild Turkeys** were at Bittinger on March 21 (Skipper), 2 were spotted at Trappe on May 9 (Reese), and a female with 7 young was discovered at Prettyboy Reservoir on May 28 (Ellis Tinkler). Connie Skipper located a male **Northern Bobwhite** and 3 females at Swallows Falls Road, Garrett County on May 1. Two **Black Rails** were heard calling before dawn at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on May 8 (Anne Bishop, Jim Boxwell, Craig). O'Brien heard a **King Rail** flying over Poolesville at night on May 8, and a **Virginia Rail** was heard repeatedly at Plum Tree Path on April 25 (Atkinson). Two were present there on April 27 and May 14 (Farrell, Ott, Solem). Stauffer Miller also checked off Virginia Rails, with 2 at Libertytown Marsh on May 5, another was at Finzel Swamp on May 8 (Walbeck, Gwen Burkhardt), and another was heard flying over Hughes Hollow at night on May 8 (O'Brien+). A **Sora** was reported at Lilypons on May 3 (S. Miller). **Common Moorhens** included 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 23 (Homan), and 4 at Tanyard on April 27 (Engle). The high for **American Coots** was 800 at Loch Raven on April 8 (Simon), and 2 were found at Plum Tree Path on May 14 (Farrell, Solem).

*Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets.* The high for **Black-bellied Plovers** was 100 at Figgs Landing, Worcester County on April 10 (Hoffman), and for **Semipalmated Plovers**, 300 at Fairmount WMA on May 8-9 (Hoffman). Hoffman also found 10 Black-bellieds at Fairmount WMA on May 1. Nice **Killdeer** counts were 40 each at Chesapeake Beach on March 19 (Wilson), and at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson). Jan Reese tallied 52 **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City on March 14, and **Black-necked Stilts** included 13 at Deal Island WMA on April 26 (O'Brien), 1 at Blackwater on May 5 (Wilson), 1 near North Beach on May 6 (Stasz), and 19 at Deal Island WMA on May 8 (O'Brien+).

*Sandpipers.* Mark Hoffman reported the high for **Greater Yellowlegs** with 135 at Fairmount WMA on May 2 and notched 70 **Lesser Yellowlegs** there the same day. Mike O'Brien noted 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** in Talbot County on April 9, and a few days later Stauffer Miller saw several in the Walkersville area on April 13. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at North Branch on April 14 (Simons), and **Upland Sandpipers** were numerous including 3 near Snow Hill on April 5 (O'Brien), 1 at Allens Fresh on April 11 (Jett), 4 at UMCF on April 18 (Atkinson), from 1 to 3 there from April 23 (Ott, Solem) through April 29 (Bockstie), 3 at Blackwater on April 24 (John Wilson), 1 at Blackwater on May 9 (Levin Willey), 1 at Trappe on May 9 (Reese), and 2 the last weekend in May at Oakland (Leo Weigant). Mark Hoffman found a **Ruddy Turnstone** at Fairmount WMA on May 8 as well as 400 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** there on May 15. Two Semipalms were near Clear Springs on May 20 (Bob Keedy, Cam & Norma Lewis). **Least Sandpipers** included 9 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 1 at Allens Fresh on April 18 (Jett), 340 at Fairmount WMA on May 8-9 (Hoffman), 52 at Back River on May 8 (Scarpulla), and 2 way inland at Lake Elkhorn on May 23 (Wilkinson). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was present at Fairmount WMA on May 1 (Hoffman), and another was near Frederick on May 17 (S. Miller). Mike O'Brien checked off a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Lilypons on March 27, and Roberta Fletcher had a nice sighting of 15 Pectorals at Greensboro on April 4. **Purple Sandpipers** were in evidence also with a high of 64 at Ocean City April 24, and 2 there on May 26 (Reese). High counts for the **Dunlin** were 95 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 200 at Figgs Landing on April 10 and 450 at Fairmount WMA on May 9 (Hoffman); a single Dunlin was found near Clear Spring on May 20 (Bob Keedy, Cam & Norma Lewis). A lone **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Fairmount WMA on May 2nd and 8th and an unidentified Dowitcher was at Figgs Landing on April 10 (Hoffman). **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 6 at Blackwater

on May 1 (Armistead+), and the high of 100 at Fairmount WMA on May 8-9 (Hoffman). **Common Snipe** sightings were numerous this season with 28 birds at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson), 25 at King's Creek, Talbot County on April 8 (O'Brien), 25 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), and 25 at Allens Fresh on April 18 (Jett). Following the March storm, Patty Craig discovered quite a few grounded snipe at Point Lookout along with a nice tally of **American Woodcocks**: 8 snipe and 161 woodcocks on March 14th, 22 snipe and 199 woodcocks on March 15th, and 13 snipe and 134 woodcocks on March 16th. Other American Woodcocks of note were 13 at North Branch on March 9 (Simons), 6 near Ellicott City on March 24 (Magnusson), and 1 with 2 downy young in a nest at Oxford on April 27 (Reese).

*Gulls.* Returning **Laughing Gulls** were 2 in Ocean City on March 6 (Osenton, Gough), 150 at Ridgley on March 24 (Scudder), 15 at Easton on March 26 (O'Brien), an adult in breeding plumage at Georgetown Reservoir on April 4 (Howard Elitzak), and 117 near Back River on April 25 (Scarpulla). An adult **Little Gull** was at Hains Point on April 3 (Dave Czaplak, Fritz Davis), and another in full breeding plumage was identified at Back River on April 25 (Scarpulla). **Common Black-headed Gulls** made an appearance with 1 in almost full breeding plumage near Back River on April 4 (Scarpulla), and a first-winter bird at PRNAS on April 22 (Rambo). **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 1 at Pinto on March 28 (Simons), 24 at North Branch on March 29 (Simons), 2 at Greenbrier Lake on March 29 (Weesner), 12 at Loch Raven on April 3 (Simon), 350 at Hains Point and 300 at Seneca on April 3 (Dave Czaplak), 2500 at Back River on April 4 (Scarpulla), 2 at Blackwater on April 10 (Armistead+), 90 at Piscataway Creek and 100 near Allens Fresh on April 11 (Nistico), 250+ at Point Lookout on April 14 (Craig), and 20 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Churchill). High tallies of **Ring-billed Gulls** included 6000 near Kennedyville on March 26 (Grubers), 142 far inland near Oakland on April 1 (Skipper), and 15,000 at Kennedyville on April 10 (Grubers). A lone Ring-billed was at Lake Kittamaquondi on May 31 (Chestem). The very dependable winter **Yellow-legged Gull** was noted at Georgetown Reservoir on March 7 by Ottavio Janni who also checked off a first-year **Iceland Gull** at Laytonsville in early March. Also at Laytonsville were 4 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on March 20 (O'Brien). The numerous sightings of this species included 2 near Kennedyville on March 26 (Grubers), a third-winter bird at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson), 1 at the Somerset County landfill on April 10 (Hoffman), 1 in breeding plumage at Green Manor Turf Farm, Howard County on April 10 (Ringler), an adult near Lloyds Landing, Talbot County on April 13 (O'Brien), and a second-summer bird at Back River on April 25 (Scarpulla). A first-summer **Glaucous Gull** was discovered at Fort Smallwood on April 17 (O'Brien, Wierenga, Ricciardi+), and Jo Solem found a **Great Black-backed Gull** at Pigtail Landing on April 17.

*Terns, Skimmers.* Two **Caspian Terns** were at Sandy Point SP on the early date of April 4 (Larry Cartwright), another was north of Frederick on April 12 (S. Miller), 2 were noted for the second consecutive spring at a pond in Greenbelt on April 16 (Southworths), 2 were at Lilypons on April 18 (S. Miller), a nice count of 44 was made at Fulton on April 22 (Farrell, Solem), 14 were at Piscataway Creek on April 25 (Nistico), and another visited at Plum Tree Path on May 20 (Farrell, Solem). **Royal Terns** included 1 at Popes Creek on April 3 (Jett), 19 along the Nanticoke in Wicomico County on April 9 (Hoffman), 1 at Benedict on April 11 (Jett), 1 at Patuxent River Park on April 15 (O'Brien), 5 at Eastern Neck on April 18 (Grubers), 8 at Point Lookout on April 24 (Hoffman), 2 at Choptank on April 24 (D. Ford), and 15 on the Patuxent River in Charles County on May 8 (Nistico). A probable **Common Tern** was at Ellicott City on April 21 (Ott). Several **Forster's Terns** were at Rumbly Point Road, Somerset County on April 3 (Lawler), some arrived at Eastern Neck on April 5 (Nistico), and 2

were at Denton on April 19 (Hewitt). Kyle Rambo observed 3 **Least Terns** at PRNAS on April 13, and the Grubers listed another at Eastern Neck on April 18. **Black Terns** were also present with 2 at Deal Island WMA on May 8 (Robert Hilton+), 1 at Fulton on May 19 (Farrell, Solem, John Heiser), and 1 near Frederick on May 19 and May 26 (S. Miller). The Brodericks tallied 7 **Black Skimmers** on the Wicomico River on May 12.

*Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts.* The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Lilypons on May 3 (S. Miller), and another was reported in Caroline County on May 12 (O'Brien). For the **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, 4 were noted at Salisbury on April 26 (Brodericks), and another at PRNAS on April 30 (Lister). A **Barn Owl** was identified flying over Wye Island at night on April 4 (O'Brien, Michael Guilfoyle), 1 was heard flying over Frederick County at night on May 8 (O'Brien+), and 2 adults with 3 young and 2 eggs were near Walkersville on May 9 (S. Miller). Single sightings of **Short-eared Owls** returning north were made at Greensboro on March 26 (R. Fletcher) and in DC on April 3 (Janni). Mike O'Brien heard 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** calling at Cranesville Swamp on April 24. The first **Common Nighthawk** was at Cambridge on May 1 (Armistead+), and another was at Violettes Lock on May 2 (Bjerke). Paul Nistico had a nice count of 4 **Chuck-will's-widows** at Accokeek on May 1. **Chimney Swifts** began early with 1 at Piscataway Creek on April 3 (Nistico), 1 at Allens Fresh the same day (Jett), 1 at Bellevue on April 10 (O'Brien+), 3 at PRNAS on April 12 (Rambo), 8 at Greensboro on April 12 (Scudder), 1 at Chestertown on April 13 (Grubers), and 1 at Cresaptown on April 16 (Simons). Paul Fritz and Hal Wierenga noted 7 unidentified hummingbirds flying north over Fort Smallwood on May 6, and confirmed **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** included single sightings in Columbia on April 10 (reported to Phil Davis), a male at Salisbury on April 12 (Brodericks), at Chestertown on April 15 (Grubers), in Caroline County on April 18 (Fletcher), and at Ellicott City on April 20 (Ott).

*Woodpeckers, Flycatchers.* A very late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in Denton on May 17 (C. Fletcher). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** reported were 1 at Susquehanna River SP on May 8 (Paul DuMont), 1 at Little Bennett Park, Montgomery County on May 16 (Greg Miller) and another in DC on May 19 (Janni). Mariana Nuttle noted an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Tuckahoe SP on April 18. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Denton on April 17 (Hewitt), and another at McKeldin on April 29 (Ringler). Janice Peacock reported an **Alder Flycatcher** at Swains Lock on the C&O Canal on May 17, another was heard calling in DC on May 19 (Janni), 1 was found in Garrett County near Accident on May 20 (Skipper), and another was seen singing persistently at Alesia on May 30 for the first Carroll County record (Ringler). Randy and Richard Crook checked off a slightly early **Willow Flycatcher** at Daniels on May 2, one was at Dameron on May 7 (Craig), and another at Bellevue on May 23 (Armistead). Mike O'Brien noted a **Least Flycatcher** in Rockville on April 25, and Tom Graham reported one in DC on May 23. The first **Great Crested Flycatchers** were 1 at Parsonsburg on April 17 (Pitney), 1 in Caroline County on April 20 (O'Brien), 1 at Sligo Creek on April 22 (Bill Matthews), 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 23 (Homan), and 1 at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien). **Eastern Kingbirds** were a tad early with 1 at Centennial on April 14 (Bockstie), and another at Wye Mills on April 15 (O'Brien); L. T. Short noted 2 at Denton on April 23.

*Swallows, Jays, Crows, Wrens.* **Purple Martins** arrived on schedule with 1 at Denton on March 28 (L. Shaffer), and another at Hurlock on March 31 (O'Brien). The first **Tree Swallow** however, was a little early with a single sighting at Centennial Park on March 5 (Bockstie, Ott). Others included 1 at Ocean City on March 14 (Reese), 1 at

North Branch on March 21 (Simons), 15 at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on March 21 (Nistico), 15 at Hughes Hollow on March 27 (Ringler), 18 at Eastern Neck on March 30 (Reese), 150+ at PWRC on April 2 (Osenton, Gough), 200 arriving at Eastern Neck on April 5 (Nistico), and 3000 at Deal Island WMA on April 7 (O'Brien). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** included 1 each at Centennial and Lake Elkhorn on March 29 (Farrell, Wilkinson), and 6 at Ridgley on March 31 (Scudder). **Bank Swallows** were in a bit of a hurry with 2 at Centennial on April 2 (Farrell), 1 at PWRC the same day (Osenton, Gough), and 2 at Piscataway Creek on April 3 (Nistico). Others were 1 in Talbot County on April 13 (O'Brien), and 1 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Simons). Jo Solem was treated with a **Cliff Swallow** at Centennial on April 12; 7 were near Wye Mills on April 28 (O'Brien). The first **Barn Swallows** were 2 at Easton on March 26 (Grubers) and 1 at Wilde Lake on March 29 (Zeichner). Farrell, Ott and the Harveys tallied 112 migrating **Blue Jays** at Hugg-Thomas WMA in Howard County on May 2, and Ethel Engle checked off over 75 **Fish Crows** at Tanyard on May 19. Wren sightings included single **House Wrens** at Denton on April 13 (Nuttle) and at Parsonsburg on April 16 (Pitney) and a **Winter Wren** at Finzel Swamp on May 23 (O'Brien). The Grubers found a **Marsh Wren** at Eastern Neck on March 2 and 4 there on April 18, and Janni reported 1 at Hains Point on May 5. A **Bewick's Wren**, an exceptional find, was at Violettes Lock on May 1 (Bruce Peterjohn).

*Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes.* **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were 2 near Little Orleans on April 18 (O'Brien), 4 in Bethesda on April 19 (Simonson), and 2 near Swansfield in Howard County on May 1 (Chestem). High counts for the **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were 100 at Eastern Neck on April 14 (Grubers) and 125 between Green Ridge and Sideling Hill on April 24 (O'Brien). Curtis Dew reported a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Valley Lee on March 18. The Grubers had some nice **Eastern Bluebird** counts on March 12 with 22 at Hope and 44 at Ruthsburg. Mike O'Brien heard 93 **Veeries** flying over Montgomery and Frederick counties at night on May 7-8, and noted a single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** in Caroline County on May 11, and in Rockville on May 22. Dave Walbeck reported a **Hermit Thrush** at New Germany SP on April 15, and **Wood Thrushes** included single sightings at Lake Elkhorn on April 11 (Chestem), at Parsonsburg on April 17 (Pitney), in DC on April 19 (Janni), and at Denton on April 19 (Nuttle).

*Mimids, Pipits, Shrikes.* A **Gray Catbird** appeared at Denton on April 13 (Nuttle), another was at Cresaptown on April 19 (Simons), and a few were noted at Wilde Lake and Centennial on April 20 (Newman, Bockstie). **Brown Thrashers** included 1 at Accokeek on March 6 (Nistico), 1 at Rockburn Branch on March 11 (Ott), 1 at a feeder in Bittering on March 13 and again on March 21 (Skipper, Joan Opel), an outstanding count of 70 at UMCF on March 22 (Ott, Solem, Chestem), and 1 at Wye Mills on March 30 (O'Brien). On March 19, Walbeck counted 41 **American Pipits** at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, and O'Brien tallied 60 on May 2 near Lilypons. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was at Deal Island WMA on March 6 (Osenton, Gough). Others were 2 birds near Knoxville on April 2, another near Frederick on April 7, and 1 around Lilypons in mid-May reported by Stauffer Miller, as well as 1 near Clear Spring on May 19 (Bob Keedy).

*Vireos.* The first **White-eyed Vireo** was at Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary's County on April 3 (Craig), and the first one banded at Eastern Neck was on April 18. Another was at Elk Neck SP, Cecil County on April 18 (Nistico), and one was at Centennial the same day (Bockstie). An early **Solitary Vireo** was at Green Ridge on March 26 (Simons), and others were 1 at New Germany SP on April 15 (Walbeck), 2 at Sandy Point on April 15 (O'Brien), 1 at Susquehanna SP, Harford County on April 17 (Nistico), and 1 in Talbot County on April 20 and 4 at Pocomoke State Forest on April

27 (O'Brien). **Yellow-throated Vireos** began with 1 at UMCf on April 18 (Atkinson), 1 at Centennial on April 19 (Bockstie), 2 at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien), and 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 25 (Jett). Lola Oberman reported a **Warbling Vireo** at Whites Ferry, Montgomery County on April 24, Jan Reese found 1 at Trappe on May 9, and Jim Wilkinson noted another at Patuxent NWR on May 23. The **Philadelphia Vireo** was not to be left out this season with 1 reported at Wilde Lake on May 8 (Newman), and early **Red-eyed Vireos** were 1 at Rocky Gap on April 16 (Churchill), and another in Talbot County on April 21 (O'Brien).

*Vermivora Warblers, Parula, Dendroica Warblers.* Martha Chestem notched 3 **Blue-winged Warblers** at Vantage Point, Lake Kittamaquidi, Howard County on April 25. Eight **Nashville Warblers** were in DC on May 1 (O'Brien, Janni, Gough) and another in Queen Anne's County on May 3 (O'Brien). The first **Northern Parulas** were 2 at Patuxent River Park on April 15 (O'Brien). **Yellow Warblers** were on schedule with 1 at Triadelphia on April 17 (Farrell, Solem, Magnusson) and 2 in Talbot County on April 20 (O'Brien). The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was in Talbot County on April 30 (O'Brien), and the last one noted at UMCf was on May 23 (Atkinson). Chestem noted 2 **Magnolia Warblers** at Wilde Lake on May 31 (Chestem). The first **Cape May Warblers** were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 1 (Wilkinson), 1 in Queen Anne's County on May 3 (O'Brien), and 15 at Noland's Ferry on May 8 (Janni, O'Brien+). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** began with 1 at Wilde Lake on April 26 (Zeichner), and 1 in Talbot County on April 30 (O'Brien). The last **Black-throated Blues** were 2 at Lake Kittamaquidi on May 28 (Chestem). The first migrant **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was probably the bird found at Wye Mills on March 30 (O'Brien). Skipper reported 1 at Maple Glade Road, Garrett County on May 21, and Chestem checked off another at Lake Kittamaquidi on May 28. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was in DC on April 18 (Janni), 1 was at Rock Creek Park on April 19 (Fritz Davis), another was at Mt. Nebo on April 25 (Skipper), and 1 was at Tuckahoe SP on May 23 (Nuttle). A late **Blackburnian Warbler** was at the Applied Physics Lab in Howard County on May 28 (Ott). **Pine Warblers** began with 6 in St. Marys City on March 3 (Reese), and 50 were tallied at Pocomoke SF on April 7 (O'Brien). The **Prairie Warbler** at Sandy Point SP on April 15 (O'Brien) was a little early, as were the single sightings at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert County on April 15 (Val Kitchens) and at Point Lookout SP on April 17 (Davidson). The three **Palm Warblers** delayed by bad weather at Point Lookout on March 14 (Craig) were migrating extremely early. Others, at PRNAS on April 3 (Lister), at Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Charles County on April 4 (Nistico), and the "yellow" **Palm** in Caroline County on April 8 (O'Brien) would have normally been the first migrants. Other **Palms** were 12 at Triadelphia on April 17 (Farrell, Solem, Magnusson), 8 "yellow" at Eastern Neck on April 18 (Grubers), 1 "western" at McKeldin on April 24 (Ringler), and 1 at Rockburn Branch on May 9 (Chestem). A male **Bay-breasted Warbler** was singing at UMCf on May 1 where the last one was noted on May 23 (Atkinson); another male was at Piscataway Park on April 30 (Nistico), and a female was at Wheaton on May 24-25 (Betsy Seavers). **Blackpoll Warblers** were just a few days early with 4 at Lake Elkhorn on May 1 (Wilkinson) and 1 at UMCf the same day (Atkinson). Another was near Allens Fresh on May 1 (Jett), 1 was at Parsonsburg on May 2 (Pitney), 1 was near Chestertown on May 3 (O'Brien), and the high count was 30 at Noland's Ferry on May 8 (Janni).

*Other Warblers.* The first **Black-and-white Warblers** were 2 at Pocomoke SF on April 5 (O'Brien). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was discovered at Point Lookout SP on April 17 (Davidson), and a **Worm-eating Warbler** was in DC on April 19 (Janni). An

early **Ovenbird** was at Pocomoke SF on April 5 (O'Brien), and other singles were in Waldorf on April 10 (Nistico), at Dameron on April 11 (Craig), at Hollywood on April 12 (Rambo), at Eastern Neck on April 14 (the only one banded there, Grubers), and at Salisbury on April 15 (Brodericks). **Northern Waterthrushes** included an early bird at Plum Tree Path on April 18 (Solem, Ott), 1 at Greenbrier SP on April 24 (Weesner), 1 at Pocomoke SF on April 27 (O'Brien), 12 in DC on May 1 (Janni), and 1 at Trappe on May 23 (Reese). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** began with 1 at Greensboro on March 30 (Hewitt) and another at Pocomoke SF on March 31 (Michael Guilfoyle). Others were 1 at PRNAS on April 3 (Lister) and 2 at Thomas Stone Historical Site, Charles County on April 4 (Nistico). The first **Kentucky Warbler** was at Salisbury Airport on April 20 (Brodericks). The first **Mourning Warbler** reported was a female in Gaithersburg on May 9 (Robert Norton), and others included single birds in DC on May 19 and May 21 (Janni), in Newcomb on May 19 (Steve Ford), at Lake Kittamaquundi on May 21 (Chestem), and singing near Frederick on May 24 (S. Miller). A **Common Yellowthroat** was at Pocomoke SF on April 5 (O'Brien). **Hooded Warblers** included 1 at Piscataway Park on April 19 and another at Accokeek on April 19 (Nistico), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 24 (Ott), and 4 at Pocomoke SF on April 26 (O'Brien). Extremely early **Wilson's Warblers** were reported at Harper's Choice, Columbia on April 19 (Atkinson), and also at Pigtail Landing on April 24 (Farrell). A late one was in Kent County on May 25 (O'Brien). The first **Canada Warbler** was at Pennyfield on April 30 (Homan), 1 was noted in Queen Anne's County on May 24 (O'Brien), and 1 was found at Daniels on May 31 (Chestem). **Yellow-breasted Chats** included solo sightings at Salisbury Airport on April 20 (Brodericks), at Patuxent River Park and at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 24 (Nistico), and in Pocomoke SF on April 26 (O'Brien).

*Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings.* An early male **Summer Tanager** was near Henryton, an unusual location, on April 17 (Michele Wright, Marci & Anu Krishnamoorthy), 1 was at Pocomoke State Forest on April 26 (O'Brien), and another at PRNAS on April 28 (Lister). The first **Scarlet Tanager** appeared at Rockburn Branch on April 24 (Ott), and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Concord on April 30 (Scudder). **Blue Grosbeaks** included an early bird at Denton on April 13 (R. Fletcher), 1 at Salisbury Airport on April 20 (Brodericks), 1 at Rock Creek Park on April 21 (Fritz Davis), 1 near Marshall Hall on April 24 (Jett), and 1 at UMCF on April 25 (Farrell, Bockstie+). Peggylou Young had an early **Indigo Bunting** at her feeder in Chestertown from April 3 to 7, another was at a feeder at Indian Head on April 16 (Carol Gheblian), 2 were noted at Point Lookout SP on April 17 (Davidson), at least 5 were there on April 19 (Craig, Bob Boxwell), 1 was at Adelphi on April 22 (Marina Cordoba), 1 was at a feeder in Charles County on April 22 (Nistico), another showed up at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien), and 1 appeared in Rockville on April 24 (Mooreland). **Painted Buntings** continue to visit the State, with a male at a feeder in Hollywood from Feb. 8 through Feb. 22, and again on April 4 (Craig, Tina Dew+). Amazingly, a female Painted Bunting was also reported in St. Mary's County, apparently at a different location. Another Painted Bunting was seen in Berlin at a feeder, March 21-25 and April 4-8 (Mary Humphreys).

*Dickcissels, Sparrows.* One or two **Dickcissels** were singing near Lilypons on May 15 (Ken Berlin), and a flock of 3-5 birds was there on May 22 (John Anderton). Solo **American Tree Sparrows** were at PWRC on March 19 (Osenton), at a feeder in Oakland on March 21 (Skipper), at Wilde Lake on March 30 (Chestem), and very late sightings were made at Lilypons (S. Miller) and at Massey on April 3 (D. Southworth). Inez Glime noted a **Chipping Sparrow** at Federalsburg on March 26, and a **Clay-**

**colored Sparrow** was present this spring at PRNAS from April 18 through May 6 (Lister). Ottavio Janni checked off a **Vesper Sparrow** at Hains Point on April 2, and **Savannah Sparrows** appeared at UMCF on March 6 with 60 birds there on April 4, and 1 there on May 23 (Atkinson). Mike O'Brien tallied 30 Savannahs near Hog Island, Caroline County on April 7. An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** arrived at UMCF on April 18 (Atkinson), and another was at Hains Point on April 30 (Janni). The increasingly hard-to-find **Henslow's Sparrow** was noted again, with one near Finzel Swamp on May 8 (Walbeck, Gwen Burkhardt). In Garrett County, 2 were located on May 17 off Combination Road, 1 on May 20 near Accident, and 1 on May 26 off Potomac Camp Road (Skipper). Documentation has been submitted for an inland **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at UMCF on April 27 (Bockstie, Chestem, Zeichner). Lynn Davidson noted a **Seaside Sparrow** at Point Lookout SP on April 17, and Patty Craig had **Fox Sparrows** at a feeder in Dameron, March 8-26, with 7 birds on March 19. A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found on May 8 at UMCF (Atkinson), another was at Hashawha on May 16 (Ringler), and another was at Piscataway Park on May 16 (Nistico). A late **Swamp Sparrow** was noted at UMCF on May 23 (Atkinson), and Jo Solem located a dull-plumaged **White-throated Sparrow** at Hammond Village in Howard County on May 26. A lingering **White-crowned Sparrow** was in DC on May 16 (Steven Jones), and Stauffer Miller found a late **Dark-eyed Junco** near Frederick on May 19.

*Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Icterines.* A single **Lapland Longspur** was near Folly Quarter Road, Howard County on March 21 (Atkinson), and a **Snow Bunting** was noted at Wye Island on March 15 (O'Brien, Greg Gough). An early male **Bobolink** was at UMCF on April 25 (Atkinson), and 2 were near Lilypons on April 25 (O'Brien). Others included 1 at PRNAS on April 28 (Lister), 4 in southern Dorchester County on May 1 (Armistead+), 75+ near Lilypons the same day (Paul Pisano), 5 at Bray Hill in Garrett County on May 2 (Skipper), and over 500 at American Corner on May 6 (E. Unger). **Eastern Meadowlarks** included 90 at Easton on March 26 (O'Brien), and 1 migrant at Hains Point March 28-29 (Janni). **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted with 2 at Connie Skipper's feeder in Garrett County on March 11, 36 at UMCF on April 4 (Atkinson), and 5 at Patuxent River Park on April 15 (O'Brien). A **Boat-tailed Grackle** was found at PRNAS on April 13 (Rambo). Mariana Nuttle found an early **Orchard Oriole** at Denton on April 17, one was at Hains Point on April 21 (Janni), another appeared at Wilde Lake on April 23 (Solem, Ott), and Dick Homan checked off another at Hughes Hollow on April 23. **Northern Orioles** began with 1 at Denton on April 19 (Nuttle), and 40 were observed flying north over Fort Smallwood on May 6 (Paul Fritz, Wierenga).

*Finches.* Connie Skipper still had 12 **Purple Finches** at her feeder in Garrett County on March 1, and 64 **Pine Siskins** there on March 29. Ted Unseth reported a Pine Siskin at Georgetown Reservoir, DC on May 14. The **Red Crossbill** has been elusive in recent years but Harry Armistead had 1 at Bellevue on April 4, Teresa Simons listed 4 at Green Ridge on April 18, two were at a feeder in Bethesda on April 22-23 (Joan Davis), and 3 were seen at Green Ridge on April 24 (O'Brien).

## BREEDING SEASON, JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1993

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

June temperatures and rainfall were normal and reservoir levels remained high, leaving little room for shorebirds, but some ducks lingered. July was hotter and dry.

*Observers:* Henry Armistead, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Connie Bockstie, Martha Chestem, Patty Craig, Bill Dobbins, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Jim and Patricia Gruber, George Jett, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Stauffer Miller, Carol Newman, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Sue Probst, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, L. T. Short, Connie Skipper, Stephen Simon, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Dave Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Jim Wilkinson.

Banding was conducted at Eastern Neck NWR by Jim and Trish Gruber.

*Abbreviations:* DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

*Locations:* Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Brown's Bridge (Howard), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Lake Kittamaquidi (Howard), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise).

*Loon, Grebes.* A breeding plumage **Common Loon** was on the Potomac River between the Memorial and the 14th Street Bridges in DC, June 3-16 (Steve Jones). Bob Ringler located a single late migrant pretty far inland at Piney Run on June 13. Other Common Loons of note were one at Lake Artemisia, Colledge Park on June 16 (Pamela Stephen) and June 20 (Mike Callahan), and another at Assateague, July 15-16 (Dobbins). Harry Armistead tallied 56 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Deal Island WMA, traditionally their summer stronghold, on July 17. Others were 1 at Point Lookout on June 6-10 (Craig), 1 at Lilypons on June 13 (Miller), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on June 19 (Jett), and 1 at Wilde Lake on July 24 (Chestem), the latter probably an early fall migrant.

*Shearwaters, Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans.* Jan Reese identified 2 **Sooty Shearwaters** and seven **Northern Gannets** at the Ocean City inlet on June 3. Numerous **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** and 2 immature Northern Gannets were spotted off Assateague on June 14 (Dobbins). One or 2 **Brown Pelicans** were at Point Lookout from June 20 to at least July 13 (Craig, Lister, Rambo). A Brown Pelican was at Barren Island, Dorchester County on June 28 (Rambo).

*Cormorants, Herons, Ibises.* An adult **Great Cormorant** summered at Ocean City (Dave Brinker). Howard County hosted some of the growing numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** found inland, with 6 flying over Route 29 near Columbia on June 1 (Atkinson), 1 at Wilde Lake on June 16 (Newman), and another at Lake Kittamaquidi on June 30 and July 3 (Chestem). An **American Bittern** was at Centennial on July 7-8 (Bockstie), and another was at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead). For the second summer in a row, Dave Walbeck reported nesting **Great Blue Herons** in Anne

Arundel County with 3 nests, 2 containing chicks, visible at Little Patuxent Oxbow, north of Maryland City, on June 12. Great Blues were busy in Dorchester County again with 120 active nests at Bloodsworth Island, 10 on Holland Island, and 2-4 nests on each of 18 artificial nest platforms along Fin Creek Ridge on July 4 (Armistead). A **Great Egret** was at Denton on June 3 (M. Miller), and another on the Anacostia River in DC on June 9 (Atkinson). Two **Snowy Egrets** were at Arundel on the Bay on June 6 (Walbeck+). The Grubers noted 8 immature **Little Blue Herons** at Remington Farms on July 24. An immature **Tricolored Heron** at Lilypons, the first record for Frederick County and the westernmost in the State, was found on July 29 and remained for about a week (Miller+). Scott Atkinson observed single **Cattle Egrets** at Ellicott City on June 6 and near UMCF on July 6, 12 were at Bohemia Mills, Cecil County on July 3 (Reese), and 90 were counted at Scotland on July 25 (Craig). The high for **Green Herons** in Howard County was 12 at Brown's Bridge on July 22 (Chestem). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** included 13 at Point Lookout on June 13 (Craig), and an adult flying over Columbia on June 27 (Wilkinson). Harry Armistead, who has visited Bloodsworth and most of the other islands in southern Dorchester County for several years, commented on the continued decline of Black-crowns in this area. Two adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were noted at Adamstown on June 29, and adults and immatures were noted there on July 29 (Miller). Tony White reported an immature **White Ibis** at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery County on July 30. A total of 210 **Glossy Ibis** were tallied at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead).

*Waterfowl.* The spread of **Mute Swans** continues at an everincreasing and disturbing rate. With an Eastern Shore breeding range already well established in Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, and parts of Dorchester counties, Harry Armistead tallied unprecedented southern Dorchester brood totals of 48 at Adam, North Pone, South Pone and Spring islands during a July 4th boat trip throughout the area. Bob Ringer noted that **Canada Geese** are doing quite well as breeders on the Piedmont, counting 105 at Lilypons on July 31. Four adults, with 6 young, were also noted at the Western Maryland 4-H Club at Bittering on June 1 (Skipper). Jo Solem reported a female **Green-winged Teal** inland at Brown's Bridge on July 26 and July 28. **Mallards** continue to expand in southern Dorchester County with 74, including broods on Adam and Holland islands, on July 4 (Armistead). A female **Northern Shoveler** was at Piscataway on July 18 (Nistico). **Gadwall** numbers at Deal Island WMA were as last summer with 75 on July 17, including 6 broods of young totaling 27 (Armistead). Armistead found only 5 Gadwalls on July 4 on Holland Island in southern Dorchester County, but no broods on this island where they have previously bred, and where Mallards are increasing in alarming numbers. **Ring-necked Ducks** caused some excitement this season, providing the first Maryland and regional breeding record. A male and female, accompanied by 5 ducklings, were seen on June 11 in the Anne Arundel County portion of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center added when the army closed Ft. Meade. The nest was located later on a small island in a pond (Patuxent Center staff). It is interesting to note that a pair of Ring-necks also lingered from April through July on a pond off Trotter Road in Howard County (Wallace). A **Lesser Scaup** was inland near Emmitsburg on June 6 (Miller), and a drake was at Piscataway on July 18 (Nistico). A **Common Eider** was seen off Ocean City inlet on June 3 (Reese). A drake **Bufflehead** was noted at PRNAS on June 24 (Rambo, Lister), a drake **Common Merganser** remained at Triadelphia through July 5 (Magnusson), and a drake **Red-breasted Merganser** was spotted at Point Lookout on June 12 (Craig, Jim Boxwell). Solitary **Ruddy Ducks** were near Emmitsburg on June 6 (Miller), and at Chestertown on July 13 (Grubers). An exotic female **Ruddy Shelduck** was discovered at Lilypons on June 19-20 (Chuck Finley, Helen Horrocks, Miller).

*Diurnal Raptors.* A **Black Vulture** was seen flying over Martin Mountain, Allegany County on June 4 (Ringler), and 47 were tallied at Tanyard on June 11 (Engle). An inland **Osprey** was noted at Emmitsburg Reservoir on June 6 (Miller), another was at Loch Raven on June 26 (Simon), 1 was at Lake Kittamaquidi on July 2 (Chestem), and L. T. Short reported young Ospreys leaving a nest in Denton on July 9. A pair of Osprey nested successfully at Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery County (Solem+). The first confirmed **Bald Eagle** nesting for Howard County, reported in the spring, resulted in the successful fledging of one young (Solem+). An adult was seen on the Potomac River in Frederick County on June 17, and another at Braddock Heights on July 31 (S. Miller). A family group of 4 **Northern Harriers**, plus 2 others, was noted at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead). Ethel Engle reported a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at American Corner on June 20, an unusual date and place for this species, and Harry Armistead found a **Cooper's Hawk** at Bellevue on July 31. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest with 3 young was found at Leonardtown on June 11 (Reese). Jan Reese noted single **Broad-winged Hawks** near Prince Frederick on June 11 and at Route 235, St. Mary's County on June 14.

*Pheasants, Turkeys, Rails, Killdeer, Stilts.* M. Miller found 2 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at Denton on July 23, and **Wild Turkeys** included a female with 2 young near Gunpowder Falls on July 15 (George Bowersox), 2 fighting at Preston on July 23 (Engle), and 4 adults and 16 young at Foxtown Road, Garrett County on July 29 (Skipper). John Bjerke checked off 2 **Virginia Rails** at Deal Island WMA and a **Black Rail** at Elliott Island on June 12. Jan Reese found a **Killdeer** nest with 4 eggs at St. Michaels on June 27, and Elizabeth Pitney observed 2 very young chicks with their mother in Parsonsburg from July 29 into August. The inland high was 43 at Brown's Bridge on July 14 (Chestem). Bjerke found 5 **Black-necked Stilts** at Deal Island WMA on June 12, Armistead counted 6 adults there on July 17, and Ringler noted 1 adult there on July 25.

*Sandpipers.* Four **Willetts**, 2 adults and 2 young, were located at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on July 13 (Craig). **Upland Sandpipers** may have bred near Lilypons with 2 seen on June 13 (Nistico), and 4 on July 31 (Ringler). There was also an unconfirmed, second-hand report of an adult Upland with 3 young near Lewistown on June 1. Jan Reese noted 23 late spring migrant **Ruddy Turnstones** at Ocean City on June 3, and Bob Ringler reported 2 fall migrant **Red Knots** there on July 25. The 104 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Remington Farms on July 19 were some of the first fall migrants, as were the 5 **Western Sandpipers** found there the same day (Grubers). Harry Armistead saw 6 **Least Sandpipers** heading south over S. Holland Island and another over Crocheron on July 4, and tallied 135 at Deal Island WMA, along with 47 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, on July 17.

*Gulls, Terns.* There were 25 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Ocean City on June 3, and 18, with 3 in adult plumage, were at Cambridge on June 26 (Reese). A Ring-billed was at Centennial Park on July 1, and 4, including an immature, were there on July 26 (Farrell). Others noted were 1 in breeding plumage at North Beach on July 10 (Ringler), 1 in Frederick on July 22 (S. Miller), and 2 at Lake Kittamaquidi on July 28 (Chestem). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Eastern Neck on July 31 (Grubers). Five **Caspian Terns** were spotted near Hains Point, DC on July 22 (Larry Cartwright), and 2 **Royal Terns** were noted at Cambridge on June 26 (Reese). The breeding colony of Royals at Ocean City reached a nice total of 350 pairs this season (Dave Brinker). Paul Pisano found 45 nesting **Least Terns** on top of buildings in an industrial complex on Route

7, Harford County on July 4. **Black Terns** were present this summer with 1 near Frederick on June 1 (S. Miller), and 1 near Choptank on July 8 (D. Ford).

*Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbird, Woodpeckers.* A **Common Nighthawk** was discovered south of Columbia on July 4 (Wilkinson), and a **Chuck-will's-widow** was found at Whitaker Wildlife Management Area in Cecil County on July 7 (Gary Griffith). A Chuck was still singing nightly at St. Michaels on July 23 (Reese). Gerald Einem observed **Chimney Swifts** disappearing into a chimney-like structure at the Columbia Mall, and Martha Chestem tallied an amazing 248 swifts there on July 25. A female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was observed building a nest 45 to 50 feet up a Sycamore tree in Howard County on June 14 (Ott, Solem). Six **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Black Hill Park, Montgomery County on July 3 (Norm Saunders, Robert Norton). Connie Skipper reported 2 **Downy Woodpeckers** near a nest hole containing a young Downy peering out and begging for food in Garrett County on June 17.

*Swallows, Jays, Nuthatches.* Large counts of **Purple Martins** were 500 at Chestertown and 300 at Remington Farms on July 19 (Grubers), and over 130 at Point Lookout on July 28 (Craig). **Tree Swallows** included 500 at Chestertown on July 24 (Grubers), and about 250 at Lilypons on July 31 (Ringler). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** included 200 at Fairlee on July 16 (Grubers), 1 at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead), and 300 at Chestertown on July 24 (Grubers). There were 350 **Bank Swallows** at Fairlee on July 16 (Grubers), and about 15 **Cliff Swallow** nests were discovered at a shopping center in Eldersburg this summer (Ringler). Paulus reported 55 **Cliff Swallows** at North Branch on July 9, and the Grubers tallied about 200 **Barn Swallows** at Fairlee on July 16. Bob Ringler noted 2 migrating **Blue Jays** over Baltimore on June 18, and Paul Pisano found a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Courthouse Point WMA, Cecil County on July 5. Stauffer Miller checked off another Red-breasted west of Thurmont on July 31. Jared Parks found at least 3 pairs of **White-breasted Nuthatches** nesting at a golf course near Chestertown.

*Winter Wren, Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.* In Garrett County, Connie Skipper heard a **Winter Wren** singing near Spring Lick Road on June 15 and June 18 and another off Lost Land Road on July 31. She also heard a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** singing at Bittinger on June 1 and 5. Richard and Randy Crook observed a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** feeding young in a nest at Daniels on May 31.

*Thrushes, Waxwings, Shrikes.* The only **Veery** banded at Eastern Neck was on July 30 and the first **Wood Thrush** was banded there on July 21. Nuttle found 2 **Cedar Waxwing** nests in Denton on June 24. A pair of **Loggerhead Shrikes** continued at Lilypons throughout the season.

*Warblers.* Randy and Richard Crook observed a **Northern Parula** feeding young at a nest at Daniels on May 31. Three **Yellow Warblers** were banded at Eastern Neck, all on July 21, and an early **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was banded there, on July 18. A late **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Denton on June 2 (Nuttle), and a **Pine Warbler** was singing at Bittinger on June 1 (Skipper). A late migrant **Blackpoll Warbler** was at South Mountain, Washington County on June 10 (John Flowers). Reese found an **American Redstart** between Leonardtown and Hollywood on June 16, and an early fall migrant was banded at Eastern Neck on July 31. An active nest record for the **Prothonotary Warbler** was established for Howard County at Daniels; a male was

heard and seen by several birders from April 30 throughout May, and a pair was discovered feeding young in a nesting cavity by Bockstie and Probst on June 11. An **Ovenbird** with three young was observed at Leonardtown on June 11 (Reese), one was banded at Eastern Neck on July 18, where the first **Northern Waterthrush** was banded on July 30, and a **Louisiana Warbler** was banded on July 18. Four eggs were seen in a **Kentucky Warbler** nest at Denton on the early date of May 24 (Fletcher).

*Dickcissels, Sparrows.* **Dickcissels** were found again in Frederick County with 1 along Cap Stine Road on June 17 and another at Renn Road on June 23 (S. Miller). Sam Dyke reported a possible hybrid **Clay-colored X Field Sparrow** singing a modified Clay-colored song, but resembling a Field Sparrow, at Pemberton Park in Salisbury from May 15 through July 16. A **Lark Sparrow** was reported in Queenstown on June 9 (Danny Poet). Stauffer Miller reported evidence of breeding **Savannah Sparrows** along Bollinger School Road near Emmitsburg, and Bob Ringler found a pair with 1 young, and heard another singing, near Keysville in Carroll County on June 19. Ringler also heard 1 near Detour on July 17, and 4 others near Lilypons on July 31. At least 1 **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing on Dan's Mountain, Allegany County throughout the summer (Susan Sires+). Connie Skipper located 2 Henslow's at Accident on June 1 and again on July 29. Others were 1 at Finzel on June 13 (David Stewart), June 24 (Jett), and July 4 (Mike Milton), and 1 at Deer Park, Garrett County on July 30 (Skipper). The high for **Seaside Sparrows** was 165 throughout Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Armistead).

*Bobolinks, Cowbirds, Siskins.* A flock of at least 12 male and 4 female **Bobolinks** was near Keysville on June 19 (Ringler), 4 were at Hayden on July 26 (Grubers), and a large flock was near Emmitsburg on July 31 where there was evidence of breeding (S. Miller). Gary Griffith found breeding Bobolinks at Fair Hill Natural Resources Area, Cecil County on July 7. The Grubers counted 150 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** at Remington Farms on July 24. On a much more positive note, Connie Skipper saw 4 **Pine Siskins** on a feeder at Bray Hill in Garrett County on June 9, and George Jett noted 1 flying over Cranesville Swamp on June 25.

*9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046*

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

May 21, 1994

The meeting was held during the 29th Annual Conference at Sandy Cove Conference Center, North East, Maryland. Bill Newman called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Cecil Chapter was brought in as a new chapter.

Awards were given to Paul and Linda Bystrak for their work on the conference. An award was also given to Connie Bockstie for designing the conference pin.

The Nominating Committee nominated the following people: Allan Haury, President; Robert Rineer, Vice President; Larry Fry, Treasurer; Sybil Williams, Secretary; and Will Tress, Executive Secretary. The nominations were seconded and voted in favor.

Thanks were given to records compiler Bob Ringler for his many years of service. A service award was given to Bill Newman, outgoing President.

*Treasurer's Report.* This year the MOS joined the Maryland Environmental Fund. \$10,000 has been sent to FUNDAECO in Guatemala for land purchase. Grants have been prefunded. The Wanuga fund must be acted on this year. The Raffle brought in \$1,346 and the Silent Auction brought in \$1,450.

*Bylaws Committee.* Two sets of changes are to be considered in the following year.

*Conference Committee.* The 50th Annual Conference will be held in Emmitsburg at Mount St. Mary's College the weekend of June 24, 1995. Each Chapter will have a display. There will be a new patch and pin design contest with a closing date of Dec. 31, 1994.

*Education Committee.* Surveys were sent out after the last annual meeting, and the results were reported at Board of Directors' meetings. An MOS "Clearing House" was adopted as well as an "Adopt a Group" program, which is part of the MOS "Outreach Program." \$200 would be available to each chapter for educational purposes. A total budget of \$4,000 per year would come from an endowment.

*Library Committee.* Back issues of *Maryland Birdlife* will be kept at Cylburn. This past year the committee has acquired *The Birds of North America* and *Handbook of Birds of the World*. They will be housed in Pratt Library in Baltimore. There will be a display at Pratt in honor of the 50th anniversary of MOS.

*Long Range Planning Committee.* The survey was completed and a report is due out next year.

*Research Committee.* Two research grants were awarded and three proposals have been received. The grant guidelines have been updated for greater availability.

*Sanctuary Committee.* Tum Suden Sanctuary was transferred to Harford County schools. Irish Grove was a new stove and windows; there was some vandalism and there were two work weekends. There was one work day at Carey Run replacing windows.

*Scholarship Committee.* Six scholarships were awarded this year and six will be awarded next year. The Kent County Chapter will sponsor an additional scholarship.

*Atlas Committee.* 125 species accounts have been proofed, and 75 have not yet been returned from the publisher. The project may be completed by the next conference.

*Publications Committee.* Publication of *Maryland Birdlife* is getting caught up. The Yellow Book is on hold until the AOU revises its sequence of species. The *Yellowthroat* needs calendars of coming events from the chapters.

*Conservation Committee.* There are three big issues at the federal level that need the support of MOS: the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Environmental Fund of Maryland needs volunteers.

More detailed annual committee reports are available; please see the secretary if interested. No reports were received from the Budget, Gifts, Investments, and Records Committees.

The meeting was concluded with a report by Marco Cerezo B. on conservation activities of FUNDAECO in Guatemala.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sybil Williams*, Secretary

## **ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

This year's Conference Committee's work culminated in the extremely successful conference, which was hosted by the Harford County Chapter. The conference was held at the Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East, Maryland, during the weekend of May 20-22. For a change, the weather cooperated with us. The accommodations were much better than we had been accustomed to on college campuses, and the membership seemed to appreciate this even though the overall cost of the conference was higher than any in the past.

The conference was attended by nearly 400 persons. Every MOS chapter was represented. We also invited ornithological societies from neighboring states; not many non-members attended, but those who did added to the diversity of the conference.

Field trips were, as usual, a major portion of the conference. We had 49 field trips led by 65 volunteers. The species total for the conference weekend was 192.

Six scientific papers were presented on Saturday afternoon. These were well attended and strengthen our educational and scientific endeavors.

The silent auction and raffle were a great success, netting nearly \$3,000. The proceeds from these events have been donated to the FUNDAECO rain forest challenge.

Special attractions at this year's conference were our guest speakers from the Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Facility in Newark, Delaware. Tours were also given of their facility and we all learned more about how injured birds are helped to recovery. A demonstration of "educational birds" placed in a natural setting was presented by Bill Troutman of "Art in the Park." Bill Fax put on a demonstration of bird carvings. The Wild Bird Center from Columbia, Maryland, provided us with an exceptional display of optical equipment and other birding accessories for sale.

The final financial tally for the conference is not complete as of this writing. I am sure at this point that we will at least break even and should have some funds to go for next year. Committee members are Linda and Paul Bystrak and Larry and Jean Fry, all Conference Coordinators, John Malcolm, Joy Aso, Emily Joyce, and

*Robert Rineer, Chairman*

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The past year marked a turning point in our nation's environmental protection and conservation programs. Two landmark federal laws are up for re-authorization: the national Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. These acts are being worked up in Congress and deserve our wholehearted support. All members are urged to contact their U.S. Congressional representatives and senators and urge their reenactment.

Another very important federal conservation program is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This program has been woefully under-funded in recent years, even though it produces over \$900 million per year for protection of natural resources. A coalition is forming in Maryland to renew and strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund. MOS will join this effort.

On the state level, MOS formally joined the Environmental Fund, a voluntary check-off fund for employee contributions. The Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, our state's voluntary income tax refund check-off, was reauthorized. Program Open Space was granted more funding under the "lift-the-cap" formula and purchased many valuable habitat areas throughout Maryland.

The 1994 legislative season was a mixed bag. A number of bills that would have weakened existing statewide conservation laws failed, but environmental initiatives such as the grant of "standing" to environmental groups, creation of a Forest Advisory Committee, and recycling and solid waste bills all died. The State Department of Natural Resources began a commitment to the conservation of neotropical migrant land birds by the creation of a committee to implement the Partners in Flight program.

A number of local conservation issues have achieved state-wide prominence but are as yet unresolved. These include wetland destruction, golf course construction, and preservation of the Belt Woods in Prince George's County.

All chapters are urged to designate a conservation committee representative if you have not done so. Contact your senators and representative, preferably in writing, to express your support of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and restructuring and increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Also, in the upcoming statewide elections, become aware of important statewide conservation issues and find out positions. Express your support for conservation and habitat protection. Thanks for your help and interest during the past year.

*Richard Dolesh, Chairman*

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
May 1, 1993 through April 30, 1994**

Item	Budget	Actual
<b>OPERATING FUND</b>		
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Dues	20,000	19,806.00
Transfer from		
Sanctuary Endowment	620	630.00
Investment Income	1,500	692.84
Publications Income	1,000	806.00
Mail Permit Contribution	75	37.50
Membership Pins	25	60.00
Calendar Sales Tax		53.50
Miscellaneous		<u>20.00</u>
Total	<u>23,420</u>	22,105.84
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Publications Committee		
MARYLAND BIRDLIFE		
Printing	8,000	8,137.92
Postage	1,000	736.49
Labels		174.90
Miscellaneous	400	
YELLOWTHROAT		
Printing	5,000	5,490.56
Postage	1,000	1,409.24
Labels		254.75
Miscellaneous	<u>400</u>	
Total	15,600	16,203.86
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICE:</b>		
President's Expenses	100	
Vice President's Expenses	100	
Secretary's Expenses	75	
Treasurer's Expenses	50	
Executive Secretary	2,400	2,400.00
Postage	500	253.47
Bulk Mailing Permits	150	225.00
Membership List Database	600	407.25
Printing and Duplication	700	101.12
Office Supplies	500	7.49
Publicity and Awards	300	141.75
Affiliations	225	2,225.00
Liability Insurance	600	569.00
Calendar Sales Tax		18.52
Miscellaneous		262.30
Contingencies	<u>500</u>	
Totals	6,825	<u>6,610.90</u>

Item	Budget	Actual
COMMITTEE RELATED EXPENSES:		
Budget Committee	25	
Conservation Committee	300	
Education Committee	100	16.45
Library Committee	500	1,073.50
Conference Committee	1,000	262.50
Gifts Committee	100	
Long Range Planning Committee 50		
Nominating Committee	100	18.85
Records Committee	240	
Research Committee	100	8.75
Winter Bird Atlas	100	127.99
Contingencies	<u>200</u>	
Total	3,015	1,508.04
CONFERENCE		
1993 Conference Income		23,255.00
Expenses		19,906.55
1994 Conference Income		46,315.00
Expenses		5,352.04
<b>OPERATING FUND — OTHER FUNDS</b>		
Maryland Atlas		
Beginning Balance		2,733.27
Expenses		<u>144.00</u>
Ending Balance		2,589.27
Atlas—Chesapeake Bay Trust		
Beginning Balance		6,278.44
Expenses		<u>1,138.91</u>
Ending Balance		5,139.53
Rain Forest Challenge—FUNDAECO		
93/94 Income		7,335.30
Total sent to FUNDAECO		10,128.61
MOS Brochures		
Beginning Balance		2,979.26
Expenses		<u>100.00</u>
Ending Balance		2,879.26
1995 MOS Conference		3,000.00
Index, <i>Maryland Birdlife</i>		
Beginning Balance		1,635.00
Transfer from Unassigned		<u>4,000.00</u>
Total		5,635.00
Expenses		<u>1,635.00</u>
Ending Balance		4,000.00

Item	Budget	Actual
<b>SANCTUARY FUND</b>		
INCOME:		
Div/Int	3,180	3,036.19
1,400	1,307.00	Use Fees
Sanctuary Maint. Fund		87.30
Signs	<u>300</u>	<u>36.00</u>
Total	6,700	4,466.49
EXPENSES:		
IRISH GROVE:		
Mowing	850	694.00
Marion VFD	50	50.00
Utilities	450	395.81
Fuel	500	447.05
Taxes	300	513.43
Gas Stove		412.70
Miscellaneous		131.01
General Maintenance	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,158.58</u>
Total Irish Grove	4,150	3,808.58
TUM SU DEN:		
General Maintenance	500	3,531.43
Utilities	100	96.58
Fuel	<u>400</u>	<u>1,007.46</u>
Total tum Suden	1,000	4,635.47
CAREY RUN:		
Replacement Windows		729.75
Repairs and Maintenance		355.24
Mowing		350.00
Work Day Meal		111.15
Utilities		140.44
Postage		<u>3.77</u>
Total Carey Run		1,690.35
Liability Insurance	800	700.00
Contingencies	<u>2,000</u>	
Total Sanct. Expenses	6,950	10,834.40

### SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Dividends	3,000	3,681.19
Contributions	800	546.36
Life Membership	<u>400</u>	<u>400.00</u>
Total	4,200	4,627.55
EXPENSES:		
Bond Maint.		15.00
Transfer to Operating Fund	620	630.00
Transfer to Sanctuary Fund	<u>2,380</u>	<u>3,036.19</u>
Total	3,000	3,681.19

Item	Budget	Actual
<b>SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE FUND</b>		
Balance		27,174.92
INCOME:		
Div/Int		<u>797.79</u>
Balance		27,972.71
EXPENSES:		
Irish Grove		1,658.58
tum Suden		2,719.91
Carey Run Windows		<u>729.75</u>
Total Maint. Expenses		<u>5,108.24</u>
Balance		22,864.47

### SANCTUARY PURCHASE FUND (WANUGA)

INVESTMENT INCOME		
Div/Int		2,757.22

### SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Contributions	300	379.11
Div/Int	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,547.39</u> *
Total	3,300	3,926.50

\* Amount available for Summer 1995 MOS Scholarships

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

INCOME:		
Summer 1993 Income:		
Div/Int		3,500
World Nature Association		650
Bourne Scholarship		600
Summer 1994 Income:		
Transfer from Unassigned		2,535
World Nature Association		<u>695</u>
Total Income		7,980

#### EXPENSES:

Summer 1993 Expenses:		
MOS Scholarships		3,500
Crowder Scholarship		650
Bourne Scholarship		600

Summer 1994 Expenses:		
MOS Scholarships		3,185
Crowder Scholarship		<u>695</u>
Total Scholarships		8,630

Item	Budget	Actual
<b>RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND</b>		
INCOME:		
Contributions	100	
Div/Int	2,400	2,106.41**
**Amount available for 1994/95 Research Grants		
<b>RESEARCH FUND</b>		
INCOME:		
Transfer from Unassigned		2,205.00
EXPENSES:		
Grants	2,300	2,205.00
<b>FUTURE ATLAS ACCOUNT</b>		
INCOME:		
Div/Int		1,000.09
<b>UNASSIGNED BEQUESTS</b>		
Beginning Balance		63,214.44
Assigned to Research Grants		2,205.00
Assigned to Scholarships		2,535.00
Assigned to library—Book Purchase	1,073.50	
Assigned to Index <i>Maryland Birdlife</i>	<u>4,000.00</u>	
Total Assigned Funds		<u>9,813.50</u>
Balance		53,400.94
Div/Int		<u>1,387.77</u>
Ending Balance		54,788.71
<b>YOUTH EDUCATION FUND</b>		
Beginning Balance		30,902.28
Div/Int		<u>973.02</u>
Ending Balance		31,875.30
<b>YELLOWBOOK UPDATE FUND</b>		
Balance		11,000.00

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The first official meeting of the Education Committee was at last year's annual meeting in Frostburg. Four members attended the meeting and it was agreed that a statewide survey would be sent to every chapter before the group would meet again. The purpose of the survey was to determine what was already being done by the various MOS chapters to encourage ornithology education, and what the membership thought needed to be done in the future. The 18 question surveys were not returned to the committee until the end of September.

The first meeting following the return of the surveys was on October 16 at Gloria Meade's home in Montgomery County. Seven members attended. Half of the survey results were summarized. The January meeting was cancelled because of snow, but we met at Cylburn Mansion a few weeks later. The second half of the survey was reviewed, and the "clearing house" and "adopt a group" were proposed.

The third meeting took place on April 9 at Cylburn Mansion. Seven members of the Education Committee met from noon until 3 p.m. Joy Wheeler was our hostess. Others in attendance included: Cameron Lewis from Hagerstown, Gloria Meade from the Montgomery Chapter, Helen Meleney from the Patuxent Chapter, Dave Kubitsky from the Howard Chapter, Celeste Bunting from Snow Hill, and Linda Bystrak from Cecil County. The final draft of the MOS "Clearinghouse" form was accepted by the committee. Then the MOS "Adopt a Group" program was added to the MOS "Outreach Program" which was also reviewed and accepted. Finally, the Education Committee budget request was discussed, and it was agreed that we should ask for at least \$200 for each chapter to use. We would also ask for \$100 for operating expenses and \$800 to sponsor ornithology education activities on a statewide level. This would bring our total budget request to \$4,100.

The committee realizes that a budget request of \$4,000 every year would deplete our endowment in less than 8 years. However, we have not ruled out the possibility of fund raisers, grants, or other gifts to replenish our funds. If not, then we will have at least made a statewide effort to enhance ornithology education in Maryland for 7 or 8 years! Based upon the survey results for question one, that is, what the majority of the respondents would like us to do, **spend the principal!**

Because of insufficient time at the Annual Meeting, our proposed long range goals, which include adoption of an MOS Outreach Program, Clearinghouse, and various other proposals will not be presented to the Executive Board for approval until the September meeting.

*Linda Bystrak, Chairperson*

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The membership survey, mentioned in last year's report by this committee, was published in the September-October 1993 issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. By early 1994, almost 170 replies had been received. Brief preliminary findings were given to the state board at their March meeting. Complete results should be available later this year. Our thanks to the many concerned and loyal members who not only completed the questionnaire but who took the time to provide additional comments and suggestions. Those were particularly useful. This committee continues to be involved in all major ideas and plans for the society.

*Joanne K. Solem, Chairperson*

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## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

1993

Sanctuary Committee activities involved increasing the size of one sanctuary while preparing to eliminate another. Irish Grove Sanctuary was increased by the Eastern Shore Land Trust, which turned over a tract of 148 acres of woodlands in Somerset County that was adjacent to Irish Grove Sanctuary. This property was the gift of Mrs. Virginia Simmons of Rockville, Maryland.

Most of the paper work was done for transferring the tum Suden Sanctuary to the Harford County School System. This transfer was scheduled to occur at the end of June 1993.

The four workdays were carried out with many hardworking volunteers coming and helping with the maintenance of our sanctuaries. The success of these workdays rests with these wonderful volunteers and we thank them for coming out. The four workdays were as follows:

The MILL CREEK SANCTUARY workday was held on 17 October 1993. Activities included marking boundaries, clearing the parking lot, and trail maintenance.

The CAREY RUN SANCTUARY workday was on 24 April. The main project was to replace five of the windows in the house; the new windows have plastic sashes and will need little maintenance. Other jobs were the usual house cleaning, pruning trails, and scraping flaking paint off the front porch and steps.

At the IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY fall workday weekend on 7-8 November, the main project was putting the banding station back on its foundation; this last project completes the cleanup from the 1990 storm. Other jobs included trail maintenance and the usual house cleaning.

The spring work weekend at IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY was held on 3-4 April. The main project was to start cutting a train to the north end of the property from Rumbly Point Road, along the edge of the new property. We also cut down the dead tree beside the tool shed, put a new bridge at the beginning of the Rail Trail, pruned shrubbery around the house, and performed the usual house cleaning.

1994

*tum Suden Sanctuary:* The transfer of tum Suden Sanctuary to the Harford County School System was completed in March of 1994 after a great deal of work by the Harford Chapter and members of the Sanctuary Committee. Two official work days were held. The first was a big "clean up & clear out" day at which twenty volunteers did an incredible amount of work. This was followed by work done under contract for essential repair to the house. The second workday had about ten volunteers to do the first coat of paint in the interior of the house. Members of the Harford Chapter did the second coat of paint the following week. The Harford Chapter, especially Jean and Larry Fry, deserve a special "thank you" for all their work. The Harford County School System is using tum Suden as part of the Harford Glen Nature complex. They plan to use the house for housing interns from Towson State University.

*Irish Grove Sanctuary:* Much has been happening at Irish Grove:

A new cook stove was put in the kitchen and most of the old broken storm windows were replaced.

The house was illegally entered at least twice and items removed.

The water pump disappeared over the winter and had to be replaced.

The water pipes all froze during the severe cold weather. All new pipes have been installed by a plumber from Crisfield. This plumber will also be doing the winterizing of the plumbing and we hope that we will not have frozen pipes again.

Two workday weekends were held. Twenty-one volunteers participated in the fall workday on Nov. 6-7, 1993. More bridges were built on the trail system as well as pruning and house cleaning. The Wicomico Chapter provided their usual turkey dinner for the workers. Ten volunteers came to the spring workday on Apr. 9-10, 1994. The main project was removal of two old trees that had fallen behind the propane tank and the spring pruning around the house. Then everyone walked the South Marsh Trail and enjoyed good birding while doing some trail maintenance.

*Carey Run Sanctuary:* About 20 volunteers participated in the annual workday weekend of April 30 and May 1, 1994. The last five replacement windows were installed. All windows at Carey Run are now fully functional! The Allegany Chapter provided a chicken dinner for the workers, which was enjoyed before the rains came.

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who come out and help make our sanctuaries a pleasant place to visit. I hope all of you will make an effort to visit our sanctuaries and enjoy the beauty, the peace, and the quiet of these lovely places.

*Dorothy M. Mumford, Chairman*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Nineteen applications were received this year, and six scholarships were awarded. One scholarship was held back this year because of low interest yield to the scholarship fund investments. An ornithology scholarship was cut because we get more ecology applications than ornithology applications.

Winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship was Celeste F. Bunting, Teacher from Worcester County. She was given permission to attend The Camp of the West instead of Maine because of her qualifications and scheduling problems.

Winners of the Helen Miller Scholarships were Michele A. Wright, Park Naturalist for Howard County, Kathleen Buppert, Education Coordinator for The Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Baltimore County, and Lisa Shore, Park Ranger for Anne Arundel County.

Penny Gow Zimring, Howard County Teacher, won the Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship, and Dennis Cloutier, Park Ranger for Anne Arundel County, won the Edith Bourne Memorial Scholarship.

The Kent County Chapter will sponsor a scholarship next year. The money available, interest from a trust, has been used for bird banding activities, but their bander had an accident and can no longer do it. However, if he should recover sufficiently, the funds may be reverted back to banding in future years. The award will be called the Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship, should be administered by the MOS Scholarship Committee, and will be used at an Audubon camp in the United States for either ecology or ornithology. Stipulations made by the Kent County trustees are that (1) first priority be given to applicants from the Eastern Shore, should they qualify, and (2) that upon completion of camp the recipient submit a report, either written or oral, to the trustees.

Four of our scholarship winners came to the Convention. Two stayed for the Annual Meeting and were introduced. A scholarship Committee Display Table was set up, which had photographs and reports from former scholarship recipients on exhibition. Our current winners gathered there and were introduced to their sponsors, former winners, and MOS officers.

Committee members: Charlotte Folk, Garrett; Mrs. Richard Heise, Anne Arundel; Marian Mudd, Montgomery; Marian Glass Wilson, Baltimore; Margaret Duncan-Snow, Kent; and

*Isa Sieracki*, Chairperson

## **ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**

### **ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB**

The Anne Arundel Bird Club had a very successful year. We had eight monthly meetings, which were well attended with many guests. Some of our topics included Goshawks by David Brinker, Waterfowl of the Chesapeake by Doug Forsell, the Great Basin Desert by Dr. Robert Trever, Bald Eagles in Maryland by Glenn Therres, and Birds in Decline by Rick Blom. Our annual Robert E. Heise, Jr. Wildlife Program, held in the Blue Heron Room of Quiet Waters Park, was by Chan Robbins on Maryland Birds. It was very well attended and the funds raised will go to the Scholarship Fund and the Sanctuary Fund.

Our membership this year is approximately 160. We have had a number of members move away, but we are also attracting new members. We also have had a number of junior members join recently. Most new members learn about our club from the *Pennysaver*, a weekly advertisement magazine.

We conducted 42 field trips this year. Each month we try to have a half day trip and a full day trip. We also had a number of overnight trips like our winter weekend trip to the coast. We conducted two owling trips, and we will be looking for Black Rails later this summer. Trips were well attended and we had many guests on the trips. We also conducted two extended field trips: one to Florida in April and one to Oregon in August. We participated in work weekends at Irish Grove and Carey Run. We also had two club picnics hosted at the Bakers and Bowie/Lamberts homes. Some of the birds seen on our trips include Le Conte's Sparrow, Goshawk, Harlequin Duck, Brown Noddy, and Northern Pygmy-Owl. (I bet the AABC has the largest club year total list for any club in the MOS.)

Members actively participated in the May Count and the Annapolis Christmas Count. The tally-up for the Christmas Count was held in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park, courtesy of Michael Murdock, Park Superintendent. The club co-sponsored bird walks with Sandy Point State Park and Quiet Waters Park.

Our conservation chairman, Eileen McLellan, kept members informed on local and national issues. Al Haury and Peter Hanan constructed 50 bluebird boxes, which were sold to club members. Profits were donated to AABC. Materials were donated from Sinclair Supply Company in Annapolis and Hanan and Lerner Fine Woodworking Inc. in Capitol Heights. We also constructed a folding display board to display MOS and AABC information at our meetings, and it was also used at the Quiet Waters Park Earth Day celebration. Al Haury, Peter Hanan, and many other members helped with two bird seed sales conducted by Quiet Waters Park. The AABC shared in the profits.

The meeting location for our field trips was changed because of construction at Annapolis Mall. We now meet at the BG&E/Sears parking lot on Riva Road when we are heading west and at Bushes Restaurant on Route 50 when we are heading east. We also have a new look to our Newsletter, which is now composed on the computer by Newsletter Editor, Dotty Mumford. I would also like to thank Steven Hult for his help in redesigning our Newsletter. Peter Hanan, Al Haury, Steven Hult, and Sue Ricciardi are starting work on a birding guide to Anne Arundel County.

*Peter Hanan, President*

## CAROLINE COUNTY CHAPTER

The 1993-94 officers were Debby Bennett, President; Wilbur Rittenhouse, Vice President; Marianne Nuttle, Secretary; and Mark Grande, Treasurer. Monthly meetings were held at 7:30 p.m. in the Caroline County Public Library's meeting room in Denton the third Friday of September through May (except December). Steve Westre coordinated the Christmas Count and Wilbur Rittenhouse the May Count.

Programs included Basic Birding Tips (Les Coble); Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Another Gem in Our Own Backyard (Bill Giese); Cypress Swamps of the Eastern Shore (Dr. Robert Trever); Colonial Waterbirds (Dave Brinker); Seabirds of Newfoundland (Ellen Lawler); A Spring Visit to Crane Creek State Park, Ohio (Jan Reese and L. T. Short); and a special visit from Jay Abercrombie, author of "*Walks and Rambles on the Delmarva Peninsula: A Guide for Hikers and Naturalists.*"

For the first time ever, we had to cancel our January meeting because of inclement weather; the speaker was rescheduled for May. In addition to the regular programs, the club offered a bird walk at the Adkins Arboretum in September and a birding trip to Chincoteague in November. We also had two cleanup days at the Pelot Sanctuary.

We lost Roberta Fletcher this year. She died at her home on August 26, 1994. Roberta and her husband Jerry were charter members of our Chapter. Roberta was an excellent birder, teacher, and record keeper. Many of her prize pupils are now top-notch birders in the Chapter.

*Debby Bennett, President*

## FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

We have had a wonderful year with 75 members, most of whom are very active in either attending our meetings or taking our field trips. We had our first meeting in September with Al Geis telling all about the proper feed for the various type feeders (birds, that is), followed in October by Peter Payne on the declining Bobwhite in Maryland. Laurie MacIvor spoke about the Loggerhead Shrike and its decline in the northeast, and Armas Hill took us to Costa Rica after our Christmas Dinner meeting. Jim Stasz taught us all about gulls in January, just in time for the annual gull count, and Erika Wilson crossed the Potomac to take us to Midway and the goonies and their kindred. March was snowed out for the second year in a row, but April found us in the Falkland Islands with Don Messersmith. Our annual picnic was held again at the home of Tinker and Pat Williamson in Braddock Heights.

We had seven trips in the county and four out of the county plus our Catoctin Christmas Count and the May Count. We continued with our local hot line/phone tree and welcome all who bird in our county to let us know of rarities they spot here. Anyone can place a bird on the line.

"A Guide to Bird Finding in Frederick County, Maryland," written by Stauffer Miller who has left us for Cape Cod, is selling much better than we had hoped. We have printed over 300 copies and have been able to donate the proceeds to FUNDAECO, Quail Unlimited, and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. *Flight Lines*, our Newsletter, started this fall with vol. 1, no. 1. It is our effort to keep all abreast of birding in our area and other topics of interest.

*Helen Horrocks, President*

## HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Harford County Chapter opened its 45th year with its annual picnic at the 4-H Camp at Rocks State Park. Again Tom Congersky and his assistants provided pit beef plus a wonderful spread of side dishes. Fifty-seven persons attended.

Chapter members John and Linda Ireland opened Wild Bird Marketplace in the Bel Air Town Plaza in August and offered a 10% discount to chapter members.

The Chapter hosted the MOS state board meeting in September at Sandy Cove Conference Center in North East so other Board members could see the facilities for the MOS Conference, which Harford Chapter hosted in May 1994. Work progressed on conference planning as the year went by. Linda and Paul Bystrak served as co-chairpersons, Jean Fry wrote the registration brochure, and Mark Johnson provided the artwork. Tom Congersky and several assistants mailed the registration brochures, Larry Fry handled the registration and room assignments, Randy Robertson organized the raffle, and Dave and Macrina Seitz prepared the registration packets and supervised the registration process. Over 400 persons attended the Conference, which would not have been possible without all the volunteer efforts of many Chapter members.

Birding courses were again offered at Harford Community College. Dennis Kirkwood taught a weekend course called "A Birding Tour of Wildlife Refuges of the South Jersey Coast," and Dave Webb taught "The Hobby of Birdwatching" on seven

Saturday mornings in both the fall and spring semester. Bill Pffingsten got input from Gary Griffith to compile the Cecil County Checklist, which was printed in March. And Gary Griffith organized a Cecil County Chapter of MOS in the spring. Work continued on the Birdwatching in Harford County brochure. Newsletter banner designs were solicited to change the appearance and format of the newsletter. Bill McIntosh started updating the Chapter history from 1987 to 1994.

Conowingo Visitors' Center at the Conowingo Dam, operated by the Philadelphia Electric Company, continued to offer Owl Prowls, Eagle watches, Bird Identification Courses, and nature hikes. Members June Vaughn and Beth Olsen, who are employed there, are instrumental in keeping these programs active. The second annual nesting box workshop was held in February at the Conowingo Visitors' Center in cooperation with Philadelphia Electric Company.

Les Eastman reactivated the telephone tree and one of the first birds reported was the Whiskered Tern in Delaware in August, the first record for North America.

Field trips were held at White Clay Creek Preserve in Delaware, Gunpowder Delta (canoe trip), C & D Canal, Merkle Wildlife Management Area with pontoon boat trip at Patuxent River Park, Waggoner's Gap near Carlisle, Chincoteague, Broad Creek Boy Scout Camp, Cape Henlopen, Conowingo Dam, Elkton landfill, Bradenbaugh Flats, Lilypons, Loch Raven reservoir, Edgewood area of APG, Fair Hill Nature Center, Hughes Hollow, Susquehanna State Park, and Delaware Bay. Several night watches were held, one for "whips and hoots," three nights for American Woodcocks, and three for the Bel Air goatsuckers. Nine warbler walks, four of which were competitive, were held in April and May. A very harsh winter with lots of snow and ice brought several unusual birds to the area.

Fifty-three birders located 93 species on the 22nd annual Rock Run Christmas Count. A Glaucous Gull was a new species for this count.

Speakers for two of the dinner meetings were Dr. Robert Trever of Easton, "The Great Basin Desert," and Dave Brinker, "Saw-whet Owl Studies in Maryland." The January meeting was postponed twice because of weather and then cancelled. The program of "pot luck" bird slides of members proven to be diverse, beautiful, and highly entertaining.

At the August 1992 MOS Conference in Salisbury it had been voted to donate MOS's tum Suden Sanctuary to the Harford County Board of Education since the property adjoins Harford Glen, the county environmental education center. A large project for the Chapter this year was clearing out, cleaning, and painting the interior. Two work days were held in September and October to clear vegetation and remove two tons of trash and paint. Other repairs such as broken windows, water pump and filtration system were completed during the year until the property was finally deeded to the Harford County Board of Education in March. Plans for the property include having an internship with Towson State University.

A donation of \$100 was given to Eden Mill Nature Center to help buy a new canoe rack. A donation of \$100 was again given to the local Envirothon which occurs at Harford Glen. Also \$75 was given to FUNDAECO, a rain forest project in Guatemala.

Concern about disruption of Least Tern nests on Fishing Battery Island, near the mouth of the Susquehanna River, was raised by Dave Brinker from the Department of Natural Resources. Signs and fences have been torn down. Both human and canine footprints and piles of trash indicate human visitation, which has disrupted the nests. Letters were written to marinas, and newspapers responded with editorials.

The following awards for the previous year were given: Rookie of the Year, Gary Griffith; Listers of the Year, Dave Webb with 208 species in Harford County and Gary Griffith with 166 species in Cecil County; Birds of the Year, Painted Bunting at the home of Glen and Barbara Snyder, Rufous Hummingbird at the home of George and Dorothy McDaniel; and Distinguished Service, Bill Pflingsten for work in preparing checklists of birds for Harford and Cecil counties. We again offered a free junior membership to each high school in the county; we received four memberships this way.

We survived hosting the 1994 conference! It was a good year!

*Jean Fry*, President

## HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

Jane Geuder and her committee planned a full schedule of interesting programs for the nine monthly meetings. Those evenings were made more lively by the presence of the club bookstore managed by Michele Wright, a hospitality table overseen by Maud Banks, and frequent special displays created by Martha Chestem. Two announcement boards featured coming field trips and highlights of those run in the preceding month. A table of free magazines, articles, brochures, etc., encouraged members to browse and to recycle material.

The club Newsletter provided timely information to the membership. Editor Susan Setterberg solicited special material from traveling birders and revived a column spotlighting board members. A summary of seasonal bird sightings is now a regular feature.

Bonnie Ott continued to plan an extensive array of field trips. She balanced trips to local "hot spots" with searches for specific types of birds such as waterfowl, hawks, and sparrows. Weekday walks during migration proved popular. Bonnie also volunteered to help individuals locate desired county birds by maintaining a master "want" list.

Most heartening this year was the success of the Publicity Committee, headed by Connie Bockstie, whose efforts generated publicity from previously untapped sources. Displays at the Howard County Garden Festival and the Soil Conservation Service Field Day in April and the Howard County Fair in August, under Mike McClure's direction, provided useful exposure. Martha Chestem updated and added to the chapter's displays for these events. Fifteen educational presentations by eight members were made to school classes, retirees, and other groups using the club's mounted specimens or slide programs.

Conservation emphasis focused on active support of the renewal of the federal Endangered Species Act. Chairman Bob Solem also testified for the club before the County Council requesting additional funding for wetland mitigation at Fort Hill Park. Numerous chapter members continued active field work with participation in the Triadelphia Christmas Count, Midwinter Count, and May Count. Seasonal migration records were compiled by Joanne Solem from data submitted by several dozen people. Bird checklists for major parks and open space continue to be compiled under Jane Farrell's direction. The Rockburn Branch Park checklist should be available later this year. Members are also working with the Howard County Conservancy surveying the birds, plants, and butterflies at Mt. Pleasant, a 225-acre farm.

This marked the fifteenth year of the club's twice yearly seed sales under the leadership of Eileen Clegg. From proceeds of recent sales, the chapter donated \$2,500 to Bladen Mountains Nature Reserve in Belize and the same amount to Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve in Guatemala for which MOS was raising funds.

Mark Wallace, who heads the chapter's Boost Bluebirds project, was recognized in 1993 by the North American Bluebird Society with one of six national awards given for excellence in bluebird conservation. The success of the club's county-wide program, which annually fledges at least 1500 bluebirds, is tribute not only to Mark's enthusiasm, Knowledge, and hard work but to the cooperation of the almost 300 committee individuals who monitor boxes or allow boxes to be placed on their land. The chapter's cavity nester efforts also continued with Bluebirds in the Parks, jointly sponsored with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks under Bill Eckert.

The fifteenth annual list of all bird species seen in the county was again compiled by Jane Farrell. The year's total was 222 plus five sent to the Maryland/DC Records Committee (MDDCRC). The Rare Bird Alert, under Bea Newkirk's direction, was efficient in providing an opportunity for numerous birders to see the county's first Eared Grebe, which appeared on Centennial Lake in April. Gerald Einem continued to census a breeding bird plot in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Martha Chestem and Dave Harvey were chapter representatives at the first statewide Partners in Flight meeting hosted by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.

For the second time, chapter member Connie Bockstie won the MOS convention pin competition—this time with a Northern Saw-whet Owl design. Michele Wright and Penny Gow Zimring were each awarded an MOS scholarship. David Holmes was elected to the MDDCRC.

Under the direction of Tom Strikwerda and Martha Chestem, this chapter continued to be responsible for mailing Maryland Birdlife. The chapter was host to a state MOS board meeting in December.

The Howard County Bird Checklist was published in early 1994 covering sightings for the last 38 years. Prepared by Joanne Solem, David Holmes, and Martha Chestem, it listed the breeding status for local species and included a code to help birders determine the amount of effort or luck required to see a species. An updated Howard County Plant List by Bob Solem was also published.

After more than a year's preparation, the board completed work on a welcome packet. These were mailed in April to all individuals who had become members of the chapter within the past three years. From now on, they will be sent to new members at the time they join. Each packet includes a welcome from the president, the most recent chapter Newsletter, a membership directory, a membership card, and an MOS decal. An information sheet lists current officers, major chapter projects and publications, special resources, and a brief list of recommended references. The final project initiated by the board this year is a Fall Migration Count, which is planned for a Saturday in September. It will be co-coordinated by Mike McClure and Chuck Stirrat.

Chapter members have spent the year actively chronicling the county's birdlife (along with some other aspects of its natural history). We look forward to continuing this same intense involvement in the coming year.

*Joanne K. Solem, President*

### **JUG BAY BIRD CLUB**

The Jug Bay Chapter's membership has increased to 47 members. Regular activities include monthly meetings and at least one field trip each month. During the past year the members participated in the Christmas Count and May Count. The Chapter manned display booths at the Patuxent Wildlife Art Show and the Prince George's County Earth Fest. Jug Bay also participated in Project Tanager.

*Wally Stephens, President*

### **KENT COUNTY CHAPTER**

The Kent Chapter, with 69 members, sponsored seven educational programs, two field trips, two feeder watches, an annual picnic, and participated in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the midwinter bird count, and the May count.

We regret to report that the bird banding station that has been operated by one of our members, Jim Gruber, has had to be discontinued because of a physical disability Jim acquired as result of a boating accident. At our annual dinner meeting in April the Chapter expressed its appreciation to Jim for sharing his knowledge gained at the banding station, by presenting him with a painting by one of our artistic members, Peggy Blair.

One of our charter members, Helen Gibson, is compiling historical information in preparation for the 50th anniversary of MOS.

The Trustees of the Gibson-Mendinhall Trust, a Trust that was established from Kent Chapter funds in 1987, have agreed to sponsor an annual scholarship to be awarded by the State Society scholarship committee.

*Stephen B. Hitchner, President*

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

A major highlight of the 1993-94 season was the establishment of the Carl Carlson Fund. The Fund will be used to promote birdwatching and foster the study of ornithology in Montgomery County, especially among children and young people. It was named in memory of one of our founding Chapter members at the suggestion of another founding member, Sarah Sugar Baker, whose generous donation sparked the formation of the Fund. One of the first projects to be supported by the Fund will be a slide show of Montgomery County birds aimed at school children and youth groups.

Other major highlights were the excellent speakers at our monthly meetings. In September, Chapter members Claudia Wilds and Erika Wilson showed us captivating pictures of the birds of Midway Island, which is closing as a U.S. Naval Air Station and becoming a wildlife refuge. (Claudia visited Midway as part of her research into gulls and terns of the world, which will eventually result in a book about this bird family.) In October we were energized and inspired by Peter Stangel's motivating talk on the program "Partners in Flight," initiated in 1990 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the conservation of neotropical migratory birds. Chapter member Bill Oberman spoke about birds of eastern Colorado in December and David Spector again impressed us with his scholarly presentation on "Naturalists and Novelists." In May, Chapter member Daphne Gemmill reviewed with pictures the new book, "Birdfinding in Forty National Forests and Grasslands," produced in cooperation between the U.S. Forest Service and the American Birding Association (ABA). Daphne, ABA Secretary (among the many offices she holds in ornithological organizations), was a major player in bringing the guide to publication.

Our February and April meetings were the season's lowlights: the February meeting had to be cancelled because of bad winter weather, and in April the featured speaker never showed up.

The Annual Social and election of officers was held in March at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Bethesda. One hundred members and guests enjoyed a turkey curry dinner and the ever-popular members' slide show.

Twenty-five field trips were made to such diverse places as Garrett County, Cape May, Delmarva Peninsula, the North Carolina Outer Banks, and Blackwater NWR. The Outer Banks trip was again a three-day affair in cooperations with the Cape Hatteras Bird Club. Among local trips were a canoe outing on the Potomac River and an evening search for bats and owls.

The Seneca Christmas Bird Count continued to be sponsored by our Chapter and many of our members participated in the D.C., Triadelphia Reservoir, and Sugarloaf Mountain counts, all coordinated by members of the Montgomery County Chapter.

*Bill Kulp, Sr., President*

## PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from September through May (except December) in Building 011-A at the Agricultural Research Center on U.S. 1 in Beltsville. We had an interesting and varied program of meetings in 1993-94.

In September, Dr. Aelred Geis talked on bird feeding. In October, H. Kibbee Turner discussed leaving bird oases in developments. In November, Dr. James Duke spoke about medicinal herbs in tropical and temperate America.

In January, Phil Davis explained telescopes and binoculars, and in February, Greg Kearns took us on a Texas bird trip. In March, our member, Professor Leonard Lutwack discussed his new book, *Birds in Literature*. The book committee had copies for sale. In April, Paul Nistico took us Birding in South Florida and the Dry Tortugas.

The May meeting was Members Night, featuring Pamela Stephen on Florida birds; Luther Goldman on horseshoe crabs laying eggs and the migrating Sanderlings, Red Knots, and Purple Sandpipers that came to eat them; Tom Loomis on birds in Louisiana, Texas, and Churchill, Manitoba; and Paul Nistico on seabirds off California. Our special guest was Marco Cerezo, who described FUNDAECO's project of preserving rain forest at Cerro San Gil in eastern Guatemala and thanked MOS for raising \$11,000 to help with the purchase.

As usual, our members took part in the Christmas and May Counts.

*Pamela Stephen, President*

## WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

Membership in the Wicomico Bird Club increased slightly with 31 single, 1 junior, and 22 household memberships. The club held eight meetings between September and May, including our annual dinner in March. Attendance at the meetings averaged about 35 people. Presentations at the meetings covered topics such as tundra swans, shorebird and warbler identification, the Natural Heritage Program, the Salisbury Zoo, and birding New Guinea.

We held 9 field trips including those to Chincoteague NWR, Bombay Hook NWR, Blackwater NWR, Deal Island WMA, Cape Henlopen State Park, and the Bay Bridge-Tunnel. A number of our members led field trips for the Ward Museum, Pemberton Park, and Furnacetown, and presented programs at Southern States in Salisbury and to the Caroline County MOS chapter. Wicomico Bird Club activities were featured in a segment of an Outdoors Maryland (MPT) program and on a local (WBOC) Outdoors Report.

Twenty members took part in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (Dec. 19) coordinated by Charles Vaughn. Charlie also coordinated the Crisfield Count; he and a few other club members also took part in the Chincoteague, Wachapreague, and Ocean City Counts. Club members participated in the May Count and in the Fall Irish Grove workday. As in the past, Ruth Denit graciously supplied turkey for Irish Grove workers' midday meal. Ten club members attended the MOS conference at Sandy Cove.

Club member Celeste Bunting was the recipient of the Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship for 1994. During the year, the club and individual members wrote letters to public officials and attended local meetings on a number of conservation issues, concerning habitat preservation and wildlife conservation. The club currently has representatives on the Pemberton Park Board, the Maryland Partners in Flight Committee, and the MOS Education and Conservation committees.

At our May meeting, Valued Service Awards were given to Ruth Denit, Helen Farrand, Charles Vaughn, and Gail Vaughn.

*Ellen Lawler, President*

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE PATUXENT RIVER WILDRICE MARSH.** Brooke Meanley. Published by the author, P.O. Box 87, Fishersville, VA 22939. 1992. Black & white illustrations by John W. Taylor. Photographs by the author.

A note from Brooke Meanley dated Jan. 8, 1993:

I published this little informal book for kindred spirits. It is my "Swan Song" or "Last Hurrah" (I think). I hope you find something of interest. I've been going to the Patuxent River wildrice marsh since the 1930's and will be going there next month.

I'm pleased to think that Mr. Meanley considers me a "kindred spirit." My visits to the Patuxent River wild rice marsh (I don't know why the author makes this into a compound word; my dictionaries make it two words) did not begin until the 1970's and are fewer in number and more limited in scope than his. They do include canoeing through some of the stands of wild rice near Huntingtown where MOS Junior Nature Camp met, so I can easily picture the habitat.

Mr. Meanley's work with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center led him to ascertain how much the birds used the wild rice for food by counting the number of rice grains in stomachs of Soras, other rails, Bobolinks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and various marsh ducks. His work extended from our Atlantic Flyway to the Mississippi Flyway, Stuttgart, Arkansas in particular. It must have been a tedious exercise, what with the smallness of the rice grains, the mosquitoes, and the depth of the mud over the more solid substrate. To have seen these marshes before the post-WWII development boom, and to have had the broad view that work on two major flyways opened up for him, must have provided an enviable source of wonderment to his life.

We can be grateful that Mr. Meanley has shared his findings with us over the years in his very readable books, many of which I have on my own bookshelves and which are on the bookshelves in our sanctuaries. This latest one, a very neatly put together soft bound volume with a John Taylor black and white sketch of a Sora on the front, is on the shelf in Cylburn's Bird Museum. (Mr. Meanley and his wife are listed as owners of Taylor's painting of the Sora, one of 39 paintings in Taylor's book, "Birds of the Chesapeake Bay").

—Joy Wheeler.

## NEW JOURNAL

BIRD POPULATIONS, A Journal of Global Avian Biogeography

Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956-1346.  
David F. DeSante, Editor. \$35.

The year 1993 saw the debut of this impressive annual international journal of dynamic avian biogeography. Current reports on major North American monitoring programs form the foundation of this journal. These are supplemented by original or reprinted reports on national monitoring programs from other parts of the world, especially Europe. Original and review papers on bird populations and ecological relationships and on field techniques also are accepted. All papers are in English, with abstracts in Spanish, French, and German.

Contents for 1993 include the Breeding Bird Survey Annual Summary for 1990-91 with 2-year and long-term continental changes for about 250 species; the second annual report of DeSante's continental MAPS program that uses constant effort banding stations to estimate nesting success and survival; the 1989-90 index report from the British Common Birds Census; the British Waterways Bird Survey report for 1990-91; British Constant Effort banding reports for 1989-90 and 1990-91; British Wintering Wader reports for 1990-91 and 1991-92; and research papers on population trends in Sandhill Cranes, breeding birds in early successional pine plantations in Texas, and the distribution and migration of Yellow-billed Loons.

I heartily recommend this journal to everyone who wishes to keep informed on the status of bird populations.—Ed.

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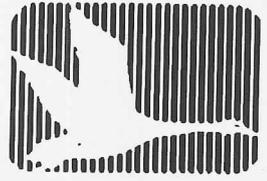


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**MARYLAND BIRDLIFE**

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Active Membership (adults)	\$10.00 plus local chapter dues
Household	15.00 plus local chapter dues
Sustaining	25.00 plus local chapter dues
Life	400.00 (4 annual installments)
Junior (under 18 years)	5.00 plus local chapter dues

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Cover: One of the most sought birds at Ocean City MOS Conventions. Purple Sandpiper photographed by Luther Goldman, 1994.