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 Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209
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Active Membership (adults)	\$10.00 plus local chapter dues
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Life	400.00 (4 annual installments)
Junior (under 18 years)	5.00 plus local chapter dues



ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF MOS

(From a talk given at the 50th Anniversary Meeting, June 24, 1995)

DONALD H. MESSERSMITH

I am sort of a “come lately” to the organization, but because of my associations with Orville Crowder, I was asked to put this together. I first met Orville Crowder in about 1963 during a visit to Washington where he was giving a lecture on his world travels. On that very night he asked me to lead a tour for him, but I couldn’t at the time. By 1966 I had led a trip for him, and in 1967 I did others; and then as the Crowder Nature Tours expanded I worked with him more and more. As he started to become ill with heart trouble and minor strokes, I helped him even more in planning trips. He had no family, and after we formed the World Nature Association in 1969, he wanted everything he had to go to that organization, so his legacy could go on. I have served as President of the Association since its inception. When he died in 1974, I inherited everything including his files and we have used the money from his inheritance to support conservation projects around the world. This work is continuing through the World Nature Association and this explains my connection to him.

Now I would like to go back and talk about the origins of MOS and to discuss a little pre-history that I was able to find in his files and in some other things I had at home that go way back. These are in the display I put together for this meeting. As far as I can tell from what was available to me, the first list of birds for this general area came out in 1862 and was prepared by Elliott Coues and D. Webster Prentiss in the Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1861, pp. 399-421. This list contained 226 species. They described Washington as follows: “with a population of 60,000, the National Capital was a mud-puddle in winter, a dust heap in summer, a cow-pen and pig-sty all the year round; there was good snipe-shooting within the city limits, and the country all about [which in-

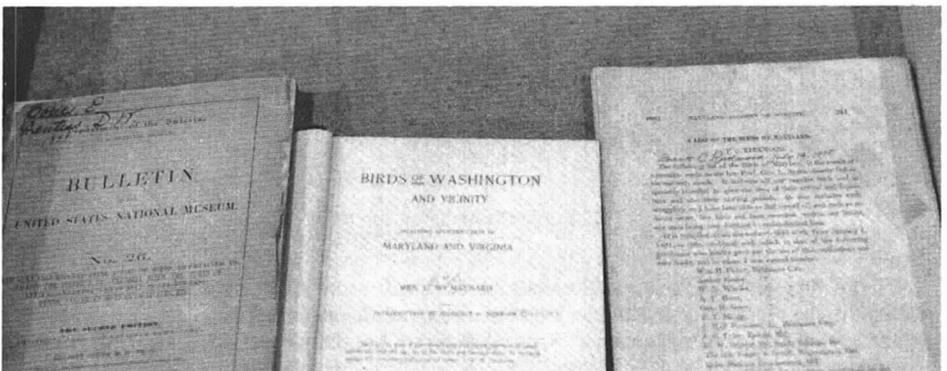


Fig. 1. Some of the earliest Maryland/DC bird publications

cludes Maryland] was as primitive as the most enthusiastic naturalist could desire." In May, 1877, a Mr. Jouy published a list in Vol. II, No. 11 of *Field and Forest*, pp. 191-193 with 240 species listed. When this one (Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 26), the oldest that I have, was published in 1883, there were 180,000 people in Washington, the city had improved somewhat (the pigs were gone), and the city bird list contained 248 species.

The next book that I have here, *A List of the Birds of Maryland*, was published in 1895 by Frank C. Kirkwood and this copy was signed by him in 1935. His list contains 341 species and subspecies. Shortly after that a little booklet was published in 1898 that some of you may have—you see it occasionally in used book stores—*Birds of Washington and Vicinity—Where to Find and How to Know Them*, published by Lucy W. Maynard. It has good bird-finding spots, descriptions of the birds, etc. and includes a great deal about Maryland. She listed 291 species in this book. So, you can see that people were very much interested in birds and what you can also see in these publications is a transfer from scientists doing the work to amateurs doing the work, and that has continued.

Another interesting little book from this time was *Birds of a Maryland Farm* by Sylvester A. Judd which was published by the old Biological Survey in 1902. It's subtitle is "A Local Study of Economic Ornithology." The Bryan Farm is in Marshall Hall directly opposite Mount Vernon.

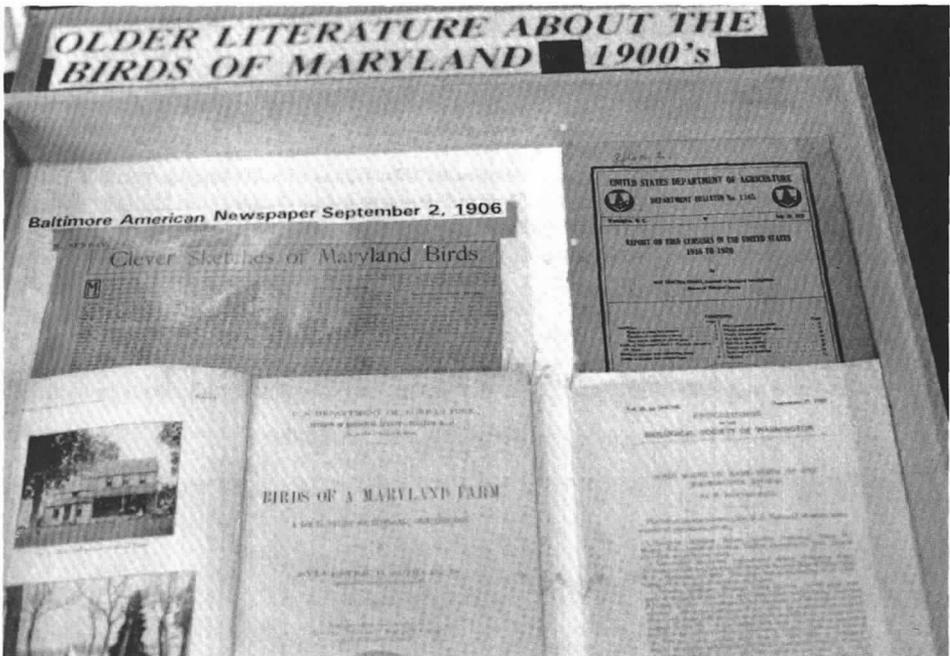


Fig. 2. Publications from the early 1900's.

From what I can glean in the material available to me, a lot of these scientists and amateurs came together in the Maryland Academy of Sciences which met in the Pratt Library in Baltimore and elsewhere. From that group people with special interests spread out and eventually formed the Natural History Society of Maryland in 1929. I have some of their early materials on display in the back of the room including the first issue of their

Bulletin. They are still operating actively in Baltimore. The Society was founded by amateurs, but professionals were in it also and specialty groups were formed for plants and reptiles—in fact the Herpetological Society of Maryland is still very active and associated with them. There were other special interest groups and, of course, a group interested in birds. This group did field trips, etc. As more time went on the Natural History Society published a very nice journal simply called *Maryland—A Journal of Natural History*, which is still being published and probably many of you are members. In the issue of April 1944, page 58, the following notice appeared: “AN APPEAL TO BIRD LOVERS. THE STATE OF MARYLAND HAS LONG NEEDED AN ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE CONSERVATION OF BIRD LIFE. THE NUMEROUS REQUESTS RECEIVED BY THE SOCIETY CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION HAVE RESULTED IN THE DECISION TO FORM A BIRD CLUB TO BECOME AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. [There was at that time an Audubon Society in Baltimore.]

AN OPPORTUNITY WILL BE GIVEN TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR A PROGRAM OF BIRD WALKS, LECTURES, AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE WRITE THE SOCIETY AT ONCE.”

This notice was repeated in the July 1944, issue.

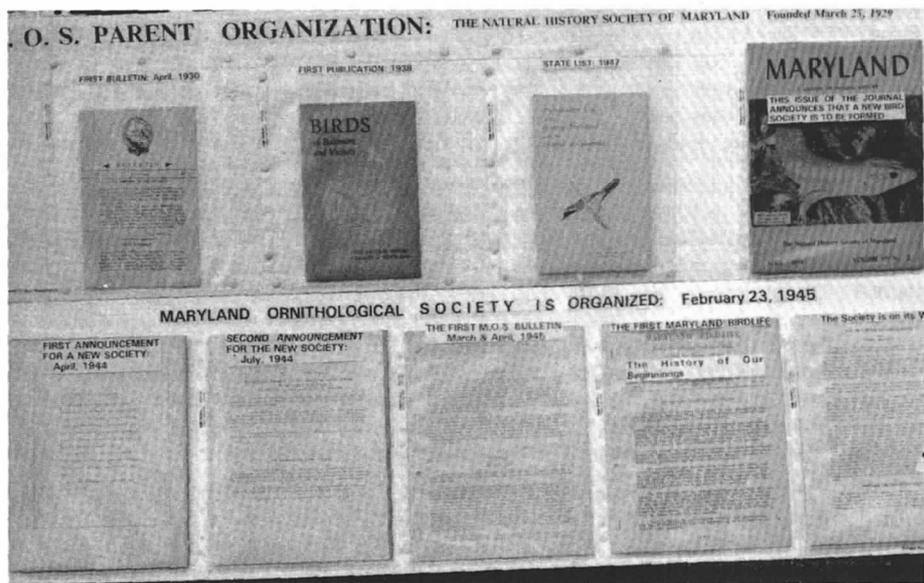


Fig. 3. Publications of the Natural History Society of Maryland and early MOS publications

People did respond, and the first gathering was on February 23, 1945, at the Natural History Society of Maryland headquarters, which at that time was at 2103 Bolton Street in Baltimore. About 40 people came to that meeting. They became the charter members. Irving Hampe (whom Chan told me died just last winter) became the temporary Chairman and Mrs. M. C. Kent became the temporary Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Ray Beasley was appointed Chairman of a committee to draw up a Constitution. A general program was discussed and approved and a meeting was called for March 9th at 8:30 to elect officers and adopt a Constitution.

At that meeting they elected Irving Hampe as President; Orville W. Crowder, Vice-President; Mrs. Millard C. Kent, Recording Secretary; Miss Helen C. Klinke, Corresponding Secretary; and Millard C. Kent, Treasurer. They discussed their Constitution and By-Laws and then they appointed Committees for hikes, programs, membership, records, and publications. The second Friday of each month was chosen for their regular meetings and the publication of a bi-monthly bulletin was approved. Membership had increased to 67 persons by that March meeting. The official founding date of the Society was April 9, 1945. At that time they adopted a statement which is on these older bulletins, "The object of this Club shall be to record the observations of bird life in Maryland; to disseminate in a popular manner the results of such observations; to collate the scientific data furnished by bird students throughout the state, and to supply such available information to other groups as requested; and to promote the cultivation of public sentiment in the preservation of our native bird life." And that, of course, is what we have done since then. They had 61 names on their April 1945 list.

The Hike Committee was made up of Orville Crowder and Florence H. Burner. The first MOS field trip was led by Irving Hampe on March 11, 1945. They went to the Lake Roland area. I should add that in those days they were traveling by streetcar. This was the end of World War II and transportation was still very difficult. Their 15 species were recorded in a detailed trip report. The second trip was on March 17, 1945. Mr. Ray Beasley reported it in the Newsletter (Bulletin) and it was led by Orville Crowder to Harwood and Point Oliver on the Gunpowder River. They saw 18 species. The third trip, on March 18, 1945, was led by Orville Crowder assisted by Ray Beasley along the Gunpowder River as far south as Dundee Creek. They saw 35 species. Later they also had a trip to Sandy Point and Matapeake where they had to cross over on the ferry, because there was no bridge. That was on March 25th, 1945, and was led by Ray Beasley and Orville Crowder. They saw 33 species.

The Bulletin as it was called came out with the first issue for March and April, 1945, and by the next issue, the May and June, 1945 issue, it was called *MARYLAND BIRDLIFE* and has remained so since. By June of 1945 they had 97 members and decided to publish their Newsletter bi-monthly. In the September-October issue there is a report of the first trip led by one Chandler Robbins. On October 26th, 1945, he and Robert Stewart welcomed the members to the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge for a tour of the laboratories and a field trip. Chan joined the Society in February, 1946. By November-December 1945 (Chan will relate to this), they had trouble getting out *MARYLAND BIRDLIFE* on time and were appealing for more material. [Laughter] And Chan wasn't yet the Editor then. So, it's a long tradition here. But we're caught up now and it's only taken 50 years.

The first Christmas bird counts were in 1945. There were three of them, all in Baltimore County. One went to Loch Raven on December 23 where they saw 30 species and 511 individual birds as reported by Haven Kolb. On Dec. 28 they recorded 18 species and 179 individuals at Lake Roland as reported by Ray J. Beasley. The MOS count was on Dec. 30 and reported by Orville Crowder. They saw 25 species and 400 individuals along the West Shore of Chesapeake Bay from Middle River to Gunpowder River.

In their second year on March 8, 1946, they elected Orville W. Crowder, President; Mr. J. H. Passimore, Vice-President; and the Secretary was Haven Kolb who is still around. I talked to him recently and hoped he would be here at the 50th anniversary conference. He is still very active in the Natural History Society as well as MOS, as he has been for many years. The new Treasurer was Mr. Herbert Strack. In September, 20-22, 1946, they held their first joint trip with the Washington, D.C. group, which is now the Audubon Naturalist Society, and they went to Cape May, New Jersey. Irston Barnes was the leader for the Washington group and Orville Crowder for MOS.

The Baltimore Oriole, which we can now call it again, was officially named the State Bird of Maryland by the Legislature in 1947 and I suspect the Society had something to do with that. However, by act of the Legislature on March 30, 1882, the bird had already been protected and given a specially privileged status according to the way it was written.

Orville Crowder, as President, then began organizing chapters. He would go out and give talks to various groups around the state that already were meeting and were interested in birds. He helped Helen Miller organize the Allegany Chapter in January 1948 and Frederick County (April 17th) and Washington County in April 1948. The Anne Arundel Chapter was formed on February 7, 1950, the Caroline County Chapter in 1950, and the Garrett County Chapter in November, 1953. In all, he organized about six chapters, including the Harford Chapter. I quote from the recently published history of the Harford Chapter: "A frequent, very interested and interesting speaker was Orville W. Crowder, president of the Maryland Ornithological Society, headquartered in Baltimore. This society was comprised of unit groups [not chapters] of bird lovers in Baltimore, Allegany, Anne Arundel, Washington, and Caroline Counties and in Takoma Park. Crowder was an enthusiastic birder and naturalist and it soon became evident to him that in this Bel Air group was the nucleus of another unit to join with the Maryland Ornithological Society. There were a few in this group who already were members of the MOS Baltimore unit." (They are mentioned.) If histories could be written of all the chapters you would find Orville's name mentioned. It should also be mentioned that he helped organize the Takoma Park Nature Society in 1951, but as far as I can glean it disappeared from the scene in 1962. There have been other chapters that have disappeared: Rossmoor Bird Club December, 1968-1972, Soldier's Delight Chapter, 1960-1966, and Dorchester County Chapter, 1975-1979.

It should also be mentioned that some of the early field trips, once transportation improved, went to places where Orville Crowder lived. Many early field trips went to his house in Chase, Maryland, on the Bird River. I thought that was an appropriate place. Later, a lot of the trips went to his "Lost Valley" property on Deer Creek in Harford County. Florence Burner, who was a charter member and first hike chairman, has written an interesting set of reminiscences called "Highlights of the Early Years." I quote from the first paragraph: "From the very first notices there has been confusion about the distinction between the city and state organizations. To quote newspaper notices of 1945, one stated, "Students of Birds Form State Club. Amateur bird students of Baltimore and the surrounding territory have formed the Maryland Bird Club. The first state wide organization of bird lovers and bird watchers in the state since a branch of the Audubon Society passed out of existence some years ago." The other notice, however, reads, "Organization of Bird Club Planned. A meeting of bird lovers and amateur bird students for the purpose of organizing a regional club replacing the Audubon Society. The desire for a club of some sort that will bring together the bird watchers in and near Baltimore." Of course, the dates for the beginning of the Baltimore Bird Club and the MOS are the same, February 23rd, for the first meeting and April 9th for the real organizational meeting. She mentions all the people that were there which is similar to what you can read in *Maryland Birdlife*.

The next thing of historic interest is the conventions. Chan has compiled these (*Maryland Birdlife* 51:57). If you consider that the first meeting was the first convention that those 40 people attended, then the first convention was in Baltimore. The 1946 and 1947 conventions were also in Baltimore. The 1948 convention was the first meeting away from Baltimore; it was up here in the Catoctin area, and that is why we are meeting here for our 50th Conference. Steve Simon is the only charter member who is with us for our 50th Conference. A young lady named Eleanor Cooley who was at the first Catoctin Conference at Camp Greentop is with us for the 50th; she is now known as Eleanor Robbins, Chan's wife. [Applause] She gave me a note that I found very interesting, "Orville Crowder succeeded in getting a Baltimore Bird Club organized in 1945. In 1946 I was working in Balti-

more. I attended a board meeting in the spring in the Natural History Society rooms on Bolton St. Orville said he had persuaded Chandler Robbins, editor of the *Wood Thrush*, journal of the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States (D.C.) to edit *Maryland Birdlife* and bring it up to date. Soon after I was married to Chan (April 1948), Orville phoned me saying I just had to go to the first MOS Convention to give a talk and some workshops on ferns, finding bird nests or something. Helen Miller had arranged for a square dance group to entertain us. The volunteer cook was Bryant Tyrrell (the wildlife photographer and eagle investigator). That summer Mrs. Miller started a nature camp for Allegany County school children." So, we have here today someone who was at the first real convention. I'm sure Chan was there also.

So, Chan took over the job as Editor. Incidentally Orville Crowder personally mimeographed the first bulletins that go through the 1950's. The first Editors were Mr. and Mrs. Millard C. Kent and Haven Kolb. In 1946 it was Haven Kolb and in 1947 Chandler Robbins took over as Editor and has been Editor ever since; and *Maryland Birdlife* is caught up to date now. [Applause]

As time went on we added the *Yellowthroat* in 1980. Dan Boone was the first Editor of that. He was Editor for two years. He was followed by Cameron Lewis who was Editor until 1985 and Mark Hoffman from 1985 to 1993. Now Norman Saunders is the Editor of the *Yellowthroat*.

"The Sanctuary Fund started when Mr. E. John Besson presented a \$500.00 gift to MOS in memory of his sister, Adele, to start a sanctuary fund. This was in about 1961." The first sanctuary, Rock Run, was leased for a dollar a year from 1960 until the property became part of Susquehanna State Park. Carey Run Sanctuary was purchased in 1962; Mill Creek in 1964; and Irish Grove in 1967. The later sanctuaries were received as gifts or bequests: Adventure in 1969; Myrtle Simon Pelot, 1972; tum Suden, 1976; Mandares Creek, 1977; Seymour B. Cooper, 1978; Caroline W. Wilson, 1989; and Marengo Woods, 1990.

This talk was followed by slides from Orville Crowder and others that relate to some of these places such as Chase, Maryland, the Hastings- Miramar Hotel in Ocean City, site of many MOS conventions, "Lost Valley" in Deer Creek (once home to Maryland's only endemic species, the Maryland Darter, a fish that is now extinct) and which was eventually sold to the state (Orville's ashes were scattered at Lost Valley), one of the 67 Junior Clubs that were in existence when Orville Crowder was President, Carey Run dedication, Deep Creek Lake trips, social gatherings, Irish Grove, Blackwater, Orville Crowder, who eventually traveled to every country in the world but six, and Carl Carlson, founder of the Montgomery Chapter. So these are some of the important people and events of the early days.

10418 Brookmoor Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20901

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

June 24, 1995

The annual business meeting was held during the 50th Annual Conference at Mount Saint Mary's College at Emmitsburg, MD. Bob Rineer called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. after a lecture on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers by Dr. Jerry Jackson.

An award was given for 50 years of service to Chan and Eleanor Robbins.

The following slate of officers was presented: President, Allan Haurly; Vice President, Robert Rineer; Treasurer, Jeff Metter; and Secretary Sybil Williams. The slate was seconded and approved. The new Bylaws Committee Chairman is John Malcolm.

The Baltimore Bird Club Hot Line is 410-467-0653. This will be used to report birds and as a Mail Box for other birders.

The President thanked all of those responsible for the conference.

There were no reports from the Vice President, Secretary, or Executive Secretary, or from the Investments, Library, Calendar, Cavity Nesting, County List, May Count or Mailing List committees.

Conference Committee. The conference for 1996 will be held at the University of Maryland at Baltimore in June.

Conservation Report. Fifteen American laws passed over the last 50 years in the realm of conservation are all threatened. Please write your representative and sign the letter, contact your representative and speak out. There is not much on the state level to protest. Project Open Space has been a success. It has improved the quality of bird habitat and was supported by conservation groups.

Education Committee. This is the second year to be supported by money, \$4,100/year. Please see report on page 122. Eight of the 16 chapters applied for funding. Please get a copy of the form to apply for money. The Education Committee would like the video *BIRD* to go to every school district and asks each chapter to use \$200 for more videos. Partners in Flight (PIF) gave their first grant for Partners in Art to 17 class rooms to exchange art with Central and South America. PIF will sell patches for \$3 to raise money for PIF programs. April 1, 1996 is the deadline for applying for funds from the Education Committee.

Gifts Committee. Talbot County Chapter arranged for the \$125,000 Wanuga Fund to go to the Wildfowl Trust's Horsehead Sanctuary near Grasonville for expansion.

Long Range Planning Committee. The following recommendations are for the next 50 years: Publicize MOS, Involve individuals, Publish scheduled periodicals in a timely fashion, Protect birds and habitat, Examine who we are and what we wish to accomplish. The committee wants MOS to be a data collecting body and have a role in habitat preservation.

Research Committee. One grant proposal was received and awarded \$3,000 for a study of blood parasites in water birds. Guidelines are available for submitting grant requests.

Sanctuary Committee. There were two work days at Irish Grove Sanctuary and one at Carey Run working on the steps.

Scholarship Committee. This year there were 21 applicants and 9 scholarships were awarded.

Publications Committee. Publication of *Maryland Birdlife* is now up to date. Annual reports of chapter presidents and committee chairpersons are due immediately for inclusion in the September issue.

Records Committee. Six packages containing 77 records were circulated among committee members in the past year. Work is progressing on a list of records processed to date.

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Williams, Secretary



SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1 - MAY 31, 1994

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH and LINDA SOUTHWORTH

The spring was cool and wetter than normal. There was a holdover of northern species from the extraordinary winter season, but despite the rough winter, some observers commented that the spring arrivals were on schedule or a little early. Once again, the worrisome poor passerine migration trend, evident for several years, continued. A severe outbreak of avian cholera in the Chesapeake Bay area killed many waterfowl. The epidemic could have been much worse if not for the quick and professional response of numerous government agencies and individuals to collect carcasses and help contain the spread of the disease. According to a report by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, approximately 55,000 birds died with over 21,000 carcasses recovered in Virginia and about 13,000 in Maryland. Sea ducks suffered the greatest mortality, especially Oldsquaws.

Observers: Henry and George Armistead, Glenn Austin, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, Ralph Cullison, David Czaplak, Phil Davis, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle, Frederick Fallon, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Cecily & Paul Fritz, Jean & Larry Fry, Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Mike & Grazina McClure, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Barbara Ross, Gene Scarpulla, Susan Setterberg, L. T. Short, Stephen Simon, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Mary Twigg, David Walbeck, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner. Banding was conducted 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 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), Black Marsh (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Brown's Bridge (Howard), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Conowingo Dam (Harford), Daniels (Howard), Dan's Rock (Allegheny), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Elliott Island (Dorchester), Fort Smallwood Park

(Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Gwynn Acres Path (Howard County), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), 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), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Spesutie Island (Harford), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Town Hill (Allegany), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

Loons. A **Red-throated Loon** was noted at Morgantown on March 19 (Jett), 1 was at PRNAS on April 4 (Rambo), and another was far inland at Rocky Gap SP on April 13 (Twigg). The high count was 700 off Ocean City and Assateague on April 17 (Hoffman), another was seen the same day at North Beach (Ringler), and a late bird was at Assateague on May 22 (Armisteads+, Hoffman). The first migrant **Common Loon** may have been the one noted on a small pond off Folly Quarter Road in Howard County on March 3 (McClures). Others were 1 on the Potomac at Marshall Hall on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), 2 at Dodson Point, St. Mary's County on March 23 (Wilson), 2 at Loch Raven on March 20 and 16 there on March 30 (Simon), 18 at Rocky Gap on April 11 (Twigg), 45 over Rockburn Branch Park on April 17 (Ott), and the last 2 seen at Piney Run Park on May 27 (Ringler).

Grebes. Mark Hoffman and Mike O'Brien had a nice count of 159 **Horned Grebes** at Ocean City on March 4, and others were 27 at Kent Narrows on March 24 (Reese), 19 at Triadelphia on April 2 (Farrell, Solem), and 2, in breeding plumage, at Point Lookout SP on May 24 (Lister). The extraordinary winter invasion of **Red-necked Grebes** was still clearly evident this spring. A sampling of the numerous reports included 4 at Little Seneca Lake on March 5 (Lori Brown), 55-75 at Hains Point on March 3-5 (Howard Elitzak+), 1 to 3 on almost a daily basis on the Susquehanna flats in Harford County, March 1—April 11 (Webb), about 30 at Fort Smallwood on March 4 (Ringler), 70 at Ocean City the same day (Hoffman, O'Brien), 1 inland at Hagerstown on March 6-8 (Ringler, Weesner), 1 on the Potomac near Cumberland, March 12—April 13 (Twigg), 2 at Rileys Lock on March 19 (Janice Peacock), 2 off Marshall Hall on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), 2 at Greenbrier SP on March 26-30 (Weesner), 1 at Vienna on March 28 (Ringler), 8 at Loch Raven on April 1, 2 there on May 3 and 1 there on May 31 (Simon), 1 at Assateague on April 3 (Hoffman), 1 in partial breeding plumage at Piney Run from April 25 through May 8 and a pair in breeding plumage there, May 18-27 (Ringler), and 2 in the Baltimore Harbor on May 6 (Wilkinson). Single Red-necks were in Howard County at Triadelphia off and on from March 26 through April 24 (Solem+). An **Eared Grebe** was discovered in DC on March 4 (Ann Sargeant) and reported through March 13 (Ted Unseth, Janet Anderson), and another was at Ocean City on March 4 (Hoffman, O'Brien). An Eared Grebe in partial breeding plumage, for the first Howard County record, was at Centennial Park from March 30 (Farrell) through April 4, and 1 was at Seneca on April 6 (DuMont). A **Western Grebe** discovered at Assateague on April 24 (Hoffman+) was reported there again on May 10 and May 12 (Grace Bottitta).

Fulmar, Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Gannets. A **Northern Fulmar** was notched during a March 12 pelagic trip out of Ocean City, and 2 **Sooty Shearwaters** were noted off the Ocean City inlet on May 21 along with 10 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (Hoffman+); up to 50 Wilson's were tallied the same day there from a fishing boat (Hoffman, Armisteads). The high count for **Northern Gannets** was over 1900 on the March 12 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Brian Patteson+). Others were 1 at Cobb Island on March 19 (Jett), 1 near Bellevue on March 31 (Armisteads), 1 at PRNAS on April 2 (Lister) and 3 there on April 5 (Rambo), 400 from a fishing boat off Ocean City on April 17 (Hoffman), several hundred passing by Ocean City on April 23 (Reese), and 14 at Assateague on May 22 (Armisteads, Hoffman).

Pelicans, Cormorants. Mark Hoffman counted three **Brown Pelicans** at Assateague on April 16, and **Great Cormorants** at Ocean City included 2 on March 4 with 1 through March 20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak). A Great Cormorant was discovered away from the coast at Nanticoke on March 5 (Dyke), and another was at Back River on April 17 (Scarpulla). **Double-crested Cormorants**, again widespread and numerous, included 43 off Fort Smallwood on March 4 (Ringler), 3 at Ocean City the same day (Hoffman, O'Brien), 80 at Ocean City on March 12 (Armisteads), and 300 at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Sightings farther inland were of 2 flying over Gwynn Acres Path on March 23 (Bockstie, Ott), 1 at Loch Raven on March 30, and 14 there on April 28, and 1 remaining there on May 31 (Simon), 1 at Cumberland on March 31 (Twigg), 2 at Hog Island on March 31 (Engle), 5 (2 of them immatures) at Little Meadows Lake near Grantsville on April 21 (Skipper), an impressive high count of 1500 at Conowingo Dam on April 23 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 1 at Triadelphia on May 30 (Farrell, Solem). An **Anhinga** was reported over the Potomac River at Great Falls on April 30 (David Halstead).

Hérons, Ibis. An **American Bittern** was near Laurel on March 26 (Osenton), and 1 was at Piney Run on April 23 (Ringler). Others were 1 flying over the Potomac near Sharpsburg on April 30 (Jim Clark), single birds in Howard County off Lime Kiln Road on May 9 (Wallace) and near Woodmark Lake on May 11 (McClures), 1 flying near Pennyfield on May 12 (Jett), 1 at Hughes Hollow on May 14 (Simonson), and 3 very late bitterns flying over Oxon Creek in Prince George's County on May 24 (Jett). Paul Nistico heard a **Least Bittern** calling at Tuckahoe SP, Caroline County on May 20. For the second consecutive year a pair of **Great Blue Hérons** attempted to nest on the Patapsco River at Daniels but no young were ever seen, possibly due to nest damage from storms (Solem+). Three Great Blues were seen flying high over Easton on March 13 (Reese), 26 were over Hog Point on April 6 (Rambo), and 26 were noted at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison). Twenty-five migrant **Great Egrets** were noted at Ocean City on March 20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd). Other Greats included 1 at PRNAS on March 29 (Rambo), 1 at St. Michaels on March 29 (Reese), 1 at Loch Raven on April 4 (Simon), 1 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese), 2 at Piney Run on May 10 and 1 there from May 23 into June (Ringler). **Snowy Egrets** were 4 migrants at Ocean City on March 20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd), 1 at St. Michaels on April 5 (Reese), 2 at North Beach on April 9 (Nistico), 2 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese), and 1 at Centennial from May 3 through June 6 (Solem, Austin+). Solo **Little Blue Hérons** were at PWRC on March 21 (Osenton, Gough) and Assateague on March 26 (Hoffman). An adult and an immature were at Courthouse Point WMA on May 21 (Jett). A **Tricolored Heron** was checked off at Assateague on March 26 (Hoffman), and another was flying over Nanjemoy Creek in Charles County on May 29 (Jett). **Cattle Egrets** at West Ocean City peaked at 60 on March 28 (Reese); others of note included 1 at PRNAS on March 31 (Lister), 1 near Roxbury Road, Howard County on April 11 (Wallace), 3 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese), and 115 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on May 19 (Webb). Paul DuMont reported 3 **Green Hérons** at Seneca on April 6, and others were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 11 (Wilkinson), 1 at Centennial on April 11 (Bockstie), 2 at Denton on April 14 (Miller), and 1 at Kent Narrows on April 17 (Reese). A nice count of 43 **Black-crowned Night-Hérons** was made at West Ocean City on April 25 (Hoffman), an adult was discovered at Piney Run on April 27 (Ringler), and 2 adults were found at Lake Kittamaquondi on May 8 (Chestem). Daniel Hardesty reported 2 **Yellow-crowned Night-Hérons** at Roland Run, Baltimore County on April 18 and Larry Bonham noted another at Hughes Hollow on May 9. **Glossy Ibis** this spring included 9 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on March 22-23 and 4 still there on March 24 (Webb), 1 near Berlin on March 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 4 at PRNAS on March 29 (Rambo), a flock of 75 over Berlin on April 1 (Dyke), 155 in southern Worcester County on April 15 (Hoffman), 19 in Bethlehem on April 23 (Engle), 1 at Allens Fresh on May 14 (Jett), 1 the same day at Myrtle Grove (Nistico), and 1 at Fair Hill on May 22 (Jett).

Swans, Geese. Bob Ringler noted 215 **Tundra Swans** inland at Westminster Reservoir on March 13 and 600 at Piney Run on March 19. Jan Reese observed a pair of **Mute Swans** defending their nesting territory at St. Michaels on March 3, where he counted 42 of the birds on April 14. An adult Mute Swan was at Lilypons on March 27 (Ringler). Dave Webb reported a **Black Swan** exotic at the Susquehanna flats in Harford County on March 10. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported at Stevens Corner, Queen Anne's County on March 26 (Ann Hobbs). **Snow Geese** included 300 flying over Spesutie Island, Harford County on March 10 (Webb), and 1040, including 50 blues, at Blackwater on April 2 with 1 adult blue still there on April 23 (Armisteads). A **Ross' Goose** was checked off this spring near St. Martin on March 19 (Hoffman), and **Brant** included 1 at Hains Point, March 4-7 (Dobbins), 1 at the National Arboretum pond in DC on March 23 (Nell Hennessy, Frank Daspit), and 30 at Ocean City on May 14 (Hoffman).

Dabbling Ducks. Jane Farrell and Jo Solem had a nice count of 74 **Wood Ducks** at Triadelphia on March 19, and Ringler and Blom found a leucistic female at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on March 20. Hoffman counted 200 **Green-winged Teals** in flooded fields and at St. Martin in northern Worcester County on March 19; he also tallied 35 **Northern Pintails** at St. Martins the same day. Bob Ringler found 11 pintails at Piney Run on March 12, and Fletcher estimated 40 at Greensboro on March 22. A male **Blue-winged Teal** was at Bayview Farm, Worcester County on March 5, and 35 **Northern Shovelers** were in southern Worcester County, and 30 more were at West Ocean City on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Bob Ringler found a male **Gadwall** at Piney Run that remained through May 19 and a pair on the Sassafraz River at Grove Neck on May 22. There were more than the usual reports for **Eurasian Wigeons**: 1 at Greensboro on March 11 (Fletcher), a drake near Hebron, March 13-15 (Dyke), a male at St. Martin on March 19-20 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd), a male at Triadelphia on March 27 (Farrell, Davis, Solem) and probably the same bird at a nearby pond, March 29—April 11 (Wallace), and 1 at Swan Point, Charles County on March 29 (Jett). Seventy **American Wigeons** were tallied at St. Martin on March 19 (Hoffman).

Aythya Ducks. High counts for **Canvasbacks** were 600 at Choptank, March 1-5 (D. Ford), and about 500 on the Potomac at the Route 301 bridge on March 20 (Ringler, Blom). Other **Canvasbacks** were 30 on March 23 at Little Seneca Lake (Bonham) and 24 on March 28 at Piney Run, where 1 male remained through May 14 (Ringler). **Redheads** were more widely reported than usual with a pair at Choptank, March 1-28 (Ford+), 6 in a pond at St. Charles on March 5 (Jett), 12 at Havre de Grace on March 5 (Jim Clark), a pair near Burkittsville on March 6 (Ringler), a nice count of 20 at Loch Raven on March 12 (Simon), and a male at Beauvue on March 20 (Ringler, Blom). **Ring-necked Ducks** included the high report of 380 at Brown's Bridge on March 11 (Solem+), about 90 at Beauvue on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), and 1 at Berlin on May 1 (Hoffman). Sixty **Greater Scaup** were at Public Landing on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and 2 at Loch Raven on April 3 (Simon). **Lesser Scaup** counts were 400 at Public Landing on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), approximately 1500 off Spesutie Island, March 10-18 (Webb), and a male at Piney Run, May 18-20 (Ringler).

Eiders, Oldsquaws, Harlequin Ducks, Scoters. Five **Common Eiders** and one **King Eider** were at Ocean City from March 4 through nearly the end of the month (Hoffman, O'Brien+), and up to 6 **Harlequin Ducks** were spotted there from March 4 through April (Hoffman, O'Brien+); 2 were last reported on May 1 (Hoffman). A lone drake Harlequin was near Conowingo Dam on March 5 (Webb). Inland **Oldsquaws** were a male at Centennial on March 9 (Bockstie, Ott, Zeichner) that was seen there again on March 14 (Farrell), and a male at Westminster Reservoir on March 13 (Ringler). A **Black Scoter** was discovered at Centennial on April 16 (Mary Jo & Robert Betts), 18 were at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead), and 3 were at Assateague on May 22 (Hoffman, H. & G. Armistead). **Surf**

Scoters were 50 at Dodson Point, St. Mary's County on March 23 (Wilson), 1230 near Bellevue on March 31 and 1140 there on April 16 (Armisteads), 2 females inland at Piney Run, May 18-23 (Ringler), and 5 at Assateague on May 22 (Hoffman, Armisteads). A **White-winged Scoter** was noted at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead).

Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks. The best count for **Common Goldeneyes** was 80 at Ocean City on March 19 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). The Armisteads tallied 375 **Buffleheads** near Bellevue on March 31, 2 females were discovered on Deep Creek Lake on May 12 (Skipper), and 1 was at Loch Raven on May 23 (Simon). **Hooded Mergansers** included 55 on southwestern Howard County ponds on March 19 (Farrell, Solem), 15 at Little Meadows Lake on April 21 (Skipper), 23 at West Ocean City on April 25 (Hoffman), 1 at Hughes Hollow on May 14 (Hilton), and a solo male at Piney Run, May 18-27 (Ringler). Nice Howard County tallies for the **Common Merganser** were made with 56 at Triadelphia on March 6 (Osenton, Solem), increasing to 75 there on March 19 (Farrell, Solem). Bob Ringler observed 1 at Wye Island on March 28, 45 were at Loch Raven on April 1 (Simon), and 1 was near Cumberland on April 28 (Twigg). Sightings of the **Red-breasted Merganser** included 132 at Ocean City on March 4 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 24 at Loch Raven on March 20 (Simon), 40 at Dodson Point, St. Mary's County on March 23 (Wilson), 100 at Triadelphia on March 28 (Wilkinson), and 2 females at Piney Run on May 19 (Ringler). Mark Hoffman estimated 100 **Ruddy Ducks** at Pocomoke City sewage ponds on April 3, and Bob Ringler noted a late male Ruddy at Piney Run on May 20.

Table 1. Hawk Migration at Fort Smallwood Park, Spring 1994

Compiled by Paul & Cecily Fritz

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	2/20	5/2	146	21 on 3/13, 19 on 3/19
Turkey Vulture	2/19	6/7	4,552	684 on 3/23, 634 on 3/24
Osprey	3/5	6/5	399	36 on 4/14, 30 on 4/19
Bald Eagle	3/6	5/15	24	3 on 3/6 & 3/13
Northern Harrier	2/20	5/30	180	22 on 5/8, 13 on 4/30
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/19	5/23	2,531	313 on 4/30, 281 on 4/19
Cooper's Hawk	2/20	5/23	704	64 on 3/24, 59 on 4/19
Northern Goshawk	4/20		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/20	5/6	321	72 on 3/23, 46 on 3/20
Broad-winged Hawk	4/9	6/7	460	122 on 4/19, 106 on 4/14
Red-tailed Hawk	2/19	5/28	462	65 on 3/23, 43 on 3/13
American Kestrel	2/26	5/14	735	136 on 3/30, 96 on 4/3
Merlin	3/20	4/30	29	4 on 4/3 & 4/14
Peregrine Falcon	3/6	5/8	5	
Unidentified			102	

Total 2/19 6/11 10,651
(64 days, 372 hours)

Diurnal Raptors. Paul and Cecily Fritz have summarized the daily raptor migration counts at Fort Smallwood Park (Table 1). **Black Vultures** were first seen at Town Hill on Feb 20 (Paulus), and Jan Reese found 2 Black Vulture nests with 1 egg each, as well as 6 **Turkey Vultures**, with 1 nest and 2 eggs, at Stevensville on April 19. Other Turkey Vultures included 3 flying over Friendsville on March 20 (Skipper), 230 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), and 1 incubating 2 eggs in a hollow tree at Centerville on April 17 (Reese). **Ospreys** began with 2 in Vienna on March 5 (Wicomico BC) and 1 at St. George Island on March 6 (Reese). A pair returned to Triadelphia on March 19 which was the early County date, but no nesting activity was ever observed (Farrell, Solem). Another was at Loch Raven on March 31 (Simon), and 2 were at Liberty Lake on May 29 (Ringler). Single late **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at Schooley Mill Park on May 15 (Ott), and in Salisbury on May 30 (Brodericks). The Armisteads identified a **Northern Goshawk** at Elliott Island on March 12, and the immature goshawk that wintered at Centennial was seen until March 31 (Farrell+). The **Broad-winged Hawk** reported at Hollywood on April 3 was about two weeks early (Rambo). A partial albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen twice during the spring at Brown's Bridge (Solem+), and a light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on March 4 and again on March 15 (Webb). High counts for **American Kestrels** were 30 throughout eastern Wicomico County on March 30 (Dyke), and 50 at PRNAS on April 7 (Rambo). A female **Merlin** spotted at Hains Point on March 5 (Fritz Davis) was noted again on March 10 (Dobbins), and others included 1 at Elliott Island on March 12 (Armisteads), 1 at Easton on March 30 (Reese), 1 at Wilde Lake on April 17 (Ott), 8 migrating at Assateague on April 25 (Jett), at least 5 there on May 8 (Hoffman, Stasz, Jett), 3 there on May 9 (H. Armistead), and 1 the same day at Ft. Washington, Prince George's County (Nistico). **Peregrine Falcons** included 1 at Scott's Landing, Worcester County on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), 1 at PRNAS on April 7 (Rambo), an adult on the water tower in Ocean City on March 12 (Armisteads), and 2 at Elliott Island on May 14 (H. Armistead, Paul Spitzer, Peter Hill).

Turkeys, Rails. Twelve **Wild Turkeys** were at Pocomoke State Forest on March 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien), an adult tom was at PRNAS on March 31 (Rambo), and another turkey was at Roosevelt Island, DC on April 16 (Janni). A **Black Rail** was at Truitts Landing on April 24, as was a **King Rail** (Hoffman). A Black Rail was calling in Montgomery County on May 12 (Jett), and another was discovered at Black Marsh on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison, Bob Rineer); 7 **Virginia Rails** were there on April 17 (Scarpulla, Terry). Two Virginia's were at a wetland on the Patapsco near Morgan Station, Carroll County on April 30 (Ringler), 1 was heard at Plum Tree Path on May 3 (Ott), and 2 were heard there on May 13 and May 18 (Ott, Solem, Harvey & Marian Mudd). A **Sora** was notched at Black Marsh on April 10 (Scarpulla, Terry), and another was noted at Truitts Landing on May 14 (Hoffman). **Common Moorhens** of note were single birds at Stevensville on April 17 (Bob Folker, Reese), at Loch Raven on April 17 (Jenkins), and at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. An early **Black-bellied Plover** was at Kent Island on April 3 (Wilkinson), and others were 9 at Blackwater on April 23 (Harry Armistead, Maggie Briggs, Levin Willey+), and 3 on Wilde Lake on May 6 for Howard County's first spring record (Mike Kerwin). Hoffman found a total of about 200 throughout Assateague on May 16. A **Lesser Golden-Plover** made an appearance at Assateague on April 24 (Hoffman), and **Semipalmated Plovers** began with 3 at Blackwater on April 23 (H. Armistead+), and 10 at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). Higher counts of Semipalms were 82 at Tanyard on May 14 (Engle), 160 throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman), and 10 at Havre de Grace on May 23 (Webb). Two endangered **Piping Plovers** were noted at Assateague on April 2 (Webb), and 1, in breeding plumage, was discovered inland at Wilde Lake on April 29 (Ott, Solem+). Highs for **Killdeer** were 78 at UMCF on March 15 (Ott, Solem), 40 in southern Worcester County on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and over 50, mostly young, on a farm in Caroline County on May 22 (Engle). Ocean City **Ameri-**

can Oystercatchers included 20 at the 4th Street flats on March 10 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien), and 20 there and another 40 off 23rd Street on April 10 (Hoffman). George Jett tallied 8 **Black-necked Stilts** at Deal Island WMA on May 12, and 2 were checked off at Elliott Island on May 14 (H. Armistead, Paul Spitzer, Peter Hill). Mark Hoffman discovered an **American Avocet** at Assateague on May 16.

Sandpipers. The first **Greater Yellowlegs** were 2 at Ocean City and 2 at Elliott Island on March 12 (Armisteads), and 1 at Tanyard on March 13 (Engle). Hoffman listed 20 in northwestern Worcester County, 25 in southern Worcester County and 45 near Snow Hill on April 23, and 25 were at Blackwater the same day (H. Armistead+). An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was observed at Wilde Lake on March 7 (Solem, Zeichner+), and 30 were throughout southern Worcester County on April 15 (Hoffman). Rick Sussman reported a **Solitary Sandpiper** at Ashton on April 13-14, and 15 were inland at Wilde Lake on April 29-30 (Ringler). Hoffman counted 10 **Willetts** at Ocean City on April 10, and 240 throughout Assateague on May 8. Steve Simon noted the first 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Loch Raven on April 5, another was near Grasonville on April 9 (Reese), 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on April 13 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), and the last one at Piney Run was on June 1 (Ringler). Three **Upland Sandpipers** were at Belfast Valley, Baltimore County on April 24 (Jenkins), and a very nice tally of 100 **Whimbrels** was made at Assateague on April 30; 2 were there earlier on April 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd), and 1 was there on May 22 (Hoffman, Armisteads). Ninety **Ruddy Turnstones** were totaled throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman). A **Red Knot** was present at Ocean City from March 4 through March 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien+), 1 was at Blackwater NWR on May 8 (Matt O'Donnel), and 40 were at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead). The high count for **Sanderlings** was 2100 on May 8 at Assateague (Hoffman), where 400 were tallied on May 22 (Armisteads, Hoffman), and where several groups of **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, totaling 1890 birds, were present on May 16 (Hoffman). **Least Sandpipers** included 20 at Blackwater on April 2 (Armisteads), 1 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on April 9 (Hoffman), 29 at Harford Glen Park, Harford County on May 1 (Webb), 575 at Assateague on May 8 (Hoffman), 33 at Wilde Lake on May 8 (Osenton), 39 at Fulton Pond, Howard County on May 10 (Osenton, Solem), 475 throughout southern Dorchester County on May 14 (Armistead+), 450 throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman), and 13 far inland at North Branch on May 28 (Twiggy). Mark Hoffman found 9 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Assateague on May 16, and Wilkinson observed 2 late **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Fulton Pond in Howard County on May 9. Two other Pectorals were at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison). Five **Purple Sandpipers** were seen at Ocean City on May 21 (Armisteads+), and **Dunlin** reports included 1 at Kent Island on April 3 (Wilkinson), 200 throughout southern Dorchester County on May 14 (Armistead+), 6 at Merkle WMA the same day (Fallon), and 1830 throughout Assateague on May 16 (Hoffman). Mark Hoffman found 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Ocean City on April 10 and 135 throughout Assateague on May 16. **Common Snipe** were 35 in a wet field at Spesutie Island on March 14 (Webb), 48 at UCMF on March 23 (McClures), 34 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on March 25 (Webb), a late bird at Wakefield on May 7 (Ringler), and 20 near Bayard, March 22—April 16 (Fallon). Jan Reese checked off 3 **American Woodcocks** at Salisbury on March 11.

Jaegers, Gulls. A **Parasitic Jaeger** was identified just off the beach at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). The first sightings of **Laughing Gulls** were 9 at Harmony on March 3 (Engle), 1 near Ocean City on March 13 (Davis, Hoffman+), 1 at Blackwater the same day (Elitzak), 1 at Breton Bay, St. Mary's County on March 20 and about 100 in the area of Carmichael on March 28 (Ringler, Blom), and 56 at Salisbury on March 24 (Brodericks). Laughers were seen in Howard County with 1 at Centennial on April 17 (Burton Alexander, Osenton), and at Fulton Pond with 2 on April 24 (Wilkinson) and 1 on May 8 (Zeichner), and Mark Hoffman estimated about 800 at the Worcester County landfill on May 3. An adult **Little Gull** made an appearance this spring at Rock Hall on April 1 (Nistico). Concentrations of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were not impressive this season with 240 at PRNAS

on March 29 (Rambo), 40 at Kent Island on April 3 (Wilkinson), 16 at Loch Raven on April 3 (Simon), the high of 761 at Back River on April 10 (Scarpulla, Terry), 90 at Wilde Lake on April 11 (Zeichner), and approximately 250 at Susquehanna flats on April 11 (Webb). A first-summer straggler was at Back River on May 14 (Scarpulla, Cullison). High tallies of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 526 over Town Hill on March 6 (Paulus), 2200 at Trappe on March 11 (Reese), and 1200 in southern Worcester County on March 26 (Hoffman). A mostly albino Ring-billed at Assateague on May 1 was probably the same bird seen there and in Ocean City last fall and winter (Hoffman). The high for **Herring Gulls** was 3000 at the Worcester County landfill on March 5 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien). Fifty Herrings were inland at Town Hill on March 6, and 17 were present on March 13 (Paulus). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was reported at Hains Point on March 5 (Elitzak) and March 28 (DuMont). A first-winter Iceland Gull that had been seen in the winter, was noted again at Piney Run on March 12 (Ringler). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included an adult at the Worcester landfill on March 5 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien), a third-winter at Conowingo on March 5 (Scarpulla), an adult at Piney Run on March 12 (Ringler), a first-winter at Ocean City on March 26 (Hoffman), and a first-year at Hains Point on May 7 (Hilton). **Glaucous Gulls** were not to be left out this season with single sightings at Ocean City on March 25 (Dobbins), at Ocean City on March 26 (Hoffman+) and April 16-20 (Dyke), at Havre de Grace on May 4 (Webb), and at Sandy Point on May 20 (Jim McConnell) and May 29 (Nistico). A leucistic **Great Black-backed Gull** at Choptank on March 28 could have been mistaken for a Glaucous (Ringler).

Terns, Skimmers, Alcids. A **Gull-billed Tern** was identified at Assateague on May 8 (Hoffman), and **Caspian Terns** included 1 at Ocean City on March 28 (Reese), 1 at PRNAS on March 30 (Rambo), 2 at Loch Raven on April 10 and 3 there on April 21 (Jenkins), 38 at Wilde Lake on April 18 (Zeichner), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (H. Armistead+), and 1 still at Loch Raven on May 25 (Simon). Nine **Royal Terns** were present at Ocean City on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien, Todd, Czaplak). **Forster's Terns** were 8 at Public Landing on March 25 (Hoffman), 1 at the Wye Institute on March 28 (Ringler), 1 at Centennial on March 31 (Alexander), 2 near Bellevue on March 31 (Armisteads), and 2 at PRNAS on April 6 (Rambo). Three **Least Terns** were spotted at Black Marsh on April 24 (Scarpulla, Terry), and 2 **Black Terns** were seen from a fishing boat 6 miles out of Ocean City on May 7 (Hoffman); 4 were at the inlet there on May 12 (Jett). A **Black Skimmer** was at Ocean City on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), with numbers reaching 200 there on May 1 (Hoffman). Another Skimmer was at Hooper Island on May 7 (Armisteads+). Fifty-nine **Dovekies**, 33 **Razorbills**, an **Atlantic Puffin**, and a **Common Murre** were notched on the March 12 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Brian Patteson+).

Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts. The first **Black-billed Cuckoos** were 1 in Charles County on April 27 (Nistico) and 2 in Howard County on April 30: off Gorman Road (Wilkinson) and at Triadelphia (Magnusson); another was at Denton on May 21 (Nuttle). Single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived at Greensboro on April 26 (Hewitt), at Susquehanna SP on April 27 (Webb), and at Rockburn Branch Park on April 28 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem). The Armisteads noted 9 **Short-eared Owls** at Elliott Island on March 12, and an early **Common Nighthawk** was found at Wilde Lake on April 10 (Chestem, Zeichner). **Chuck-will's-widows** were just a tad early with 2 at Accokeek on April 23 (Nistico), and the early report for the **Chimney Swift** was 1 on April 12 at Centennial (Bockstie, Ott).

Hummingbirds, Woodpecker, Flycatchers. Phil Davis received early reports of single **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** in Beltsville on April 14, and in Bowie on April 15, and had 1 at his house in Davidsonville on April 18. Others were a male in Salisbury on April 9 (Brodericks), 1 at Federalsburg on April 16 (Glime), and 1 at a feeder at Norbeck on April 18 (Maria Vacchio). The Armisteads had a nice sighting of a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at their homesite at Bellevue on April 30. The much sought after **Olive-sided Flycatcher**

made solo appearances this season at Assateague on May 22 (Hoffman, Armisteads), at Susquehanna SP on May 23 (Ott, Bockstie), and at the Cherry Creek Banding Station on June 2 (Pope, Skipper). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Hughes Hollow on May 14 (Simonson) and at Lake Elkhorn on May 20 (Wilkinson). **Acadian Flycatchers** were early with 1 at Hollywood on April 15 (Rambo), 1 seen singing at McKeldin on April 26 (Ringler), 1 near Penuryfield on April 27 (Simonson), 2 at Nassawango Creek area on April 27 (Reese, Dyke, Folker), and 1 at Centennial on April 28 (Bockstie). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at Cherry Creek Banding Station on May 22 (Pope, Skipper). A **Willow Flycatcher** was seen calling, but not singing, at Piney Run on May 10 (Ringler); 3 were at Assateague on May 22 and seen into June (Hoffman, Armisteads). The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Salisbury on April 19 (Lawler). **Eastern Kingbirds** began with 1 each at Snow Hill (Hoffman), at McKeldin (Ringler) and near Violette Lock (Davis) on April 16. A kingbird was also at Johns Hopkins APL in Howard County on April 18 (Mike McClure).

Swallows. Early **Tree Swallows** were noted this spring with 1 at Cumberland on March 6 (Twigg), 2 at PWRC on March 7 (Osenton), and 6 at Hughes Hollow on March 11 (Rick Sussman). Approximately 500 flew over the Susquehanna flats on March 31 (Webb), and over 200 were at PRNAS on April 6 (Rambo). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** began with 1 at PWRC on March 16 (Osenton), and 3 at Centennial on March 24 (Farrell). A **Bank Swallow** was found at Centennial on April 7 (Bockstie), and another was at Chestertown on April 9 (Reese). Two **Cliff Swallows** were noted a little early at PRNAS on April 8 (Rambo), 1 was at St. Martin on May 2 (Hoffman), and another at Sandy Cove on May 21 (Ringler). The first **Barn Swallow** was near Cobb Island on March 20 (Ringler, Blom), 32 were at Tyaskin on March 24 (Brodericks), 1 was off Roxbury Road in Howard County on March 27 (Wallace), 5 were at Hains Point on March 28 (DuMont), 1 was at Denton on March 29 (Nuttie), 1 was at Loch Raven on March 30 (Simon), and 200 were at Piney Run on May 8 (Ringler).

Raven, Nuthatches, Wrens. A single **Common Raven** called once and was observed flying north over Clifton Beach, Charles County on April 23, very unusual for the coastal plain area (Jett, Stasz). The Armistead family noted a **White-breasted Nuthatch** near Bellevue on April 1, and Elitzak reported a **Brown-headed Nuthatch** at Back River on April 2. The first **House Wrens** were at Denton on April 11 (Nuttie), near Ellicott City on April 12 (Hank Stanton), and at Sykesville on April 16 (Ringler). A lingering **Winter Wren** was checked off at Lake Elkhorn on May 3 (Solem, Ott). Single **Sedge Wrens**, always nice finds, were at E.A. Vaughn WMA on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), at Assateague on April 30 (Hoffman, Czaplak), at Bowie on May 7-8 (John Dune), and at DC on May 8 (Ted Unseth); a pair was singing at Kinder Park in Anne Arundel County on May 11 (Rick Mason). Dave Webb heard a **Marsh Wren** singing in the marshes of the Gunpowder River delta in Harford County on April 8, and another was at Truitts Landing on April 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd).

Gnatcatchers, Thrushes. The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Myrtle Grove on April 1 (Carol Gheblian), and 40 were tallied in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman). Barbara Ross heard an early **Veery** at Irvine on April 19 and another was at Schooley Mill on April 25 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem). Early **Wood Thrushes** included 2 at Pocomoke State Forest on April 15 (Hoffman), 1 at Hollywood on April 16 (Rambo), 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 17 (Ott, Zeichner), 1 at Davidsonville on April 18 (Davis), and 1 heard at Piney Run on April 19 (Ringler).

Mimids, Pipits, Shrikes. Jan Reese found 2 **Gray Catbirds** at Stevensville on March 1 and one there on March 12, and he observed a **Northern Mockingbird** building a nest in a thorny shrub at Centreville on April 3. A visit to E. A. Vaughn WMA yielded 2 early **Brown Thrashers** on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), another was at Easton on March 13 (Reese), 2 were discovered at Schooley Mill on March 20 (Farrell, Ott, Solem), and 1 was at Beauvue on March 23 (Wilson). Ten migrating **American Pipits** were tallied in southern Worcester

County on April 16 (Hoffman, Czaplak, Todd). **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported in Beltsville on March 26 (Ted Mikalik), at Kings Landing Park, Calvert County on May 8 (Bud Harrison), and at Cap Stine Road in Frederick County on May 24 (Dobbins) and on May 28 (Wilkinson).

Vireos. **White-eyed Vireos** were a little early with 1 near Hughes Hollow on April 3 (Rena Yount), 2 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), and 1 at Pennyfield on April 10 (Marie Plante). Others were 1 at Centreville on April 15 (Reese), 1 at Gywnn Acres Path on April 15 (Ott), 1 at Spesutie Island on April 15 (Webb), 1 at Tuckahoe on April 17 (Nuttle), 1 at Liberty Lake on April 17 (Ringler), and 1 at Johnson Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney). **Solitary Vireos** were 2 at Rockburn Branch on April 17 (Ott, Zeichner), 3 near Berlin on April 24 (Hoffman), and 1 at Susquehanna SP on May 12 (Webb). **Yellow-throated Vireos** began with 1 at Bowie on April 15 (Osenton, Fallon), 1 at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), several at Johnson Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney), 1 at Seneca on April 19 (Bonham), 1 at Pennyfield the same day (Judy Bromley), and 2 at McKeldin on April 23 (Ringler). Larry Bonham found a **Warbling Vireo** at Pennyfield on April 20, 2 were at UMCF on April 22 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), 1 was at PRNAS on April 30 (Rambo), and 1 was near Bellevue on May 9 for only the second record there (George Armistead). Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported: 1 at Salisbury on May 2 (Dyke), and another at Rock Creek Park on May 13 (Janni). **Red-eyed Vireos** were pretty much on schedule with 6 at Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), 1 at Denton the same day (Fletcher), and 6 in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman).

Vermivora Warblers, Parula, Dendroica Warblers. An early **Blue-winged Warbler** was discovered at Rockburn Branch Park on April 17 (Ott, Zeichner), and another was at Blades Road, Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman). A nice **Golden-winged Warbler** was found near Ellicott City on April 28 (Ott), a male was at Schooley Mill on May 7 (Magnusson, Solem), and 1 was at Edwards Ferry on May 14 (Bonham). Single hybrid **Brewster's Warblers** were discovered near Pennyfield on April 27 (Simonson) and at Centennial on April 28 (Austin). The last **Tennessee Warblers** were 3 at PRNAS on May 25 (Rambo), and a late **Nashville Warbler** was found at Lake Elkhorn on May 20 (Wilkinson). **Northern Parulas** began with 1 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), 2 at Pennyfield on April 10 (Marie Plante), and 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 13 (Wilkinson); an early **Yellow Warbler** was noted at Centennial on April 20 (Bockstie). An early **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was near Oakland, Garrett County on April 27 (Skipper), another was in Pylesville on April 28 (Jean Fry), and 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on April 29 (Newmans). The first report for the **Cape May Warbler** was 1 at Plum Tree Path, Howard County on April 29 (Ott, Solem), and another was at Washington Monument SP on May 2 (Weesner). Connie Skipper tallied 13 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** in just a bit of a hurry at Savage River SF on April 25, and another was checked off at Schooley Mill the same day (Bockstie, Ott, Solem). A lingering **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Lake Elkhorn on May 20 (Wilkinson), and another was at Rock Creek Park on May 21 (Caleb Gordon). The first **Black-throated Green Warblers** were single sightings at Rock Creek Park on April 15 (Janni), near Oakland in Garrett County on April 15 (Skipper), at Wilde Lake on April 18 (Zeichner, Newmans), at Sycamore Landing on April 20 (Bonham), at Loch Raven on April 21 (Jenkins), and at Parsonsburg on April 23 (Pitney). An early **Blackburnian Warbler** was at New Germany SP on April 25 (Skipper). Mark Hoffman discovered 3 early **Yellow-throated Warblers** at Blades Road in Worcester County on March 26, and Arlene Ripley found another in Dunkirk on March 30. **Pine Warblers** began with 5 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien) and 1 heard singing at St. George Island on March 6 (Reese). The first **Prairie Warbler** was found on April 11 near Bayard (Fallon), and others were 5 at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), 1 at Morgan Run Environmental Area, Carroll County on April 16 (Ringler), 1 at Denton the same day (Nuttle), 1 at Twilley Bridge Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney), and 1 at Frostburg State University on April 21 (Skipper). A migrating

Palm Warbler was checked off at Myrtle Grove on April 1 (Carol Gheblian), and another at PRNAS on April 2 (Lister). The last **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a male at Grove Neck on May 22 (Ringler). The first **Blackpoll Warblers** were 2 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on April 30 (Webb), and 1 at Parsonsburg (Pitney), 2 at Lake Elkhorn (Wilkinson), and 1 near Ellicott City the same day (Ott). The male **Cerulean Warbler** discovered at McKeldin on April 16 is the earliest record for the state (Ringler). Another singing male was along the Nassawango Creek in Wicomico County on April 26 (Hoffman, Dyke).

Other Warblers. An early **Black-and-white Warbler** was present at Blades Road, Worcester County on April 2 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and Bob Ringler observed a Black-and-white building a nest at McKeldin on April 30. The first **American Redstart** was at Seneca on April 7 (DuMont). Others were 10 at Nassawango Creek on April 14 (Dyke), 4 at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), and 2 at Rockburn Branch on April 17 (Ott, Davis, Zeichner). A very early **Prothonotary Warbler** was near Pennyfield on April 9 (Linda Fiske), 6 were tallied at Nassawango Creek on April 14 (Dyke), 10 were present at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), 1 was near Violettes Lock on April 16 (Davis), 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on April 18 (Bockstie, Chestem, Zeichner), and another was found in southern Howard County on May 3 (Rosamond Munro). The first **Worm-eating Warblers** were 2 at Laurel on April 20 (Osenton), 1 at Gywnn Acres Path the same day (Ott, Solem), 1 at Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), and 5 in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman). Early **Ovenbirds** were reported with 4 in southern Worcester County on April 9 (Hoffman), and 1 at Hollywood the same day (Rambo). The first **Northern Waterthrushes** were 1 at Denton on April 17 (Nuttle), 1 at Plum Tree Path, Howard County on April 24 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), and 1 at Seneca the same day (Paul Pisano). An extremely early **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported at Centennial on March 11 (Bockstie), and another was at Pocomoke SF on March 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien). An early **Kentucky Warbler** was found in east-central Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman). **Mourning Warblers** delighted a few birders with single sightings at Pennyfield on May 12 (Rick Mason), at Rock Creek Park on May 15 (Ed Bruce) and May 21 (Caleb Gordon), and at Lake Elkhorn on May 29 (Setterberg, Karan Repsher). Eight **Common Yellowthroats** made an appearance at Pocomoke SF on April 15 (Hoffman), and another visited Centennial the same day (Ott). The first **Hooded Warblers** were 1 at Myrtle Grove on April 16 (Jett), 1 at Johnson Road, Wicomico County on April 17 (Pitney), 4 in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman), 1 in Laurel on April 23 (Osenton), 1 near Ellicott City the same day (Ott), and 1 near Phoenix on April 23 (Simon). Julie Kelly reported an early male **Wilson's Warbler** singing at Kensington on April 25.

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings. **Summer Tanagers** began with single birds at Kings Landing Park, Calvert County on April 23-24 (Tom Harten), and at Blades Road, Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman). Bob and Jo Solem heard a pair singing upstream from Daniels on May 1st, 1 was south of Great Falls on May 2 (Caleb Gordon), 3 were at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on May 14 (Webb), 1 was at Summit Hall Turf Farm, Montgomery County on May 15 (Bonham), and an immature male was singing at the Liberty watershed, for the first Carroll County record, on May 29 (Ringler) and again on May 30 (Steve Sanford). The first **Scarlet Tanager** appeared at Denton on April 18 (Fletcher), 2 were in Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), 1 was at Loch Raven the same day (Jenkins), 3 were in northwestern Worcester County on April 23 (Hoffman), and 4 were at Trappe on April 24 (Reese). An early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was notched at Hollywood on April 19 (Rambo), 1 was at Bob Folker's feeder in Stevensville on April 20 (Reese), 1 was near Oakland in Garrett County on April 27 (Skipper), 1 was at Centennial on April 27 (Bockstie, Solem), 3 were at Washington Monument SP on April 29 (Weesner), and 1 was at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on April 30 (Webb). Early **Blue Grosbeaks** were 1 in east-central Worcester County on April 25 (Hoffman), 1 at Schooley Mill the same day (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), 3 in the Nassawango Creek area on April 27 (Reese, Dyke, Folker), and 1 at Denton on April 28 (Fletcher). The earliest **Indigo Buntings** included a male at Lake Frank, Mont-

gomery County on April 16 (Richard Gillian), 2 at Denton on April 19 (Fletcher), 1 flying over Ft. Meade on April 19 (Doug Stinson), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (H. Armistead+), 1 at Schooley Mill on April 25 (Bockstie, Ott, Solem), 1 seen at Irvine on April 26 (Ross), and 2 near Oakland, Garrett County on April 30 (Skipper). The male **Painted Bunting** at Berlin, present since the end of December, remained in the area through the early spring, and was last seen on April 5 (Mary Humphreys).

Dickcissels, Sparrows, Snow Buntings. A few **Dickcissels** visited the state this spring with 1 at a feeder at Ft. Meade on April 18 (John Weidner), 2 singing males near Lilypons on May 28 (Wilkinson), a male near Uniontown on May 29 (Steve Sanford), and a pair plus a second male there on May 30 (Ringler, Bill Kulp). The last **American Tree Sparrows** were 3 at Centennial on April 3 (Newman, Nistico) and 1 at Negro Mountain, Garrett County on April 9 (Skipper). **Chipping Sparrows** arrived in March with 1 at Merkle WS on the 6th (Matt O'Donnell), several in Chevy Chase on the 8th (Julie Kelly, Wilson), 1 at Centennial on the 14th (Bockstie), and 5 throughout St. Mary's County on the 23rd (Wilson). Paul Nistico located 2 **Vesper Sparrows** near Tuckahoe on May 20. An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** arrived at the Mt. Pleasant Farm in Howard County on April 19 (Bockstie, Ott, Zeichner), 2 were at Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), and 1 was listed at Blackwater on April 23 (Bruce Peterjohn). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was located at Combination Road, Garrett County on May 24 (Skipper), and a **LeConte's Sparrow** was discovered near Girdletree on April 2 (Hoffman, M. O'Brien, Czaplak, Todd). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was at Assateague on April 24 (Hoffman), and a **Seaside Sparrow** was checked off there on April 16 (Hoffman, Todd, Czaplak). Lingered **Fox Sparrows** were 1 at a feeder in Oakland on April 13 (Skipper), and another at Daniels on May 10 (Randy Crook). **Lincoln's Sparrows** continue to be identified with 1 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on May 14 (Webb), a late 1 banded at Cherry Creek on May 30, and several at Schooley Mill, May 7-15 (Magnusson+). **White-crowned Sparrows** were in good numbers all winter at Assateague, and 10 were located there on May 3 (Hoffman); 2 were at Schooley Mill on May 15 (Ott). Sixty-five **Dark-eyed Juncos** were tallied near Bellevue on March 31 (Armisteads), and a late junco was near Wolfsville on May 22 (Weesner). **Snow Buntings** noted this season were 2 at Bolling AFB, DC on March 3 (Larry Cartwright), and 1 at Bradenbaugh on March 5 (Webb).

Icterines. Early **Bobolinks** were spotted passing through with 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 15 (Wilkinson), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (Bruce Peterjohn), 1 in DC on April 28 (Beatrice Fitch), and 5 at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on April 30 (Webb). Higher counts were 200 at Benedict on May 8 (Nistico), and approximately 300 near Elkton on May 14 (Gary Griffith). The high for **Eastern Meadowlarks** was 150 at E.A. Vaughn WMA on March 5 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a migrant was noted at Morgan Run Environmental Area on April 16 (Ringler). Notable counts of **Rusty Blackbirds** were 30 at Blades Road, Worcester County on March 20 (Hoffman), 50 at Mattawoman on April 23 (Nistico), and a late 1 at Pennyfield on May 15 (Simonson). The high report for **Common Grackles** was about 40,000 flying west over Eldersburg on March 1 (Ringler). The first **Orchard Oriole** was at Denton on April 13 (Nuttle), another was at Parsonsburg on April 20 (Pitney), and 14 were listed at Trappe on April 24 (Reese). Elizabeth Pitney observed a wintering **Northern Oriole** in Parsonsburg from December 2 through April 9, and Harry Armistead found 8 migrants at Assateague on May 9.

Finches. Thirteen **Purple Finches**, in one flock, were noted at Pocomoke State Forest on March 26 (Hoffman), and 25 were at a feeder in Darnestown on April 1 (Robert Mumford). Lingered **Common Redpolls** from the massive winter invasion included 1 near Owen Brown on March 20 (Farrell), and 3 at Wilde Lake on April 2 (Zeichner), 2 at Denton on March 1 and April 16 (Nuttle); a few at some feeders in Phoenix, March 1-17 (Simon); and 1 male at a feeder in Eldersburg on March 4, a male at a feeder at Webster on

March 5, about 7 birds at a feeder in Maugansville on March 6, and 1 heard at Piney Run on March 12 (Ringler). Connie Skipper had Redpolls at her feeder near Oakland in Garrett County from March 9 through April 14, with a peak of 50 on March 17. Mariana Nuttle checked off 2 **Pine Siskins** at Denton on May 10, another was at a feeder in Bel Air on May 12 (Webb), 1 was at a feeder near Oakland on May 14 (Skipper), 1 was heard flying over Carrollton on May 15 (Ringler), 1 was at Salisbury on May 17 (Brodericks), 2 were at Washington Monument SP on May 19 (Weesner), and 3 were at a feeder on Dan's Mountain on May 23 (Sires). An adult **European Goldfinch** was reported at Georgetown on March 19 (Nancy Heard) and in DC on April 2 (John Grandee). Six **Evening Grosbeaks** were noted at the feeders of Janet Cree and Rosemary Thompson in St. Michaels on April 20 (Reese). Connie Skipper tallied 75 Evening Grosbeaks on April 27- 28 and 21 on May 11 at her feeder near Oakland in Garrett County, at least 12 were at Finzel Swamp on May 6 (Glen Richardson), and a lone female was discovered at Assateague on May 9 (H. Armistead).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Two changes to the By-laws and two to the Manual of Operation were developed during the year. All were approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on December 10, 1994. Changes to the Manual became effective upon approval by the Board. These changes were published in the *Maryland Yellowthroat* [15(3):4].

The proposed By-laws changes, published in the *Maryland Yellowthroat* [15(2):3], concerned Article IX, Committees, and Article XI, Signatures. They were approved at the 1995 annual membership meeting.

William B. McIntosh, Chairman

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At the September 1994 Board of Directors' meeting, we presented a slide show to the Board to help outline the Education Committee's proposals and Outreach program. Because of shortage of time, the proposal was not voted upon until the December Board meeting. Meanwhile, the Education Committee, at its fall meeting at Gloria Mead's home, made plans to communicate by mail to approve grant requests. We announced in the January issue of *Yellowthroat* that the grant money was available. The first application was from Partners in Flight, for the "Partners in Art" program.

The Committee met again on April 1 at the Horsehead Nature Center. Two more grants were approved, some rules regarding use of the grant money were approved, and the 1994 application deadline was extended to May 31. We also discussed the budget, and agreed to ask for the same amount of money as in 1994 (\$4,100). The Committee also decided to purchase "Gone Birding" to be used at the 1995 Annual Meeting as an Education Committee program. After that it would be made available to MOS members through the Speakers Bureau.

This year's winning Envirothon team came from Middletown High School in Frederick County. The team will represent Maryland at the international competition in Idaho. We encourage MOS members to contact their local Soil Conservation Service office to volunteer as ornithology instructors for the wildlife portion of the test.

A copy of the 30 minute video "Bird" will be sent to each school district in Maryland, to be circulated among the secondary school biology classes. The video is an MOS gift to commemorate our 50th Anniversary.

Education Committee members this year included Joy Wheeler, David Ziolkowski, David Kubitsky, Joan Stephens, Maggie Duncan, Florida Meade, Celeste Bunting, and Elizabeth Lawlor.

We funded the following grants this year:

Baltimore: Taxidermy costs for adult Bald Eagle for Cylburn, \$200. Cecil Co.: PIF slide show, \$55; Cornell slides, \$75; Graphic Slides, \$70. Harford Co.: Towards educational display, \$200. Howard Co.: Towards educational display, \$200. Jug Bay: Kids' Day in the Park, for homeless children, \$49.80; Prince George's Co. School Essay Contest (Habitats), \$75; Ornithology slide show, \$44. Kent Co.: Audubon Videoguide to the Birds of North America, Attracting Birds to Your Backyard, and Birds, Birds, Birds: Why Bird Watchers Watch, \$148; 3 bluebird houses & poles (Millington Elementary), \$40; Towards education display, \$12. Montgomery Co.: Slides of common Montgomery Co. birds, \$150; Teaching aids to leave with children (bird ID cards), \$50. Wicomico Co.: North American Bluebird Society slide program \$75, with audio tape, \$10; "Bluebirds Up Close" video, \$29.95; shipping, handling, and Maryland sales tax, \$17.82. Non-MOS Groups: State of Maryland Envirothon, \$200. "Bird" video for 24 Maryland School Districts, \$387.00. Wildfowl Trust of North America, start-up grant for raptor program, \$200. PIF "Partners in Art" program for 18 classrooms, \$300. Total grants, \$2,588.57.

The Education Committee purchased the following items for use by the membership as part of the Speakers Bureau: "Gone Birding" video and game, \$40; "Bird" video, \$13. Education Committee's operating expenses / slide show, \$304.14. Total grants and expenses, \$2,945.71 (out of \$4,100 budgeted for 1994-95. Only half the 16 chapters applied.

Linda Bystrak, Chairman

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

In June 1955 I visited Central Enoch Pratt Free Library where, you may recall, in 1994 the MOS contributed a subscription to the multi-volumed Life Histories of North American Birds and the multi-volumed Handbook of Birds of the World. Wesley Wilson, Head of the Science, Business and Technology Department, where these publications are kept, took time from a busy morning to escort me from the main floor of the library down two levels to the second stack area, to show me the collection of items we had funded. Taking into consideration the infinite number of books within this grand institution, these volumes, so far 136 "Life Histories" and one "Handbook," are a very small part. Yet in the few moments it took Mr. Wilson to lead me to the stacks he repeated several times his appreciation to us for Pratt's ability to offer these reference materials to their public. He apologized for having to take me so far into the stacks to see the materials, but defended his decision to keep them there for their security. He assured me that they *are* accessible to patrons who make the effort to get a stack pass and they *are* accessible throughout Maryland on Interlibrary Loan. Also, copies have been made of each of the issues of the "Life Histories." Mr. Wilson has found that in the year that the material has been available it has been used repeatedly by many middle school and high school students whose assignments have required them to search into greater depth of bird study than that supplied by field guides and encyclopedias: information about habitats, range, migration patterns, behavior, etc. He feels that they are among the best reference materials they have in the department.

Early in 1995 to announce the introduction of these two new publications he arranged for a display of the materials in the glass cases in Pratt's main lobby. Unfortunately, I did not know about this, so was not able to reap any publicity for the MOS. As yet the second volume of the "Handbook" has not been added to the Pratt collection, though notice was received of its March 1995 publication. We are investigating and have requested the money to be budgeted for its acquisition.

Joy Wheeler, Chairman

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Sanctuary Committee conducted three workday weekends this year at which a good bit of work was accomplished. We are blessed to have people who are willing to come and help us do all this work. Without them we would not be able to maintain our sanctuaries.

Major work done at Irish Grove included:

The fields, which had not been mowed for nearly five years, were reestablished by mowing with a super brush hog and cutting down small trees.

Started a management plan for woodcock habitat by cutting down rows of pine trees, which will be on a 15 year cutting cycle.

The roads to Canal Trail and Round Pond Trail had sand/clay mixture put in soggy areas.

Paul and Linda Bystrak took the case holding the Great Blue Heron home for fumigation and returned it with a nice tight-fitting cover.

Trail maintenance continued with pruning, repainting blazes, and more bridges built.

The house roof was patched and a cover for the living room chimney was built and installed by Mike Knott.

The marsh trail to the grave site on Susan Moore Hummock was finally completed.

The Anne Arundel Chapter planted a memorial crab apple in front of the house.

Two workdays were held. The fall workday on October 29, 1994 had 30 volunteers, and the spring workday on April 1, 1995 had 13 volunteers.

Carey Run had one workday on April 29, 1995. Twenty-two volunteers came to help with the usual house cleaning and trail maintenance and to help Mike Knott build the new steps to the front porch that he designed.

The John Wanuga Bequest: As recommended by the Talbot Chapter, the MOS Board of Directors voted to use this bequest to help the Wildfowl Trust of North America to buy some property adjacent to their Horsehead Sanctuary. A permanent marker is to be erected on this property naming John Wanuga as the contributor.

Please make an effort to visit one or more of our sanctuaries this coming year and enjoy the peace and beauty to be found there. I thank all of you wonderful volunteers who come out on the workdays to work and bird and enjoy good fellowship.

Dorothy M. Mumford, Chairman

**MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR
MAY 1, 1994 THROUGH APRIL 30, 1995**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
OPERATING FUND		
INCOME:		
Dues	20,000	20,032.50
Transfer from		
Sanctuary Endowment	630	630.00
Investment Income	700	1,491.12
Publications Income	1,000	413.00
Mail Permit Contribution	75	37.50
Membership Pins	300	40.00
Miscellaneous		<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL	22,705	22,649.12
EXPENSES:		
Publications Committee		
<i>Maryland Birdlife</i>		
Printing	8,000	7,993.01
Postage	1,000	1,443.08
Labels		233.31
Miscellaneous	400	
<i>Yellowthroat</i>		
Printing	5,000	5,091.01
Postage	1,000	1,146.38
Labels		266.34
Miscellaneous	<u>400</u>	
TOTAL	15,600	16,173.13
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICE:		
President's Expenses	100	83.47
Vice President's Expenses	50	
Secretary's Expenses	75	
Treasurer's Expenses	75	54.69
Executive Secretary	2,400	2,400.00
Postage	300	317.40
Bulk Mailing Permits	225	235.00
Membership List Database	450	506.42
Printing and Duplication	200	566.97
Office Supplies	300	
Publicity and Awards	400	53.24
Affiliations	225	225.00
Liability Insurance	550	550.00
Miscellaneous		137.51
Membership Pins/Decals		1,134.89
MOS Telephone 1-800	400	579.64
Calendar Sales Tax		34.33
Contingencies	<u>500</u>	
TOTALS	6,250	6,878.56

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
COMMITTEE RELATED EXPENSES:		
Budget Committee	25	
Conservation Committee	300	11.84
Education Committee	100	246.14
Library Committee	300	
Conference Committee	1,200	37.32
Gifts Committee	50	
Long Range Planning	50	11.80
Nominating Committee	100	
Records Committee	40	
Research Committee	100	9.95
Scholarship		61.47
Contingencies	<u>325</u>	
TOTAL	2,470	378.52
CONFERENCE:		
1994 Conference Income		511.00
Expenses		3,297.34
1995 Conference Income		6,000.00
Expenses		5,341.23
OPERATING FUND — OTHER FUNDS		
Costa Rica - OTS Donation		500.00
Maryland Atlas:		
Balance		2,589.27
Atlas—Chesapeake Bay Trust		
Begin		5,139.53
Expenses		5.04
Balance		5,134.49
Rain Forest Challenge-FUNDAECO		
94/95 Income		4,885.25
Total sent to FUNDAECO		4,885.25
Brazil IEF 94/95 Income		50.00
MOS Brochures		
Balance		2,879.26
1995 MOS Conference		3,000.00
Index <i>Maryland Birdlife</i> :		
Balance		4,000.00
Expenses		1,260.00
Balance		2,740.00

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
SANCTUARY PURCHASE FUND (WANUGA)		

INVESTMENT INCOME:

Div/Int		4,400.44
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SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND**INCOME:**

Dividends	3,000	4,081.03
Contributions	800	88.00
Life Membership	<u>400</u>	
TOTAL	4,200	4,169.03

EXPENSES:

Bond Maint.		15.00
Transfer to		
Operating Fund	620	630.00
Transfer to		
Sanctuary Fund	<u>2,380</u>	<u>2,614.03</u>
TOTAL	3,000	3,259.03

SANCTUARY FUND**INCOME:**

Div/Int	3,180	2,614.03
Use Fees — Irish Grove		407.00
Carey Run		798.44
Signs	<u>300</u>	<u>58.00</u>
TOTAL	6,700	3,877.47

EXPENSES:**IRISH GROVE:**

Mowing	850	1,164.00
Marion VFD	50	50.00
Utilities	450	445.87
Fuel	500	170.34
Taxes	300	532.99
Sand		440.00
Miscellaneous		99.31
General Maintenance	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,503.01</u>
TOTAL IRISH GROVE	4,150	4,405.52

CAREY RUN:

Repairs and Maintenance		156.35
Mowing		350.00
Work day meal		98.47
Utilities		159.34
Miscellaneous		<u>34.28</u>
TOTAL CAREY RUN		798.44

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Liability Insurance	800	837.00
Contingencies		<u>2,000</u>
Total Sanctuary Expenses	6,950	6,040.96

SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance		22,864.47
Div/Int		<u>1,206.59</u>
Balance		24,071.06
EXPENSES:		
Irish Grove		<u>985.14</u>
BALANCE		23,085.92

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Contributions	300	
Div/Int	<u>3,000</u>	4,157.47 *
TOTAL	3,300	4,157.47
* Amount Available for Summer 1996 MOS Scholarships		

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

INCOME:		
Summer 1995 Income:		
Div/Int		3,490.00
Kent County Chapter		495.00
Bourne Scholarship (For 94)		600.00
Audubon Society Refund		<u>200.00</u>
Total Income		4,785.00
SCHOLARSHIP EXPENSES:		
Summer 1995 Scholarships		5,485.00

RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

INCOME:		
Contributions	100	
Div/Int	2,400	2,384.43**
** Amount Available for 1995/96 Research Grants		
*** Also available from 94/95 — 2,106.41		

FUTURE ATLAS ACCOUNT

INCOME:		
Div/Int	1,064.96	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
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UNASSIGNED BEQUESTS

Balance	54,788.71
Div/Int	<u>2,261.81</u>
ENDING BALANCE	57,050.52

EDUCATION FUND

BEGIN	31,875.30
Div/Int	<u>1,666.24</u>
Balance	33,541.54
Education Grants	<u>1,069.00</u>
Ending Balance	32,472.54

YELLOWBOOK UPDATE FUND

BALANCE	11,000.00
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Larry Fry, Treasurer

GIFTS COMMITTEE

The Gifts Committee has not been active this year. There have been no identified needs for recommendations on the acceptance of new gifts or on the allocations of undesignated funds. There also have been no identified needs for solicitation of additional gifts to MOS.

Richard Cleveland, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In 1992, in anticipation of this half century celebration, the Long Range Planning Committee was asked to examine MOS's needs and direction for the next 50 years. After gathering suggestions and comments from members and State Directors, the committee presented its report to the MOS Board of Directors at their September 1994 meeting. A summary appeared in the November/December 1994 issue [15(5):1,3] of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*.

The dozens of recommendations made by MOS members for future Society action and direction fell into five major categories which can be stated briefly as follows:

1. Publicize MOS
2. Involve youth
3. Make scheduled publications timely
4. Protect birds and their habitats
5. Examine who we are and what we wish to accomplish.

Most significantly, there seemed to be little interest in altering the basic aims and concerns of this organization. The majority of individuals were in remarkable agreement that MOS occupies a unique niche among the many environmental, conservation, and natural history groups in Maryland. They felt the Society should continue serving as a data

collecting body and resource on bird-related topics, and it should maintain a prominent role in habitat preservation.

Many, if not most, of us who have gathered to mark MOS's fiftieth birthday will not be celebrating its one hundredth year. I envy those of you young enough to anticipate the convention in 2045. It is in your hands that the future of MOS lies. I am confident that when the centennial celebration takes place, those in attendance will be able to look back with the same mixture of gratitude and pride that we share. The many individuals who provided leadership during the first half century laid a firm foundation for the Society's continued health and its vital role as the state's preeminent bird organization.

Joanne K. Solem, Chairman

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECORDS COMMITTEE

At the March 25, 1995 annual meeting of the committee, Secretary Phil Davis reported that six packages containing a total of 77 records were circulated in the past year. The committee's data base contained 460 Maryland records, of which 159 had been accepted, 1 accepted only to genus, 3 accepted as correctly identified but origin uncertain, 142 were pending, 48 circulating, 55 recirculating, 2 deleted, and 100 not accepted. Of 18 D.C. records, 11 were accepted and 7 were pending. When the committee's new review criteria are finalized, many of the 142 pending records will be moved to a "no review" category.

Marshall Iliff performed a "quality audit" of the database and resolved some discrepancies. Also, observer data were added for older records, and references to *Maryland Birdlife* and *American Birds* were added.

Documentation is being sought for a long list of sightings of rarities.

A new procedure was adopted to open new records—any committee member can request that a record be reopened. The Secretary will then submit the request and the file to the entire committee for members to vote "yes" or "no" as to whether the record should be reopened. Agreement of a majority of the committee is required to reopen a report.

The MOS Board of Directors directed the Publication Committee to not publish records in the Yellow Book that were not accepted by the Records Committee. Three categories of records are in contention: (a) Records accepted by the MD/DCRC not agreed with by the Yellow Book authors (there are none at this moment); (b) Reports not accepted by the MD/DCRC—but not in agreement with the Yellow Book authors (the only one identified to date is 85-15, the Gray Kingbird); (c) Records not yet reviewed by the committee (we will try to resolve all first state records prior to publication of the Yellow Book).

The following species, not included on the Maryland state list by Stewart and Robbins, were accepted by the committee based on current information without need for additional review: Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Razorbill, Rock Dove, and House Finch.

Bruce Peterjohn was elected to serve as the Chair for the next year. New committee members are Mary Gustafson, Ottavio Janni, and Willem Maane.

Phil Davis, Secretary

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Twenty-one complete applications were received this year, and nine scholarships were awarded. These were record numbers. There are four reasons for the increase in scholarships awarded. First, the new Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship was added this year. Second, our endowment fund did very well this year. Third, we got \$200 back from Audubon last fall because scholarship winner Lisa Shore broke her leg while attending the Connecticut Workshop last year. Finally, this year more people selected the Connecticut Workshop, and none wanted to go to the more expensive Camp of the West.

This year's winners were the following: Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship—Maureen Kief, Naturalist at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. Ecology Scholarship Winners: Helen Miller Scholarships—Karen Chambless, Baltimore Teacher; Robert W. Dyke, Jug Bay Park Naturalist; Michael Mennett, Jug Bay Park Naturalist; and Johanna Rawlings, Harford County Student-Naturalist; Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship—Diana Eisenhour, Harford County Teacher; Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship—Liam R. Kennedy, Assistant Supervisor of Public Education Programs, Maryland Science Center in Baltimore; Edith Bourne Memorial Scholarship—Kelly L. Hortch, Baltimore County Teacher; Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship—Peggy Ford, Talbot County Teacher. Three of the scholarship winners attended the 50th Anniversary Convention: Karen Chambless, Liam Kennedy, and Johanna Rawlings. Another winner, Robert Dyke, who works at Watkins Park, was introduced at the June Board Meeting there.

The following members helped with recruitment: Annette Drummond (Baltimore), Eileen Clegg (Howard), Janet Cree (Talbot), and James Falcon (Wicomico). Committee members are: Margaret Duncan-Snow (Kent), Charlotte Folk (Garrett), Robert H. Hahn (Montgomery), Marilyn Taylor (Anne Arundel), Marion Glass Wilson (Baltimore), and

Isa Sieracki (Harford), Chairman

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAPTER

The Allegany County Chapter enjoyed a diverse and well-attended set of meetings this year, and our membership has increased. We began the year with our annual picnic at Carey Run. Programs were given at the Allegany County Board of Education Building on "Waterbirds of Northern Minnesota" by Dr. Joan McKearnan in February and "Landscaping for Birds" by Nancy Smoger of the DNR in March (also attended by several local garden club members). Live birds were featured at two other programs. DNR Scales and Tails personnel displayed several birds from their collection and answered questions in April, and we journeyed to Garrett County where Kevin Dodge demonstrated Northern Saw-whet Owl banding on two owls caught while we were visiting the banding station in October.

Our annual dinner, held at the Holiday Inn, Cumberland, in November included a Silent Auction coordinated by Gladys Faherty and an array of door prizes collected through the year by Charlotte Folk. Our speaker was Ken Bauer, a nationally acclaimed wildlife artist who lives in Garrett County. We were treated to his beautiful work and his insights on the creative process of an artist in nature.

Field trips were conducted to Dolly Sods, Town Hill, Shawnee State Park, local and Garrett County ponds, and Carey Run. R. W. Twigg led a popular fossil field trip to sites

near Cumberland, and Charlotte Folk and Gladys Faherty shared the beautiful bluebells and other spring wildflowers on a trip to the Bluebell Farm in Garrett County. Fall, Christmas, Winter, and May counts were coordinated and hosted by club members. Several club members also volunteered for the National Park Service breeding bird survey along the C&O Canal, and raised money for Maryland Partners in Flight during the May Count. Bill Devlin provided a report on bluebird box activity at Carey Run and Jim Paulus faithfully counted hawks at Town Hill. Club members and generous volunteers from other chapters helped at the annual clean-up at Carey Run Sanctuary, and the house now has new front steps.

Member Ken Hodgdon continues to publish reports of club meetings and other highlights in the Cumberland Times-News, and does a commendable job of informing the public and sharing the wonder of birds through his comments and excerpts from letters.

Gwen Brewer, President

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

Our Chapter had a very successful year. The eight monthly meetings were well attended and many guests were present. Some of the topics were "Habitat Preservation in the Neotropics" by George Jett, "Birding Guide to the National Forests" by Daphne Gemmill, and "Sora Rails" by Greg Kearns. The regular meeting location for our programs was changed to Annapolis High School because it is a more central location. William Clark presented a program on Hawks for our annual Robert E. Heise, Jr. Wildlife Program in the Blue Heron Room of Quiet Waters Park; funds raised from this well-attended event will go to the Scholarship Fund and the Sanctuary Fund.

Our membership is approximately 198. Most new members learn about our Club from the *Pennysaver*, a weekly advertisement magazine, or the *Capital* newspaper. We are also leaving Newsletter and programs at the Wild Bird Stores in the area.

We conducted 39 field trips this year. Each month we try to have a half-day trip and a full-day trip. We also had several overnight trips like our winter weekend at the coast. We went to North Carolina for a pelagic trip, Chincoteague NWR for a fall visit, and many local good birding areas. I thank member Sally Rowe who rents her lovely Chincoteague home to the Club. (Other chapters might contact Sally for rental information.) Trips were well attended and included many visitors. Participants saw 250 species on an extended April trip to Texas organized by Peter Hanan. We participated in two work weekends at Irish Grove and Carey Run Sanctuaries. We also had two Club picnics hosted at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in the fall and at the Bowie/Lambert's home in the spring. Some of the birds seen on our trips were: Black-capped and Leach's Petrels, Eurasian Wigeon (in 3 states), Harlequin Duck (3 states), Muscovy Duck (countable!), White-tailed Hawk, Greater Flamingo (a speck but countable), Lesser Golden-Plover, Gray Vireo, three species of kingfishers, Blue, Green, Brown, and Gray-breasted Jays, and a Colima Warbler (without a 12-mile hike).

A number of members participated in the May Count, and the Annapolis Christmas Count had a good turn out. The tally for the Christmas Count was held at the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park, courtesy of Michael Murdock, Park Superintendent. The Club co-sponsored bird walks with Sandy Point State Park and Quiet Waters Park. We also co-sponsored nature programs at Quiet Waters Park.

Our Conservation Chairman, Eileen McLellan, kept members informed on local and national issues. We also started a new award this year. The Conservationist of the Year Award went to Buz Meyers, who has set up a wildlife area on the Patuxent River in A.A. County that is an excellent birding area. Al Haury and many other members of our Club

help with two bird seed sales conducted by Quiet Waters Park. The AABC shared in the profits.

Peter Hanan, President

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

A new Cylburn bird list was recently published under the guidance of Mark Pemburn and other members. *Chip Notes*, a bimonthly publication under the editorship of Steve Sanford, has evolved and is becoming the sounding board for members. Baltimore Bird Line is a new telephone information service for birders wanting to know about birding activities and sightings in the area. Call 410-467-0653 for information about trips and good birds.

For the 50th anniversary of MOS, a commemorative exhibit of photographs, publications, and reprints recounting past and present activities and accomplishments of the BBC, including a slide presentation, was put together for the 1995 annual MOS Convention. Joy Wheeler and Patsy Perlman, along with others, spent numerous hours creating this exhibit.

Seventeen schools, involving 1,368 children, visited Cylburn Arboretum. Twenty-one volunteers attended a workshop for school guides facilitated by Michael Baker and Joy Wheeler on March 15. Five inner-city children were sponsored at the Carrie Murray Nature Camp last summer. Lenny Marcus has become a counsellor for the Boy Scout ornithology merit badge.

A grant of \$200 from the MOS Education Committee will be used for taxidermy and mounting of a Bald Eagle.

Anneke Davis keeps BBC members updated with conservation issues. She represented the BBC at public hearings opposing the excessive lighting at the World Trade Center building and the housing development project near Cylburn without a buffer zone.

And, lastly, many thanks to the volunteer members of the BBC for all the chores often taken for granted. Without your enthusiasm, we would not have had such a wonderful year.

Sukon Kanchanaraksa, President

CAROLINE COUNTY BIRD CLUB

We held monthly meetings in the Choptank Electric Cooperative's meeting room in Denton the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m., September—May (except December). Programs included Bob Ringler's "Birding in Costa Rica"; Dana and Roland Limpert's "Tundra Swan on the Chesapeake Bay"; a demonstration and discussion of wildlife painting by local artist and birder Kurt Plinke; Dr. Robert Trever's program on "Colorado Pawnee Grasslands, High Rockies, and Colorado Plateau"; Stuart Strahl, Director of Pickering Creek Environmental Center, discussed his experiences in environmental work in South America; L. T. Short's slide presentation of Spring Warblers; Don Meritt's "Bird Islands on the Chesapeake Bay"; and for the final meeting, a potluck picnic at Debby Bennett's house.

The Club sponsored a bird walk at Martinak State Park in September and a Pelot Sanctuary Cleanup Day in October. The Club voted to use the money donated to the Club in memory of Roberta Fletcher to improve some trails in Pelot Sanctuary. Concrete benches and a small memorial will be placed in a strategic birding spot in the sanctuary as well. A committee is working on the project and hopes to complete it by the fall of 1995, when the Club can hold a dedication to both Roberta Fletcher and her husband Jerry.

Steve Westre coordinated the Denton Christmas Count and Wilbur Rittenhouse the May Count. Because Wilbur plans to move to Missouri to join his wife in the near future,

Mariana Nuttle will take over the coordination of the Caroline County May Count.

Mark Grande, who has done a fine job as Treasurer for many years, has resigned because of other obligations.

Wilbur Rittenhouse, President

FREDERICK BIRD CLUB

The Frederick County Chapter had a busy and productive year. Eight monthly program meetings offered a variety of interesting topics for members. We heard excellent programs on "Birding Optics" by Phil Davis, "The Natural History of Owls" by Paul Engram, "Wild Turkey" by Frank Ryan, "Alaska Birds" by Ian Cornelius, and "Butterflies and Butterfly Gardens" by Denise Gibbs.

At our January meeting Peter Stangel presented an inspiring program on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Neotropical Migratory Bird Program. Our membership was moved by his presentation to make a \$500 contribution to the program. Our December program was our traditional Christmas dinner at Araby Church, highlighted by a fine presentation by bird artist John W. Taylor.

The Club offered 12 regular field trips, mostly within the county, but several farther afield—to Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, to Town Hill in Allegany County, and to Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County. As usual, we conducted the Catoctin Christmas Count, participated in the Sugarloaf Christmas Count, and conducted the county-wide May Count. The Club also initiated its first Midwinter Count on Jan. 22.

The annual picnic was held on May 11 at Pinecliff Park on the Monocacy River. In addition to the good food and visiting, some good birds were seen. A highlight was the Red-shouldered Hawk nest with two young and both parents visible from our picnic pavilion.

We continued to operate the local hotline—phone tree to keep members posted on good birds seen in the county. We welcome all birders to place interesting Frederick County birds on the hotline by calling Cathy Calvert at 301-698-1298. Probably the most interesting bird visitor to the county this year was the Anhinga that spent some two weeks in April on Lake Merle, a small reservoir in the Lake Linganore area.

By far the biggest event of the year for the Frederick Chapter was hosting the 50th Anniversary Annual Conference of the MOS at Mount Saint Mary's College, June 23-25. Many members donated innumerable hours to make this event a success. The Carroll and Washington County Chapters also helped. Although time consuming, it was a wonderful experience. Even though rain dampened much of the affair, the over 300 attendees did enjoy themselves. The special anniversary program, two fine evening talks by Dr. Jerome Jackson of Mississippi State University, and field trips that netted 119 species helped make the conference a noteworthy event.

Robert G. Johnsson, President

HARFORD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

We began our 46th year with the annual picnic at Rocks 4-H Camp on Sept. 10 with 45-50 persons attending. Tom Congersky and his crew provided excellent pit beef and side dishes. Participants in the bird walk got number ten views of Black-throated Blue Warblers at eye level.

We solicited ideas for a revision in the banner of the newsletter. Dave Webb's suggestion of *Wrenderings* won out of 12 submissions. Mark Johnson provided the wren drawings.

Dr. William McIntosh revised and updated the history of the Club from 1987 to 1993. Copies of the complete history are available for \$2.00.

The following members coordinated these counts in which members participated: Fall Migration Count, Johanna Rawlings; Rock Run Christmas Count, Dave Ziolkowski; Midwinter Count, Bill Pfingsten; May Count, Russ Kovach. Some students from high school environmental science classes participated in both the Christmas Count and the May Count as a part of International Migratory Bird Day.

The Nest Box Workshop was held again in February and yielded an income of over \$600. The Club applied for an MOS education grant to prepare an exhibit that was used for an Earth Day display in Havre de Grace and also for the 50th MOS Conference in June. Additional money from that grant will be used to purchase bird identification posters, which will be distributed to high school science teachers in the fall.

Speakers for the dinner meetings were: November—Dr. Peter Stangel, "Partners in Flight"; January—Jean and Larry Fry, "North to Alaska"; March—Debbie Delevan, "Wildlife R & R, a new local rehabilitation and release program for injured and orphaned birds and other wildlife; and May—Ross and Beth Hawkins, "Birds of Trinidad and Tobago."

Among the field trip destinations were: Delaware Bay, Mariner Point Park, Rocks State Park, Soldier's Delight, Cape May, Marantha Tree Farm, Bombay Hook, Susquehanna State Park, Conowingo Dam, Bradenbaugh Flats, Loch Raven Reservoir, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Back River Sewage Treatment Plant, Perryman, Gettysburg, Harford Glen, Broad Creek Scout Camp, Eden Mill, and Gunpowder State Park. We held special watches for Common Nighthawk and American Woodcock. A feeder tour in early January visited homes of three members.

We gave donations to FUNDAECO, Harford Land Trust, Wildlife R & R, Partners in Flight, and Harford County Envirothon. Annual awards went to Dave Webb, Lister of the Year (221 species); Russ Kovach, Rookie of the Year; John and Lorna Wortman, Bird of the Year (Common Redpoll); and Les Eastman and Walter and Joyce Sherman, Distinguished Service.

Two Harford County individuals received MOS scholarships. Both Diane Eisenhower and Johanna Rawlings plan to attend the Audubon Ornithology Camp in Maine.

The Club experienced the loss of two members. Mr. Eldred Johnson had been president from 1976 to 1978. Mrs. Joyce Sherman had been a member since 1968; she and her husband Walter were responsible for mailing the newsletters for over eight years.

John Cupp, Sr., has volunteered to organize the Adopt-a-Highway program for the Club. A raffle is held at each meeting to bring in additional income. Work continues on the *Birdwatching in Harford County* brochure.

Harford County Bird Club continues to be a very active organization comprised of many very helpful and cooperative members. A variety of activities affords everyone the opportunity to be involved. The many field trips of varying difficulty and length keep members focused on our purpose: the identification and appreciation of birds. Continued emphasis and attention is also given to habitat preservation.

Jean L. Fry, President

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The club newsletter provided timely information to the membership. Editors Susan Setterberg and Paula and Darius Ecker solicited special material from traveling birders. A summary of seasonal bird sightings is now a regular feature along with data from all the special bird counts in which our members participate.

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

The club provided displays at the Howard County Garden Festival, the Conservation Discovery Day, and the Howard County Fair. Martha Chestem updated and added to the chapter's displays for these events along with a special display for the MOS 50th anniversary convention. Twenty educational presentations by thirteen members were made to school classes, retirees, and other groups during the year using the club's mounted specimens or slide programs.

Conservation emphasis this year focused on active involvement in the 1995 Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. Bob Solem has reported that the high priority items this year are the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Superfund. He continues to work diligently in providing updated information to the club on these items as he presses forward in pushing the club's position on these acts to whichever politician needs to know.

Numerous chapter members continued active field work with participation in the Triadelphia Christmas Count, Midwinter Count, May Count, and the first ever Fall Count. Seasonal migration records were compiled by Joanne Solem from data submitted by several dozen people. Bird checklists from major parks and open space continue to be compiled under Jane Farrell's direction. The Rockburn Branch Park checklist was made available this year. The new book on bird finding in Howard County, edited by Joanne Solem, is back from the printer and will be available at the MOS convention. Members are also working with the Howard County Conservancy in surveying the birds, plants, and butterflies at Mt. Pleasant, a 225-acre farm. Joanne Solem was selected by the Conservancy to sit on the planning council for a three-year term.

This marked the sixteenth year of the club's twice yearly seed sales under the leadership of Eileen Clegg.

The sixteenth annual list of all bird species seen in the county was compiled for 1994 by Jane Farrell—a record 236 species.

Several club members reached personal milestones this year. Bonnie Ott set a new Howard County record with 222 species recorded in the county, Jane Farrell recorded 304 species in the state for the year, while Peter Osenton reached his 600th species in the lower 48 states as did Phil Davis. For the third time, chapter member Connie Bockstie won the MOS convention pin competition—this time with a Marsh Wren design. She also was published in *Bird Watchers Digest*.

Under the direction and organization of Tom Strikwerda and Martha Chestem, this chapter continued to be responsible for mailing *Maryland Birdlife*.

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

David A. Harvey, President

JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

Our year was filled with activity and many changes. We still meet on the third Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Patuxent River Park—Jug Bay in Prince George's County. Our new Education Committee, chaired by Joan Stephens, sponsored a birding day in the park for students aged 8-12 from a county homeless shelter. The children enjoyed hikes, bird watching by boat tour, and a driving tour of the Patuxent River Park and Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. All had fun preparing lunch over the grill and were exhausted by the end of the day—as were the club members. Other projects included a slide show of Prince George's County birds, an essay contest for local schools on the importance of habitat, and an educational display board.

A memorial service with the dedication of a park bench was held for charter member Dan Burns. The bench overlooks Jug Bay at the site of our meetings. Dan built many bird boxes for the club over the years and monitored several bluebird trails.

We thank Renee Burns for serving as secretary from the start of our chapter. Thanks are also extended to Wally and Joan Stephens who are moving to Florida in late summer. Wally is a past president and recently a director, and Joan has served as Secretary. They are also migrating south and will return to visit.

Monthly speakers spoke on falconry and the Galapagos Islands. We also participated in the Wildlife Art Show for the Patuxent Visitor Center held at Harmony Hall in Oxon Hill. We hope to have a great coming year.

Mike Callahan, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter completed 38 years of operation as the State celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at the Annual Convention in Emmitsburg at Mount Saint Mary's College, June 23-25, 1995.

A display featuring the founder of the Chapter, Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson, former President of Washington College, was shown at the Convention along with the accomplishments of the local group. Late member, Mrs. Dorothy Mendinhal, was celebrated in the display for her contributions to the field of ornithology, depicted in photos and facts from the archives of her banding station, *Damsite*, in Tolchester, Kent County.

Vernon Stotts, retired biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and chair of the Program Committee, was instrumental in bringing outstanding speakers to our Chapter during the year. Topics of major enlightenment were: "Surveying Geese in Canada's Ungava Peninsula," "Maryland's Wild Turkeys," "Shorebirds of Maryland and Delaware," "Olympic Rain Forest," and "Backyard Wildlife."

Field trips, interesting and well attended, were made to: Horsehead Farm, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Pickering Creek, and Delaware Beaches for birds and Horseshoe Crabs.

The Kent County Chapter has a small group, about 60 members, of loyal and dedicated individuals who work continuously to promote the principles of conservation and education for the surrounding community and its population. It is my personal hope that this Chapter can sustain itself and carry the important work of balancing our ecological needs into the 21st century.

On a personal note, as a youngster ten years of age in 1948, I was a junior birder under the nurture of Helen Miller. She taught the local interested children in Allegany County about nature and the out-of-doors. The community were devoted to her for the countless volunteer hours she devoted to the children in the Junior Bird Club and the Nature Camp at Pleasant Valley in Garrett County. In 1965 I was awarded the Helen Miller Scholarship to the Audubon Camp of Maine. At that time I began new birding adventures under the tutelage of Dottie Mendinhall in Kent County. I am ever grateful for those wonderful opportunities and experiences and continue in their memory to try to convey an excitement for birds to all those I meet. Currently working with Senior Citizens, I have a chance to do just that.

Pat Wilson, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Montgomery County enjoyed a fine array of programs and field trips and many opportunities for camaraderie. Meetings usually are on the second Thursday of the month at the Potomac Presbyterian Church in Potomac at 8 p.m. It's a good idea to check the Club calendar because there are occasional changes in meeting nights. Visitors are always welcome.

Julie Kelly organized an excellent, wide-ranging calendar of monthly programs that included Constant Hughes-Treherne on the "Natural History of Southern Africa," Mark Garland on "A Birder Turns to Butterflies," William Maane on "Birding in Florida," Sam Droege on "Bird Counts, Conservation, and Montgomery County," Janet Millenson on "Three Centuries of Birds," George Jett on "Save Our Songbirds: Adopt an Acre," Dave Brinker on "Black Skimmers: Strikers in the Night," and Paul Engman, the "Natural History of Owls."

Franz Hespenheide surveyed the membership for ideas about field trips and pulled together "something for everyone." Forays included beginners trips, a canoe trip, "seniors" trips, and a range of outings both on weekdays and weekends. We continued to sponsor the Seneca Christmas Count; the turnout was excellent. Members participate in an ever-growing number of counts through the year.

Margaret and Don Donald led the fall and spring bird banding program at the Adventure Banding Station in Potomac. The program, which originated in 1972, now has spring and fall migration records on more than 97,000 birds of 146 species.

The Chapter contributed \$770 to the FUNDAECO fund in November. The contribution helped the state organization's contribution to qualify for matching funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Bill Kulp and a committee used money from the chapter's Carl Carlson fund to help prepare a slide show that includes pictures of birds likely to be seen in the county and a script for presentations to groups interested in local bird life.

Norm Saunders and a committee prepared a bird list for Montgomery County. The new list of 317 species was made available to Chapter members and to participants in the 50th anniversary convention at Mount St. Mary's College.

The Chapter's annual social, coordinated by Dave and Jane Winer was held at St. Dunstan's Church in Bethesda. About 100 members enjoyed the annual dinner. As usual

the highlight of the evening was an open invitation for attendees to share their personal bird slides. Everyone had a great time. Membership at the end of May totaled about 320.

Louis DeMouy, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

We continued to meet at 7:45 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday, from September through May (except December) at the Bioscience Building (Bldg. 011A) at the Agricultural Research Center on U.S. 1 in Beltsville. Our members night in September featured Cheryl Mill's report on the summer monitoring of the bluebird trail that Dr. Larry Zeleny had placed on fences at the Agricultural Research Center the year before he and Mary Janetatos founded the North American Bluebird Society. Because of failing health, Dr. Zeleny had found it necessary to give up his bluebird trail after about 15 years, but fortunately, Cheryl Mills and others are continuing his project.

Our other speakers were: Chandler Robbins on "Birding in Cuba," Michael Erwin on "Wading Birds on the Delmarva Peninsula," Erica Wilson on "Farewell to Midway," Deanna Dawson on "Prince George's County Forest Bird Survey," Greg Kearns on "Sora Rails," and Donald Messersmith on "Australia's Natural History." At each meeting we report on interesting bird sightings and Eleanor Robbins shares the latest conservation news.

Vice President Luther Goldman ably filled in for President Pamela Stephen when a change in schedule prevented her from attending our meetings.

For the 50th Anniversary, Eleanor Robbins assembled a collection of her newspaper columns over the past 35 years, Chan Robbins prepared an exhibit of Patuxent Bird Club's conservation activities, and Woody Martin summarized his Red-shouldered Hawk nesting research in a poster paper.

Eleanor Robbins' Book Committee profits of \$221.49 became the core of a \$1,000 challenge to all other MOS members to double it by Nov. 29 for a contribution to FUNDAECO to buy land on Cerro San Gil in Guatemala.

Eleanor C. Robbins, Secretary
Pamela H. Stephen, President

TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER

The weekly Sunday morning bird walks, generally to Talbot County hot spots, began in August and continued through late summer and fall. These outings were highlighted by trips to Bombay Hook and Cape Charles, led by Jan Reese and Harry Armistead respectively. December brought the annual bird count. Following a day in the field, hungry birders were treated to a pot luck supper provided by chapter members under the efficient organization of Bobbie Sinderman.

Sunday morning walks resumed in April and continued through May. Steve Ford was scheduled to lead a trip to Milburn Landing, but unfortunately rain dampened the spirits of both birders and birds. Late in the spring, Don Meritt led a walk along the trails at Horn Point. Other leaders were George Didden and Les Coble.

Generally, the participants in the Sunday walks gather afterwards for breakfast at a chapter member's home. The participant who correctly guesses the number of bird species seen that morning wins the highly coveted award, a jar of home-made jelly, provided by Erica Woodman. Breakfast hosts were Marge Baldwin, Eric and Ginny Gradbert, Dick Kleen, Carolyn Mills and John Snyder, Jean and Fred Snyder, Carl and Helen Williams, Janet Cree and Rosemary Thompson, Nancy and Bernie Burns, Bobbie Sindeman, William and Nancy Graham, Jean and Ralph Crump, Joyce and Don Meritt.

On six evenings, three in the fall and three in the spring, you can find us at the Loyola Federal Savings and Loan in Easton, where our chapter meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. In September, Beth Olsen told us how to "Develop a Garden for Birds." In October, David Brinker instructed us on the habits of "Colonial Water Birds." The autumn meetings concluded in November with a slide show by Claudia Wilds titled "Farewell to Midway" in which the terms of Midway Islands were featured.

In February we returned to hear Dr. Robert Trever's presentation entitled "Rocky Mountain High." March brought us Lucretia Krantz of the North American Waterfowl Trust, who provided us with the problems and some solutions in the world of "Waterfowl Conservation." In April Les Coble helped us make sense of the sounds we were hearing in the hedgerows, fields, and woodlands that surround our neighborhoods. It was a good year.

Liz Lawlor, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

Membership has averaged about 70 this year. We held seven meetings from September through April; we do not have meetings in our "Bird Count" months of December and May. Beginning this year we have been meeting in the new Adventist Nature Center, built in a wooded area near their summer camp site. It is a wonderful place, containing many interesting exhibits, not only of birds, but also mammals, beetles, butterflies, and bird eggs. We meet there the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

Our speakers covered such topics as the relationship between the Belize Zoo and the Salisbury (Maryland) Zoo, Rare Birds of the World, the effort to save neotropical migrants through the "Partners in Flight" program, and our final program on life in the Olympic rain forest.

About 24 of our members took part in the Christmas and May Counts; according to our coordinator, Cam Lewis, it was the best May Count ever with 144 species. Also, several members took part in the breeding bird survey along the C&O Canal for the National Park Service.

Our long-time member, Norma Lewis, continues to write a monthly column for the daily paper about her interaction with birds at home and abroad.

Elizabeth Wolfe, President

WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

Membership remained fairly constant with 31 single and 21 household memberships. The Club held eight meetings from September through May, including our annual dinner meeting in March. Attendance averaged about 35 people. We were fortunate to have excellent speakers, three of whom were our own members making presentations on bird life-listing and birding ethics, Partners in Flight, and a report from our 1994 Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship recipient on the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West. Our guest speakers covered such topics as The Nature Conservancy (with special emphasis on preserves at Nassawango Creek and the Nanticoke River), re-establishment of Wild Turkeys in Maryland, and distribution and population trends of colonial waterbirds in Maryland.

Our eight field trip destinations included Chincoteague, Bombay Hook, and Blackwater NWRs, Deal Island WMA, Cape Henlopen State Park, and the Bay-Bridge Tunnel. Our June trip ended with the traditional picnic hosted by Carol and Donald Broderick. Charlie Vaughn coordinated Club participation in the Salisbury Christmas Count and the May Count. Eleven Club members participated in the October workday at Irish Grove, and once again Grace Denit graciously supplied turkey for the workers' mid-day meal.

Club members were active in our community (locally and at the state level) with representation on the Pemberton Park Board, The Nature Conservancy, Maryland Partners in Flight, and the MOS Education and Conservation committees. Club members were actively involved with the Ward Museum in Salisbury. Both John Dennis and Ellen Lawler authored articles for the museum's journal, *Wildlife Art*, and a number of members participated in the Delmarva Birding Festival.

The Club continues to be involved with conservation issues, including speaking and writing regarding erosion of the north end of Assateague, fragmentation of the Pocomoke State Forest, and proposed development of a fragile wooded/wetland area in Salisbury.

Susan Potts, President

FIRST SEASIDE SPARROWS IN HARFORD COUNTY IN 44 YEARS

DAVID W. WEBB AND JON G. CUPP, SR.

Both of us had been looking forward to the 1995 Earth Day celebration in Havre de Grace, Maryland, on April 22. This was especially true for Cupp, as he had recently purchased a video camcorder and was eager to see how it would work filming birds. Little did he know that on its first day in the field the camcorder would help document the first Seaside Sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus*) seen in Harford County in over 40 years.

We met shortly after 8:30 a.m. near the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in eastern Harford County. A half-mile boardwalk completed in 1994, known as the Promenade, skirts the shoreline of the river and the Chesapeake Bay on the town's east side. Later that morning, Webb and other Harford County MOS members were scheduled to set up telescopes on the Promenade to show passers-by birds that happened to be along the shore or out over the headwaters of the Chesapeake. At about 9:25 a.m., Webb found a Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) singing from a narrow strip of cattails along the water's edge and summoned Cupp to have a look. While we were trying to relocate the wren, a small dark bird popped out of the reeds onto the muddy shore created by the low tide.

Our first impression of the bird was that of a small, drab passerine. Seen from 15 feet with the naked eye, the large bill was noticeable and was the first hint as to the bird's identity. Once the bird was seen through binoculars, the yellow lores and gray and olive feathering confirmed our suspicions—a Seaside Sparrow. We stared at each other in disbelief. Shortly afterward, Dennis Kirkwood arrived and verified the identification. Within minutes and much to everyone's delight, a second Seaside Sparrow appeared only a few yards away from the first bird. (Later we learned that Mary Procell, also of Harford MOS, had seen one of the Seaside Sparrows at 7:45 that morning.)

Cupp shot some footage of the birds with his camcorder, but the battery soon went dead. Returning with recharged batteries a few hours later, he shot excellent footage of both Seaside Sparrows. Throughout the morning Webb kept vigil over the birds and wrote detailed field notes.

The following plumage description applies to both birds, except for differences notes in the lores. The head was gray with olive lateral crown stripes. The lores were yellow

(somewhat brighter on one of the birds). The yellow of the lores continued hindward and blended into a very thin white supercilium (a field mark that we have not found described in the major field guides). A cream moustacial stripe gradually darkened into buff as it curled up toward the auriculars. The mandibles were sharp, relatively long and gray. The upper mandible showed slight downward curvature along the culmen. The iris was brown.

The chin and throat were clean white. The remainder of the underparts were patterned with diffuse gray and white streaking. The flanks were a darker gray than the center of the breast and belly. The feet and legs were flesh-colored; however, most noticeable were the long toes.

An olive nape stood out from the gray head, back, and mantle; the back and mantle were boldly patterned with coarse dark gray longitudinal stripes. The tail was sharply pointed, stiff, and relatively short. The rectrices were gray, with the outermost ones appearing to have a brownish base. The inner web of each rectrix was very narrow and pointed; the outer webs were wider and sharply angled toward the tip, like the outline of a fountain pen.

The wings were seen only in a folded position, so details about the primaries and secondaries are lacking, except to say they were brown. The coverts were also brown, changing to black toward the tip and with thin white margins. The tertials were black to dark gray, with narrow white margins and brown near the base of the outer web. Occasionally the yellow alula could be seen; however, these feathers were usually concealed.

The birds spent most of their time foraging in the mud and scurrying among the cattails. They flew infrequently and usually for short distances (under 30 feet). They primarily walked; however, we occasionally saw them hopping when atop pieces of driftwood.

The sparrows were not the least bit concerned by the presence of the 'Marsh Wren. However, an aggressive Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) forced the Seaside Sparrows to flush on several occasions.

The pair sparingly interacted with each other, preferring to forage alone. Only once during the five hours of observation did we hear any vocalizations. That occurred after a 15-minute downpour when the sparrow with the brighter lores quietly sang a typical Seaside Sparrow song short, reedy. We also heard call notes, a quiet *chek*, from each sparrow.

Almost as big a thrill as finding the sparrows was the chance to show them to the scores of people who happened by over the course of the next five hours. Once we explained how rare this sighting was for the northern Chesapeake Bay, most people stopped for a few minutes to watch the birds and ask questions. The sparrows were so close to us that binoculars were not usually needed; all that was needed was perhaps a little patience. Webb relocated one of the birds two days later at the same location, but no later sightings were reported.

Seaside Sparrows breed in coastal salt marshes. They are fairly common breeders in coastal Worcester County, Maryland, and in the bay marshes of Wicomico, Somerset, and Dorchester counties. Elsewhere in the Bay, they are uncommon and irregular breeders north to Kent Island on the eastern shore and to southern Anne Arundel County on the western shore. North of the Bay Bridge they are stragglers. There were breeding records on Hart-Miller in the late 1970's, but not subsequently. There are about a dozen other reports from Baltimore County and nine from Kent, but none from Cecil. The only other record of Seaside Sparrow in Harford County is from 6 May 1951, when the late Thomas Imhof saw and heard an individual in a freshwater cattail marsh at Gunpowder Neck (Robbins 1951). Farther north, there is a single 1988 record from the Conejohela Flats in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (Lancaster County Bird Club 1991). The majority of records north of

the Bay Bridge have occurred between 20 April and 7 June and are thought to represent spring migrants or overshoots. The single August and September records in Kent County are perhaps post-breeding wanderers or fall migrants. There are three Christmas Count records for Kent County.

We thank Rick Blom and Bob Ringler for providing the historical information on Seaside Sparrow records in the northern Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland.

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COMMON RAVENS KETTLE IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

JIM PAULUS

At 11:30 a.m. on 8 August 1994, while hawk watching at Scenic US40 overlook on Town Hill, I observed 14 Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) forming into a kettle directly overhead. The birds were all coming out of the north, down the east side of the ridge. The sky was clear and the wind was out of the east between 5 and 10 miles per hour. The temperature was 13°C (56°F).

While kettling, I could hear an occasional call, and several times I saw some of the ravens go into their tumbling free-fall act.

By 11:35 a.m. the kettle broke up and they formed into a line and moved southward down the east side of the ridge. This whole procedure was very reminiscent of a small kettle of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*).

Prior to the kettle, a pair of ravens flew by the overlook at 11:20, headed south. After the kettle had broken up, a lone raven flew southward at 11:40, making a total of 17 ravens in about 20 minutes. This sighting represents the most ravens I have ever had in sight at one time and the most I have seen in one day in Allegany County.

At about 12:55, I saw 6 ravens coming back, flying northward up the west side of the ridge. Other birds seen that day at the overlook were Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Redtailed Hawk.

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