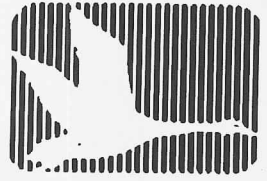


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Cylburn Mansion, 5015 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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Household	15.00 plus local chapter dues
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Life	400.00 (4 annual installments)
Junior (under 18 years)	5.00 plus local chapter dues

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



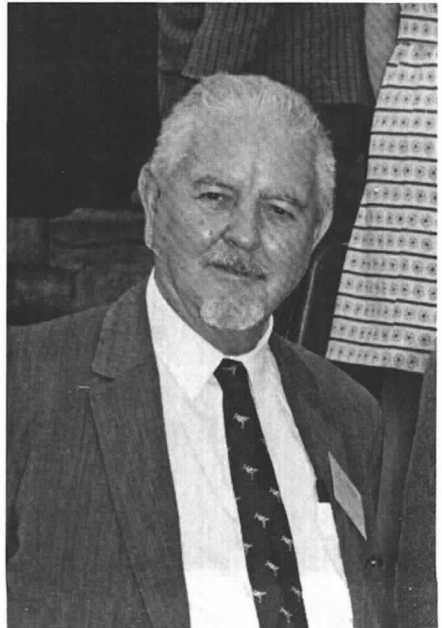
A TRIBUTE TO ORVILLE WRIGHT CROWDER, 1904-1974

DONALD H. MESSERSMITH

Orville W. Crowder was one of the founders and charter members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. He was the first elected Vice President when the Society was organized on 9 April 1945. The following year he was elected the second President of MOS and served in that office from 1946 to 1952. He made many other significant contributions to this Society and others in Maryland. His legacy lives on in the work of the World Nature Association which he also founded.

Orville Wright Crowder, whose cousin was the famous inventor of the airplane, was born on 24 March 1904 in Baltimore, Maryland, where he attended grade and high school as well as graduating from Baltimore College. A childhood interest in stamp collecting led to his operating a stamp business in Baltimore with his brother in the 1920's and 1930's. Philately was an interest that continued throughout his life. An interest in nature also began rather early along with an urge to travel.

His wanderings began with a trip to the western United States in the 1920's. Out of this trip grew his great interest in mountains, mountaineering, and hiking. He eventually climbed to the highest point in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. Pursuing these interests he founded the Mountain Club of Maryland in 1924 and served as its first President. Active in the early years of the Appalachian Trail Conference, in 1937 he became the third person to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia.



Orville Crowder from a group photo.
Date and photographer unknown.

Another deep interest was the C & O Canal. He served in various capacities in the Canal Level Walkers and the C & O Canal Association, and as co-author of Section 1, he helped Thomas F. Hahn in writing *Towpath Guide to the C & O Canal*. He gave much assistance to the American Youth Hostels Association when the Potomac area Council was establishing its chain of hostels along the canal. He also served as a member of the AYH's national board of directors.

Stemming from all this outdoor activity was Orville's avid interest in birds, wildflowers, astronomy, and other forms of natural history. A member of many natural history societies and very active in the Natural History Society of Maryland, he was a prime mover in reviving a dying bird club in Baltimore, in building it into the Maryland Ornithological Society, and personally founded several of its chapters throughout the state.

"In response to an appeal by a group of bird students, a meeting was held on February 23, 1945 at the Natural History Society of Maryland [2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore] to organize a bird study club.....A meeting was called for March 9th at 8:30 P.M. to elect officers and adopt a constitution.....At the March 9th meeting Orville Crowder was elected Vice-President." - Volume 1, No. 2 of Maryland Birdlife. He and Miss Florence H. Burner made up the first Hike Committee. He led his first bird trip for the new organization on 17 March 1945, when they went to Harwood and Point Oliver on Gunpowder River. They recorded 18 species. He also led the next two trips of the infant organization—on 18 March to Dundee Creek where they saw 35 species and on 25 March to Sandy Point and over on the ferry to Matapeake with 33 species recorded. (Vol. 1, No. 1)

He was elected the second President of the Society on 8 March 1946. He served until March of 1952, when he was replaced by Chandler S. Robbins as President. Orville continued on as State Secretary and served in that position until March 1955.

In the January-February 1948 issue (Vol. 4, No. 1) we read, "Our President, Mr. Orville Crowder, was not in his usual place, and our Society missed his infectious enthusiasm. It was with real sorrow that we learned that his brother, Mr. Newton Wright Crowder, passed away suddenly on the afternoon of our [December 12] meeting."

Orville was also interested in young people and encouraged their participation through his state-wide lectures to schools and by helping to organize their clubs. By the spring of 1947 there were 43 Junior Clubs in the state.

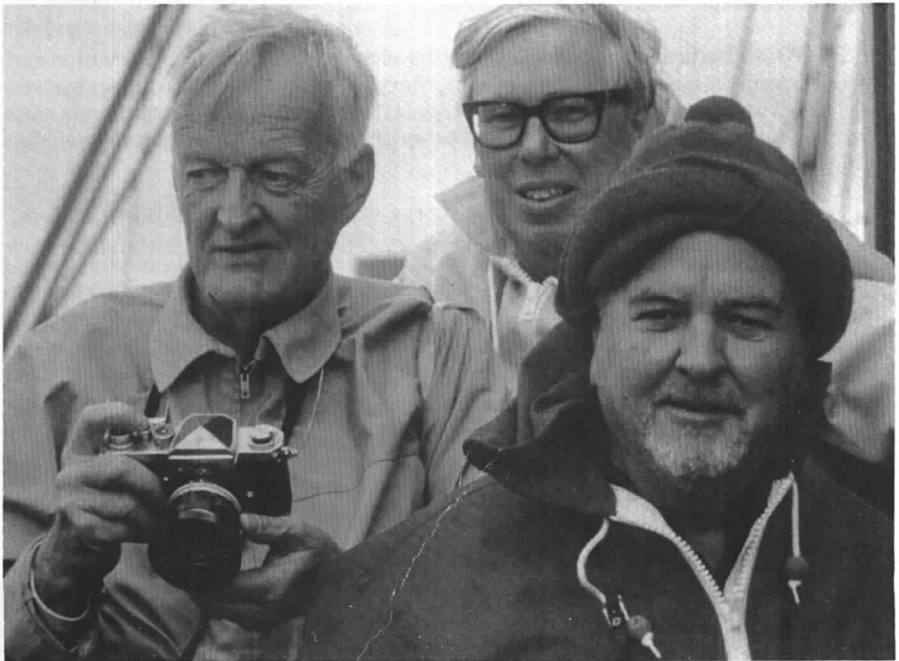
His activities during his tenure as President were many. In addition to leading many field trips and having meetings at his property on Bird River, one of the most significant things he did was to travel to far corners of the state to give lectures about the Society and birding in general, and to encourage local participation in birding. As a result of these trips he encouraged people to organize meetings that eventually became new chapters of the state Society. The Baltimore Chapter, of course, was the original foundation for the statewide Maryland Ornithological Society.

In his travels Orville was responsible for personally organizing the following chapters: Allegany on 10 September 1947 (with Helen Miller); Frederick, 17 April 1948; Washington County, 26 April 1948; Harford County, 25 October 1949; Anne Arundel, 7 February 1950; Caroline County, 1950; Takoma Park Nature Society, 1951 (now

defunct); and Garrett County, November 1953.

His interest in birding trips led to his leading trips farther afield. He retired from the Martin Aviation Company—in which he worked first in personnel, then in training—in the early 1950's. Following that retirement, he worked at various things, including a year with the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry. Then in 1960 he took a long-dreamed-of trip to Europe to see birds, travelling extensively across the continent and forming valuable friendships. That was the trip that led a group of friends to ask for a similar tour in 1962. He led another to East Africa in 1963, and his full-time work in nature tours had begun. He formed Crowder Nature Tours, the first of the overseas nature tour organizations. Since then until his death he organized some 128 tours to every corner of the world and to every continent. Orville himself led, met briefly, or just joined almost every one of these. In addition, of course, there were his own extensive scouting trips. He went around the world eight times; twice in one year. He eventually visited all but six countries in the world. He missed only Bhutan, China, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, and another I don't know.

These trips were primarily bird-watching trips, and in the course of them Orville compiled a life list exceeding 4,000 species. His AOU list (north of Mexico) stands at 630. His bird lists dating back to 1931 and including many of the first MOS trips are preserved in the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Library of the World Nature Association. His diaries and other memorabilia are here also. Some go back to his childhood.



Messrs. Peterson, Lindblad, and Crowder. Photo probably from an Antarctic cruise.

Over the years more than 900 persons took part in Crowder tours. Orville was especially proud of "repeaters." One woman was on 33 trips; others have taken almost as many.

As a result of these tours he conceived the idea of a world-wide nature organization that would bring together people interested in conservation problems. In April 1969 the World Nature Club was founded. It is now the World Nature Association, and it is committed to carrying out his plans to make it a strong force in the world in promoting an international exchange of natural history and conservation information and help. Having no family, Orville left his entire estate to the Association to help it reach these goals.

His health began to fail in the early 1970's, but he continued to travel with determination. He was the only person to lead a single tour that went to every one of the former Soviet Union Republics. He was preparing for another trip to the Soviet Union when on 21 July 1974 he was struck down with a stroke as he was going out the door, literally with his suitcase in hand. Orville's last trip came on 6 August 1974. His ashes were scattered near his beloved property on Deer Creek in Harford County. Many of the early gatherings of the MOS were held here at what he called "Lost Valley." At one time Deer Creek held Maryland's only endemic species—a small fish called the Maryland Darter. It is now extinct.

This remarkable man touched the lives of many people. He started a whole new aspect of bird-watching, which today is represented by many companies covering every corner of the world.

The World Nature Association has continued his wishes to help conservation and education projects outside the United States. Since 1970 the Association has sponsored 115 projects and given away \$117,577.00. People in 38 countries on 55 continents have benefitted from his legacy. His extensive library of nature and travel books is available for members' use.

The World Nature Association has funded an M.O.S. scholarship called the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Scholarship in his memory. To date some 16 scholarships have been awarded for a total of about \$9,000.00.

Orville Crowder's tour concepts have continued under the name of World Nature Tours, Inc., which Don and Sherry Messersmith took on in 1975 after his death.

P. O. Box 693, Woodmoor Station, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Received 23 February 1995

CHANGES IN SUBURBAN BIRDLIFE IN 60 YEARS

LUTHER C. GOLDMAN

Years ago someone wrote a little verse about what was happening then in the west. It went something like this:

“Their houses have locks on every door,
their land is in a crate.
These ain't the plains of God no more,
but only real estate.”

This is what has happened here at College Park in Prince George's County, Maryland, where my wife, Betty, and I have lived since 1959. The house, now about 89 years old, was Betty's childhood home. Houses then were few, and woods and fields surrounded them, providing a world of nature study and considerable habitat for wildlife. Although only 18 kilometers (11 miles) from the District Line of Washington, D.C., it was truly rural, where people had barnyards, a few cows, chickens, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees. It was not unusual, in the spring, to see bobwhites with their large broods feeding on the property, bluebirds and Great Crested Flycatchers using natural nesting sites, and Black-crowned Night-Herons flying over in the late evening for feeding in a nearby marsh. Homeowners had problems protecting the poultry from raiding weasels, skunks, and raccoons.

My father-in-law, Walter F. Mulligan, was an avid student of nature. He kept notes on birdlife, and, as was popular in those early days, sometimes collected their eggs. His records and ours have shown the decline of bird species in the past 60 or more years.

There are numerous reasons, of course, why local changes have taken place here in College Park and caused the drop-off of bird species from earlier lists. Taking the place of country fields and woods are houses everywhere, busy streets, huge shopping centers with sprawling parking lots, and a heavily used, multi-lane beltway that runs 65 miles around the City. Few wooded spots and vacant lots remain. The same man-made reasons for the decline of birds all over the eastern United States apply here, along with what is happening to the wintering habitat for neotropical migrants and others.

Although the home property is only 0.4 hectare (one acre) in size, we have recorded over 125 bird species using it and the air space above it since the 1960's. We have allowed trees, shrubs, and berry and seed plants to grow; in short, we have a small sanctuary here for avifauna. Maturity of the trees and shrubs, plus bird baths and feeders, used year round, have improved the yard habitat, in spite of the decline in number of species using it. Increased use of the area by such aggressive species as European Starling, House Finch, Blue Jay, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk (also Gray Squirrel) is an additional deterrent to bird use here.

Following are lists of seasonally migrant or resident species that we have not seen in years, or that have declined in numbers, and also a list of species that have increased.

Not Seen in Years

Great Blue Heron	Great Horned Owl	Northern Waterthrush
Green Heron	Whip-poor-will	Louisiana Waterthrush
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Belted Kingfisher	Scarlet Tanager
American Kestrel	Red-headed Woodpecker	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Merlin	Great Crested Flycatcher	Indigo Bunting
Northern Bobwhite	Purple Martin	American Tree Sparrow
Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Black-billed Cuckoo	No. Rough-winged Swallow	Field Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Bank Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Barn Owl	Cliff Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Screech-Owl	Eastern Bluebird	Evening Grosbeak
	Brown Thrasher	

Decreased in Numbers

Red-shouldered Hawk	Veery	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Magnolia Warbler
Barred Owl	Swainson's Thrush	Cape May Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Hermit Thrush	Black-th. Green Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Bay-breasted Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing	Ovenbird
Eastern Kingbird	White-eyed Vireo	Rufous-sided Towhee
Barn Swallow	Solitary Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Tennessee Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Winter Wren	Nashville Warbler	Northern Oriole
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Northern Parula	Purple Finch
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Yellow Warbler	Pine Siskin

Increased in Numbers

Tundra Swan (overhead)	Mourning Dove	Red-winged Blackbird
Canada Goose (overhead, residents increasing)	Downy Woodpecker	Common Grackle
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Crow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Cooper's Hawk	Fish Crow	House Finch
	European Starling	House Sparrow

9210 49th Avenue, College Park, MD 20740

Received 15 September 1994

FIFTY YEARS OF MOS CONVENTIONS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bird Species</u>
1945	40	Md. Nat. Hist. Soc., Baltimore	
1946		Md. Nat. Hist. Soc., Baltimore	
1947		Baltimore	
1948	114	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1949	112	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1950	125	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1951		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1952		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1953	79	Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1954		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	
1955	133	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	169
1956		Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	179
1957	152	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	152
1958		Camp Greentop, Catoctin	105
1959	150	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	156
1960		Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	170
1961	191	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	180
1962	181	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	164
1963	223	Hastings Hotel, Ocean City	184
1964		Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	207
1965	150	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	190
1966	191	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	182
1967	245	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1968	304	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	186
1969	313	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1970	322	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	200
1971	317	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	213
1972	313	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1973	310+	Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City	
1974	250+	Santa Maria Motor Hotel, Ocean City	
1975	308	Diplomat Motel, Ocean City	204
1976	228	Fenwick Inn, Ocean City	
1977	190	Fenwick Inn, Ocean City	224
1978		Plim Plaza, Ocean City	
1979		Plim Plaza, Ocean City	
1980	223	Fenwick Inn, Ocean City	193
1981	200+	Delmarva Convention Hall, Delmar	185
1982	315+	Delmarva Convention Hall, Delmar	202
1983	250	Delmarva Convention Hall, Delmar	198
1984	414	Frostburg State College	154
1985	302	Salisbury State College	173
1986	275+	Frostburg State College	
1987	195	Washington College, Chestertown	
1988	216	Hood College, Frederick	
1989		Frostburg State University	
1990	345	Washington College, Chestertown	
1991		4-H Center, Chevy Chase	127
1992	220	Salisbury State University	
1993		Frostburg State University	
1994		Bible Conference Center, Cecil Co.	192
1995		Mt. St. Marys College, Emmitsburg	

M.O.S. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

The Maryland Ornithological Society has reason to be proud of its involvement in bird conservation not only in Maryland, but also in tropical areas where so many Maryland birds spend the winter. This involvement has included many aspects, ranging from direct purchase of land for incorporation in tropical preserves to support of bird research activities in the West Indies, Mexico, and Central and South America, to training of Latin American biologists, to supplying books, binoculars, and other equipment to scientists, students, and wardens in tropical countries.

Our participation in tropical conservation began in 1960 when Cdr. Edward Wilson from the Anne Arundel Chapter volunteered to assist me for a month on the Midway Islands developing ways to reduce the hazard of albatrosses to aircraft and vice versa. This was the first of more than a dozen instances where MOS volunteers assisted U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service teams in tropical research and training expeditions.

Through challenge grants MOS members have contributed substantial funding for the purchase of critical rain forest and cloud forest preserves in several countries. In 1983 the Baltimore, Howard, Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington County Chapters responded generously to a plea from the Costa Rica Parks Foundation.

In 1989 the Baltimore Bird Club donated \$1,000 from the Martin Fund to the Monteverde Conservation League in Costa Rica to buy 20 acres of Monteverde forest. A challenge grant in 1990 raised an additional \$2,715 for Monteverde.

In 1990, responding to an urgent plea from the World Parks Endowment, the Patuxent Chapter raised \$2,553 in small contributions that preserved a square mile of an initial land purchase on Sierra de las Minas in Guatemala. Subsequent purchases, including a donation of \$5,000 from the Howard County Chapter, plus designation of adjacent land by the Guatemalan government resulted in establishment of Sierra de las Minas as a Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations!

In 1991 a challenge grant resulted in the purchase of 50 acres of rain forest in the Rio Bravo preserve in northwestern Belize. This preserve is strategically located, being contiguous with two other extensive protected areas: Tikal National Park in Guatemala and the Calakmul reserve in the Mexican state of Campeche.

In 1992, proceeds from the Howard County Chapter's seed sales were donated to the Bladen Mountains Nature Reserve in southern Belize.

In 1993 the Patuxent Chapter initiated a Rain Forest Challenge to help the new Guatemalan conservation organization FUNDAECO (Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation) purchase land for a reserve at Cerro San Gil (pronounced sahn heel) on the Atlantic slope. Contributions from the Patuxent, Howard, Baltimore, Montgomery, Washington, Frederick, and Harford Chapters and from many members were augmented by proceeds of the silent auction, raffle, and photography contests at the 1992, 1993 and 1994 MOS Conferences, and checks totaling \$13,937 were sent to FUNDAECO, earmarked for land purchase. Some of this money is already paying

double dividends. The first check (\$3,100) resulted in matching funds from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the match to be used for supporting the Guatemala Research Training Center. Since the 1994 Conference additional contributions have been received from the Talbot and Patuxent Chapters and from many individual members.

MOS also recently donated \$500 to help rebuild the Las Cruces Biological Station in Costa Rica through the Organization for Tropical Studies.

Research on habitat requirements of migrants on their wintering grounds was started in Belize (formerly British Honduras) by Manomet Bird Observatory in 1983. Ed Smith and Chan and Eleanor Robbins were among the first volunteers to participate in that program. In 1984 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began a survey of use of tropical habitats by both migrants and resident birds. Volunteer banders from Maryland and a dozen other states and Canadian provinces have been an essential ingredient of this study, as have Latin American conservation organizations in the host countries. Some of this work has focused on conservation lands, some in agricultural habitats. An example of protected areas included in these studies is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Some of the Tropical Protected Areas for which MOS Members Have Provided Quantitative Data on Habitat Use by Birds

Name of Reserve	Country	Years
Pinones Mangrove Reserve	Puerto Rico, USA	1984
Reserva Forestal Maricao	Puerto Rico, USA	1984, 1987
Reserva Forestal Cambalache	Puerto Rico, USA	1987
Guanica Biosphere Reserve	Puerto Rico, USA	1985, 1987
Parque Nacional del Este	Dominican Republic	1984
Henri Pittier National Park	Venezuela	1985
Tapanti National Park	Costa Rica	1984
Crown Lands, Cockpit Country	Jamaica	1984
Blue Mountain (Hardwar Gap)	Jamaica	1986
Guanacaste Park Bird Sanctuary	Belize	1983, 1987
Parrots Wood (now Belize Zoo)	Belize	1983, 1987
Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanct.	Belize	1990
Community Baboon Sanctuary	Belize	1991
Rio Bravo Conservation Area	Belize	1991
Shipstern Wildlife Reserve	Belize	1991
Estacion de Biologia Los Tuxtlas	Veracruz, Mexico	1987
Rancho Sandoval	Campeche, Mexico	1992
Reserva Biosphera Sierra de las Minas	Guatemala	1992
Reserva Natural de Monterrico	Guatemala	1992
Cerro San Gil	Guatemala	1992-95

For the most part, the MOS volunteers, all experienced bird banders, paid their expenses, but in some years a grant from the Dorothy Blake Martin Fund of the Baltimore Chapter or the MOS Research Fund covered some of the travel costs, and in some years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided partial funding for MOS volunteers.

Honor roll of MOS tropical volunteers: George Armistead, Marty Barron, Daniel Boone, Margaret and Morrill Donald, Nate Erwin, Andy Hicks, Jane Fallon, Linda Hollenberg, David Holmes, Mark Johnson, Henry Louie, Bob Lyon, Charlotte Pryor, Eleanor, and Jane Robbins, Barbara Ross, John Sauer, Edgar Smith, Susie Strange, Edward Wilson. The Donalds, Edgar Smith, and others have also assisted with other research projects in Venezuela.

Those MOS members who have participated in the World Nature Association tours have helped sponsor 115 projects in 38 countries; the bulk of these projects have been in Latin America. See Don Messersmith's memorial article on Orville Crowder.

7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Maryland

BARN SWALLOW (*HIRUNDO RUSTICA*) ON THE ALLEGANY COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

JIM PAULUS and TERESA SIMONS

On 11 November 1993, we visited the soybean waste treatment facility along the North Branch of the Potomac River at North Branch, about eight kilometers south of Cumberland, Maryland, to look for lingering shorebirds. After finding a few Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) and American Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*), we started a count of the large number of Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferus*) present. While checking one of the ponds, Paulus made a brief sighting of a Barn Swallow but we were unable to relocate the bird.

Some time during the first week of December, Mary Twigg, a member of the Allegany Chapter of M.O.S., called Paulus to report a Barn Swallow at the treatment facility, saying the bird had been seen several times in the last week of November and in early December. Simons checked the facility on 4 December and found the bird.

The soybean waste treatment facility consists of three waste-water impoundments, each about 4 hectares in size. Two of the impoundments are open and one is covered with a waterproof tarpaulin. Pipes and structures under the tarpaulin produce about 50 small pools of water on top of the tarpaulin. In the summer and fall these pools are loaded with insects, making them a gathering spot for migrant shorebirds. One of the workers told us that the area under the cover is heated to a temperature between 17^o and 20^o C (62-68^o F). This keeps the water on top from freezing and ensures that insects are available well into the fall. A fence surrounds the three ponds and trespassing is not allowed. The best place for viewing the covered pond is from the towpath of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, which parallels the service road on one side of the pond.

Paulus visited the area on 11 December and saw the Barn Swallow flying low over the rainwater pools, occasionally skimming along the water surface picking up insects. For the next seven days Paulus saw the bird every morning. Its favorite perch was on a utility line alongside the road, where it could frequently be seen preening and occasionally heard giving a twittering song. The coldest day during this period was 13 December, when the morning temperature was -7.5°C (19°F). Paulus photographed the bird on 16 December as it was sitting on the wire and singing, and after seeing the bird late on the 17th, assumed it would be present for the Christmas Bird Count the next day.

At 11 a.m. on the 18th we found the Barn Swallow flying low over the rainwater pools on the covered impoundment. The temperature was about 2.5°C (36°F), the sky was partly cloudy, and the wind out of the west at about five kph. The bird was in typical adult plumage. The upperparts were blue-black. The tail was long and forked, and white patches were visible when the tail was spread. The forehead patch and throat were reddish-brown, and the rest of the underparts were cinnamon-buff.

The following behavioral notes were made during the period of the bird's stay. It appeared to be healthy in every respect, capable of strong and fast flight. It was capable of catching insects on the wing and skimming them off the water. It was capable of singing and preening itself. When sitting on the tarpaulin it did not limp, stagger, or lose its balance. When perched on the line it did not flutter or lose its balance.

About 400 meters from the waste treatment facility is a barn housing about 30 cows. Several times the Barn Swallow was seen perched on a utility line next to the barn, and we presume that this is where the bird spent its nights.

Paulus saw the Barn Swallow again on 19 December, and for the last time on the 20th. The weather on those two days was very cold, dark, and windy, with blowing snow. About 10 cm of snow fell on the 21st.

*P. O. Box 1883, Cumberland, MD 21501 and
141 N. Bel Air Dr., Cumberland MD 21502*

Received 4 April 1995

SIGHTING OF CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW FLEDGLING

SUE A. RICCIARDI

On the morning of 2 June 1994, I was conducting a bird survey near Marley Creek in northern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The surrounding area was a mixture of woodland, farm fields, small businesses, and residential development. The 12 hectare (30 acre) forested survey site was bordered by a secondary road, a cultivated farm field, a business establishment and, to the north, Marley Creek. Second-growth pine and mixed deciduous trees averaging 12 meters (40 feet) in height were the norm. Comprising about one-fourth to one-third of the site was a tract of scrub pine (*Pinus*

virginiana) where the understory was practically devoid of vegetation. The forest floor was blanketed with pine needles and dry leaves and littered with dead trees and branches.

As I was walking through the section of pines, I was startled by something that fluttered up to my side from behind me. A bird flew across in front of me continuing its fluttery flight, but not leaving the immediate vicinity. Instead, it alighted on a dead tree branch about one meter from the ground, croaking softly and clearly agitated. After a few moments, it flew to another low perch. Immediately I could see that it was a Caprimulgid species. I noted that it was a warm brown color overall, including the throat, which was bordered by a narrow creamy throat band. As the bird flew, it fanned its tail, revealing patches of white in the outer tail feathers. I identified it as a male Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*).

I thought perhaps there was a nest nearby, so I retreated, and eventually the bird flew to the ground. Unfortunately, when I moved to get a better view, I couldn't locate the bird again, nor did I see any nest. I then decided to leave to complete my survey. When I finished, to avoid a barking unleashed dog, I wound up walking near the same area. Suddenly, to my astonishment, a second Caprimulgid rose up from the ground about 0.6 meter from me. This bird resembled the first one, but with no white in the tail, indicating a female Chuck-will's-widow. She flew to a limb a short distance away, and in a menacing posture with her mouth wide open, hissed at me. When I looked down at the spot on the ground that she had just vacated, I discovered a fledgling, lying still. It was covered in a creamy yellow down with tawny marks on the back. Because I was concerned about the birds' well being, I left the area immediately. Upon my exit, I twice heard the call of a nearby Chuck-will's-widow. Subsequently, on a roadside visit at dusk, I heard at least two Chuck-will's-widows calling within the surrounding area.

Now I wish I had stayed to observe the fledgling just a bit longer, because I have since learned how unusual this sighting was. Little information is available on the nesting behavior of Chuck-will's-widows in Maryland. The Maryland Nest Record File cites just eight nests with eggs, located between early May and early June, and dating from 1920. Only one of those records refers to young—a nest on the ground with two downy young found by Brooke Meanley in an open stand of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) near Hooper's Island in Dorchester County on 18 June 1958. During the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas (in press), only four instances of confirmed breeding were reported, and none indicated the presence of fledglings. The atlas data show that the Chuck-will's-widow is largely confined to the Eastern and Western Shore Sections of the Coastal Plain, where it is sparsely distributed.

Whether this species will continue to nest on the site is uncertain; the survey was conducted as a precursor to a residential development.

1132 Ferber Avenue, Arnold, Maryland

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FALL MIGRATION, AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 1993

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

The hot and dry conditions of July continued through August with seventeen counties suffering drought conditions, especially the Eastern Shore and southern Maryland. September and October were cooler, with a few cold fronts passing through, and with close to normal precipitation. November was warm and a little wetter than normal. Many species took advantage of the extensive growth of hydrilla vegetation on the Potomac River in the District of Columbia.

Observers: Henry and George Armistead, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Bill Dobbins, Margaret Donald, Paul DuMont, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Jean & Larry Fry, Ralph Geuder, Inez Glime, Caleb Gordon, Greg Gough, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Bill Howe, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Don Merritt, Stauffer Miller, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Ken Rosenberg, Barbara Ross, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Teresa Simons, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Connie Skipper, Dan & Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, Mary Ann Todd, Mary Twigg, David Walbeck, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Joy Wheeler, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted at Adventure Sanctuary by Margaret Donald, at Cherry Creek by Fran Pope and Connie Skipper, and at Irvine by Barbara Ross with assistance from several birders.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), 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: Adventure Sanctuary (Montgomery), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park

(Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Broadford Reservoir (Garrett), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Dan's Rock (Allegany), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Eden Brook (Howard), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Harford Glen (Harford), Harney Road Pond (Frederick), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Reservoir (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (Prince George's), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Plum Tree Path (Howard), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Sugarloaf Mountain (Frederick), Susquehanna SP (Harford), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Town Hill (Allegany), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes. **Red-throated Loons** this fall included single sightings at Fort Smallwood on Oct. 22 and Nov. 18 (Wierenga), at the mouth of the Choptank River on Oct. 24 (H. Armistead+), at Great Falls on Nov. 10 and again on Nov. 20 (Linda Friedland), at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 14 (Bjerke), at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese), at Loch Raven on Nov. 18 (Simon), at Piney Run Park, Nov. 21-25 (Ringler), with 2 on Nov. 25 (Harvey), and at Rocky Gap on Nov. 26 (Czaplak, Stasz). Single **Common Loons** at Assateague on Aug. 4 (Dobbins) and Aug. 15 (Hoffman), at Loch Raven on Aug. 5 (Simon), and at Bellevue on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead+), may have summered locally. The first migrant noted at Assateague was on Sept. 11 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien, J. O'Brien), and 150 were counted at Bellevue on Oct. 31 (Armisteads). Inland Common Loons were 40 at Centennial on Nov. 1 (Ott), 168 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 20 (Janni), and 26 at Deep Creek Lake and 34 at Broadford Reservoir on Nov. 26 (Czaplak). In late November, several stranded Common Loons, mistaking ice-covered roads for water in Garrett County, were rescued and released in Deep Creek Lake. Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Piney Run on Aug. 5 (Ringler), and in West Ocean City on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), and the highest concentration was 44 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead). Steve Simon found inland Pied-billeds at Loch Raven with 20 on Nov. 29, and he discovered 2 early **Horned Grebes** there on Oct. 14. Other Horned Grebes enjoyed the DC hydrilla, with 1 there on Oct. 17, and 20 on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), and 25 on Nov. 19 (Rick Sussman). Howard County also hosted a few Horned Grebes with single birds at Centennial Lake and at Wilde Lake on Oct. 19 (Ott). A **Red-necked Grebe** in winter plumage was reported in DC on Nov. 29 (Ted Unseth).

Storm-Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. One or 2 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were about 50 yards offshore at PRNAS on Aug. 8 (Rambo) and off Smith Island on Aug. 15 (Stasz+). Mark Hoffman spotted 2 **Northern Gannets** at Assateague on Oct. 16. **Brown Pelicans** included 1 at PRNAS on Sept. 6 (Rambo), 40 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), and 2 near Crisfield on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga). Ocean City remains a favorite spot for **Great Cormorants** with 3 on Oct. 9 (Hoffman), and 4 to 5 from Oct. 14 (Jay Sheppard) through November. **Double-crested Cormorants** were numerous with an adult at Salisbury on Aug. 3 (Dyke), 1 flying over Hagerstown on Sept. 12 (Cam & Norma Lewis), 121 at Back River on Sept. 18 (Scarpulla), 120 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico, Peters), 750 at Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+), 550 at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), 1 at Violettes Lock on Oct. 11 (Bonham), 120 migrating through DC on Oct. 23 and 170 flying over Sugarloaf Mountain on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 1 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 6 (Farrell, Solem, Osenton), 270 at Assateague on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), and 4 near Marshall Hall on Nov. 21 (Nistico).

Hérons, Ibises. With the dry conditions, the 2 early **American Bitterns** flying low over Hughes Hollow, on Aug. 14, may have been searching for suitable habitat (D. Southworth). Another was seen there on Sept. 19 (Rosenberg+), and others included 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 29 (Lola Oberman), 1 at Assateague on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), and 1 seen repeatedly near Frederick, Oct. 16—Nov. 3 (Miller). Jan Reese reported 3 **Least Bitterns** at Grasonville on Aug. 9, 3 near Easton on Aug. 10, and 1 at Grasonville on Aug. 20. Interesting **Great Egret** sightings were 22 at PWRC on Aug. 8 and 57 there on Aug. 26 (Osenton), 8 at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth), 150 at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hoffman), 16 in DC on Oct. 16 (Czaplak), 1 at Piney Run on Oct. 31 (Ringler), 2 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), 1 at Back River on Nov. 7 (Scarpulla), and 3 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 28 (Walbeck+). **Snowy Egrets** of note included 38 near Grasonville on Aug. 9 (Reese), 170 at Assateague on Aug. 13 and 120 there on Oct. 10 (Hoffman), 1 at Ocean City on Oct. 23 (Howe), and 1 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 28 (Walbeck+). Unusual inland, there were 4 immature **Little Blue Herons** at Piney Run, Aug. 28—Sept. 19 (Ringler), and 3 immature birds at Hughes Hollow on July 29 (Hilton). Several Little Blues were noted at Assateague, with 40 on Oct. 2, and the last 1 on Nov. 7 (Hoffman). Reese found **Tricolored Herons** near Grasonville with 1 on Aug. 2 and 8 on Aug. 9. The high count was a nice total of 100 at Bloodsworth Island on Aug. 10 (Lister, Rambo). Hoffman notched 60 Tricoloreds at Assateague on Oct. 10, and Dave, Marguerite, and Joseph Walbeck discovered 3 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 28. Harry and George Armistead observed a late **Cattle Egret** at Blackwater on Oct. 30, and **Green Heron** reports included 17 at Indian Head on Aug. 16 (Carol Ghebelian), 1 at PWRC on Nov. 4 (Osenton), and 1 at Centennial Lake until Nov. 26 (Farrell). An inland **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Loch Raven on Aug. 28 (Simon), and 2 immatures were seen near Frederick on Sept. 15, at the same location where an adult bird was first seen on July 26 (Miller). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** of note were an immature at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 15 (Gough, Osenton), an immature at Assateague on Sept. 6-12 (Hoffman), an immature at Pennyfield on Sept. 8 (Dobbins) and Sept. 13 (Bonham), an adult at Riderwood on Oct. 1 (Daniel Hardesty), and an immature at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 6 (Chestem, Ott, Solem). It was a good season for **White Ibises**, with an immature seen at Hughes Hollow by Paul Pisano on July 29 and by Robert Hilton on July 31. Two immature Whites were seen at Harford Glen on Aug. 7 (Webb), and one remained through Sept. 10 (Frys). An immature was at Assateague with a large flock of Glossy Ibis on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), and an immature was at Liberty Lake, Baltimore/Carroll counties, Aug. 8-21 (Ed Boyd+). **Glossy Ibises** were 9 near Grasonville on Aug. 2 (Reese), 2 reported by several birders at Hughes Hollow from Aug. 5 (Dick Homan) through Aug. 10 (Dobbins), 81 at Assateague on Aug. 8 and 10 there on Oct. 2 (Hoffman), and an immature, far inland, at North Branch on Nov. 28 (Twigg).

Swans, Geese. A **Tundra Swan** at Denton on Aug. 10, was found dead on Oct. 14 (Hewitt). Thirteen early Tundra Swans were at Denton on Oct. 3 (M. Miller). Higher counts were 145 at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Armisteads), and 1800 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 7 (DuMont). The unfortunate spread of **Mute Swans** continues with 370 at Hooper Island on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), a pair with 4 young at Rodo Beach on Aug. 15 (Ringler+), 48 at Claiborne on Sept. 12 (Ringler), an adult and 3 immatures at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman), 1 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico, Peters), 24, for a new high at Bellevue, on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead), 38 at Newcomb on Oct. 25 (Reese), and 5 at Grove Neck WMA, Cecil County on Nov. 7 (Ringler). A **Black Swan** was discovered with a group of Mute Swans at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman). A lone **Snow Goose** was seen flying over Sandy Point on Sept. 25 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 1 was inland at Knoxville on Oct. 3 (Miller). Others were 4 adults and 6 immatures at Tydings Island, Oct. 12-14 (Webb), 2 whites and 3 blues at Fulton on Oct. 31 and 2

blues at Lime Kiln Pond in Howard County on Nov. 6 (Farrell, Solem), over 400 at Denton on Nov. 7 (Nuttle), and 4500 near Sudlersville on Nov. 26 (DuMont). At least one **Ross' Goose** seems to make an appearance in recent fall seasons, but Harry Armistead found a blue phase Ross' at Blackwater on Nov. 7. Other Ross' reports were 1 near Sudlersville on Nov. 7 (DuMont), an adult near Snow Hill on Nov. 10 (Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan), and 1 with about 4000 Snow Geese in Queen Anne's County on Nov. 28 (Stasz, Iliff). The high for **Brant** was 50 at Assateague on Oct. 10 (Hoffman), and 1 was inland at Loch Raven, Oct. 14-26 (Simon). High numbers of **Canada Geese** were 175 at Mt. Airy, Carroll County on Aug. 28 (Ringler), 70 at West Ocean City on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), 385 at Loch Raven on Sept. 7 (Simon), and 500 at Fulton on Oct. 31 (Farrell, Solem). Suspected **Canada X Greater White-fronted Geese** hybrids were observed at Laytonsville on Nov. 24 (Dobbins), and at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt).

Dabbling Ducks. Jan Reese found a **Wood Duck** with 5 flightless young at Centreville on Aug. 10, and lingerers were 1 at Thurmont on Nov. 21 (Ringler), 6 on the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico), and 3 in DC on Nov. 24 (Janni). Early **Green-winged Teal** were 2 at Blackwater on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), 4 near Grasonville on Aug. 20 (Reese), and 1 at Loch Raven on Aug. 25 (Simon). Others were 50 at Patuxent River Park on Sept. 11 (Nistico), 200 at Easton on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), several hundred at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on Nov. 11 (Jett), and 35 at Loch Raven on Nov. 18 (Simon). Large numbers of **Mallards** included 190 at Piney Run on Aug. 5 (Ringler), 300 at West Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Hoffman), 1200 in DC on Oct. 29 (Janni), and 475 at Blackwater on Nov. 6 (H. Armistead+). The first **Northern Pintails** were 2 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead). Notable numbers of Pintails were 770 in the DC hydrilla on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 525 at Blackwater the same day (Armisteads), and 18 at West Ocean City on Nov. 6 (Hoffman). No early **Blue-winged Teals** were reported; 60 were in the DC hydrilla on Sept. 5 (Czaplak), and a lingering female was at Centennial on Nov. 21 (Zeichner). Two early **Northern Shovelers** were at the Berlin sewage ponds on Aug. 28 (Hoffman). Higher numbers were 40 at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt), 190 in DC on Oct. 27 (Janni), 40 at Easton on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), 250 feeding on hydrilla in DC on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), and about 100 at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on Nov. 11 (Jett). Paul Nistico found 6 early **Gadwalls** at Patuxent River Park on Sept. 11. Others were 75 in DC on Oct. 29 (Janni), and 80 on the Potomac in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was sorted out at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga) and Nov. 20 (Dan King). **American Wigeons** were early with 1 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), 8 at Loch Raven on Sept. 9 (Simon), and 1 at West Ocean City on Sept. 11 (Hoffman). Highs were over 5000 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 10 (D. Southworth) and Oct. 14 (Lawler), 70 in DC on Oct. 29 (Janni), and 260 at Loch Raven on Nov. 26 (Simon).

Diving Ducks. No large counts for the **Canvasback** were reported; a solo drake was at Tydings Island on Oct. 13 (Webb). A **Ring-necked Duck** seen on Aug. 13 and 20 at the Berlin sewage ponds may have summered (Hoffman). Others included 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 26 (Ringler), 30 near Gaithersburg on Oct. 23 (Bonham), and the high of 750 at Loch Raven on Nov. 26 (Simon). A **Greater Scaup** was at Piney Run on Nov. 7 (Ringler). A single male **Lesser Scaup** was near Piscataway on Sept. 6, and about 1000 were on the Potomac in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). An adult male **Common Eider** visited the pond at West Ocean City on Nov. 6 (Hoffman), and was seen again on Nov. 10 (Paul Lehman, Shawneen Finnegan) and on Nov. 13 (Magnusson). A female **King Eider** was reported at Sandy Point on Nov. 27 (Rosenberg). An adult drake **Harlequin Duck** was at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 13 (Magnusson) and Nov.

26 (Janni); a female was reported at OC on Nov. 27 (DuMont). **Oldsquaws** were early with 3 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10 (Reese). At least 4 were at Thomas Point on Oct. 23 (Kathy Lambert+), 2 were inland at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 19 (Bonham), 1 was inland at Loch Raven on Oct. 26, with 2 there on Oct. 27 (Simon), and a remarkable 235 fly-overs were tallied in DC on Nov. 7 (Czaplak, Janni). Steve Simon discovered an inland **Black Scoter** at Loch Raven on Oct. 26, a female was at Piney Run on Nov. 14 (Ringler+), and Ottavio Janni notched a female at Hains Point on Nov. 25. Harry Armistead and party identified 2 **Surf Scoters** flying over Bellevue on Sept. 25, 11 immatures were noted at DC on Oct. 4 (Dobbins), 1 was inland at Loch Raven on Oct. 26 (Simon), 200 were tallied near Crisfield on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga), and a female was at Piney Run Oct. 31—Nov. 14 (Ringler+). The immature Surf Scoter in Howard County at Centennial on Nov. 1 and at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 7 and Nov. 11 (Solem+) are believed to be the same bird. Two females or immatures were at the Gunpowder River in Harford County on Nov. 11-14 (Webb), 2 birds were at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 21 (Czaplak), and a male was at Triadelphia on Nov. 28 (Farrell, Solem). **White-winged Scoters** also were noted, with 8 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 30 (Czaplak). **Buffleheads** began with 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 18 (Simon), and the high count at Triadelphia was 85 on Nov. 1 (Solem). Others were 26 at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 7 (Weesner), 225 at Grasonville on Nov. 9 and 350 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 14 (Reese), 60 at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 19 (Bonham), and a nice tally of close to 2000 on the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). Sixty **Hooded Mergansers** were on the Potomac in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico), 70 at Piney Run on Nov. 21 (Ringler), and 105 at Broadford Lake on Nov. 26 (Czaplak). Mark Hoffman discovered a female **Common Merganser** at Assateague on Nov. 7, and Harry Armistead and his family notched 55 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Bellevue on Nov. 13. Solo early **Ruddy Ducks** were inland at Centennial on Sept. 2 (Ott, Wilkinson), at Loch Raven on Sept 27 (Simon), and at Denton on Sept. 30 (Hewitt). Bob Ringler noted 60 at Piney Run on Nov. 6-7.

Vultures, Ospreys, Eagles, Hawks. A pair of **Black Vultures** with flightless young was discovered near North East on Aug. 24 (Reese). A record DC count of 187 **Turkey Vultures**, all migrants, was tallied on Oct. 23 (Czaplak, Janni). Connie Skipper counted 35 between Grantsville and Bittinger on Oct. 26. **Ospreys** running late were at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 13 (Webb), at Assateague on Nov. 21 (Dyke), and at Triadelphia on Nov. 28 (Osenton). Three adult **Bald Eagles** were observed at Loch Raven on Oct. 7 (Simon), and 10 Bald Eagles were seen along the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico). An early migrant **Northern Harrier** was notched near New Market on Aug. 22 (Miller). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** began with 1 in Charles County on Aug. 15 (Nistico), 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 29 (Reese), and 1 at Bellevue on Sept. 1 (G. Armistead). **Cooper's Hawks** started with 1 at Whiteleysburg on Aug. 11 (Reese, Short), 1 at Bellevue on Aug. 22 (Armisteads), 1 at Denton on Aug. 23 (Short), 7 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 19 (Reese), and 12 in DC on Oct. 23 (Czaplak). **Northern Goshawks** made quite a few lists this fall with single sightings at High Ridge Park, Howard County on Oct. 16 (Chan Robbins), in DC on Oct. 24 and Oct. 28 (Czaplak), at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary on Oct. 31 (Peter Hanan), and in DC on Nov. 2 (Janni). Czaplak and Janni tallied 44 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and 70 **Red-tailed Hawks** in DC on Nov. 7. High numbers for the **Broad-winged Hawk** were 6363 fly-overs near Centennial on Sept. 20 (Mike Kerwin), 2500 near Ellicott City on Sept. 20 (Ott), 586 at Darnestown on Sept. 21 (Simonson), 1467 at Centennial on Sept. 22 (Kerwin), 793 at Rockburn Branch Park the same day (Geuder), 40 at Susquehanna SP on Sept. 24 (Webb), and 120 at Sandy Point on Sept. 25 (Davidson, Wierenga). Bonnie Ott noted 1 at Ellicott City on Oct. 24. An early **Rough-legged Hawk** was inland near Emmitsburg on Oct. 31 (Paul Fritz). Interesting **Golden Eagles** were individuals at Centennial on

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

Compiled by Jim Paulus

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Turkey Vulture	10/10	11/29	163	70 on 10/18, 39 on 10/22
Osprey	9/3	10/9	41	9 on 9/29, 9 on 10/2
Bald Eagle	8/28	9/29	7	3 on 9/11, 2 on 9/15
Northern Harrier	9/3	11/20	52	6 on 11/1, 4 on 11/2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/23	12/1	450	60 on 10/22, 33 on 10/18
Cooper's Hawk	9/15	11/7	43	7 on 10/22, 5 on 10/3
Northern Goshawk	10/26	11/29	4	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/27	12/2	40	13 on 10/28, 5 on 11/7
Broad-winged Hawk	8/23	10/13	1023	599 on 9/20, 148 on 9/18
Red-tailed Hawk	9/25	12/2	418	61 on 11/7, 43 on 10/26
Rough-legged Hawk	11/20		1	
Golden Eagle	10/18	11/20	19	5 on 11/20, 2 on 10/18
American Kestrel	8/23	10/23	82	12 on 9/10, 10 on 9/29
Merlin	9/29	10/29	5	2 on 9/30
Peregrine Falcon	9/22	10/6	10	3 on 9/30, 2 on 10/2
Unidentified			68	
Total (58 days, 250 hours)	8/23	12/2	2426	615 on 9/20, 161 on 9/18

Sept. 21 (Farrell), and on Nov. 1 (Ott), an immature at Loch Raven on Sept. 22 (Simon), an adult at Blackwater on Nov. 18 (Wilson), an adult north of Frederick on Nov. 24 (Miller), and an immature at Blackwater on Nov. 25 (Andy Higgs).

Falcons. Jan Reese noted 3 **American Kestrels** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 8, and the high counts included 12 at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 2 (Southworths), and 45 at Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+). **Merlin** reports included 4 on Sept. 11 at Assateague (Hoffman), 1 from Sept. 12 to Oct. 3 at UMCF (Atkinson), 1 from Sept. 20 to Nov. 23 near Ellicott City (Ott), 4 on Sept. 25 at Assateague (Hoffman), 2 on Oct. 3 at Washington Monument SP (Howe), and 1 on Oct. 31 (Czaplak) and Nov. 21 (C. Welborn, D. Kuroda) near Lilypons. **Peregrine Falcons** were also numerous with single birds near Ellicott City on Sept. 5 (Ott), at South Point Farms, Worcester County on Sept. 18 (Hoffman), Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+), (immature) at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Oct. 3 (Miller), at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 3 (Howe), and at Tilghman Island on Oct. 3 (Reese); 7 were at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman), and singles at Bellevue on Oct. 24 (Liz Armistead), in DC on Oct. 25 (Tom Otwell), in Columbia on Oct. 26 (Geuder), (immature) diving into a pigeon flock in Bethesda on Nov. 3 (Hilton), and at National City Christian Church, Nov. 13-21 (S. Foxwell, F. DeLuca, M. Mehlman).

TABLE 2. HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK, FALL 1993

Compiled by Paul Fritz from the Observations of
Lynn Davidson and Hal Wierenga

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	9/24	10/22	5	2 on 9/24, 3 on 10/22
Turkey Vulture	9/19	11/7	97	18 on 9/29 & 11/7, 13 on 9/24
Osprey	9/19	11/7	41	6 on 9/19 & 9/24
Bald Eagle	9/19	10/28	19	5 on 9/28, 4 on 9/19
Northern Harrier	9/19	11/7	49	13 on 9/28, 9 on 10/22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/19	11/7	389	102 on 9/28, 83 on 10/22
Cooper's Hawk	9/19	11/7	29	9 on 10/10, 4 on 9/29 & 10/22
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/19	11/7	12	6 on 11/7, 2 on 10/22
Broad-winged Hawk	9/19	10/10	2	
Red-tailed Hawk	9/19	11/7	111	59 on 11/7, 20 on 11/1
American Kestrel	9/19	10/28	149	40 on 9/29, 36 on 9/19
Merlin	10/10	10/22	3	2 on 10/22
Peregrine Falcon	9/22		1	
Unidentified			7	
Total	9/19	11/7	914	147 on 9/28, 143 on 9/29
(13 days, 51 hours)				

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots. A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was spotted at Bellevue on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), and an adult **Wild Turkey** with 4 young was found near Washington Monument SP, Frederick County on Aug. 15 (Weesner). Other turkeys included 8 at Martinak SP, Wicomico County on Sept. 27 (Pitney) and 6 at Liberty Reservoir on Nov. 17 (Wayne Abbott). Dobbins heard a **Black Rail** calling at Assateague on Aug. 4-5, and Reese reported a **Clapper Rail** at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville on Aug. 9 and another at Tilghman Island on Oct. 3. A **King Rail** was seen at Horsehead Sanctuary on Sept. 12 (Ringler+), another was heard at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico), and **Virginia Rails** included the only 1 banded at Adventure on Sept. 23, about 6 at the Gunpowder River, Harford County on Sept. 24 (Webb), and another near Frederick on Oct. 27 (Miller). Thirty **Soras** were at Patuxent River Park on Sept. 11 (Nistico), 2 were heard at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico), 1 was at the Cherry Creek Banding Station on Sept. 22 (Pope, Skipper), 1 was at the Gunpowder River in Harford County on Sept. 24 (Webb), and 1 was near Frederick on Oct. 15 (Miller). **Common Moorhens** included 2 at the Easton sewage ponds on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), and 50, half young, at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 4 (Dyke). Steve Simon found 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 22 (Simon), and another was in DC the same day (Janni). Two others arrived at the ponds at Ocean Pines on Nov. 6 (Hoffman). Highs for **American Coots** were 1100 in the DC hydrilla on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 225 at Tydings Island on Nov. 1 (Webb), 120 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 8 (Brodericks), 400 at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 12 (Bonham), 141 at Piney Run on Nov. 14 (Ringler), and a fantastic 1200+ at Loch Raven on Nov. 23 and Nov. 30 (Simon).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Avocets. **Black-bellied Plovers** began with 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 8 (Reese), and 1 at Hooper Island the same day (H. Armistead). Others

were 1 at Harney Road Pond, near Emmitsburg, on Aug. 28 (Miller), 17 in DC on Oct. 16 and 1 there on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 13 (Blom, Ringler), and 15 at Blackwater on Nov. 18 (Wilson). **Lesser Golden-Plovers** visited Harney Road Pond as well with 4 on Aug. 31 and a high of 114 on Oct. 3 (P. O'Brien). Other locations for Lessers were Assateague, with 1 on Sept. 11 (Hoffman) and 3 fly-overs on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga); DC, with 7 on Sept. 18 and 2 on Oct. 30 (Czaplak, Janni); Florence, with 11 on Sept. 18 (Osenton, Solem); and North Branch, with 1 on Sept. 25-27 (Twigg). **Semipalmated Plovers** included 80 at Assateague on Sept. 6 (Hoffman), and 2 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 21 (Bonham). High counts for **Killdeer** were 66 at Florence on Aug. 21 (Osenton), 68 at Smithson on Aug. 29 (Engle), 45 at Blackwater on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), 89 at Emmitsburg on Sept. 2 (P. O'Brien), 70 at South Point Farms, Worcester County on Sept. 11 (Hoffman), 128 at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 (Magnusson, Farrell), and 57 at Perryman on Nov. 17 (Webb). The high for **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City was 90 on Oct. 9 (Hoffman); 3 were found earlier on Smith Island Aug. 15 (Stasz+). An **American Avocet** was at Fairmount WMA, Somerset County on Aug. 31 (Russ Hill), and another was inland at Loch Raven on Sept. 14-15 (Simon).

Tringine Sandpipers. **Greater Yellowlegs** included 17 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 12 (Marie Plante), 25 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman), 40 at Princess Anne on Oct. 14 (Reese), 70 in DC on Oct. 17 (Czaplak, Janni), 2 at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 22 (Bonham), 1 at Tanyard on Nov. 23 (Engle), 1 at Piney Run on Nov. 25 (Ringler), and 1 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 28 (Osenton). Fifty **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak). **Solitary Sandpipers** totaled 20 at Harney Road Pond on Aug. 6 (Miller). Lone Solitaries were at Triadelphia on Oct. 18 (Chestem), at Lilypons on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan), at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman), and at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 25 (Bonham). Harry Armistead discovered a **Willet** at Hooper Island on Aug. 8. Martha Chestem found a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Triadelphia on Oct. 18, and Steve Simon checked off another at Loch Raven on Oct. 27.

Curlews, Godwits, Turnstones. Doug Lister observed 16 **Upland Sandpipers** at PRNAS on Aug. 12, and L. T. Short found 1 at Greensboro on Aug. 13. Others were single sightings at Easton Airport on Aug. 15 (Gough, Osenton), at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Aug. 29 (Davidson, Wierenga), at Easton on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), and flying over Assateague on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga). Nice sightings of **Whimbrels** were made this season with 4 near Goldsboro on Aug. 7 (Atkinson), and 16 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was discovered at Piney Run, for the first State upland record, Nov. 3-7 (Neilson+). **Marbled Godwits** were present at Assateague with 2 on Aug. 8 and 1 there on Aug. 13-15 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien). Harry Armistead noted 4 **Ruddy Turnstones** at Hooper Island on Aug. 8.

Calidrine Sandpipers. **Red Knots**, always nice to find, were at Ocean City with 45 on Oct. 9 (Hoffman). Another was at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Armisteads). **Sanderlings** included 1 way inland at Mt. Airy, Carroll County on Sept. 4 (Miller), 5 in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak), and 2000 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hoffman). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** sightings included 34 near Grasonville on Aug. 9 (Reese), 300 at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), 17 at Harney Road Pond on Sept. 19 (P. O'Brien), and 150 in DC the same day (Czaplak). Blackwater hosted **Western Sandpipers** with 8 on Sept. 1 and 4 on Nov. 7 (Armisteads). Ten Westerns were in DC on Sept. 19 (Czaplak) and 5 were at Back River on Nov. 7 (Scarpulla). Mark Hoffman found groups of 150 and 100 **Least Sandpipers** at Assateague on Aug. 15, and 250 there on Aug. 28, as well as 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** on Aug. 15 and 1 there on Oct. 2. Harney Road Pond, near Emmitsburg, also hosted White-rumps with 4 to 5 birds from Sept. 2 to Sept. 19, and

1 on Sept. 26 (P. O'Brien). Another was in DC, Sept. 18—Oct. 2 (Janni), and 7 White-rumpeds were at Piney Run, Nov. 3-7, with the last one there on Nov. 14 (Ringler). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was also at Harney Road Pond from Sept. 2 (P. O'Brien, Miller) to Sept. 19 (Bjerke), 2 were at North Branch on Sept. 17 (Twig), and 3 were in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak, Janni). **Pectoral Sandpipers** included 30 near Pocomoke City on Sept. 13 (Hoffman), 32 at Loch Raven on Sept. 15 (Simon), 28 at Harney Road Pond on Sept. 16 (P. O'Brien), over 100 in the DC hydrilla on Sept. 19-20 (Czaplak, Janni), 22 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 21 (Bonham), 4 at Courthouse Point WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler, Stasz), 2 at West Ocean City on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), 2 at Piney Run on Nov. 11 (Ringler), and 1 at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 12 (Bonham). Four **Purple Sandpipers** were reported at Ocean City on Oct. 30 (Tom Harten). **Dunlins** included 2 juveniles in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak), 2 at Tydings Island on Oct. 12 (Webb), 150 in DC on Oct. 19 (Janni), 55 at Blackwater on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead+), and 1 at Piney Run, Nov. 3-14 (Ringler). Two **Stilt Sandpipers** were at Cambridge on Aug. 15 (Osenton, Gough), 1 was at Blackwater on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), 1 was at Harney Road Pond from Aug. 28 to Sept. 6 (Miller), 12 were in DC on Sept. 18 with 1 staying through Oct. 2 (Janni), and 2 were at the Griffin Road Ponds, Worcester County on Oct. 2 (Hoffman). **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** also visited the Harney Road Pond with 2 on Aug. 28 (Miller), and 3 on Aug. 31, down to 1 on Sept. 8 (P. O'Brien). Another was at the Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Aug 29-31 (Walbeck+), 2 were at Dayton on Sept. 4 (Osenton+), and 1 was at North Branch on Sept. 5 (Twig).

Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcocks, Phalaropes. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at Harney Road Pond from Aug. 21 (Miller) to Sept. 6, with the high of 6 on Aug. 31 (P. O'Brien). Also, 25 were at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), and 3 at Assateague on Oct. 2 (Hoffman). **Long-billed Dowitchers** included 1 at West Ocean City pond on Aug. 13 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien+), 15 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 15 (Gough, Osenton), and 1 at Blackwater on Oct. 30 (Armisteads). A **Common Snipe** was at Liberty Lake, Baltimore\Carroll counties on Aug. 8 (Stasz+), at Harney Road Pond on Aug. 14 (Miller), and at Blackwater on Aug. 15 (Pisano). Others were 2 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), 1 at West Ocean City on Sept. 6 (Hoffman), and 14 at Lilypons on Nov. 11 (Roger Anderson). An **American Woodcock** was at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman). Dave Czaplak noted a juvenile **Wilson's Phalarope** in DC on Oct. 16, and 1 was there on Oct. 22 (Janni). Popular Harney Road Pond hosted a **Red-necked Phalarope** Aug. 31— Sept. 4 (P. O'Brien). On Sept. 19, a **Red Phalarope**, first seen in DC, somehow decided to fly into Prince George's County for possibly the first record there (Janni, Czaplak, Todd, Gough).

Gulls. About 2000 **Laughing Gulls** were roosting at dusk at Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Hoffman). Others of note were 319 at Route 99 and Woodstock Road in Howard County on Aug. 22 (Solem, Osenton), 30 at Piney Run on Oct. 24 (Ringler), 400 at Easton on Oct. 31 (Armisteads), 1600 at Trappe on Nov. 3 (Reese), 1 adult near Lilypons on Nov. 14 (Czaplak), 4 near Lilypons on Nov. 18 (Janni), 2 at the Potomac River in Charles County on Nov. 21 (Nistico), 1 in DC on Nov. 27 (Gough), and 40 at Easton on Nov. 29 (Reese). A second-winter **Franklin's Gull** was at DC on Oct. 3 (Janni). **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 3 at Choptank on Aug. 25 (Engle), 1 at Loch Raven on Nov. 24 (Simon), 34 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 28 (Osenton), and 8 at Centennial the same day (Osenton, Ott). An all white adult **Ring-billed Gull** was at Ocean City on Oct. 9 (Ringler+), and high counts for the Ring-billed were 1250 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armisteads), and 3000 at Easton on Nov. 29 (Reese). An adult **California Gull** was at the Tidal Basin for the second DC record on Oct. 31 (Czaplak). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were again numerous including an adult at Tilghman Island on Aug. 29, Oct. 10, and Nov. 7 (Reese), 1 at Assateague on Sept. 18 and Sept. 25 (Hoffman), 1 adult

at Ocean City on Oct. 23 (Howe, Gordon) and Nov. 11 (Magnusson), 1 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 26 (Davidson, Wierenga), 4 adults in DC on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 1 at Centennial on Nov. 12 (Bockstie), 1 near Lilypons on Nov. 14 (Czaplak), and 1 at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 27 (Webb, Dave Zilkowski). On August 6th, Kyle Rambo counted 410 **Great Black-backed Gulls** on the golf course at PRNAS during a storm, 115 were tallied throughout southern Dorchester on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), 250 were observed roosting at dusk at Ocean City on Aug. 21 (Hoffman), and 1 was noted in Howard County off Route 99 and Woodstock Road on Oct. 19 (Ott, Solem).

Terns, Skimmers. An immature **Gull-billed Tern** was at Ocean City on Oct. 9 (Ringler+). Reports for **Caspian Terns** included 2 at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), 49 at Blackwater on Aug. 15 (Pisano), 5 at Loch Raven on Sept. 3 (Simon), 3 at Triadelphia on Sept. 4 (Osenton), 1 at Seneca on Sept. 8 (Dobbins), 65 at Assateague on Sept. 18 (Hoffman), 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 4 (Simon), 2 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), and 3 the same day at Blackwater (H. Armistead+). Harry Armistead checked off 135 **Royal Terns** throughout southern Dorchester County on Aug. 8. Others were 1 at Frederickstown on Oct. 13 and 5 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), an immature at Vienna on Nov. 2 (Dyke), 1 at Ocean City on Nov. 11 (Lawler), and 2 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 13 (Ringler, Blom). At least 4 **Sandwich Terns** were at Point Lookout on Aug. 15 (Stasz+). Others were 1 at Assateague on Aug 15 and 3 there on Aug. 20 (Hoffman), and 2 at PRNAS on Sept. 6 (Rambo). **Common Terns** were also noted with 11 in DC on Sept. 5 (Janni), 1 at Harney Road Pond on Sept. 6 (Miller), 3 at Matapeake on Sept. 12 (Ringler+), 1 at Hooper Island on Sept. 26 (H. Armistead+), 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10 (Reese), 2 at Loch Raven on Oct. 14 (Simon), 2 at the mouth of the Choptank River on Oct. 24 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Hains Point on Oct. 31 (Czaplak). **Forster's Terns** were 2 at Loch Raven on Aug. 18 (Wheeler), 1 winter plumage bird at Brighton Dam in Howard County on Sept. 3 (Solem+), 1 at Centennial on Sept. 3 (Farrell), 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 9 (Simon), 165 at Blackwater on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead+), 76 at DC on Oct. 30 (Czaplak), 6 at Vienna on Nov. 2 (Dyke), 150 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 7 (DuMont), 4 at Havre de Grace on Nov. 20 (Ringler+), and 15 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 21 (Reese). Ethel Engle found 2 **Least Terns** at Choptank on Aug. 24-25. There were quite a few sightings of the **Black Tern** with 1 at Gum Swamp on Aug. 8 (H. Armistead), 4 at Assateague the same day (Hoffman, M. O'Brien), 1 at Centennial on Sept. 2 (Farrell, Wilkinson), 2 at Triadelphia on Sept. 4 (Chestem), 1 at Loch Raven on Sept. 3 (Simon), the high of 7 in DC on Sept. 5 (Czaplak, Janni), 1 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 5 (Jeff Effinger), 1 at Assateague on Sept. 6 (Hoffman), 2 at Seneca on Sept. 8 (Dobbins), 1 at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt), and 1 at DC on Oct. 8 (Todd). Carolyn Mills discovered 2 **Black Skimmers** on a sandbar at Miles River in Talbot County on Aug. 1st, 1 was at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 3 (H. Armistead), and 70 were at Ocean City on Oct. 9 (Hoffman).

Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Aug. 28 (Osenton), and other singles were at Assateague on Sept. 12 (Hoffman, Davidson, Wierenga), at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Sept. 29 (Dyke), and near Lewistown on Oct. 2 (Miller). A migrant **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was also checked off on Aug. 28, only this time at Assateague (Hoffman). Five Yellow-billeds were spotted at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth), 1 at Meadowside Nature Center on Oct. 16 (Saunders), and 1 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Howe, Gordon). Jim Wilkinson spied a **Short-eared Owl** flying high near Dundalk on Oct. 26, and one was at UMCF on Nov. 4 (Ott, Chestem). Cliff Fairweather reported a **Snowy Owl** at Sherwood on Nov. 28. Dave Brinker banded **Northern Saw-whet Owls** again at Assateague with 63 netted this season, compared to 29 in 1992 and 65 in 1991. High tallies for **Common Nighthawks** began with 78 flying over Colesville on Aug. 22

(Saunders), 88 in Bel Air over a 2-hour period on Aug. 25 (Webb), 100 over Sykesville on Sept. 2 (Kathy Harden), about 100 at Bryans Road, Charles County on Sept. 5 (Nistico), at least 150 in DC on Sept. 7 (Don Sweig), and at least 200 flying over Columbia on Sept. 8 (Southworths). One Common Nighthawk was at Bellevue on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead+), and another at PWRC on Oct. 13 (Osenton). Two **Chuck-will's-widows** were singing at dawn on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga), and another was providing early morning entertainment at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Hoffman). A **Whip-poor-will** was noted at Federalsburg on Sept. 27 (Glime), and 250 **Chimney Swifts** were checked off at Centennial on Sept. 23 (Atkinson).

Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** began with 2 at Assateague on Aug. 15 (Hoffman), and later sightings were 1 at UMCF on Oct. 3 (Atkinson), and 1 at a feeder in Laurel on Oct. 9 (Howe). A **Rufous Hummingbird** in Takoma Park, at the same location one was seen five years ago, was noted on Oct. 23 (Sam Pancake) and seen at least through Nov. 17 (Dobbins). There were other Rufous reports as well, with 1 at the feeder of Doug Bruce in Pocomoke City on Oct. 30 (Pitney), and 1 at Locust Point near Elkton from Oct. 31 (Gary Griffith) into December. Two migrant **Belted Kingfishers** were at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Bellevue on Aug. 14 and an adult and an immature were there on Sept. 12 (Armisteads+). An immature was noted at Assateague on Sept. 11 and Oct. 11 (Hoffman), a Red-headed was at Westover on Nov. 4 (Reese), and at least 5 adults, with at least 2 immatures, were at Black Hill Park on Nov. 6 (Saunders). **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** were found on Assateague with 1 on Oct. 16, 2 on Oct. 23, and 1 on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). An extraordinarily early **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported at Denton on Aug. 28 (Nuttie). Others included 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 7 (Zeichner), 1 at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 21 (Weesner), and 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24. Norm Saunders found 4 Yellow-bellieds at Sycamore Landing on Sept. 25 and 15 **Northern Flickers** at Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County on Oct. 16. At least 25 flickers in one group, plus 4 others, were tallied at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman). At least 5 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, including 2 females, were observed in a spirited territorial dispute at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth).

Flycatchers. An elusive **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Rocky Ridge on Aug. 14 (Miller). A migrant **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was identified at Bellevue on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead+). At least a dozen pewees were at Pennyfield on Sept. 5 (D. Southworth), 15 at UMCF on Sept. 6 (Atkinson), an amazing 100+ at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese, Effinger), 1 feeding fledged young at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 13 (Weesner), and later single sightings at Pennyfield on Oct. 21 (Bonham), and in DC on Oct. 22 (Czaplak). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at UMCF on Aug. 14 (Atkinson), and at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 26 (Janni). Yellow-bellieds were noted at Irvine until Sept. 28 (Ross), and 1 was banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 1. **Acadian Flycatchers** included 1 at Cap Stine Road, Frederick County on Sept. 26 (Miller), and the last one banded at Adventure on Oct. 3. Interesting **Least Flycatchers** were 1 at Salisbury on Aug. 21 (Dyke), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 5 (Davis), and the last 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25. Single **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Bellevue on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead), and at UMCF on Sept. 26 (Atkinson). Mark Hoffman checked off 3 **Eastern Kingbirds** at South Point Farms in Worcester County on Sept. 26.

Swallows. There were 140 **Purple Martins** at Liberty Lake on Aug. 10 (Ringler), and a few lingered a bit with 2 at Bellevue on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead), and 5 at Centennial on Sept. 20 (Farrell). Jan Reese noted a large movement of **Tree Swallows** with 1500 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10; around 20,000 moved through Assateague on

Oct. 12 (Hoffman). The last Tree Swallows were 5 at North Branch on Nov. 1 (Twigg), 40 at Hooper Island on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead, P. J. Giangiulio), 2600 at Assateague on Nov. 11 (Hoffman), and 1 at Bellevue on Nov. 13 (G. Armistead). Late **Bank Swallows** included 2 at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico, Peters), several at Courthouse Point WMA on Sept. 18 (Blom, Ringler), and 4 at Bellevue on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead). An early migrant **Cliff Swallow** was at UMCF on Aug. 1 (Atkinson). Others of interest were 1 near Florence on Sept. 18 (Osenton), 1 at Courthouse Point WMA on Sept. 18 (Ringler), 3 in DC on Sept. 18 (Czaplak), and 1 at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman). Mark Hoffman reported a **Barn Swallow** roost of about 1000 birds at West Ocean City on Aug. 20. Later sightings included 1 at Centennial on Oct. 3 (Ott), 2 at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on Oct. 9 (Bonham), 1 at Tydings Island on Oct. 12 (Webb), 1 at Lake Frank in Rockville on Oct. 23 (Bob Augustine), and 1 at North Branch on Nov. 30 (Twigg).

Corvids, Parids, Nuthatches, Creeper. Thirty-five **Blue Jays** were counted at Blackwater on Sept. 25, and 185 **Fish Crows** were tallied at Bellevue on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead+). Other large counts for Fish Crows were 1500+ at Westover on Nov. 4 (Reese), and 310 at Golden Hill on Oct. 30 (Armisteads). Dave Weesner noted 2 **Common Ravens** at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 6. Migrant **Tufted Titmice** included 1 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 11 (Reese, Effinger, Steve Ford), and the first fall titmouse for Mark Hoffman at Assateague, an unusual location for this species, on Oct. 16. There was a very good fall flight of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and they were early as well, with singles at Denton on Aug. 3 (Nuttie), at Tilghman Island on Aug. 15 and Bozman on Aug. 17 (Reese), at Assateague on Aug. 21 (Hoffman), at Town Hill on Aug. 23 (Paulus), near North East on Aug. 24 (Reese), in Hagerstown on Aug. 29 (Cam & Norma Lewis), at UMCF on Aug. 29 (Atkinson), and at Pylesville on Aug. 29 (Frys). Red-breasteds were at Greenbelt Park from mid-September through October (Davis), and the high was 12 at Assateague, in one small tree, on Nov. 20 (Southworths). A **Brown Creeper** in Frederick County at the intersections of Hamburg and Fishing Creek Roads on Aug. 27 (Miller) may have been a local breeder.

Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. A **Rock Wren** at Assateague, discovered by Mark Hoffman on Oct. 11, and the first for Maryland, caused some excitement for a few days as it was seen by several birders until Oct. 14. A **Carolina Wren** was noted at a feeder in Oakland, Garrett County on Nov. 28 (Skipper). A nice fall flight of **Winter Wrens** occurred this year including 1 at Wolfsville on Sept. 25 (Miller), and 12 at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). **Sedge Wrens**, always nice finds, included 1 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 15 (Gough, Osenton), and 1 on Oct. 12, 4 on Oct. 16, and 6 on Oct. 23 at Assateague (Hoffman). A **Marsh Wren** frequented Lilypons from Sept. 25 to Nov. 11 (Miller+). Other migrants were 1 at Plum Tree Path in Howard County on Sept. 26 (Farrell, Solem), 3 at UMCF on Sept. 29— Oct. 3 (Atkinson), 1 at Cherry Creek on Oct. 13 (Pope), 1 at Ashton on Oct. 20 (Rick Sussman), and 1 at Laurel on Oct. 24 (Osenton). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were early with 1 at Denton on Sept. 12 (Nuttie), and 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25. High counts were 50 at PRNAS on Oct. 23 (Rambo), 75+ at Tilghman Island on Oct. 23 (Reese), and 45 at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger). Others were 20 at Centennial on Oct. 15 (Ott), and 25 throughout Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). Jan Reese tallied 18 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 8. The last Blue-gray was banded at Cherry Creek Banding Station on Sept. 18, 20 were at Point Lookout the same day (Nistico, Peters), and single reports were at Blackwater on Sept. 25 (H. Armistead), at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 6 (Ott), at Buckeystown on Oct. 12 (Miller), and the latest migrant at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman).

Thrushes, Mimids. Rick Blom and Bob Ringler were treated to 50 **Eastern Bluebirds**, along with several House Finches, in a single tree that resembled an early Christmas tree, on Nov. 13 at Eastern Neck. George Armistead located 2 **Veeries** at Bellevue on Aug. 22, and **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** included 1 at Waterloo Park on Sept. 22 (Wilkinson), 1 at Wolfsville on Sept. 25 (Miller), 2 at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), and 1 at Langford on Oct. 6 (Reese, Merritt). The first **Swainson's Thrush** banded at Adventure was on Aug. 23. It was a good fall for **Hermit Thrushes**, especially on the Eastern Shore, and 2 arrived early at Denton on Sept. 13 (Fletcher). The arrival date at Irvine was Oct. 1 (Ross), and another was near Boonsboro the same day (Weesner). Dave Czaplak scored 18 in DC on Oct. 19. **Wood Thrushes** were not in a hurry to leave with 1 in DC on Oct. 18 (Larry Gardella), 1 at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary on Oct. 31 (Peter Hanan), and 1 at Waterloo Park on Nov. 11 (Wilkinson). Highs for **American Robins** were 300+ at Cherry Creek on Sept. 22 (Pope, Skipper), 450 at Eldersburg on Oct. 27 (Ringler), 535 at Rock Creek Park on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 560 at Assateague on Nov. 7 (Hoffman), and 2070 at Hooper Island on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead, P. J. Giangiuolo). Quite a few **Gray Catbirds** were moving past Assateague on Sept. 5 with sightings totaling 160 birds (Hoffman). Eight **Northern Mockingbirds** were tallied at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman), and 1 was at Cherry Creek on Oct. 11 (Pope, Skipper).

Pipits, Waxwings, Vireos. The first **American Pipit** was at UMCF on Sept. 25 (Atkinson). Others were 25 in Rock Creek Park on Nov. 6 (Czaplak), 34 at PWRC on Nov. 9 (Osenton), and 107 at Blackwater on Nov. 11 (Peter Vankovich). **Cedar Waxwings** of note were 280 in southeast Frederick County on Oct. 31 (Czaplak), and 175 at Hooper Island on Nov. 7 (H. Armistead, P. J. Giangiuolo). The last **White-eyed Vireo** banded at Adventure was on Oct. 19, and 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman). Lingering **Solitary Vireos** were noted on Oct. 23 with 6 at Rock Creek Park (Czaplak), and 4 at Seneca Creek SP (Saunders). Another Solitary was at Centennial on Oct. 28 (Farrell). **Yellow-throated Vireos** included 3 migrants at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11 (Czaplak), 1 at Assateague, where they are rare, on Sept. 19 (Hoffman), 1 at Loch Raven on Sept. 20 (Wheeler), and 1 at Seneca the same day (Marie Plante). **Philadelphia Vireos** were numerous, mostly single sightings, at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger), at Assateague on Sept. 13 (Davidson, Wierenga), at Point Lookout on Sept. 18 (Nistico), at the Middle Patuxent River, Eden Brook on Sept. 19 (Farrell, Osenton, Solem), at Hughes Hollow the same day (Rosenberg), at Gambrell SP on Sept. 22 (Miller), and at Rock Creek Park, Sept. 23 (Dobbins). Two **Philadelphias** were at Assateague on Sept. 13 and 1 was there on Sept. 25 (Hoffman); 4 were banded at Cherry Creek with the first on Sept. 13 and the last on Sept. 25. Others were single sightings at Plum Tree Path on Sept. 25 (Ott), and in DC on Sept. 29 (Mackiernan) and Oct. 4 (Czaplak). Large counts for **Red-eyed Vireos** were 26 in Rock Creek Park on Aug. 15 (Czaplak), 45 at Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), and over 100 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger). A very late Red-eyed was at Piney Run on Oct. 31 (Ringler).

Dendroica Warblers. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Bellevue on Aug. 7 (H. Armistead+). A **Brewster's Warbler**, one of the rare hybrids, was located this season at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 23 (Janni), and another at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 19 (Howe, Gordon, Rosenberg). Two **Golden-winged Warblers** were banded at Cherry Creek, on Aug. 16 and Aug. 18. Others included 1 at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), an immature at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hoffman), 1 at Point Lookout on Sept. 11 (Mary Gustafson), 1 in DC on Sept. 11 and Sept. 13 (B. Cooper, M. Milton), and 1 at Assateague on Sept. 19 (Hoffman). The last **Tennessee Warbler** was at Centennial on Oct. 28 (Farrell). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was early at Rock

Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Gough, Janni), and another was near Ellicott City on Sept. 20 (Ott). One was banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 4, and an Orange-crowned was at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman). **Nashville Warblers** were an adult at Town Hill on Aug. 4 (Paulus), possibly a local breeder, the first migrant at Fishing Creek Road, Frederick County on Aug. 27 (Miller), 3 to 4 at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 19 (Howe), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 17 (Davis), and 1 near Westminster on Oct. 24 (Ringler). Two early migrant **Yellow Warblers** were at Bellevue on Aug. 1 (Armisteads), and 2 Yellows were in DC on Oct. 16 (Czaplak). The best count for **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was 12 at UMCf on Sept. 6 (Atkinson), and a **Magnolia Warbler** running a bit late was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak). The first **Cape May Warbler** banded at Cherry Creek was on Aug. 27, with the high there of 18 banded on Sept. 24. Harry Armistead checked off his first Cape May of the season at Bellevue on Sept. 2, and Dave Czaplak tallied a nice count of 10 in DC on Oct. 4. An early **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), 12 were totaled at Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), and 1 was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak). The first **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 1 at Assateague on Aug. 28-29 (Hoffman), 1 at Bellevue on Sept. 2 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 11 (Reese, Effinger, Steve Ford). Mark Hoffman listed three groups of Yellow-rumped totaling 400 birds at Assateague on Oct. 24. Reese found a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 22 (Reese), Czaplak reported the high of 18 on Sept. 19 at Rock Creek Park where he also noted 1 on Oct. 23. Stauffer Miller reported a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Hamburg Road, Frederick County on Aug. 3 and Jim Paulus listed an adult at Town Hill on Aug. 4, both possibly local breeders. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Aug. 26 (Zeichner), 2 were at Blackwater on Sept. 1 (Armisteads), and 2 were noted at Assateague on Sept. 26 (Hoffman). **Pine Warblers** included a total of 72 throughout Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), 1 in Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak), and 1 at Centennial on Oct. 2 (Farrell). Late **Prairie Warblers** were 8 at Assateague on Oct. 24 and 1 near Berlin on Nov. 6 (Hoffman), and 1 at Salisbury on Nov. 19 (Brodericks). **Palm Warblers** were also in a hurry with 3 at Assateague on Sept. 6 (Hoffman). Others included 10 "western" race Palms banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25, 8 Palms at UMCf on Oct. 8 (Atkinson), a loose flock of at least 60 at Assateague on Oct. 5 (Dyke), and 1 at PWRC on Oct. 27 (Osenton). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was extraordinary in DC on Aug. 23 (Janni), and another was noted at Assateague on Oct. 18 (Hoffman). Mary Gustafson reported a **Cerulean Warbler** singing on territory in Prince George's County on Aug. 21. An immature was at UMCf on Sept. 11 (Atkinson), and another Cerulean was at Centennial on Sept. 28 (Farrell).

Other Warblers. An immature female **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Bellevue on Aug. 1 (Armisteads). Nine Black-and-whites were at Assateague on Aug. 8th, 44 were added up there on Sept. 5, and 1 was there on Oct. 18 (Hoffman). Three early migrant **American Redstarts** were at Bellevue on Aug. 1 (Armisteads), and another was at Owen Brown, Columbia on Aug. 6 (Farrell). Several groups of migrating Redstarts totaling 105 birds were at Assateague on Sept. 5 (Hoffman), over 75 were at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger), and 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). **Prothonotary Warblers** included 1 at Assateague on Sept. 11 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien, J.O'Brien), and 1 at Triadelphia Reservoir the same day (Saunders). Solitary **Worm-eating Warblers** were at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman), Bellevue on Aug. 22 (Armisteads), Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), and at Assateague on Sept. 19 (Hoffman). The last Worm-eating Warbler banded at Adventure was on Sept. 22. Mark Hoffman located an **Ovenbird** at Assateague on Aug. 8, and late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were 1 at Port Tobacco on Sept. 12 (Nistico), and 1 at Greensboro on Sept. 20 (Hewitt). **Connecticut Warblers** were numerous this season including early

single sightings at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 29 and Sept. 5 (Czaplak, Janni). Others were 1 in DC on Sept. 11 (Barry Cooper), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 12 (Dobbins), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 13th, 2 at DC on Sept. 14 (Czaplak), 1 at Gwynn Acres Path, Howard County on Sept. 14 (Ott+), an immature near UMCF on Sept. 15 (Atkinson), a female at Eden Brook on Sept. 19 (Osenton, Farrell, Solem), an immature at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke), 1 at Monrovia Marsh on Sept. 20 (Miller), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 22, 1 at Assateague on Sept. 26 (Hoffman), and 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 26 (Janni). A late Connecticut was reported at Oxon Hill on Oct. 13 (Dobbins). **Mourning Warblers** included 2 banded at Adventure on Aug. 24 and Sept. 6, another at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 31 (Janni), 1 at Fran Uhler Natural Area in Anne Arundel County on Sept. 4 (Czaplak), an immature female at UMCF on Sept. 4 (Atkinson), 1 off Route 99 and Woodstock Road in Howard County on Sept. 13 (Ott), and another, late, in DC on Oct. 18 (Larry Gardella). Mark Hoffman found several groups of **Common Yellowthroats** totaling 63 at Assateague on Sept. 5, and an adult male **Hooded Warbler** there on Sept. 5 (Hoffman). A Hooded was at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak), and the last one was banded at Adventure on Sept. 20. **Wilson's Warblers** were first seen in Frederick on Aug. 25 (Miller), the first one banded at Cherry Creek was on Aug. 25, 1 was at Bellevue on Sept. 2 (H. Armistead), and 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman). Early **Canada Warblers** were 1 banded at PWRC on Aug. 1 (Danny Bystrak), and 1 at Assateague on Aug. 8 (Hoffman). Walbeck found a late Canada at Whitehall Beach on Oct. 9. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in DC on Oct. 5 (Czaplak).

Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches. **Summer Tanager** sightings were a male at UMCF on Sept. 12 (Atkinson), 1 bird near Ellicott City on Sept. 13 and Sept. 20 (Ott), and a female at Salisbury on Oct. 7 (Lawler). An immature **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Town Hill on Aug. 4 (Paulus), and others were: over 25 at Tilghman Island on Sept. 6 (Reese, Effinger), 17 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 19 (Czaplak), 1 at Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County on Oct. 16 (Saunders), and 1 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak). A **Blue Grosbeak** was near Pylesville on Sept. 23 (L. Fry), and another was in DC on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan). Bob Ringler noted an **Indigo Bunting** near Westminster on Oct. 17, and another was off Route 99 and Woodstock Road in Howard County on Oct. 26 (Ott). **Dickcissels** were reported this season with a fly-over at Assateague on Sept. 12 and another on Sept. 13 (Davidson, Wierenga). Helen Bodine found an immature female on Oct. 1 that hit a window near Cockeysville (Shirley Geddes), and another Dickcissel was at Assateague on Oct. 22 and 24 (Hoffman).

Sparrows. Barry Cooper reported 25 **American Tree Sparrows** at Lilypons on Nov. 27, and Dave Czaplak counted 37 **Chipping Sparrows** at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 23. Solo **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at Assateague on Sept. 25 (Hoffman), and Oct. 1 (Dyke). Mark Hoffman found a **Vesper Sparrow** at Assateague on Oct. 23 and an immature **Lark Sparrow** there on Sept. 5. An immature Lark Sparrow was also noted at Assateague on Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 19 (Dyke, Hoffman). Over 60 **Savannah Sparrows** were tallied at UMCF on Oct. 8 (Atkinson+), and Jan Reese notched 35 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 21. An immature **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at UMCF on Sept. 6 (Atkinson), and 1 bird was near Frederick on Oct. 21 (Miller). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was at a pond north of Frederick for the second county record, Oct. 21-27 (Miller). **Song Sparrows** included the high count of 95 for Howard County at UMCF on Oct. 8 (Atkinson), and 42 migrating at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 23 (Czaplak). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were 4 banded for the season at Adventure, the first one on Sept. 6, single birds at Salisbury on Sept. 29 and Oct. 3 (Dyke), 3 at UMCF on Oct. 3 (Scott Atkinson), 1 at Lilypons on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan), 1 near Westminster the same day (Ringler), 1 at the Middle Patuxent River at Kindler in Howard County on Oct. 29

(Solem), 2 at PRNAS on Oct. 29 (Rambo), 1 at Ashton on Nov. 13 (Rick Sussman), and 1 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 25 (Bonham). Dave Czaplak checked off 67 **Swamp Sparrows** at Lilypons on Oct. 12, and Bonnie Ott tallied 55 at Plum Tree Path on Oct. 25. **White-crowned Sparrows** included 1 at Monrovia Marsh on Sept. 20 (Miller), the first one banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24, 2 at UMCF on Oct. 2 (Ott), an immature at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), 1 banded at Irvine on Oct. 6, and a total of 23, all immature, at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Hoffman).

Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Myers Station, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 11 (Davis), 1 was at Spesutie Island, Harford County on Sept. 21 (Webb), 2 were at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 21 (Weesner), 1 was at Delmar, Wicomico County on Sept. 21 (Simone Jenion), and another was at Sandy Point on Sept. 23 (Lola Oberman). **Lapland Longspurs** began with 1 at Antietam in Washington County on Nov. 14 (Czaplak), and 8 at New Design Road near Lilypons on Nov. 27 (Barry Cooper). The first **Snow Buntings** were 6 at Assateague on Oct. 28 (Dyke), 2 at Piney Run on Nov. 3-4 (Ringler+), 1 at Rocky Gap SP on Nov. 14 (Twigg), 2 near Lilypons on Nov. 27 (Barry Cooper), 24 at Sandy Point on Nov. 27 (Paul Mergatroyd), and an adult male in Queen Anne's County on Nov. 28 (Stasz, Iliff).

Icterines. Five **Bobolinks** were at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville on Aug. 9 (Reese), hundreds were heard flying over Assateague at night on Sept. 12 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 was at Assateague on Oct. 15 (Hoffman), and 2 were at UMCF on Oct. 17 (Ott). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was migrating through Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Czaplak), and 1 was at Hains Point on Oct. 30 and Nov. 2 (Czaplak, Janni). David Wallace sorted out a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in a flock of Red-wings in Frederick on Oct. 28, and an immature, for about the fourth DC record, was identified in a flock of grackles at Rock Creek Park on Nov. 20 (Czaplak). Another Yellow-headed was near Blackwater on Nov. 26 (Janni). **Rusty Blackbirds** included 1 at Cherry Creek on Oct. 6 (Pope, Skipper), 5 at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 11 (Wilkinson), 50 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 24 (Bonham), and 14 at PWRC on Oct. 18 (Osenton). Jan Reese noted 3 **Boat-tailed Grackles** at Tilghman Island on Aug. 29 and 6 there on Sept. 5, as well as over 15,000 **Common Grackles** flying over Linkwood, Dorchester County on Oct. 16. An **Orchard Oriole** was at Assateague on Aug. 22 (Hoffman), and another was at Centennial on Sept. 2 (Wilkinson). **Northern Orioles** included 10 at UMCF on Aug. 14 (Atkinson), 23 at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 22 (Czaplak), 33 at Tilghman the same day (Reese), 1 at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), an immature male in east Columbia on Nov. 22 (M.J. Betts), and a male and a female in Cecil County on Nov. 27 (Dave Ziolkowski).

Cardueline Finches. The fall finch flight was much better than in recent years. A **Purple Finch** was at Liberty Lake on Sept. 13 (Ringler), another was at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 19 (Howe, Gordon, Rosenberg), and 70 were flying over Rock Creek Park on Oct. 23 (Janni, Czaplak). Mark Hoffman estimated 300 **House Finches** in the Berlin area on Nov. 6, and Jim Paulus discovered a **Red Crossbill** at Town Hill on Sept. 2. A sign of things to come was the **Common Redpoll** at Blackwater on Nov. 9 (Maane). Two redpolls were at Oakland on Nov. 13 (Skipper). **Pine Siskins** were 1 at Assateague on Oct. 3 (Hoffman), 1 at a feeder in Hagerstown on Oct. 7 (Cam & Norma Lewis), 12 at Loch Raven on Oct. 14 (Simon), and approximately 80 in Salisbury on Nov. 14 (Brodericks). Reese found 12 **American Goldfinches**, including a female collecting nesting material, at Tilghman Island on Aug. 15, and 200 were counted at Plum Tree Path on Sept. 26 (Farrell, Solem). **Evening Grosbeaks** included a female reported to Lola Oberman to be at a feeder in Prince George's County on Sept. 18, 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 10 (Reese), a male at PWRC on Oct. 13 (Howe), 30 at Phoenix on Oct. 15

(Simon), a male fly-over at Assateague on Oct. 23 (Hoffman), 15 near Lilypons on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan), 30 near Westminster on Oct. 24 (Ringler), 75 on a feeder in Hagerstown on Oct. 26 (Cam & Norma Lewis), 55 at Wye Island on Oct. 26 (Reese), and 25 in DC on Nov. 1 (Czaplak).

Escapes. Two **Bananaquits** were reported at a birdbath in Rockville on Aug. 31 with 1 there on Sept. 1 (Jim Weixel). Two **Blue-crowned Conures** (Quaker Parakeets) were reported at McDaniel on Aug. 8 (Betsy Miller), and 2 were seen at Tilghman Island from Aug. 15 through Sept. 12 (Reese).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia Maryland 21046

Received 30 May 1995

ALBINISTIC BLUE JAY IN CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND

RICHARD JULE HOLLIS

On 25 December 1993, my family and I received an avian present in the form of a brief sighting of an albinistic Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) on Stone Road near Pleasant Valley in Carroll County, Maryland.

I had a opportunity to study the bird in detail on the morning of 29 December at the feeders of my grandmother, Mrs. Ora Keefer. This location was only a few hundred meters from the first sighting. Mrs. Keefer regularly feeds birds and had not previously noted such an unusual visitor prior to late December of 1993. Mrs. Keefer last saw this Blue Jay on 9 January 1994.

The following description is edited from my notes which were taken while watching the bird at distances of 3 to 10 meters. I used 7x35 binoculars and my spotting scope as well as unassisted viewing. On both occasions the sky was overcast.

In size and shape the albinistic jay was identical to normally colored jays. Its behavior was similar to the other jays. I am tempted to say that it appeared more cautious or shy than the others, but this is an extremely subjective conclusion based on a very short set of observations.

The eye, bill, and legs were black. The background color of the bird, which appeared gray at first glance, was light sandy brown or very pale gray. The top of the head, including the crest, and the mantle were sandy brown. The wings, tail, lower back, and breast were gray. The feathers that are white on normal Blue Jays (wing bar, face, and secondary tips) were also white on this bird, contrasting with the sandy or gray coloration. No contrast was noted between the tips of the outer tail feathers and the rest of the tail. A faint light-brown barring was noted on the wing and tail feathers. The markings about the face, the necklace, and the thin stripe through the eye, and the heavier mark above the bill were dark chocolate brown.

Birds with unusual plumage are worth noting as they allow us to track individuals, at least for short time periods.

3351 Lower West Branch Rd., Iowa City, Iowa 52245

Received 24 February 1995

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 one meter 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 six meters 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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10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723

Received 27 March 1994

WINTER, DECEMBER 1, 1993 - FEBRUARY 28, 1994

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

This season was quite a change from the relatively mild winters of recent years. Temperatures were well below normal, and ice and ice storms became the norm. Almost all inland water froze by mid-January and large portions of the Bay were iced by February. Some species were hit hard, and large numbers of waterfowl headed farther south. The invasion of northern rarities, like the large numbers of Red-necked Grebes and Common Redpolls, was outstanding, and a few new State species records were established.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Janet Anderson, Roger Anderson, Scott Atkinson, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, David Czaplak, Patty Craig, Lynn Davidson, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle, Frederick Fallon, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Paul Fritz, Jean & Larry Fry, Inez Glime, Jim & Patricia Gruber, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, 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, Robert Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, Susan Setterberg, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Teresa Simons, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Dan & Linda Southworth, Chris Swarth, Glenn Therres, Mary Ann Todd, Amy Thornton, Mary Twigg, David Walbeck, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner, David Ziolkowski.

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

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), Broadford Reservoir (Garrett), Dan's Rock (Allegany), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Eden Brook (Howard), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Merkle WS (Prince George's), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), 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), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes. Thirty **Red-throated Loons** were at Ocean City on Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and **Common Loons** included 8 at Cambridge on Dec. 4 (Armistead), 9 at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 9 (Skipper), and 1 at the mouth of St. Leonards Creek, Calvert County on Feb. 27 (Davidson, Wierenga). Steve Simon tallied 44 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Loch Raven on Dec. 19, and high counts of **Horned Grebes** were 29 at Hains Point on Jan. 6 (Dobbins), 65 at Ocean City on Feb. 22 (Hoffman), 50 at Town Creek and California on Feb. 27 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 49 in Anne Arundel County on Feb. 28 (Wierenga). The top grebe story for this winter was the invasion, like none ever seen in Maryland, of hundreds of **Red-necked Grebes**. Following the fall report of 1 in DC on Nov. 29 (Ted Unseth), sightings trickled in during January and early February with 1 at Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Reese), 2 at Jug Bay on Feb. 1 (Colin Wood), 1 at Lapidum, Harford County on Feb. 2 (Ziolkowski), 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 3 (Dobbins), 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Dyke), and 3 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 6 (Therres). By the middle of February, as most of the Great Lakes froze over, the Red-necked Grebes were being spotted throughout coastal and Chesapeake Bay waters and from virtually all open waters. Reports were far too numerous to detail, but some of the highlights were 75+ at Hains Point on Feb. 12-13 (Dobbins), 3 on the Potomac River in Cumberland on Feb. 13-28 (Twigg), 8 at Ocean City during Feb. 13-18 (Hoffman, Davidson, Wierenga), 26 at Seneca on Feb. 17 (Bonham), 34 at the mouth of the Susquehanna near Havre de Grace the same day (Webb), 2 at Federalsburg on Feb. 18 (Reese) and Feb. 25 (Hewitt, Fletcher) for the first Caroline County record, 14 at Assateague on Feb. 19 (Davidson, Wierenga), several moving up the Potomac at Riley's Lock throughout the day on Feb. 19 (Southworths), 102 in DC on Feb. 20 (Robert Hilton), 3 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 20 (Dobbins), 1 at Grasonville on Feb. 20 (Reese, Effinger), 39 at Ocean City on Feb. 22 (Hoffman), 1 at PRNAS on Feb. 22 (Rambo), and 2 at Denton on Feb. 23 (Short). On Feb. 27, 1 was at Cambridge and 1 at the Choptank River Bridge, Talbot County (Ringler+), 1 at Rocky Gorge Dam in Howard County (Osenton), 2 at Salisbury (Dyke), and 1 at the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek, Calvert County and 13 at Town Creek and California (Davidson, Wierenga). There were 98 Red-neckeds at Ft. Smallwood Park, 16 at Downs Park, 13 at Cape St. Claire, 40 at Sandy Point SP, and 7 at Broadwater—for a total of 174—all in Anne Arundel County on Feb. 28 (Wierenga). Not to be left out, solo **Eared Grebes** were noted at Ocean City on Jan. 16 (Dyke), and at the Georgetown Reservoir in DC on March 9 (R. Anderson).

Gannets, Cormorants, Herons. Steve Sanford spotted 3 **Northern Gannets** at Point Lookout on Dec. 11, and Ocean City was the top wintering spot for **Great Cormorants** again with 5 on Jan. 1 (Hoffman), and 1-2 through the end of the period. Another Great was seen at PRNAS on Jan. 10 (Rambo), and an immature was at DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak). **Double-crested Cormorants** included 5 at Ocean Pines on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), 2 at PRNAS on Jan. 10 (Rambo), an immature in DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak), 1 at Denton on Jan. 24 (Hewitt), and 10 at Ocean City on Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). An **American Bittern** was present at Assateague on Jan. 1 (Hoffman) and Jan. 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and another was at Cherry Hill Park, Baltimore City on Jan. 23 (Bob Rineer, Gwen Burkhardt). Jim Wilkinson noted 5 **Great Blue Herons** at Lilypons on Jan. 29, Inez Glime counted 47 at Federalsburg on Feb. 24, and Mark Hoffman checked off a **Great Egret** at Assateague on Dec. 31. Erika Wilson found 3 **Tricolored Herons** at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 15.

Swans, Geese. Highs for **Tundra Swans** were 1800+ at American Corner on Feb. 25 (Engle), 500 at Kennedyville on Feb. 26 (Grubers), and 150 at Triadelphia on Feb. 25 (Farrell, Solem). **Mute Swans** totaled a disheartening 535 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 29 (Grubers); 1 was at Liberty Lake on Jan. 24 (Ringler), and the 3 on the Chester River opposite Crumpton, Kent County on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler) were far upriver. Dobbins noted 1 Mute Swan at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 20. An immature **Greater White-fronted Goose** was near Snow Hill on Feb. 12 (O'Brien), 1 was at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 19 (Osenton+), and an adult was at Pocomoke City on Feb. 26 (Hoffman). **Snow Goose** highs were 7000 at Ruthsburg on Jan. 11 (Grubers), 4000 near Queen Anne, Queen Anne's County on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Thornton), 3000 at Greensboro on Feb. 8 (Fletcher), and 6000 near Snow Hill on Feb. 13 (Hoffman). One white and 2 blue phase wintered in Howard County at Fulton, seen Dec. 4 through Feb. 18 (Farrell, Solem+). A first-winter **Brant** was discovered at DC on the Dec. 18 CBC (David Spector, Steve Pretl) and seen by several birders through the period, and 25 were counted at Oxford on Jan. 9 (J. Anderson). About 1500 Brant were in the Ocean City area on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Large numbers of **Canada Geese** were 3000 at Loch Raven on Jan. 2 (Simon), and 2500 at Piney Run on Jan. 8 (Ringler).

Puddle Ducks. A male **Wood Duck**, enamored with a female Mallard, remained at Lake Elkhorn (Wilkinson). A pair of Wood Ducks was found at Dipple Creek, Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Dec. 23 (Webb), 4 pairs were at Centennial on Jan. 12 (Bockstie), 3 individuals were near Berlin on Jan. 22 (Hoffman), and 5 were on Liberty Lake on Jan. 24 (Ringler). The first early migrants may have been the 10 at UMCF on Feb. 17 (McClures) and 35 at Wagram Creek, Worcester County on Feb. 26 (Hoffman). Nice counts of **American Black Ducks** were 40 on the Potomac at Weverton on Dec. 4 (Czaplak), 72 at Triadelphia in Jan. 8 (Osenton), 700 at Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 750 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 29 (Grubers), and 110 at Piney Run on Feb. 6 (Ringler). **Mallards** included 100 at Ocean City and 400 at South Point Pond, Worcester County on Jan. 22, and 200 at West Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 2500 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 29 (Grubers). **Northern Pintails** this winter were 30 at Assateague on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 30 at Jug Bay on Feb. 24 (Swarth). Two female **Blue-winged Teals** were found at the Elliott Road Pond in Howard County on Dec. 4 (Farrell, Solem). Mark Hoffman reported 15 **Northern Shovelers** at the Pocomoke City sewage ponds on Feb. 26-27, and 50 **Gadwalls** at Ocean City on Jan. 22. The pair of **Eurasian Wigeon** found at PWRC on Dec. 26 during the Bowie Christmas Count could well have been escapes (Fallon). A male Eurasian Wigeon was at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 26 (Hoffman). Steve Simon noted the high for **American Wigeon** at Loch Raven with 240 on Dec. 3. Others were 40 at Ocean City and 40 at South Point Road, Worcester County on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien).

Aythya Ducks. About 1000 **Canvasbacks** were noted at the reliable West Ocean City pond on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Thornton). Other high counts were 300 in DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak), 182 on St. Jerome's Creek, St. Mary's County on Jan. 25 (Craig), 1000 at Eastern Neck and 5000 at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers), 45 at Hains Point on Feb. 13 (Dobbins), 150 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 19 (Danny Poet), 30 inland at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Feb. 26 (Farrell, Solem), and 500, including one nearly all-white bird, at Cambridge on Feb. 27 (Ringler+). It was a good winter for **Redheads** with 8 at Choptank on Jan. 6 (Ford), 60 in DC on Jan. 22 (Czaplak), 26 at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers), 4 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 5 (Therres), 18 at Havre de Grace on Feb. 13 (Webb), 1 at Point Lookout on Feb. 20 (Swarth), and 4 at Cambridge on Feb. 27 (Ringler+). Nice tallies for the **Ring-necked Duck** were 650 at Loch Raven on Dec. 3 (Simon), 100 at Ocean Pines on Dec. 19 (Hoffman), 96 at Denton on Feb. 22 (Hewitt),

363 at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on Feb. 26 (Farrell, Solem), and 150 at Piscataway Creek, Prince George's County on Feb. 27 (Nistico). A **Greater Scaup** was identified at Broadford Lake on Dec. 5 (Czaplak), 80 were tallied at Ocean City on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), a nice count of 3000 was made at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers), and 250 were at Kent Narrows on Feb. 6 (Therres). **Lesser Scaup** included 300 at Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 1000 at Eastern Neck and 8000 at Rock Hall on Jan. 29 (Grubers).

Eiders, Harlequin Ducks, Oldsquaws, Scoters. Four **Common Eiders** were at Ocean City on Dec. 19, and an adult male, 2 immature males and 2 females were there on Jan. 1 (Hoffman), and 6 were seen through the end of the period (many observers). From 1 to 5 Common Eiders were reported at Ocean City by several birders through Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd+). **King Eiders** showed a preference for Ocean City as well, with a first-year male there from Dec. 19 through Feb. 27 (Hoffman+). Reliable Ocean City also yielded **Harlequin Ducks**, with a male, a female, and an immature there from Dec. 19 (Hoffman) through the period, and 6, an adult male, an immature male and 4 females on Feb. 26 (Ringler+). A drake Harlequin was discovered at Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Feb. 8 (Webb). The last **Oldsquaw** seen at Triadelphia was on Dec. 4 (Farrell, Solem), 30 were at Oxford on Jan. 9 (J. Anderson), and 100 were checked off at Ocean City on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Mark Hoffman and Mike O'Brien found 20 **Black Scoters** at Ocean City on Jan. 30, and Mary Twigg and Dave Czaplak reported 4 **Surf Scoters** way inland at Rocky Gap SP on Dec. 5. Sixty Surf Scoters were at Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Hoffman). **White-winged Scoters** were not to be left out with 5 inland at Triadelphia on Jan. 8 (Osenton) and 2 at Ocean City on Jan. 29-30 and on Feb. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien).

Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks. Jim and Trish Gruber had a nice sighting of 600 **Common Goldeneyes** at Eastern Neck on Jan. 29, and good counts for the **Bufflehead** were 100 at the Ocean City inlet, 200 at the bay there, and another 200 at Assateague on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Mark Wallace notched 60 **Hooded Mergansers** at Jennings Chapel Road, Howard County on Dec. 9, 100 were at Piney Run on Dec. 25 (Ringler), Steve Simon counted 114 at Loch Raven on Jan. 2, and Dave Czaplak found 30 in DC on Jan. 22. About 20 **Common Mergansers** were at Merkle WS on Feb. 20 (Lynn & Sue Davidson), and 60 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Ocean City on Jan. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Davidson and Wierenga tallied 200 **Ruddy Ducks** at the mouth of St. Leonard's Creek, Calvert County on Feb. 27.

Exotic Waterfowl. A female **Red-crested Pochard** was near Ft. Smallwood on Feb. 28 (Wierenga), a male **Ruddy Shelduck** was at Centennial on Dec. 10 (Bockstie, Farrell+), and a drake **Mandarin Duck** was at Lake Elkhorn on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Solem).

Osprey, Hawks, Eagles. An **Osprey** was checked off during the DC CBC on Dec. 18 (DuMont, Bjerke+), another was at Merkle WS on Feb. 20 (Lynn & Sue Davidson), 1 was at Denton on Feb. 23 (Short), and another was at the Choptank Wetlands Preserve, Talbot County on Feb. 26 (Al Haury). **Bald Eagles** found in the western portion of the State were an adult at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 5 (Czaplak), and 1 found during the Oakland CBC on Dec. 18 (Skipper). A Bald Eagle was at Prettyboy Reservoir on Dec. 29 (Joe Buchanan), 2 were at Piney Run through Dec. 6 with 1 through Feb. 6 (Ringler), and an adult was noted near Lilypons on Feb. 13 (Fallon). With the rough weather, it was not surprising that **Northern Goshawks** made a few appearances with an adult on Dec. 12 at Centennial (Bockstie), and an immature there from late December into March (Darius Ecker+). Another immature was reported in DC on Jan.

29 (Dobbins), an adult was near Berlin on Feb. 5 (Dyke), and an immature was near Easton on Feb. 20 (Reese, Robert Sharp). Paul Fritz observed mating behavior of both a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Seneca and a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks** near Buckeystown on the early date of Feb. 16. Reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** near Lilypons were numerous including a dark phase there on Dec. 31 (Dobbins), a light phase there on Jan. 29 (Wilkinson), and both a light and dark phase there from Feb. 12 (Czaplak) through Feb. 20 (R. & J. Anderson, Wilson). Another Rough-legged was at Perryman on Jan. 28 (Ziolkowski), 1 was near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), 1 of each color phase was at Dan's Rock on Feb. 5 (Twigg), 1 was at Aberdeen Proving Grounds on Feb. 16 (Webb), and another was at the Glades in Garrett County on Feb. 19 (Czaplak). **Golden Eagles** this winter were an immature near Decoursey Bridge, Dorchester County on Dec. 8 (Dyke), an adult near Wetipquin, Wicomico County on Dec. 19 (Dyke), an immature at Blackwater on Jan. 9 (Lawler), and 2-3 adults near Decoursey Bridge on Feb. 26 (Dyke).

Falcons. Bonnie Ott spotted a **Merlin** near Ellicott City on Dec. 13; others were 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 14 (Rambo, Lister), a female at Hains Point on Feb. 1 (Dobbins), and 2 in Snow Hill on Feb. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga). **Peregrine Falcons** included an immature at Cambridge on Dec. 11 (Lawler), 1 at Ocean City on Dec. 19 and 1 at Assateague on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), 1 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), 1 flying near Ellicott City on Jan. 14 (Ott), 1 near Newark on Jan. 29 (Hoffman), an immature at Hains Point on Feb. 1 (Dobbins), and 1 on the Route 4 bridge between Calvert and St. Mary's counties on Feb. 2 (Craig). More exciting news for the season was the grand appearance of an immature gray-morph **Gyr Falcon** found along New Design Road, near Lilypons, by Paul Fritz on Feb. 9. Many birders made the trip to see this hawk, a first for the State, which was located off and on until at least Feb. 19 (Osenton, Southworths+).

Wild Turkeys, Rails, Coots. A **Wild Turkey** was discovered at Jug Bay on Jan. 5 for the third sighting there (Swarth). From mid-Dec. to Jan. 12, Tom and Elizabeth Clark enjoyed watching a flock of 5 that frequented their yard in Clarksville, and 7 were near Massey on Feb. 5 (Ringler, Blom). Harry Armistead noted 4 **Clapper Rails** at Elliott Island on Dec. 4, and two large rails, probably **King Rails**, were seen at Truitts Landing on Feb. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga). Chris Swarth heard a **Virginia Rail** at Jug Bay on Jan. 26, and approximately 10 were noted at Truitts Landing on Feb. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga). Steve Simon enjoyed a nice count of 1200 **American Coots** at Loch Raven on Dec. 9, and approximately 420 were at Deep Creek Lake the same day (Skipper). At least one coot was at Centennial Lake throughout the period, with 3 there on Feb. 4 (Solem).

Sandhill Crane, Plovers, Oystercatchers. A **Sandhill Crane** was reported at Starr Road, Queen Anne's County on Jan. 4 (Therres). A **Black-bellied Plover** was at Lilypons on Dec. 8 (Dobbins), and 150 were notched in Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Hoffman). With the harsh winter **Killdeer** did not stick around long but a loose flock of 32 birds was noted in southeastern Howard County on Dec. 18 (Farrell, Solem). Hoffman and O'Brien counted 60 **American Oystercatchers** in Ocean City on Jan. 22, and a group of 4 were doing territorial displays there on Feb. 26 (Ringler+).

Sandpipers. Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Elliott Island on Dec. 4 (Armistead) and at Denton on Dec. 17 (Hewitt); 3 were at Dames Quarter, Wenona on Jan. 15 (Wilson). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen in a ditch at Tanyard on Jan. 19-20 (Engle), and a **Marbled Godwit** was at Ocean City on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), where Bruce Peterjohn checked off 4 Marbled Godwits earlier on Dec. 5. Forty **Ruddy Turnstones** were at Ocean City on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Hoffman found a **Red Knot** at Ocean City on Jan. 1 and 50 **Purple Sandpipers** were there on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Thornton). Ocean City was also a popular place for **Dunlins** with 600 estimated there on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien). **Common Snipe** included 1 at North Branch on Jan. 1 (Twigg), 4 at Tanyard during Jan. 19-27 (Engle), 1 at Tracys Landing on Jan. 28 (Reese), 6 at Lilypons on Jan. 29 (Wilkinson), and 5 along Route 611 in Worcester County on Jan. 30 (Hoffman, O'Brien).

Dark-headed Gulls. Lingering winter **Laughing Gulls** continue to increase and an all-time high was set on the DC CBC with 114 on Dec. 18 (Bjerke+). Another Laughter was at Ocean City on Dec. 19 (Hoffman), and another at Denton on Feb. 4 (Fletcher). A first-winter **Little Gull** was at Ocean City on Dec. 19 (Hoffman), a Little Gull was seen there on Jan. 15 (Czaplak), and an adult was identified there on Feb. 7 (Dyke). **Common Black-headed Gulls** included an adult at Ocean City from Jan. 30 through February (Dyke+), and another at Conowingo Dam from Feb. 2 (Ziolkowski) to Feb. 13 (Webb). High counts for the **Bonaparte's Gull** were 500 at Ocean City on Dec. 19 (Hoffman) and 54 at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 2 (Scarpulla, June Vaughn). Inland sightings included 6 at Triadelphia on Jan. 8 (Solem, Osenton), and 1 at Centennial Park on Jan. 15 (Farrell).

White-headed Gulls. A first-winter **Common Gull**, Maryland's and the Region's first, was located at mid-day at the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River on Jan. 22 (Gustafson, Peterjohn). It was located briefly again that evening (Blom), and Scarpulla had a good sighting of this bird there on Feb. 6. Concentrations of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 3500 at Westover on Jan. 6 (Reese), 3500 in Linkwood on Feb. 19 (Reese), and 150 inland at Cumberland on Feb. 20 (Czaplak). An adult all white Ring-billed, seen in the fall, was still at Ocean City on Jan. 16 (Czaplak). Five **Herring Gulls** were seen upstream from Harper's Ferry on the Potomac on Dec. 19 (Czaplak), 1500 were in Westover on Jan. 6 (Reese), 4000 were at the Worcester landfill on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 2 were at Cumberland on Feb. 20 and 6 at Weverton on Feb. 25 (Czaplak). Dave Czaplak identified a **Thayer's Gull** at Laytonsville on Dec. 18. **Iceland Gulls**, probably feeling pretty much at home, were numerous with 1 at Laytonsville on Dec. 11, 2 there on Dec. 18 and Jan. 8, and 2 at DC on Jan. 1 (Czaplak). Others were first-winter birds at Piney Run on Jan. 1-8 (Ringler), at PWRC on Jan. 10 (Osenton, Gough), at the Cecil County landfill on Jan. 15, at Conowingo the same day (Scarpulla, Beth Olsen) and on Jan. 23 (Czaplak), at Ocean City on Jan. 16-29 (Hoffman+), 2 at Alpha Ridge landfill in Howard County on Jan. 29 (Farrell, Magnusson), at DC on Feb. 6 and Feb. 12 (Dobbins), and 1 bird at Salisbury on Feb. 17 (Brodericks). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were once again numerous and included 2 adults at Eastern Neck on Dec. 12 (Ringler+), an adult at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 18 (Scarpulla, Blom), an adult at the Worcester County landfill on Dec. 20 (Hoffman), 1 at Triadelphia on Jan. 1 (Farrell, Solem), a third-winter bird at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (Ringler), 2 adults at Conowingo Dam on Jan. 2 (Scarpulla, June Vaughn), at least 4 at Salisbury on Jan. 7 (Dyke), and an adult on Liberty Lake on Jan. 24 (Ringler). On Jan. 29, 2 were at the Worcester County landfill (Hoffman, O'Brien), 8 at the Wicomico County landfill (Brodericks), an adult at Back River (Scarpulla), and 3 adults at Alpha Ridge landfill in Howard County (Magnusson, Farrell), also present on Feb. 5 (Scarpulla,

Ralph Cullison). Two adults were at the Wicomico County landfill on Feb. 27 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). A **Glaucous Gull** was at Laytonsville on Dec. 11 (Czaplak), and an adult was at Lapidum Landing, Harford County on Jan. 3 (Webb). Single first-winter Glaucous Gulls were at Centennial Park on Jan. 15 (Osenton), at Conowingo Dam from Jan. 15 (Scarpulla, Beth Olsen) through Feb. 12 (Webb), at Piney Run on Jan. 23 (Ringler), at PWRC on Jan. 26 (Osenton, Gough, W. Martin), and at Hains Point on Jan. 31 (Dobbins). A sub-adult was at Conowingo Dam on Feb. 17 (Webb), and 2 Glaucous Gulls were in DC on Feb. 17 (Czaplak). **Great Black-backed Gulls** of note were 50 at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (Ringler), 100+ at Westover on Jan. 6 (Reese), 300 at the Worcester County landfill on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 50 at the Alpha Ridge landfill in Howard County the same day (Farrell, Magnusson).

Kittiwake, Forster's Terns, Razorbill. An adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** was noted at Ocean City on Feb. 9 (Brodericks), and 2 **Forster's Terns** were there on Jan. 1 (Hoffman, Reese). Also at Ocean City was a **Razorbill** on Feb. 16 (Dobbins).

Owls, Woodpeckers. Dobbins discovered a **Barn Owl** at Merkle WS on Feb. 22, and **Long-eared Owls** were found in western Montgomery County on Jan. 25 (Czaplak), and at Centennial Jan. 30—Feb. 5 (Ott). **Short-eared Owls** included 2 at Elliott Island on Dec. 4 (Armistead), 1 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Hoffman, Scarpulla), 1 at Assateague on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 1 near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), and 3 at New Design Road near Lilypons on Feb. 12 (Czaplak). Kyle Rambo reported a red-shafted/yellow-shafted hybrid **Northern Flicker** at Hollywood, St. Mary's County on Jan. 21.

Flycatchers, Horned Larks, Swallows. **Eastern Phoebes** proved to be hardy with single birds near Hurlock on Jan. 3 (Reese), at Monument Road, Frederick County on Jan. 9 (Weesner), in Salisbury on Jan. 19 (Lawler), near Berlin on Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and near Lilypons on Feb. 20 (Wilson). Highs for **Horned Larks** were 178 at Church Hill on Jan. 11 (Grubers), 300 near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), 350 tallied in Howard County on Feb. 5 (Harveys+), 300 near Berlin on Feb. 13 (Hoffman), and 400 near Lilypons on Feb. 18 (Weesner). Sam Dyke found 20 **Tree Swallows** at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 29.

Corvids, Chickadees, Nuthatch. Jan Reese listed 350 **Fish Crows** at Westover on Jan. 6, and Scarpulla noted a **Common Raven** near Lilypons on Feb. 27 (Scarpulla). Simon, Kye Jenkins, and Ken Jones reported a **Black-capped Chickadee** at Loch Raven on Jan. 2, and Webb found another near Castleton on Feb. 21. Scarpulla and Ralph Cullison discovered a **Brown-headed Nuthatch** at Back River on Jan. 23.

Wrens, Thrushes, Mimids. A **Sedge Wren** was at Assateague on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), and a **Marsh Wren** was in the cattails along Plum Tree Path in Howard County on Jan. 11 (Bockstie, Ott). Over 85 **American Robins**, one with a white head and neck, were at Solomon's Island on Jan. 28 and a **Gray Catbird**, braving the elements, was at Stevensville on Jan. 13 (Reese). Other catbirds were 1 at West Ocean City on Feb. 21 (Hoffman), and 1 or 2 throughout the period at Centennial Park (Farrell). **Brown Thrashers** were 1 at Parsonsburg on Dec. 31 (Pitney), 2 at Allens Fresh on Jan. 1-2 (Jett), 1 at Westover on Jan. 6 and at Stevensville on Jan. 24 (Reese), 1 north of Taneytown on Jan. 22 (Ringler, David Smith), 1 at Royal Oak, Jan. 27—Feb. 10 (Reese, Jean Crump), 1 at Schooley Mill on Jan. 29 (Magnusson), and 1 at Plum Tree Path, Howard County on Feb. 17 (Bockstie).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. Highs for **American Pipits** were about 200 at Ridge on Jan. 1 (Craig, Anne Bishop), 50 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), 50 near Gateway Business Park in Howard County on Jan. 14 (Wilkinson), 60 at UMCF the same day (Ott), 40 near Snow Hill and 60 near Berlin on Feb. 13 (Hoffman), and 80 near Princess Anne on Feb. 19 (Reese). Another of the major finds this season was the first State record of a **Bohemian Waxwing** found by Mark Hoffman at Assateague on Feb. 13, and seen through Feb. 15 (Hoffman, Dyke, Czaplak+). Two hundred **Cedar Waxwings** were near Millington on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler). Jim Wilkinson, Dave Walbeck and Gwen Burkhardt notched a **Northern Shrike** at Piney Run on Jan. 22 and single sightings of **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported at Weverton on Dec. 4 (Czaplak), near Gray's Creek from Dec. 30 (Paul O'Brien) to Feb. 5 (Bjerke), and at Mansfield Monument Road, Washington County on Jan. 29 (Wilbur Hershberger).

Vireos, Warblers. A **Solitary Vireo** was near Pocomoke City on Dec. 27 (Hoffman), and **Pine Warblers** noted were 1 at a suet feeder in Parsonsburg through Feb. (Pitney), 1 at a feeder in Phoenix from Dec. 30 through Feb. 5 (Simon), 14 at South Point on Jan. 22 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 3 near Sweet Air, Baltimore County on Jan. 23 (Ringler, Blom), and 2 at Gray's Creek on Feb. 2 (Wilson). Hoffman discovered a **Prairie Warbler** at Assateague on Dec. 20 and 14 **Palm Warblers** near Stockton on Dec. 29. Jane Farrell and Jo Solem notched 2 **Common Yellowthroats** before the weather got too bad at the milk plant in Howard County on Dec. 18, and Hoffman found another at Griffin Road Ponds, Worcester County on Dec. 19.

Painted Bunting, Sparrows. A male **Painted Bunting** continued to be noted in Berlin from Dec. 28 through February (Mary Humphreys+), and another male was near Elkton starting on Dec. 18 (Gary Griffith, Scarpulla, Blom), and seen by many birders until at least Dec. 27 (Walbeck+). Good sightings of **American Tree Sparrows** were 20 at Mt. Pleasant in Howard County on Jan. 13 (Ott, Solem, Crook), 18 at a feeder in Conowingo, Cecil County on Feb. 1 (Blom, Ringler), and 20 at Kent Island on Feb. 6 (Therres). One was at a feeder in Parsonsburg on Feb. 12 (Pitney), and another was at Jug Bay on Feb. 26 (Swarth). Winter reports for **Chipping Sparrows** included 2 on Dec. 2 at Mt. Pleasant (Ott, Setterberg, Solem), 1 in Laurel on Dec. 5 (Osenton), 20 near Stockton on Dec. 29 (Hoffman), 7 at Parsonsburg from Dec. 12 through February (Pitney), an adult at Mexico Farms, Allegany County on Jan. 29 (Ringler, Paulus, Simons), an adult at a feeder in Darlington on Feb. 1 (Blom, Ringler), 1 in Elkridge on Feb. 5 (Thornton), and 1 at Pocomoke State Forest and 8 at the Worcester County landfill on Feb. 13 (Hoffman). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was near Berlin on Jan. 29th into February (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a **Vesper Sparrow** was near Stockton on Dec. 29 (Hoffman). **Savannah Sparrows** were 15 at Mt. Pleasant in Howard County on Dec. 2 (Ott, Setterberg, Solem), 12 at UMCF on Dec. 3 (Ott), and 2 of the "Ipswich" race at Ocean City on Feb. 22 (Hoffman). Another Savannah was off Gorman Road, Howard County on Feb. 28 (Wilkinson). A **Le Conte's Sparrow**, found by Rick Blom during the Ocean City CBC at Gray's Creek near Berlin, was seen by many observers through Feb. 19. The high count for **Fox Sparrows** was 14 at Back River on Jan. 23 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison), and **Lincoln's Sparrows** were identified this season with 1 at UMCF on Dec. 3 (Ott), and 1 near Newark on Dec. 28 and Jan. 29 (Hoffman, O'Brien). **White-crowned Sparrows** were 17, including 2 adults, at Gum Point Road, Worcester County on Dec. 19, and 18 at Assateague on Jan. 30 (Hoffman), 16 along Gum Point Road in one flock on Feb. 14 (Dyke), and 30 immatures near Berlin on Feb. 21 (Hoffman).

Longspurs, Snow Buntings. New Design Road and Oland Road near Lilypons remain a hot spot for **Lapland Longspurs**, including sightings of 9 on Dec. 8 (Dobbins) and 20 on Feb. 13 (Czaplak). Others were 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 10 (Rambo), 1 at Bradenbaugh, Harford County on Jan. 19 (Webb), 2 there on Feb. 9 (Ziolkowski), 1 near Long Green, Baltimore County on Jan. 23 and 150 near Massey on Feb. 5 (Blom, Ringler), and 11 near Snow Hill and 1 near Berlin on Feb. 13 (Hoffman). Highs for **Snow Buntings** were 30 at Assateague on Dec. 26 (Hoffman), 100 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), and 120 near Lilypons on Feb. 18 (Weesner). Others were 1 at Assateague on Jan. 16 (Hoffman), 7 at Bradenbaugh, Harford County on Feb. 9 (Ziolkowski), and 2 at Perryman on Jan. 18 (Webb).

Icterines. A fully leucistic **Red-winged Blackbird** was near Havre de Grace on Jan. 13 (Webb). **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were an adult male at Patuxent River Park on Feb. 28 (Maureen Blades, Rich Dolesh+), and a female at Blackwater on Feb. 22 (Fallon). A male and 2 female **Brewer's Blackbirds** were at George's Island Landing on Dec. 20 (Hoffman), and 30 were at Ironshire on Jan. 15 (Czaplak), at least 1 of which remained through Feb. 19 (Bjerke). Ott found 1 Brewer's near Ellicott City on Jan. 17. Jan Reese estimated over 10,000 **Common Grackles** at Claiborne on Jan. 29, and Bob Ringler estimated 5000 flying over Piney Run on Feb. 20. A female **Northern Oriole** was at Parsonsburg from Dec. 2 into February (Pitney), another was at Hollywood, Jan. 4-15 (Mary Chaney, Craig, Bishop), and another was at Greensboro on Jan. 7 (Hewitt).

Finches. Blom and Ringler found 18 **Purple Finches** at Millington WMA on Feb. 5. The final big story for the winter was the massive **Common Redpoll** invasion. Redpolls began with 2 during the Oakland CBC on Dec. 18 (Skipper), 20 at Elk Neck SP, Cecil County on Dec. 19 (Ziolkowski), 11 at Comus on Dec. 27 (Wilson), 1 at a feeder in Garrett County on Dec. 29 (Skipper), 1 at Salisbury on Dec. 30 (Dyke), and 1 at Assateague on Dec. 31 (Hoffman). Numbers only got better from then on. Redpolls were widespread in January and through the first week of February, and sightings included: 23 at Denton on Jan. 8 (Nuttle), 2 north of Boonsboro on Jan. 9-12 (Sam Shoemaker, Weesner), 100 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 9 (Scarpulla, Hoffman), 1 male and 2 females at the Wild Bird Center in Columbia on Jan. 15 (Osenton), 5-7 at Chestertown on Jan. 17 (Paul Tolson), 1 at Federalsburg on Jan. 18 (Glime), 1-2 at Queenstown on Jan. 22 (Danny Poet), 8 at Hashawha Environmental Center the same day (Ringler, David Smith), 3 at Back River on Jan. 23 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison), 4 at Arnold on Jan. 24 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 at a feeder on Kent Island on Jan. 25 (Therres), 100 at a feeder in Bel Air, Allegany County on Jan. 29 (Ringler, Paulus, Simons), 4 at Carey Run on Jan. 30 (John Willetts+), 2 at Rock Creek Park on Jan. 29 (Dobbins), 80 at Dan's Rock on Feb. 5 (Twigg), 8 at Rock Creek Park on Feb. 5 (Czaplak), 6 at Eldersburg and 6 at Piney Run on Feb. 6 (Ringler), 50 widespread throughout Garrett County on Feb. 19 (Czaplak), 30 at Dan's Rock on Feb. 20 (Czaplak), and 97 at a feeder in Garrett County on Feb. 21 (Skipper). Dave Czaplak studied the redpolls flocking to his feeders in Germantown this season and reported the first 2 on Jan. 20, with a daily high count of over 200 from Feb. 3 to March 18, and a peak count of over 350 on Feb. 15. The count was reduced to 40 by March 27, and 20 were there April 1. Through studying the **Hoary Redpolls** that were sorted out from time to time, and monitoring and photographing their turnover, it is estimated that as many as 1575 Redpolls, including 18 Hoaries, might have passed through this Germantown area for the season. Czaplak had a single day high of 4 Hoaries, and identified 15 of the race *exilipes* and 3 of the race *hornemanni* during the period. Other Hoaries reported were 1 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 9 (Scarpulla), 1 in Cordova on Jan. 29 (Herndon Stilky), 1 at Finksburg Feb. 5-11 (Ed

Boyd), and 2 at Susan Sires' feeder near Dan's Rock, Feb. 5-28 (Twigg+). Connie Skipper had 20 **Pine Siskins** at her feeder in Garrett County on Dec. 17, as well as 42 **Evening Grosbeaks** there on Jan. 26. Czaplak totaled about 150 Evening Grosbeaks at various sites in Garrett County on Feb. 19.

9763 Early Spring, Columbia, Maryland 21046

Received 30 May 1995

BEHAVIOR OF A RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD IN THE RAIN

PETER HANAN

On 19 June 1994 I observed an interesting behavior of an adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) that I have not seen described in the literature.

I was sitting at my office desk at my home in Gambrills, Maryland and looking out the window at a hummingbird feeder that is about one meter from where I sit. We had just had a late afternoon thunderstorm, and one adult male hummingbird was sitting on one of the three perches on the feeder. The feeder is on the north side of my house, sheltered under a high soffit. On this day the feeder got a little spray from the thunderstorm.

I made a phone call and continued to watch the bird, which had been feeding. While it sat on the perch it seemed to turn itself off. Water droplets were beading up on the sitting bird. It just got very still and sat on the perch. It perched like this for a few minutes until another male hummingbird came by. The sitting male came to life, turned his head from side to side, and made some movement at the flying bird but did not let go of its perch.

The flying bird made typical aggressive-sounding chatter, but the sitting bird remained on the perch. I would have expected the sitting bird to come to life and move off, but it did not. It just sat on the perch facing the feeder and then it threw its head backwards and flipped upside down, still holding the perch. His bill was pointing almost straight down, and his tail feathers came back up through the perch and were pointing almost straight up. Its legs seemed to get longer as it hung there.

The upside down hummingbird had its breast exposed to the other male hummingbird, which was now flying from side to side in front of this bird. The flying bird did look at the other perches but did not feed or alight. It seemed to get more upset with the upside down hummer. The flying bird then flew at the exposed breast of the perched bird and made five or six thrusts in quick succession with its bill. It ruffled the breast feathers of the upside down bird. I know contact was made because I saw the feeder and the bird move.

At this point I jumped up and headed for the nearby door. I expected to pick up a bleeding, dying, or dead hummingbird, It took just a few seconds to get outside. The attacker was gone, and the victim was still upside down on the perch. When I got to within a meter of the bird it dropped off the perch and flew up into the trees. The bird seemed to be fine despite being in a one-sided fencing match.

2012 Huntcliff Drive, Gambrills, MD 21054

Received 9 July 1994

AN UNUSUAL "MARITIME" EASTERN KINGBIRD NEST IN TALBOT COUNTY

HENRY T. ARMISTEAD

During weekends of July 1992, I saw a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) carrying captured insects to and frequenting a large American hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) that leans over the bank on Ferry Neck, 2.5 km west of Bellevue, Talbot County, Maryland. This tree is at about the middle of the south bank of Poplar Cove, which gives on to Irish Creek, which in turn extends about 400 m west along the shoreline to the 11-km-wide mouth of the Choptank River. Poplar Cove is in the midst of mixed cultivated farm fields planted in soy beans and corn, loblolly pine forests, hedgerows, fallow fields full of various grasses, lawns and yards, small sections of saltmarsh, and scrubby edge areas as well as coves and estuaries cut out by the tortuous shoreline. Kingbirds have always nested in such surroundings.

On 2 August 1992, I waded out to determine if the birds indeed had a nest in the section of the tree where one seemed to be slightly visible from a dock about 100 m away. There was a nest containing two large young nearly fully enough developed for flight. This being the case, I retreated as soon as I saw them lest they try to fly prematurely and land in the water.

Because of the extreme tilt of this tree, the nest was in an unusual setting. Its location was at the extreme "bottom" of the tree, which would have been near the top if the tree were upright. The tree has tilted for many years and is now at an angle of about 30 degrees to the surface of this extension of Chesapeake Bay. Measurements made in mid-August after the nest was vacated revealed the nest was only 46 cm above salt water at normal high tide and barely 115 cm above the bottom of this Bay cove. Extreme high tide would have inundated the nest. Murphy (1983a) has found that among 109 nests in Kansas and New York, successful Eastern Kingbird nests are "placed at lower absolute and relative heights than failed nests." This nest was 7.1 m from the bank, 8 m from the base of the tree, 0.5 m below the adjacent ground level, and 15 cm above the lowest leaves, other leaves below this level having been killed by the summer's highest tides. Leaves and small branches extended 28 cm above the nest, partially concealing it below the top of what would have been a straight tree's canopy.

The branches in the area of the nest were all less than 0.6 cm in diameter since the nest was in the very outermost branches of the tree. As if to reinforce the semi-marine nature of this nest, its bottom contained eight fragments of ribbed mussel shells (*Modiolus demissus*). A 13 cm section of 0.3 cm braided, weathered nylon string was woven into the fabric of the nest, which was composed otherwise for the most part of long, narrow roots and branches as well as grasses. Two 5 cm white feathers, probably from a Snowy Egret, had also been incorporated into the fabric of the nest.

The circumference at breast height of this hackberry was 117 cm (diameter, 37 cm). Other vegetation within 30 m of the tree included many expected plants for the area such as small red cedars, thistles, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Iva frutescens*, black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*), copious honeysuckle, poison ivy, red mulberry, blackberries, wild roses, winged sumac, black cherry, wild grapevine, black walnut, trumpet creeper, a fringe of *Spartina alterniflora* 30-60 cm wide along the nearby shore, pokeberry, and various grasses as well as a large lawn area.

By normal standards this nest was very low and noteworthy given its location practically in tidal water. Tyler (1942) gives the range of heights of Eastern Kingbird nests as 2-60 feet (0.6-18 m) above the ground. Had this tree stood straight, this nest would have been about 4.3 m above the ground. Tyler mentions "Another favorite location here [Massachusetts] is in trees or low shrubs growing along a river, often on branches overhanging the water" and that kingbirds have also been found nesting in gourds and tree hollows as well as on the tops of posts only a meter or so high. Kingbirds sometimes appropriate nests of Baltimore Orioles or other species, including American Robins (MacKenzie 1982).

One study involving six lakes in the Rideau region of southern Ontario found that Eastern Kingbirds commonly build nests in trees on the water's edge that are often less than 3 m above the ground and frequently in branches overhanging the water (Robertson and Flood 1980). These authors were concerned with recreational use of shoreline areas and, not surprisingly, found that kingbird nests were more successful in undisturbed areas. Nine of 13 nests in undisturbed areas fledged at least one young contrasted with only five of 13 nests in disturbed areas.

Evidence of the resourcefulness of this species is shown by its opportunistic selection of unusual nesting sites in a burned forest area in Michigan. Kingbirds did not nest in the unburned, surrounding forest or presumably in the burned area prior to the burn. After the burn, which opened up the vegetation, making it suitable for kingbirds, "Nearly 65% of the nests were constructed in charred trunks containing cupped depressions that were formed by embers that burned into the heartwood" (Hamas 1983). In spite of their lack of concealment, all the trunk nests fledged young.

Eastern Kingbirds have an affinity for nesting in trees near water in many areas of their summer range. In the Chesapeake area they nest in almost all small marsh hammocks, even on the remotest islands of the Bay (Armistead 1978). Even today, fourteen years later, when many of these hammocks have been diminished by erosion and die off because of blowovers and saltwater intrusion, kingbirds still nest in many of these same places. Reasons postulated for nesting near to or over water by kingbirds include reduced predation because of the inaccessibility of the nest, an increased insect food supply, and a more moderate microclimate. In Ontario, nests on small islands were found to be more successful than those elsewhere (Blancher and Robertson 1985a). These same authors (1985b) determined that "the degree of isolation of the nest site by water" was the most obvious habitat feature that affected predation rates.

None of the articles cited here or the standard reference books on North American nests and eggs by Oliver Davie, Colin Harrison, Hal H. Harrison, Richard Headstrom, or Chester A. Reed mention the height above water for kingbird nests in waterside trees such as described by Tyler. On 7 August 1993, a nest at the Ferry Neck site was found 11 m above ground in a black locust about 15 m inland from the 1992 nest tree.

Documentation for Eastern Kingbird's frequent choice of low nesting sites can be found in Canada's prairie provinces where 66% of 231 nests were within 2 m of the ground in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta (MacKenzie 1981). In the same area, about 85% of the 102 Western Kingbird nests found were 2-7 m high.

I saw my pair of kingbirds chase and harass Turkey Vultures, an adult Bald Eagle, Laughing Gulls, Forster's Terns, American Crows, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles when they came within the vicinity of their nest. A year later, on 31 July

1993, I saw three recently fledged kingbirds perched in the top of a black locust growing next to the 1992 nest tree. A large hawk approached from a distance of more than a kilometer and stooped behind the trees. When it came into view again I saw it was an immature male Cooper's Hawk. One of the parent kingbirds, in a spectacular display of maneuverability, chased this supreme bird predator across the cove and out of sight, a distance of at least half a kilometer, before the hawk disappeared behind some trees, the kingbird still in pursuit.

Kingbirds have an unusually long, and usually successful, period of post-fledging care. Predators are the main source of both egg and nestling loss, yet fledgling loss is near zero according to studies in New York and Kansas (Murphy 1983a, 1983b). One of the reasons for this success is kingbird aggression toward predators such as in the present case. Field work conducted by boat in Ontario revealed that among 32 lakeside nesting pairs, successful pairs were "significantly more aggressive than pairs that later lost nests to predators" (Blancher and Robertson 1983).

Acknowledgments

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523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119

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FIFTY YEARS OF MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

Maryland Birdlife began as a mimeographed *Maryland Ornithological Society Bulletin* dated March and April 1945. The opening sentence was a quote from John Burroughs: "To understand nature is to gain one of the greatest resources of life." By the second issue, it carried its present name, *Maryland Birdlife*, and boasted a constituency of 97 members.

For the first six years Orville Crowder mimeographed the journal himself. The first few issues were devoted largely to reports of scheduled field trips, but technical articles by Hervey Brackbill, Irving Hampe, Haven Kolb, and other members began appearing in the first year of publication.

Haven Kolb started the *Season* reports early in 1946. They have continued to date under the successive editorship of Chan Robbins, Bob Ringler, and Daniel and Linda Southworth. Reports of Maryland Christmas Bird Counts appeared regularly in the early years, starting with 1945, generally in tabular form. They were subsequently dropped to save space; nearly all were published by National Audubon so no important information was lost.

Hervey Brackbill (2:39-41) summarized one of the first cooperative projects, a survey of starling roosts in Baltimore. The Junior Page, initiated in 1947, gave junior members an opportunity to report on their activities. By 1955 we had a Junior Editorial Board who selected and edited short manuscripts submitted by Junior Members.

Bob Stewart's two 1947 articles on the Distribution of Maryland Birds (3:55-57, 3:71-74) were the first of many reports that added new species to the Maryland list, which at that time totaled 309 species.

The MOS nest record project was successfully launched in 1949, with proof of nesting supplied for 98 species that year. Annual summaries of the valuable data contributed on Maryland nest cards were published for many years. This nest record file, one of the first state nest record files to be established, became the major source of information on nesting dates, clutch sizes, and cowbird parasitism rates for the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas.

Starting with Volume 7 (1951), we changed *Maryland Birdlife* to its present 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 format. We typed the copy on manual typewriters in camera-ready form and pasted up each page for reproduction by D. Stuart Webb, Inc., in Baltimore. We could now include photographs, including cover photos, which then became a regular part of each issue. Irving Hampe created the first Department Headings and became our first Art Editor. For many years, Mildred Cole did much of the final typing, and Gladys Cole hosted the quarterly "pasting parties." Currently we send most copy on diskette to Tri-State Printing, Inc., in Hagerstown for printing and stapling.

The first lead article under the new format was a Nesting Study of Purple Grackles at Middle River, Maryland, by young Edwin Willis, who is now an authority on tropical birds at the National University in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The lead article in the following issue is one of my favorites. Someone had told me of an elderly gentleman in Allegany County who had vivid memories of Passenger Pigeons back in the 1870's. I drove up to Barton and was fortunate enough to find Edward Grant, who was about 90 years of age. In the course of our conversation he dictated the article that appears under his name (*Maryland Birdlife* 7:27-29), "The Last Maryland Flight of the Passenger Pigeon."

We continued to use the Bolton Street address of the Maryland Natural History Society until we obtained space at our present headquarters in Cylburn Mansion in 1959.

Our first cumulative species and author indexes, covering volumes 1-13, were published in the December 1958 issue. Subsequent indexes were published separately in 1966 (volumes 14- 20) and 1969 (volumes 21-25). Indexes for the more recent volumes are being prepared.

Except for special Sanctuary drives, *Maryland Birdlife* has always been the number 1 budget item. Annual dues that began at \$1, were raised to \$1.50 in 1950, and by 1954 they were \$2. Not until MOS was 27 years old in 1972 were the adult dues raised to \$3. They are now \$10. From the beginning, budgetary constraints have limited the number of pages printed. We have always given high priority to Season reports and to annual reports of state committee chairpersons and chapter presidents. We have given top priority to special MOS projects, such as the first county atlases (34:1-46) and the recent Winter Bird Survey (50:1-83).

Major cooperative projects such as the May Count results have usually been published (except in the few years when no manuscript was submitted), although sometimes they have been in shortened form. May counts, being quantitative and accompanied by time and mileage afield, have taken precedence over tabulations of annual county lists (without dates or numbers) such as were published in the 1950's and 1960's.

Maryland Birdlife is published quarterly by the MOS, Inc., to "Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Maryland." In the first 50 years we brought you 5,602 pages of material, nearly all of which was contributed by members. This is your journal. We welcome original articles on Maryland birds. All articles of scientific interest are abstracted by *Wildlife Review* and various electronic reference sources.

7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Maryland

Received 20 May 1995

GREAT HORNED OWL'S NEST DESTROYED BY MARAUDING CROWS

CONNIE BOCKSTIE

On the morning of 19 January 1993, Sue Probst and I, having just parked in the lot above the concession stand on the south side of Centennial Park in Howard County, were planning to walk around the lake, birding as we went. Almost immediately our attention was drawn to the wooded area on the north side of the parking lot where a large number of American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) were diving on a very tall oak tree. Close inspection revealed a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) on an abandoned hawk's nest about 18 meters (60 feet) up in the main crotch of the tree. The crows were creating so much commotion and diving so close to the nest that the owl was ducking to avoid being hit.

We walk around the park about five times each week, so we were able to keep a close check on the incubating bird. From the far side of the parking lot we could quickly determine if she was still on the nest. Generally there was no need to go near the woods because so many crows were in the immediate area that we knew she must still be there. In the few times when crows were not harassing the owl, we circumspectly checked the nest. We affectionately, but respectfully, dubbed the owl, Mrs. Bubo.

It was not widely known that the owl was nesting in that location, so close to the edge of the woods and directly adjacent to a much-used parking lot. In an effort to protect her from over-zealous observers who might jeopardize the outcome of her nesting effort by too much attention, her presence was not advertised. On several occasions a few birders reported seeing the owl sitting up straight or standing in the nest, perhaps stretching or rearranging her eggs. Each time Sue and I saw her, however, she was settled down low in the nest with only her head, or sometimes only the tufts of her "ears," showing. We speculated that this may have been the same owl, first discovered by Bill Van Horn, that fledged one chick across the lake in an area known to local birders as the "duck pond."

On the afternoon of 9 February, while talking to fellow club member Ron Dunwiddie, we noticed unusual noise around the nest tree. From the parking lot we counted about 45 crows diving on the nest, with more continually arriving. We wondered how the owl could withstand such an onslaught. Some of the crows seemed to skim directly over the top of the nest; all we could see were Mrs. Bubo's "ear" tufts as she hunkered far down into the nest.

When we returned at 3 p.m. the next day the woods were strangely quiet. When we looked at the nest from afar we could see nothing. With a sinking feeling we walked closer. For the first time since 19 January the nest was empty. It had been partially pulled from the crotch of the tree. At the foot of the tall oak we found the center of the nest, sprinkled here and there with a few downy feathers. Poking around the leafy debris revealed two broken eggs, one containing a half-eaten embryo, the other bloody and empty. Much whitewash was splattered on the trunk and on the ground on the south side of the nest tree. We could find no pellets. Happily, there was no evidence of the female owl on the ground, so we could speculate that she escaped unharmed. Martha Chestem had seen an owl standing on the nest that day.

All our efforts to protect the owl from human infringement were for naught. In the end it was nature herself, in the relentless and savage attacks of so many crows, that destroyed the nest and thwarted the bird's reproductive attempts. We realize that the Great Horned Owl is not endangered or threatened; still, Sue and I were sick at heart to think that Mrs. Bubo was unable to hatch her brood. Something very wonderful is now missing from Centennial Park.

8797 Autumn Hill Court, Ellicott City, MD 21043

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1946-47	C. Haven Kolb
1947-48	Pearl Heaps
1949-52	T. M. Sandy
1952-55	Orville W. Crowder
1955-56	Richard D. Cole
1956-57	Charles M. Buchanan
1957-58	Shirley H. Geddes
1958-59	Robert M. Bowen
1959-60	Frances Stine,
	Roberta Fletcher
1960-61	A. Jerome Fletcher
1966-74	Alta Gras
1974-86	Helen Ford
1986-90	Patricia J. Moore
1990-93	Joan Stephens
1993-95	Sibyl Williams

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1961-63	Shirley Geddes
1963-67	Mildred F. Cole
1971-73	Mrs. Alger Zapf, Jr.
1973-74	Marlene Letsch
1974-76	Mrs. C. Perryclear
1976-80	Helen Ford
1980-83	Lettie Cullom
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1985-86	Richard Danca
1986-92	Joy Aso
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1945-46	Mrs. M. C. Kent
1946-47	Compton Crook
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1963-66	Katherine Bauer

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1964-65	Dr. Turner L. Smith		
1965	Edward Mendinhall		

ALBINO CANVASBACK IN DORCHESTER COUNTY

LOLA OBERMAN

On our way to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on 21 February 1995, my husband and I stopped off in Cambridge, as we usually do, to scan the waterfowl on the Choptank River. Fortunately, the heavy fog that had accompanied us all the way from Bethesda had begun to lift by ten o'clock, and we had very satisfying views of Tundra Swans and an assortment of ducks, primarily Canvasbacks (*Aythya valisineria*) with a mingling of scaup, American Wigeon, Mallards, and an occasional goldeneye.

One duck stood out in the flock that gathered close to the shore. It was a startling white and had the unmistakable profile of the Canvasbacks surrounding it. Its beak and eye were black. Its head and neck were a cream color, the mantle a pale pearl-gray. Otherwise the bird was pure white except for black mottling on the breast and undertail coverts.

The albino did not seem to attract any special attention from the other ducks, but it certainly attracted ours.

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