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Cover: White-throated Sparrow at Stockton Maryland, December 1991
 Photo by Mark L. Hoffman



WATERFOWL USE OF COASTAL PONDS

JOHN V. DENNIS

A comparatively recent phenomenon is the overwintering of waterfowl in beach resort ponds and lagoons along the Middle Atlantic coast. Since 1990, I have been visiting some of these resort impoundments each winter near Ocean City, Maryland, and in nearby Delaware, listing water birds seen and their numbers. A somewhat similar study was conducted at Beach Haven West, a suburban lagoon development on filled marshland near Atlantic City, New Jersey (Figley and Vandruff 1974).

In my study, I looked at seasonal use, length of stay, effects of feeding, and harm done, if any. In regard to harmful effects, these range from purported damage to residential lawns and grass areas of golf courses to getting in the way of people.

Safe in their suburban sanctuaries, waterfowl of several species are building up non-migratory populations that are not subject to hunting pressure. It is these populations that need to be watched from the standpoint of conflicts with human interests. Problems vary greatly from one resort to another.

VIRGINIA BEACH

I am indebted to Dan Arris for information about waterfowl feeding and problems related to this in the Virginia Beach area. He conducts a year-round feeding program in a residential area where he lives on the Lynnhaven River, a saltwater arm of Chesapeake Bay. From his waterfront home, he tosses out as much as 6,500 lbs of whole corn a year. He throws most of the corn into shallow water where it is retrieved by no fewer than 17 species of waterfowl. These include sizable numbers of Canada Geese, Mallards, American Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Canvasbacks. He points out that puddle ducks, including the American Black Duck and Mallard, will dive for corn in water that is anywhere from two to six feet in depth. In order to prevent Mallards from eating corn meant for slower and less dexterous Canada Geese, he built a feeder that keeps the corn off the ground and out of the reach of Mallards.

Although generous in his feeding efforts, Mr. Arris is concerned about a burgeoning resident Canada Goose population in Virginia Beach. With few predators and freedom from hunting pressure, they have reached a population level of around 100,000. They are a nuisance on golf courses and he says that some of them even chase him and his dog!

PONDS NEAR OCEAN CITY

Elliott's Pond in West Ocean City, Maryland, is the place to go for a large variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, large wading birds, and others. Well known to birders, it has produced such non-waterfowl species as all three egrets, both night-herons, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Black Skimmer, Osprey, and Common Moorhen. I began checking the pond for waterfowl in February 1994. Some of my high counts were 90 Tundra Swans (December 1994), 800 Canada Geese (October 1995), 200 Mallards (December 1994 and 1995), 1,300 Canvasbacks (January 1996), and 15 Ruddy Ducks (February 1994).

The pond covers about 40 acres and apparently is fed entirely by rainfall; consequently there is considerable seasonal variation in the water level. Although in a residential neighborhood, homes are well back from the pond. Willows and other woody plants surround the pond. The pond itself contains a wide variety of aquatic plants, some of them serving as food for waterfowl. Fish and other small forms of animal life add to the food supply. Partly because the shoreline is largely inaccessible and in private hands, there is little, if any, waterfowl feeding. But good views of the pond and its birdlife can be obtained from the edge of a paved road on the pond's east side.

In sharp contrast to Elliott's Pond are the ponds at Ocean Pines, a large residential development to the north of West Ocean City, reached by way of Maryland highway 113. A freshwater pond of about 50 acres lies adjacent to the south entrance to Ocean Pines, and two small ponds of less than an acre lie adjacent to the north entrance.

The pond at the south entrance is somewhat irregular in shape and bounded on the west by a grassy slope and the main highway. Woodland alternating with open areas lines the rest of the pond. A driveway at the east side of the pond provides easy access to persons wishing to have closer contact with the waterfowl.

I began visiting the Ocean Pines ponds in March 1990. The large pond at what is called the South Gate has yielded a wide variety of waterfowl and other waterbirds. Besides native waterfowl, there is a year-round population of domestic species that can be attributed to releases by residents of Ocean Pines. The small ponds at the North Gate have yielded only a few Canada Geese, Mallards, and one Pekin Duck.

Abundant food supplies—both natural food and handouts from residents—have been a factor in making the large pond attractive to waterfowl. However, numbers recorded for most species have been lower than at Elliott's Pond.

My higher counts were 200 Canada Geese (December 1994), 60 Mallards (January 1996), 150 Canvasbacks (February 1994), 40 Ring-necked Ducks (December 1994), 60 Hooded Mergansers (December 1994), and 65 American Coots (March 1995).

There has been a stable population of between 45 and 50 domestic geese ever since the counts were initiated. The domestic stock seems to include strains of both the domestic Chinese Goose and the Graylag Goose. Close to 20 Pekin Ducks have been recorded and one Muscovy Duck. Anywhere from 10 to 15 hybrids representing

mixtures of Mallards, American Black Ducks, and Pekin Ducks have been present on all counts.

Recorded among non-waterfowl species were Pied-billed and Red-necked Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, and Belted Kingfisher. As many as 15 Double-crested Cormorants were seen in March 1996. The presence of so many fish-eating birds is evidence that the pond is well stocked with fish. Gulls were present on all visits. Here, as at other ponds, they functioned primarily as scavengers, often feeding on food offerings meant for waterfowl.

Heavy feeding by residents of Ocean Pines has led to a scramble by domestic geese to every car that pulls up to park where waterfowl feeding is conducted. First to come, and sometimes tugging at one's clothing with their bills, are the domestic geese. They are quickly followed by Pekin Ducks, Mallards, and American Coots. Last to arrive are Canada Geese, which straggle in to claim a share. If bread or other bakery products are offered, gulls arrive overhead, screaming and coming down to seize the food before the others can get it. Not contesting for the food are Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and occasional Greater Snow Geese.

Aside from crowding around people and slowing traffic on nearby Ocean Pines roadways, the waterfowl present few problems to residents. Homes are far enough away so that lawns are not trampled or contaminated with droppings.

REHOBETH BEACH, DELAWARE

Approximately 20 miles north of Ocean City is the ocean resort community of Rehobeth Beach. Well known to bird watchers for its waterfowl and colony of Monk Parakeets, the resort city has three ponds or lakes within its corporate limits. All are heavily used by waterfowl. Silver Lake, a freshwater body that covers about 60 acres, lies adjacent to the ocean at the southern edge of the community; Spring Lake, only a few acres in extent, lies inland from Silver Lake; and Greer Lake, another freshwater body, lies to the north adjacent to the ocean. Irregularly shaped, it covers about 25 acres.

I began visiting Silver Lake in April 1990. Most of its perimeter is bordered by nice homes with lawns and shade trees. In places there are stands of common reed (*Phragmites communis*). The lake can be viewed from lakeside drives, but parking is restricted; property surrounding the lake is in private hands.

My high counts for Silver Lake include 500 Canada Geese (December 1992 and 1994), 90 Mallards (January 1996), 330 American Black Ducks (December 1995), and 460 Canvasbacks (March 1994). Recorded among non-waterfowl species were Horned and Red-necked Grebes, 150 Double-crested Cormorants (November 1995), and Great Blue Herons. Aside from two Pekin Ducks, no exotic waterfowl were recorded. Gulls were plentiful.

Several of the residents invite waterfowl to their yards by offering generous amounts of grain. Mallards and American Black Ducks fly in as soon as food is available. Only if food is offered at the edge of the lake will Canada Geese and Canvasbacks respond.

Not until January 1995 was I aware of Spring Lake. Wholly within the limits of a housing development, it is surrounded by lawns and recently built homes. A

good variety of waterfowl frequent the lake. High counts include 225 Canada Geese (January 1995), 35 Mallards (December 1995), 42 American Black Ducks (January 1996), 55 Shovelers (December 1995), and 235 Canvasbacks (January 1995). Gadwalls, American Widgeons, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, and Pekin Ducks round out the list of waterfowl visitors. Very little waterfowl feeding is conducted at Spring Lake.

The third of the Rehobeth Beach lakes is Greer Lake, which, unlike the others, is a public park. An eastern arm extends close enough to the ocean so that it is subject to receiving salt water during heavy seas. This arm, as well as a northern arm and the main body of water, throng with waterfowl the year round. A sign erected by the town reads, "Leash Dogs to Protect Waterfowl."

I began visiting Greer Lake in April 1990. Since there is easy access to the public, I had no trouble viewing the waterfowl. My high counts include 385 Canada Geese (December 1992), 500 Mallards (December and March 1992), and 50 American Black Ducks (November 1993). No Canvasbacks were recorded, but of other native waterfowl there were a few Greater Snow Geese, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, and American Coots. Exotic waterfowl were represented by between 20 and 35 domestic geese, as many as 10 Pekin Ducks, and as many as 5 Muscovy Ducks. The only other waterbird recorded was a Horned Grebe in January 1996.

Residents offer so much food in the form of grain and bakery products that on some days the waterfowl seem satiated and barely respond. As at Ocean Pines, exotic waterfowl are the first to come, and, not far behind, the Mallards.

Lawn areas at the perimeter of the lake are heavily trampled and contaminated by droppings left by the waterfowl. Here, as at the other ponds and lakes, the waterfowl come ashore to loaf and graze. They scarcely get out of the way when people walk along the shoreline. This is particularly true of the resident species. Migratory waterfowl, that arrive for the winter, tend to be more wary.

DISCUSSION

Regardless of size, salinity, proximity to the ocean, and habitat, the bodies of water treated in this study were well utilized by waterfowl. Some species, however, were found only at some of the water areas and not at others. The Canvasback, for example, was found in good numbers at Silver Lake and Spring Lake in Rehobeth Beach, but not at nearby Greer Lake. The Hooded Merganser was found only at the large Ocean Pines lake. Several waterfowl species, including the Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, and scaup sp. were rarely represented. Do these species normally require larger bodies of water?

Another question is whether feeding by residents attracts more waterfowl than otherwise would be the case. Comparing bodies of water where waterfowl were fed with those where they were not, it was discovered that there were no marked differences in numbers and variety between them. But the Mallard, a comparatively recent arrival in the East, seems somewhat dependent upon artificial feeding. This was shown to be true in the Northeast (Heusmann 1988).

Unquestionably, feeding is an important factor in the survival of exotic species. Only at bodies of water where extensive feeding was conducted were there sizeable numbers of domestic geese, Muscovy Ducks, and Pekin Ducks. The practice by residents of releasing these species should be discouraged. Not only do the exotic birds monopolize much of the food used in waterfowl feeding, but they are capable of physically harming other waterfowl species. For example, male Muscovy Ducks have been known to mate with nearly all species and kill weaker birds (Bolen 1971 quoting Delacour). On March 19, 1996, I saw a Pekin Duck roughly treating a hen Mallard as it apparently tried to mate with her.

Turning to another aspect of waterfowl feeding, a leaflet issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entitled "Caution: Feeding Waterfowl may be Harmful!" warns of several dangers. These include birds becoming overly tame in urban environments, trampling and defecating on lawn areas in parks, golf courses, and residential areas; enticing waterfowl to delay their migration or into becoming permanent residents; and through crowding making them susceptible to such avian diseases as avian cholera, duck plague, and avian botulism.

I have already covered the problem of harm to lawns and grass areas at beach resorts. Only at Greer Lake could this be called a serious problem. The subject of migrants being turned into permanent residents was addressed by Don Arris. He was concerned about a large permanent Canada Goose population in Virginia Beach and the harm they do to lawns and golf courses. On the other hand, resident populations of Canada Geese and Mallards at the Ocean City and Rehoboth Beach ponds were small. For example, only 10 Canada Geese and 30 Mallards were counted at the largest Ocean Pines pond in June 1994.

No evidence of disease was found in the waterfowl observed by Dan Arris or those observed by myself. Fewer disease vectors were found in Mallards examined from urban parks in Massachusetts than those examined from outlying "wild" areas (Heusmann 1974). This writer stated that, "Insect populations in urban areas are frequently lower than in the surrounding countryside, meaning fewer vectors to carry disease."

Although sportsmen may decry the fact that urban waterfowl are off limits to hunting, there are many more people who enjoy having the birds close at hand where they can be fed and admired. Problems from urban waterfowl are more than outweighed by the pleasure they give people.

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SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1—MAY 31, 1995

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH

Although March and April were warmer and drier than normal with some migrants moving early during the beginning of the period, many May migrants were delayed until the middle of the month because of cool and wet weather.

Observers: Henry Armistead, George Armistead, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, Randy Crook, Richard Crook, David Czaplak, Bill Dobbins, Sam Droege, Sam Dyke, Darius & Paula Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Paul Fritz, Jean & Larry Fry, Shirley Geddes, Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Diane Nagengast, Carol & Paul Newman, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Norm & Fran Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Dan & Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, Mary Ann Todd, David Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Levin Willey, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Helen Zeichner.

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: Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Browns Bridge (Howard), Catoctin National Park (Frederick), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Elliott Island (Dorchester), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaquidi (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Falls (Montgomery), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Martinak SP (Caroline), Meadowside Nature Center (Montgomery), Merkle WS (Prince George's), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Rileys Lock (Montgomery), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Swallow Falls SP (Garrett), Sycamore Landing (Mont-

gomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Town Hill (Allegany), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington).

Loons, Grebes. A **Red-throated Loon** was noted on the Gunpowder River in Harford County on March 19 (Webb), 5 were at Bellevue on March 30 (Armistead), 1 was discovered at Little Falls on April 3 (Czaplak), 22 were at Ocean City on April 11 (Reese), and 1 was sighted far inland at Deep Creek Lake on May 20 (Czaplak). **Common Loons** included 1 at Cobb Island on March 18 (Jett), 3 at Loch Raven on March 24 (Simon), 1 at Deep Creek Lake the same day (Skipper), 1 over Town Hill on March 25 (Paulus), 4 at Triadelphia on March 25 (Farrell), 14 at Loch Raven on April 6 (Simon), the Howard County high of 21 at Lake Elkhorn on April 30 (Wilkinson), and a late bird at Triadelphia on May 29 (Crooks, Chuck Stirrat). Steve Simon tallied 14 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Loch Raven on March 24, Ringler totaled 25 at Piney Run on April 11, and Marvin Hewitt found an adult Pied-billed with 4 young at Denton on May 15. A nesting Pied-billed was also found at a new location in northern Anne Arundel County off Route I97 (David Knight, Sue Rice). It was a very good season for **Horned Grebes**. Hawk watchers at Fort Smallwood were treated to a nice fallout of about 1000 of the birds when they landed on the Patapsco River there on March 23 (Ricciardi). Other Horned Grebes were 1 at Centennial on March 8 (Chestem, Zeichner), 3 there on March 12 (Southworths), 16 at Seneca on March 30 (Czaplak), 225 at Bellevue the same day (Armistead), 29 at Loch Raven on April 2 (Simon, Geddes), 34 at Rocky Gap on April 2 (Czaplak), and about 100 at Morgantown on the Potomac River on April 16 (Jett). A **Red-necked Grebe** was noted at Little Seneca Lake on March 15 (Bonham) and March 18 (Wilkinson), and an **Eared Grebe**, found by Mary Ann Todd, was at Seneca from May 2-4.

Gannets, Cormorants, Anhinga. Harry and Liz Armistead checked off 3 adult **Northern Gannets** at Bellevue on March 29-30, Jett tallied 40 at Cobb Island on April 1, Reese counted 45 in one hour flying north at Ocean City on April 4, Rambo spotted approximately 20 riding a strong southeast wind over Cedar Point lighthouse at PRNAS within ten minutes on April 12, and the Armisteads noted a single adult at Bellevue on April 16. Solo **Great Cormorants** were at Ocean City through March 20 (Saunders); a second-year Great was at Conowingo Dam on April 18 (Scarpulla, Blom). **Double-crested Cormorants** included 4 over Town Hill on March 25 (Paulus), 10 at Weverton on March 26 (Czaplak), an adult at Bellevue on March 29 (Harry & Liz Armistead), 1 at Meadowside Nature Center on March 31 (Bonham), 1 at Loch Raven on April 2 (Simon, Geddes), 350 at Ocean City on April 4 (Reese), 67 at Back River on April 9 (Scarpulla), 90 at Little Falls on April 11 (Czaplak), 25 at Rileys Lock on April 15 (Saunders), 400 at Conowingo on April 15 (Ringler, Blom), the Howard County high of 19 at Triadelphia on April 16 (Chestem), 145 at Blackwater on April 22 (Armistead+), 13 at Loch Raven on May 4 (Simon), 6 at Piney Run on May 10 (Ringler), and 4 flying over Penn Alps, Garrett County on May 27 (Ringler, Stasz). Many birders observed the **Anhinga** at Lake Merle in New Market that was discovered by the very gracious Jack and Joanne Alspaugh on April 9. The Anhinga was seen until at least April 22 (Southworths). Debate is still on-going as to the sex of the bird, probably a male. Another Anhinga was reported on May 13 at the Nanticoke River near Sharptown (Lawler).

Herons, Ibises. Maud Banks discovered an **American Bittern** at Lake Elkhorn on April 12, and another was at Sussman Pond in Montgomery County on April 17 (Saunders). Paul Nistico notched a single American Bittern flying across Route 210 at Piscataway on April 28. Later sightings were 1 at Wilde Lake on May

5 (Zeichner), 1 at Deal Island WMA on May 7 (Reese), and 2 at Hughes Hollow on May 8 (Bonham). A **Least Bittern** was also at Hughes Hollow on April 3 (Czaplak). Jan Reese found seven **Great Blue Herons** with five nests in a forest at Stevensville on March 12, and 10 migrants were at Piney Run on April 3 (Ringler). Scarpulla and Blom totaled 172 Great Blues at Conowingo on April 18. **Great Egrets** included 1 at Lily Pons on March 26 (Czaplak), 1 at St. Michaels on March 28 (Reese), 1 at Bellevue on March 29 (Harry & Liz Armistead), 1 at Back River on April 1 (Scarpulla), 2 at Wilde Lake on April 19 (Newmans), 1 at Piney Run the same day (Ringler), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 22 (Wilkinson), 1 at Pennyfield on May 9 (Bonham), and 5 at Lake Elkhorn on May 24 (D. Ecker). **Snowy Egrets** were moving early with 1 at Deal Island on March 11 (Lawler), 5 at St. Michaels on March 28 (Reese), and 1 at PRNAS on March 31 (Rambo). Others were 1 at Roosevelt Island, DC on April 18 (Dobbins), 64 at Elliott Island at dusk on May 6 (Armistead+), and 1 at Piscataway Creek on May 20 (Nistico). The first **Little Blue Herons** were 1 at West Ocean City on April 4 (Reese), and 1 at Elkridge on April 13-14 (Amy Thornton). The Brodericks found 5 **Tricolored Herons** at Deal Island WMA on March 18; Reese found 1 at West Ocean City on April 11 and 1 near Claiborne on May 13. Six **Cattle Egrets** were at PRNAS on April 20 (Lister), a **Green Heron** was at Centennial on April 16 (Emy Holdridge), and another was at Wilde Lake the same day (Newmans). Jan Reese had a nice count of 43 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** on April 4 at West Ocean City and a single bird at Barren Pond in Wicomico County on May 6. Another single Black-crowned was at Lake Elkhorn on April 19 (Wilkinson), and an adult was at Carderock on May 21 (Ringler+). Sue Ricciardi noted an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Fort Smallwood on May 27. Dave Czaplak observed a **White Ibis** at West Ocean City, May 5-7. **Glossy Ibis** included 3 at Elliott Island on March 19 (Armistead, Willey), 2 at Deal Island WMA on March 24 (Lawler), 2 at Easton on April 9 (Reese), 28 at Blackwater on April 22, and 8 there on May 6 (Armistead+).

Swans, Geese. Large flocks of **Tundra Swans** included over 175 at Rileys Lock on March 11 (Saunders), 450 flying over Easton the same day (Reese), and 4 flocks totaling 178 at Bellevue on March 18 (Armistead). Lingered swans were 13 at Loch Raven on April 2 (Simon, Geddes), 2 near Hurlock on May 13 (Wilson), and 1 at Daniels on May 17 (Richard Crook and Frank Reilly). Armistead reported 42 **Mute Swans** at Bellevue on March 17, and Reese counted 44 at Newcomb on May 22. Five late **Snow Geese** were at Greensboro on May 20 (Hewitt), and 1 was at Tydings Island on May 21 (Webb). Steve Simon found 25 **Canada Geese** plus 10 young at Loch Raven on April 25. A small race Canada Goose was in a flock of 1000 geese at Piney Run on March 4 (Ringler).

Puddle Ducks. Good counts of **Wood Ducks** were compiled with 50 at Hughes Hollow on March 11 (Saunders), 25 at Tanyard on April 8 (Pat Lanahan), and 23 at Loch Raven on April 11 (Simon). There were 200 **Green-winged Teal** at Courthouse Point WMA, Cecil County on March 18 (Ringler, Blom). Lingered Green-wingeds were found with 2 near Emmitsburg on May 1 (Weesner), and a solo male at Daniels on May 6-7 (Crooks). Norm and Fran Saunders found 8 **North-ern Pintails** at Hughes Hollow on March 11, 10 were at Piney Run the same day (Ringler+), and 100 were at Courthouse Point WMA on March 18 (Ringler, Blom). Armistead and Willey noted 8 **Blue-winged Teal** at Elliott Island and 130 **North-ern Shovelers** at Blackwater on March 19. Marvin Hewitt found 2 Shovelers at Denton on April 7. There were 23 **Gadwalls** at Kent Narrows on March 4 and 32 at Burkittsville on March 5 (Ringler). At Loch Raven, Steve Simon found 23 Gadwalls on March 11 and 168 **American Wigeons** on March 1. A drake Gadwall was

at North Branch on May 29 (Stasz, Ringler, Hoffman+). Other wigeons were 20 at Rileys Lock on March 11 (Saunders), 80 at Blackwater on March 25 (Armistead, Willey), and the high of 500 at Deal Island WMA on April 8 (Lawler).

Diving Ducks. Farrell observed 13 **Canvasbacks** inland at Lake Kittamaquidi on March 11, and 310 were at Elliott Island on March 19 (Armistead, Willey). **Redheads** have been scarce over the last few years but Simon counted 91 at Loch Raven on March 1 along with 310 **Ring-necked Ducks**. Six Redheads visited Centennial on March 10 (Zeichner, Bockstie). The first **Greater Scaup** was at Weverton on March 11 (Czaplak). Others were 9 at Elliott Road Pond, Howard County on March 18 down to a solo male on March 19 (Farrell+), a female at Bellevue on March 30 (Armistead), 5 at Rocky Gap on April 15 (Czaplak), 1 at Loch Raven on May 1 (Simon), and a drake on the Bush River in Harford County on May 13 (Webb). **Lesser Scaups** included 520 at Bellevue on March 17 (Armistead), 30 at Loch Raven on April 2 (Simon, Geddes), and 150 at Oxford the same day (Reese). Two male and 1 female **Harlequin Ducks** were still at Ocean City on April 11 (Reese). **Oldsquaws** were very evident this spring with 3 at Seneca on March 30 (Czaplak), 250 at Solomons on March 16 (Reese), 300 at Cobb Island on March 18 (Jett), 9125 on March 17 and 3625 on March 30 at Bellevue (Armistead), 15 at Triadelphia on April 1 (Solem+), 250 at Oxford on April 2 (Reese), and 1 at Cobb Island on May 13 (Jett). Six Oldsquaws were noted inland at Rocky Gap on April 2 and another was at Big Pool the same day (Czaplak). Jan Reese tallied 70 **Black Scoters** at Ocean City on April 11, and high counts of **Surf Scoters** included 1500 at Bellevue on March 17 (Armistead), 1830 at Bellevue on March 29 (Harry & Liz Armistead), and 200 at Cobb Island on April 1 (Jett). Surf Scoters were also found inland with a drake at Piney Run, April 11 to May 3 (Ringler), 6 at Rocky Gap on April 30 (Czaplak), and a single first-year male at Laytonsville on May 14-16 (Czaplak, Bonham, Saunders). Armistead had a nice count of 265 **Common Goldeneyes** at Bellevue on March 30. Three others were inland at Loch Raven on April 2 (Simon, Geddes), and 1 was at Seneca on the late date of April 17 (Czaplak). Highs for **Buffleheads** were 1070 at Bellevue on March 17 (Armistead), 200 at Cobb Island on March 18 (Jett), 30 at Big Pool on April 2 (Czaplak), 72 at Loch Raven on April 9 (Simon, Kye Jenkins), and 40 at Rocky Gap on April 15 (Czaplak). Helen Zeichner noted 29 **Hooded Mergansers** at Highland Lake, Howard County on March 6. There were quite a few reports of **Common Mergansers** with 99, including 85 males, at Triadelphia on March 3 (Farrell, Solem), 68 at Piney Run on March 4 (Ringler), 21 at Weverton on March 11 (Czaplak), 45 at Loch Raven on March 13 (Simon), 18 at Frazier Flats in Caroline County the same day (Engle), 4 at PRNAS on April 20 (Rambo), 1 at Triadelphia, Montgomery County on May 4 (Saunders), 4 at Cambridge on May 13 (Wilson), and 2 at Little Meadows Lake, Garrett County on May 21 (Czaplak). Norm and Fran Saunders checked off 20 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Rileys Lock on March 11, Harry Armistead totaled up 55 at Bellevue on March 30, and 1 remained at Little Meadows Lake on May 28 (Ringler, Stasz, Hoffman+). Seven **Ruddy Ducks** were at Hurlock on May 13 (Wilson).

Diurnal Raptors. Connie Skipper observed 4 **Turkey Vultures** at Swallow Falls SP on March 16. The first **Ospreys** were 1 at the Choptank River in Cambridge on March 2 (Lawler), 3 at Oxford on March 8 (Rita Stover), 1 at PRNAS on March 9 (Rambo), 1 at Conowingo on March 11 (Scarpulla), 1 at Little Seneca Lake on March 25 (Saunders), 1 at Weverton on March 26 (Czaplak), and 1 in Ellicott City on March 31 (Ott). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported at Fort Smallwood Park on April 22 (Ricciardi, Bob Rineer, Calvin Orvis), and a **Mississippi Kite** was reported there on May 20 (Ricciardi+). **Bald Eagles** included 3 at Town Hill on

TABLE 1. HAWK MIGRATION AT TOWN HILL, ALLEGANY COUNTY
 SPRING 1995

COMPILED BY JIM PAULUS

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	3/31	4/22	28	7 on 4/19, 4 on 4/22
Bald Eagle	2/20	4/19	17	2 on 3/13, 2 on 3/27
Northern Harrier	2/25	4/22	14	3 on 4/20, 2 on 3/27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/19	4/22	78	8 on 3/27, 5 on 3/22
Cooper's Hawk	3/4	4/15	33	4 on 3/12, 3 on 4/9
Northern Goshawk	2/11	4/22	4	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/1	4/15	32	7 on 3/15, 5 on 3/14
Broad-winged Hawk	4/9	4/22	92	27 on 4/19, 18 on 4/22
Red-tailed Hawk	2/18	4/22	318	31 on 3/14, 20 on 3/27
Rough-legged Hawk	3/14	4/13	4	2 on 3/14
Golden Eagle	2/1	4/19	31	5 on 3/1, 4 on 3/11
American Kestrel	3/11	4/19	16	2 on 3/11, 2 on 4/19
Merlin	3/22	3/27	2	
Peregrine Falcon	4/9	4/9	1	
Unidentified			38	
Total	2/1	4/22	708	48 on 3/14, 46 on 4/19
(56 days, 222 hours)				

March 7 (Fritz), an adult at Town Hill on March 12 (Czaplak), a second-year bird over the Oakland Golf Course in Garrett County on May 6 (Skipper), and 4 at Triadelphia Reservoir in Montgomery County on May 6 (Saunders). Single female **Northern Harriers** were seen in Carroll County on Jasontown Road on May 7 and Feeser Road on May 20 (Ringler). Another was at Trout Run, Garrett County on May 27 (Stasz, Hoffman, Ringler+). All of these are possible breeders. A late **Northern Goshawk** was identified at Town Hill on April 22 (Paulus). Four **Rough-legged Hawks**, three of them dark morphs, were checked off at Town Hill this season, the first 2 on March 14 (Paulus). Paul Fritz tallied 11 **Golden Eagles** at Town Hill on March 7. Dave Weesner notched a **Merlin** near Emmitsburg on May 1. Other Merlins were 1 at Fulton Pond, Howard County on May 5 (Wilkinson), and 1 at Back River on May 13 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison). **Peregrine Falcons** included 2 at PRNAS on April 4 (Rambo), and 1 at Triadelphia on April 17 (Zeichner, Chestem).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Gallinules and Coots. A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Bittinger, Garrett County on April 8 (Czaplak), and a female was discovered near Wye Mills off Route 213 on May 23 (Reese). **Wild Turkeys** included 5 at Henry's Crossroads on March 19 (Armistead, Willey), 6 toms and 11 hens at Royal Oak Road in Wicomico County on March 25 (Brodericks), 3 at Prettyboy Reservoir on March 31 (Carroll Hetrick), 4, including a female sitting on 9 eggs along Shady Dell Road, Garrett County on May 13 (Skipper), and 1 near Tanyard on May 23 (Mike Nash). A **King Rail** was at Easton on April 9 (Reese), 1 was

TABLE 2. HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK
 SPRING 1995

COMPILED BY SUE RICCIARDI

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	2/25	5/20	148	15 on 3/31, 20 on 4/1, 11 on 3/12
Turkey Vulture	2/19	6/5	3551	272 on 3/14, 268 on 3/26, 260 on 3/12
Osprey	3/11	6/11	491	74 on 4/19, 45 on 4/14
Bald Eagle	3/11	6/11	34	4 on 4/16
Swallow-tailed Kite	4/22		1	
Mississippi Kite	5/20		1	
Northern Harrier	2/25	6/2	180	50 on 4/19, 19 on 4/16
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/25	5/30	2831	475 on 4/19, 267 on 5/7, 244 on 4/9
Cooper's Hawk	3/11	6/5	630	54 on 4/15, 49 on 4/1, 47 on 4/19, 21
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/11	4/29	94	15 on 3/11, 13 on 3/12
Broad-winged Hawk	4/9	6/11	3024	574 on 4/16, 499 on 4/19, 495 on 4/21
Red-tailed Hawk	2/25	6/5	196	21 on 4/19, 13 on 4/22
American Kestrel	3/11	5/21	655	145 on 4/19, 108 on 3/31
Merlin	3/21	5/14	63	21 on 4/19, 9 on 4/15
Peregrine Falcon	4/30	5/12	2	
Unidentified			106	
Total	2/19	6/11	12,007	1424 on 4/19, 998 on 4/16, 765 on 4/21
(69 days, 391.9 hours)				

heard at Centennial Park on May 9 (Farrell), and 2 females were heard calling at Aberdeen Proving Ground on May 13 (Webb). **Virginia Rails** were also heard with 1 on Spesutie Island, Harford County on March 21 (Webb), and 1 at Centennial on May 10-12 (Solem+). Thirty-three were tallied at Black Marsh Wildlands, Baltimore County on May 13 (Scarpulla+). **Soras** included 1 at Sussman Pond, Montgomery County on April 24 (Saunders), an adult at Lily Ponds on April 25 (Weesner), 1 at Nanticoke on May 5 (Czaplak), and 4 at Black Marsh Wildlands on May 13 (Scarpulla+). Early **Common Moorhens** were 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 3 (Czaplak), and 4 feeding together at Tanyard on April 19 (Engle). Highs for the **American Coot** were 1100 at Loch Raven on March 1 (Simon), 200 at Piney Run on March 4 (Ringler), and 500 at Deal Island WMA on March 24 (Lawler). There were still 450 coots at Loch Raven on April 16 (Simon, Debbie Terry), down to 160 on April 20 (Simon). Two coots were still on the Patuxent River at Benedict on May 8 (Nistico), and 1 was at Hammel Glade Swamp near Oakland, Garrett County on the late date of May 13 (Skipper).

Plovers, Stilts. The high for **Black-bellied Plovers** was 64 around Blackwater on May 6 (Steve Ford), and the last report was of 2 at Tydings Island on May 21 (Webb). Nine **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Tanyard on April 24 (Engle), and **Killdeer** of interest were 23 at Finksburg on March 12 (Ringler), 60 at Fulton Pond in Howard County on April 1 (Farrell, Solem), and 1, with 2 young, at West Ocean City on April 29 (Reese). A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Blackwater on April 16 (Czaplak) and April 22 (Armistead+); 7 were at Deal Island WMA on May 7 (Reese).

Sandpipers. Highs for **Greater Yellowlegs** were 95 at Blackwater on April 22 (Armistead+), and 43 at Merkle WS on April 24 (Nistico). Dave Weesner reported 28 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 22 **Solitary Sandpipers** near Emmitsburg on May 1, and Jan Reese noted 4 **Willetts** near Claiborne on May 13. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Germantown on April 3 (Warfield), and higher counts were 20 at Triadelphia on May 11 (Magnusson), and another 20 at Piscataway on May 20 (Nistico). **Upland Sandpipers** observed were 5 at PRNAS on April 20 (Rambo), 1 at Merkle WS on April 24 (Nistico), and 2 at PRNAS on May 10 (Rambo, Lister). A **Whimbrel** was discovered at St. George Island on May 26 (Nistico). The Brodericks found a **Red Knot** remaining at Ocean City on March 10, and **Sanderlings** of interest were 6 at PRNAS on April 14 (Rambo), and 11 there on May 10 (Rambo, Lister). The first **Least Sandpiper** was at Easton on April 9 (Reese), 35 were at Blackwater on April 22 (Armistead+), over 40 were at Tanyard on April 30 (Engle), and 28 were at Triadelphia on May 11 (Magnusson). The Armisteads had a nice total of 35 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Blackwater on April 15, and Reese enjoyed a good count of 85 **Purple Sandpipers** at Ocean City on April 11. **Dunlins** of note were 220 at Blackwater on March 25 (Armistead, Willey), 2 at Tanyard on April 30 (Engle), and 4 near Emmitsburg on May 1 (Weesner). The first **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Blackwater on April 15 (Armisteads), 3 were there on April 16 (Czaplak), and 19 were seen at PRNAS on May 10 (Rambo, Lister). A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was calling at Laytonsville on May 14 (Czaplak); 1 was there on May 16 (Saunders). Dave Czaplak listed 19 **Common Snipe** at Hughes Hollow on March 29, and the Brodericks found an **American Woodcock** with young in Worcester County on April 13.

Jaeger, Gulls, Terns. A light-phase **Pomarine Jaeger** was identified about twenty miles out from Ocean City on May 14 (Weesner). Interesting **Laughing Gulls** were 1 at Ocean City on March 16 (Brodericks), 2 at Tanyard on March 21 (Engle), 700 seen 5 miles south of Easton on April 16 (Reese), and 4 at Triadelphia on April 23 (Farrell, Solem). An adult-winter **Little Gull** turned up at Back River on April 1 (Scarpulla, Sanford, Osenton), and a Little Gull was discovered at Herrington Manor Lake, Garrett County on April 9 (Czaplak). An adult **Black-headed Gull** was sorted out at Conowingo on April 2 (Jett), and April 18 (Scarpulla, Blom). High reports for **Bonaparte's Gulls** were as follows: 157 at Georgetown Reservoir, DC on April 1 (Dobbins), 1518 at Back River on April 1 (Scarpulla), 147 at Lake Kittamaquundi on April 6 (Ott+), and 150 at Little Falls on April 12 (Czaplak). The high for **Ring-billed Gulls** was 4000 at Conowingo on March 11 (Scarpulla), 1000 in fields in Carroll County on March 11 (Ringler), and 189 were tallied at Town Hill on March 27, as were 5 **Herring Gulls** on March 19 (Paulus, Czaplak). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 2 at Triadelphia on March 4 and April 30 (Farrell, Solem), 1 at Conowingo on March 18 (Scarpulla) and April 2 (Jett), and 1 at Morgantown on April 16 (Jett). Sixty **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at Green Manor Turf Farm, Howard County on March 4 (Ringler), 1 was still at Violettes Lock on April 7 (Bonham), and 120 were totaled at Conowingo on April 18 (Scarpulla, Blom). **Caspian Terns** were on schedule with 2 at Lake Kittamaquundi on April 9 (Zeichner), 1 at Little Falls on April 14 (Czaplak), an exceptional count of 117 at Triadelphia on April 16 (Chestem),

5 at Rileys Lock on April 15 (Saunders), 61 at Blackwater on April 22 (Armistead+), 94 resting on Tydings Island on April 24 (Webb), and 1 in the Weverton area on May 14 (Czaplak). **Royal Terns** were early with 14 at the Nanticoke River near Cedar Hill on April 1 (Lawler), 2 at Cobb Island the same day (Jett), and 3 at Ocean City on April 4 (Reese). Others included 44 at Morgantown on April 16 (Jett), 2 at Bellevue on April 21 (Armistead), and 1 at Choptank on May 6 (D. Ford). Inland **Common Terns** were 21 at Seneca on May 4 (Czaplak) and 1 at Little Seneca Lake on May 8 (Bonham). **Forster's Terns** began with 9 at Blackwater on March 25 (Armistead, Willey), 1 at Bellevue on March 29 (Harry & Liz Armistead), 3 at Oxford on April 2 (Reese), and 1 at Little Falls on April 12 (Czaplak). Simon found 2 Forster's at Loch Raven on May 4; 2 were at Violettes Lock on May 8 (Bonham). Three **Black Terns** made an appearance at Seneca on May 15-16 (Czaplak). A **Black Skimmer** was noted at Hooper Island on May 6 (Armistead+).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls. Jan Reese estimated 125 **Rock Doves** at Stevensville on April 13. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were 1 on April 23 at Gorman Road west of I-95 in Howard County (Osenton), and another heard on April 29 and later seen on May 8 at Pylesville (Frys). Other Black-billeds were at Nanjemoy on May 12 (Jett) and at Denton on May 15 (Nuttie). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were early as well with single sightings at Parsonsburg on April 21 (Pitney), at Salisbury on April 22 (Brodericks), in Charles County on April 23 (Nistico), and at Aberdeen Proving Ground on April 28 (Webb). The last **Short-eared Owl** was seen at Taneytown on March 11 (Ringler+).

Caprimulgids, Swifts. A **Chuck-will's-widow** was noted at Bellevue on April 21 (Armistead), and a Chuck's nest with 2 eggs was found at Easton on May 15 (Reese). Dobbins reported a female **Whip-poor-will** at Roosevelt Island, DC on April 14, and a whip was singing in Waldorf on April 15 (Jett). **Chimney Swifts** began with 2 at Centennial on April 10 (Ott), and 15 at Centreville on April 12 (Reese). On April 13, 3 were at Town Hill (Paulus), 1 was at Little Falls (Czaplak), and 4 were at Greensboro (Hewitt).

Hummingbird, Flycatchers. The **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at Denton on April 16 was a little early (Nuttie). The only **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were 1 at Rockburn Branch on May 14 (Eckers) and 1 singing at Swallow Falls SP on May 28 (Maureen Harvey+). An early **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was in Worcester County on April 13 (Brodericks), and Dave Czaplak heard a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** singing at Little Falls on May 31. An early **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Milburn Landing on April 13 (Brodericks). An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen and heard at Schooley Mill on May 18 (Solem) and May 20 (Magnusson). Others were singles at PRNAS on May 13 (Lister), Cunningham Swamp, Garrett County the same day (Skipper), and Layhill Park, Montgomery County on May 20 (Saunders). Three **Eastern Phoebes** were noted at Point of Rocks on March 12 (Warfield), and another was at Odenton on March 16 (L. Southworth). The **Great Crested Flycatcher** at Federalsburg on April 2 was extremely early (Glime). Another early Great Crested was heard calling at PWRC on April 10 (Droege). Others were singles at Salisbury on April 21 (Lawler), Bellevue on April 23 (Armistead+), and Charles County on April 24 (Nistico). The first **Eastern Kingbirds** were 1 at Little Falls on April 13 (Czaplak), and 1 at Wilde Lake on April 19 (Zeichner).

Horned Larks, Swallows, Crows. The last **Horned Larks** were about 150 noted at Route 99 and Underwood Road in Howard County on March 12 (Farrell, T.

Dennis Coskren). The first **Purple Martins** were solo birds near Triadelphia Mill Road on March 20 (Wallace) and at Town Hill on March 27 (Paulus). **Tree Swallows** were early and began with 6 at Hughes Hollow on March 11 (Saunders). On March 13, 15 were at Hughes Hollow (Czaplak, Bonham) and 1 at PWRC (Droege). Others included 2 at Denton on March 15 (Hewitt), 1 at Town Hill the same day (Paulus), 2 at Elliott Road Pond, Howard County on March 17 (Wilkison), 1 at Deal Island WMA on March 18 (Brodericks), 3 at Hashawha, Carroll County on March 18 (Bill Culp+), 1 at Rocky Gap on March 19 (Czaplak), 2 near Wye Mills on March 22 (Reese), 7 flying up the Potomac River opposite Harpers Ferry on March 24 (Wilkinson), and 2 at Oakland on March 28 (Skipper). The first **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were 1 at Centennial on March 21 (Ott), and 1 at Hughes Hollow on March 22 (Saunders). Czaplak noted 2 Roughwingeds at Hughes Hollow on March 29 and 13 in DC on March 30 and reported extraordinarily early **Bank Swallows** with 2 at Hughes Hollow on March 29 and single birds at Seneca on March 31 and Little Falls on April 13. The Armisteads saw 1 Bank Swallow at Blackwater on April 15, and about 500 were at Romney Creek, Harford County on May 13 (Webb). Larry Bonham discovered 2 **Cliff Swallows** at a new nesting site at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on May 6. A Cliff Swallow was at Blackwater on May 6 (Armistead+), and 2 late migrants were at Pt. Lookout on May 26 (Nistico). **Barn Swallows** were a little early with 1 at Centennial on March 24 (Ott, Bockstie), 1 in Salisbury on March 25 (Lawler), 8 at Tanyard on April 1 (Engle), and 1 at Sycamore Landing on April 1 (Saunders). Jim Paulus noted 6 **Fish Crows** at Town Hill on March 11 and 7 there on March 22. Harry Armistead tallied 170 at Bellevue on March 17. A crow flock estimated at 900 on April 3 at Piney Run included hundreds of both species (Ringler).

Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatcher. An industrious **Carolina Wren** had a newly built nest at St. Michaels on March 18 (Reese), and the Armisteads found 2 **House Wrens** at a nest with five eggs at Bellevue on May 20. A lingering **Winter Wren** was at the Catoctin National Park on May 1 (Weesner). Connie Skipper discovered a **Sedge Wren** along Accident-Bittinger Road in Garrett County on May 22, which was also heard on May 27 (Ringler, Stasz, Hoffman+, and a **Marsh Wren** was checked off at Grasonville on April 13 (Lawler). Norm and Fran Saunders tallied 25 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** at Rileys Lock on April 15, and an early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at PRNAS on April 1 (Lister).

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits. Randy and Richard Crook noted an early **Veery** at Daniels on April 15. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** this spring were 2 at Blockhouse Point on May 14 (Czaplak) and May 15 (Bonham), 1 at St. Michaels on May 18 (Lem Warrimer), 1 at Bellevue on May 20 (Armisteads), 3 at Ridgley on May 22 (Steve Ford), and 1 at Centennial on May 23 (Jo and Bob Solem). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at Lake Elkhorn on April 29 (Wilkinson), and 10 **Hermit Thrushes** visited Roosevelt Island, DC on April 9 (Dobbins). A **Wood Thrush** was at Salisbury on April 17 (Brodericks), another was singing along Gunpowder Road, Baltimore County the same day (Jett), and 3 were listed at PRNAS on April 18 (Rambo). **American Robins** included 125 at St. Michaels on March 1 (Reese), over 100 at Foxtown Road, Garrett County on March 24 (Skipper), and a flock of 40 migrants at Gillis Falls Park, Carroll County on April 8 (Ringler). Norm and Fran Saunders found a **Gray Catbird**, which may have wintered locally, at Hughes Hollow on March 11. Others were at Muddy Hole Road, Wicomico County on March 25 (Brodericks), at Bellevue on March 29 (Harry & Liz Armistead), at Sycamore Landing on April 1 (Saunders), at Centennial on April 4 (Ott), and at PRNAS on April 12 (Rambo). The first **Brown Thrasher** took advantage of the mild weather with an

early arrival at Port Tobacco Courthouse on March 19 (Jett). Another was at Bellevue on March 29 (Harry & Liz Armistead). Migrating **American Pipits** included 12 feeding on rocks in the rapids at Weverton on March 11 (Czaplak), 75 at Easton on April 9 and 30 seen 5 miles south of Easton on April 16 (Reese), 80 at Merkle WS on April 24 (Nistico), and 36 at UMCF on May 7 (Ott, Solem).

Waxwings, Vireos. Good counts of **Cedar Waxwings** were 500 at Salisbury State campus on March 2 (Lawler), 95 at Robbins, Dorchester County on May 6 (Armistead+), and 73 at Triadelphia on May 24 (Solem). The first **White-eyed Vireo** was in Davidsonville on April 7 (Droege). Another was at Piney Run on April 16 (Ringler), and 1 was at Hughes Hollow on April 18 (Bonham). Dave Czaplak tallied 10 singing **Solitary Vireos** in Garrett County on April 9. Others were 1 at PRNAS on April 10 (Lister), 1 at Loch Raven the same day (Simon), and 1 at Claiborne on May 8 (Reese). The first **Yellow-throated Vireos** were 1 at Davidsonville on April 20 (Droege), 1 at Sycamore Landing on April 22 (Bonham), and 1 at Martinak SP on April 23 (Nuttle). **Warbling Vireos** were also a little early with single birds at Little Falls on April 18 (Czaplak), Davidsonville on April 19 (Droege), and Phoenix on April 23 (Simon). Reese found 1 at Claiborne on May 8. Czaplak heard a **Philadelphia Vireo** singing in DC on May 31. A probable Philadelphia Vireo was reported at Lake Elkhorn on May 10 (Wilkinson). Early **Red-eyed Vireos** included 1 at Little Falls on April 19 (Czaplak), 1 at Wilde Lake (Newmans) and 1 at Lake Elkhorn (Wilkinson) on April 20, 1 at PRNAS on April 21 (Rambo), 2 at Sycamore Landing on April 22 (Bonham), 3 in the Nassawango area on April 23 (Lawler), and 1 at Martinak SP the same day (Nuttle).

Warblers. **Blue-winged Warblers** began with 1 at Little Falls on April 19 (Czaplak), 1 at PWRC on April 21 (Droege), a singing male at Morgan Environmental Area, Carroll County on April 22 (Ringler), a male at Coulborne Mill Road, Wicomico County on April 23 (Pitney), and 1 at Martinak SP the same day (Nuttle). **Golden-winged Warblers** were 1 at Davidsonville on April 25 (Droege), 1 observed singing a Parula song for 40 minutes at Bear Swamp near the Salisbury airport on May 6 (Reese), 1 at Rockburn on May 6 (Ott, Southworths+), 1 at Bayside Beach on May 6 (Geddes), and 1 at Pennyfield on May 14 (Bonham). A Golden-winged at Finzel on May 27 was singing a Blue-winged song continuously (Ringler, Hoffman+). A hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was discovered by Darius Ecker at Lake Elkhorn on April 21. Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found this season with 1 near Neavitt on March 25 (George Didden), and 1 at Lake Kittamaquidi on May 11 (Ott). Bonham turned up the first **Nashville Warbler** at Meadowside Nature Center on April 25. A very early **Northern Parula** was singing on the D.C. section of the C&O Canal on April 7 (Bruce Beehler), and the first **Yellow Warbler** appeared at Hughes Hollow on April 18 (Bonham). At least 40 Yellow Warblers were at Deal Island WMA on April 29 (Brodericks). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** passed through Montgomery County at Triadelphia Reservoir on April 30 (Saunders), and 12 were counted at Claiborne on May 8 (Reese). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** included 1 on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on April 22 (Saunders), 1 at Davidsonville on April 23 (Droege), 2 at Washington Monument SP on April 26 (Weesner), 1 at Schooley Mill on April 28 (Ott, Solem), and 15 in Talbot County on May 9 (Reese). The inland high for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was 80 at Lake Elkhorn on April 22 (Wilkinson). An early **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Hughes Hollow on April 7 (Czaplak), 1 was near Oakland on April 19 (Skipper), and another was at Mattaponi Creek, Prince George's County on April 24 (Nistico). Also early was a **Blackburnian Warbler** just south of Mason Springs on April 15 (Jett). Another Blackburnian was found at Hallmark, in south-

ern Howard County on April 23 (Ward Ebert). Along the C&O Canal in D.C. an early **Yellow-throated Warbler** arrived on Mar 22 and 4 singing males were present on April 11 (Beehler). Weesner checked off a **Pine Warbler** at Washington Monument SP on the early date of March 12. **Palm Warblers** began with 1 in DC on March 30 (Czaplak), 1 at Pt. Breeze Business Park, Baltimore City on April 4 (Wilkinson), and 1 near Grasonville on April 9 (Linda & Nancy Southworth); 8 Palms were tallied at Rileys Lock on April 15 (Saunders). A Western and a Yellow Palm were seen at Morgan Run Environmental Area on April 22 and a late Yellow Palm was at Soldiers Delight, Baltimore County on May 3 (Ringler). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Havre de Grace on May 1 (Webb), and a **Cerulean Warbler** was at the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on April 22 (Saunders). **Prothonotary Warblers** included 1 at Pennyfield on April 18 (Bonham), and 2 at Daniels on April 30 (Solem, Bill Newman). The **Worm-eating Warbler** at Spring Oaks, Montgomery County on April 16 was a little early (Saunders). Another was at McKeldin Area, Patapsco Valley SP, Carroll County on April 20 (Ringler). Sam Dyke heard a **Swainson's Warbler** on May 6 about a mile southeast of the Salisbury airport, and it was subsequently observed by Jan Reese and Jeff Effinger. An early **Ovenbird** was at PRNAS on April 8 (Rambo), 1 was at Girdletree the same day (Brodericks), and another was at Rileys Lock on April 15 (Saunders). The high for **Northern Waterthrushes** was 11 singing at Roosevelt Island, DC on May 19 (Dobbins). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Meadowside Nature Center on March 31 (Bonham), and 1 was at Schooley Mill on April 1 (Zeichner, Chestem). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on April 22 (Saunders), and another was at Greensboro on April 27 (Hewitt). A **Mourning Warbler** was notched this spring at Pennyfield on May 12 (Bonham). The first **Common Yellowthroat** was heard singing at Mill Creek Sanctuary, Talbot County on April 9 (Ringler), and 1 was at Grasonville on April 13 (Lawler). **Hooded Warblers** began with 1 at Salisbury Airport on April 17 (Brodericks), 1 at Loch Raven on April 22 (Simon), and 1 at Davidsonville on April 23 (Droege).

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings. **Early Summer Tanagers** were 1 at Salisbury airport on April 17 (Brodericks), and 1 at Martinak SP on April 23 (Nuttle). Another was at UMCF on May 7 (Ott, Solem), and 3 were along the north shore of the Bush River, Harford County on May 13 (Webb). The first **Scarlet Tanagers** were on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on April 22 (Saunders), and at Davidsonville on April 23 (Droege). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** began with 1 at Denton, April 24-28 (Nuttle), 1 at Phoenix on April 28 (Simon), and 2 near Oakland also on April 28 (Skipper); 18 were tallied in Talbot County on May 9 (Reese). The **Blue Grosbeak** at Bayside Beach on April 3 was extremely early (Geddes). Others included 1 at Nassawango on April 23 (Lawler), and 1 at Schooley Mill on April 29 (Wilkinson). An early **Indigo Bunting** was noted at Timberleigh Way in Howard County on April 26 (Nagengast).

Sparrows. A **Chipping Sparrow** was in Charles County on March 11 (Nistico), and the first at Town Hill was on March 16 (Paulus). Others were 1 singing on a lawn at California on March 16 (Reese), 1 at Ellicott City the same day (Ott), a few in Waldorf on March 18 (Jett), 4 at Blackwater on March 19 (Armistead, Willey), and 1 at Bellevue on March 29 (Harry & Liz Armistead). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at a feeder near Reistertown from Feb. 21 until March 11 (Jim Peters+). Richard and Randy Crook totaled up 6 **Vesper Sparrows** at Mt. Pleasant on April 16, and Kyle Rambo tallied approximately 200 **Savannah Sparrows** at PRNAS on May 5. Twenty Savannahs were at UMCF on May 7 (Ott, Solem). The first **Grasshopper Sparrow** was 1 at Roxbury Road in Howard County on April

10 (Wallace), and another was at Blackwater on April 22 (Armistead+). In Garrett County Connie Skipper found 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** off Rock Lodge Road on May 13, 2 off Accident-Bittinger Road on May 22, and 3 at Combination Road on May 23. A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was at Pt. Breeze Business Park in Baltimore City on April 19 (Wilkinson), and 10 were checked off at Elliott Island on May 6 (Armistead+). Two **Seaside Sparrows** were seen at Havre de Grace on April 22 and 1 was there on April 24 (Webb). Wilkinson saw a **Fox Sparrow** at Point Breeze on the late date of April 20 (Wilkinson). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were identified in Columbia on May 3 (Chestem) and at Spring Oaks, Montgomery County, on May 9 and May 16 (Saunders). Connie Skipper reported the last **White-crowned Sparrow**, near Oakland on May 14, and also found 3 **Dark-eyed Juncos** at the Table Rock Fire Tower in Garrett County on May 13.

Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches. Dave Webb counted 172 **Bobolinks** at Aberdeen Proving Ground on May 13, and the high for **Rusty Blackbirds** was 100 at Myrtle Grove WMA on March 19 (Jett). Jan Reese reported 8 **Boat-tailed Grackles** near Wittman on May 13, tallied over 3000 **Common Grackles** at Skipton, Talbot County on March 3, and observed a Common Grackle carrying nesting material near St. Michaels on March 11. An **Orchard Oriole** was early at Bayside Beach on April 3 (Geddes), 1 was at PWRC on April 21 (Droege), and 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on April 22 (Wilkinson). Baltimore Orioles were also early with 1 at Bayside Beach on April 3 (Geddes). Others were 1 in Grasonville on April 9 (Linda & Nancy Southworth), 1 at Triadelphia on April 22 (Osenton), 3 at Timberleigh Way in Howard County on April 22 (Nagengast), 1 at Denton the same day (Nuttle), and 15 in Talbot County on May 9 (Reese). Dave Czaplak reported 15 **Purple Finches** singing at Swallow Falls SP on April 9. Steve Ford discovered a **Pine Siskin** in Dorchester County on May 6, and 3 were at Swallow Falls SP on May 20 (Czaplak) and May 28 (Ringler, Stasz, Hoffman+).

Corrigendum. The authors erroneously included 70 Brown Thrashers at UMCF on March 22 in the Spring Migration 1993 report (Volume 51, Number 1). The date and location are correct but the birds were **American Pipits** (Chestem, Ott, Solem).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

BREEDING SEASON, JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1995

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH

This summer was much like last year with an about average June and a hot and dry July.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Margie Baldwin, Anne Bishop, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Martha Chestem, Patty Craig, David Czaplak, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, D. Ford, Inez Glime, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Marvin Hewitt, Marshall Iliff, George Jett, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Bill Miles, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, John Taylor, Mary Ann Todd, Mary Twigg, Dave Weesner, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

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

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Barren Island (Dorchester), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Browns Bridge (Howard), Holland Island (Dorchester), Lake Kittamaquidi (Howard), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Pone Island (Dorchester), Poplar Island (Talbot), Spring Island (Dorchester), Swallow Falls SP (Garrett), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants. The last migrant **Common Loon** at Piney Run was found on June 1 (Ringler). Other stragglers were 1 at Broadford Lake on June 3 (Czaplak), 1 in winter plumage at Loch Raven on June 11 (Scarpulla, Blom), 1 in basic plumage at Holland Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor), and 1 at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted in Howard County this summer at Lake Elkhorn on July 8 (Wilkinson), and at Stanford Road Pond during July 17-31 (Farrell). Brown Pelicans at Point Lookout SP included 8 on June 4 (Bishop, Craig), 11 on June 8, 8 on June 9, 14, including 6 adults on June 27, and 19, including 8 adults, on June 28 (Craig). Four **Brown Pelicans** were at PRNAS on July 5 (Rambo), and 70 were tallied at the 4th street flats in Ocean City on July 22 (Czaplak). On July 2, an immature was at Pone Island, an adult was at Holland Island, and 7 pelicans were on Spring Island (Armistead, Taylor). **Double-crested Cormorants** were numerous with 2 at North East Town Park in Cecil County on June 3 (Griffith), 11 five miles east of Easton on June 10 (Reese), several with 70 active nests at Poplar Island on June 17 (Armistead, Miles, Taylor), 90 at Spring Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor), 15 at PRNAS on July 5 (Rambo), 1 at Piney Run on July 9, an unusual date for a migrant (Ringler), 1 at Triadelphia on July 22 (Osenton), 80 at Conowingo on July 30 (Scarpulla), and 135 at Tilghman Island on July 30 (Reese).

Hérons, Ibises. Jan Reese found 7 **Least Bitterns** at the Kings Creek Preserve, Talbot County, on June 10. Harry Armistead and John Taylor totaled up 20 breeding pairs of **Great Blue Herons** on Holland Island and 117 active nests on Bloodsworth Island on July 2. Steve Simon checked off 11 Great Blues at Loch Raven on July 3, and 18 were at Triadelphia on July 22 (Magnusson). **Great Egrets** included 36 at Blackwater on June 3 (Armistead), 1 at Middle Branch, Baltimore Harbor from June 20 through the end of the period (Wilkinson), 20 breeding pairs on Holland Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor), 4 at Pennyfield on July 13 (Bonham), and 1 at Cumberland on July 16 (Czaplak). Twenty breeding **Snowy Egret** pairs and 10 **Little Blue Heron** pairs were on Holland Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor). Steve Simon discovered 2 Little Blues at Loch Raven on July 3, two were at Hughes Hollow on July 12 (Bonham), another was at Centennial on July 16 (Chestem+), and an immature was at Centennial on July 17 (Bockstie). Seven breeding pairs of **Tricolored Herons** were found on Holland Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor); 2 Tricoloreds were at Horsehead Sanctuary on July 16 (Ringler, Iliff, Stasz, Jett). Armistead and Taylor found seven breeding pairs of **Cattle Egrets**, one breeding pair of **Green Herons**, and two breeding pairs of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** on Holland Island on July 2. Another Black-crowned was at Hughes Hollow on July 3 (Bonham), and Lake Elkhorn yielded an immature on July 11 and 2 adults and an immature on July 20 (Wilkinson). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were 6 breeding pairs on Holland Island and 12

birds at Adam Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor), and 20 at Ewell, Smith Island on July 6 (Armistead, John Weske). Gary Griffith reported 5 **Glossy Ibises** at Meadow Park, Cecil County on June 22, 2 breeding pairs were on Holland Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor), and 16 Glossies were at Blackwater on July 29 (Armistead, Baldwin, Todd).

Waterfowl. The bad news is that Harry Armistead tallied 81 **Mute Swans** in the Barren Island area on June 3. The good news is that he found little sign of breeding there this summer. However, 15 Mute Swans were found on Holland Island on July 2 including a female with 4 young (Armistead, Taylor). Marvin Hewitt noted 3 **Snow Geese** at Greensboro on June 1. Summer flocks of **Canada Geese** continue to increase with 125 of the geese at Piney Run on June 1 and 200 at Liberty Lake on July 20 (Ringler), 33 goslings at Lake Kittamaqundi on June 26 and 114 total geese there on June 30 (Chestem) and 440 at Loch Raven on July 12 (Simon). A large flock of Canada Geese totaling 845 was also at Blackwater on July 29 where 46 **Wood Ducks** were found the same day (Armistead, Baldwin, Todd). A male **Green-winged Teal** with 2 females visited Lake Elkhorn on June 13 (Wilkinson), and 4 **American Black Ducks** were observed at Liberty Lake on July 20 (Ringler). Either a female or an immature **Northern Pintail** was noted at Centennial on July 17 (Bockstie). Engle found 4 **Blue-winged Teal** at Tanyard on July 15 and 7 there the next day, probably early post-breeding wanderers. Nine **Gadwalls**, including a female with 5 downy young, were at Holland Island on July 2, and 45, including groups of 4, 9 and 6 young, were at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead+). Gary Griffith reported solo **Ring-necked Ducks** this summer at Gunther's Pond, Cecilton on June 2, at North East Town Park, Cecil County on June 8, and at Cecilton on June 15. A **Surf Scoter** was at Poplar Island on June 17 (Armistead, Miles, Taylor), and a **White-winged Scoter** was at Tilghman Island on July 30 (Reese). A female **Bufflehead** was discovered at Deep Creek Lake on June 16 (Skipper), and a first-summer male was at Conowingo on July 30 (Scarpulla). A **Ruddy Duck** was at Lake Kittamaqundi on July 22 (Chestem).

Diurnal Raptors. The two **Ospreys** at Loch Raven on June 2 (Simon), and the one at Triadelphia on July 28 (Magnussen) were interesting sightings. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported at Red Toad and Theodore Roads, Cecil County on July 25 (Susan Eggert). Bob Ringler found **Bald Eagles**, an adult and a near-adult, at Liberty Lake on July 29, and noted that sightings are increasing there in recent years. Jan Reese found a **Northern Harrier** at Royal Oak on June 2 and a **Broad-winged Hawk**, carrying a Mourning Dove, near Friendship, Anne Arundel County on July 3. Bonnie Ott found a family group of six **American Kestrels** at Rockburn Branch on July 6.

Wild Turkeys, Rails, Killdeer, Oystercatchers. Four half-grown, still somewhat downy, and flightless **Wild Turkeys** were checked off during the Madison BBS on June 25 (Armistead), and 4 adult and 7 young turkeys were at Federalsburg in June and July (Glime). Five **Clapper Rails**, including 2 young, were at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on July 1 (Craig), 1 adult and 2 coal-black, downy young were near Bishop's Head, Dorchester County on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor), and another Clapper Rail was noted near Grasonville, pretty far north, on July 9 (Jett, Stasz). Two **Soras** were calling at the Easton sewage ponds on July 28, a location where they have been breeding (Armistead). Jan Reese found a dead **Common Moorhen** on the highway at Bethlehem, Caroline County on July 5. **Killdeer** included 16 at Loch Raven on June 28, and 29 there on July 4 (Simon+), 25 at Liberty Lake on July 15 (Ringler), 70 at Blackwater on July 29 (Armistead, Baldwin,

Todd), and 35 at North Branch on July 31 (Twigg). Harry Armistead found 7 **American Oystercatchers** in sight from one spot on Barren Island on June 3 and 6 on Spring Island on July 2. Six **Black-necked Stilts** were at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead).

Sandpipers. Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Blackwater and near Honga on June 3 (Armistead), and 4 **Willetts** were at Poplar Island on June 17 (Armistead, Miles, Taylor). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was present at Choptank through June (Ford), the last spring migrant noted at Piney Run was on June 1 (Ringler), 1 was at Blackwater on June 3, also a probable late migrant (Armistead), and 13 fall migrant **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Easton on July 28 (Armistead). **Upland Sandpipers** made a good showing with 2 near Ingleside on July 9 (Jett, Stasz), 20 there on July 16 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff, Jett), 4 at PRNAS on July 18 (Rambo, Lister), and 3 at Ell Downes Road in Queen Anne's County on July 23 (Czaplak). Patty Craig notched 13 **Whimbrels** just north of Point Lookout SP on July 26, and Harry Armistead found 3 **Ruddy Turnstones** at Barren Island on June 3. A **Red Knot** was at Ocean City on July 22 (Czaplak), and 4 **Sanderlings** were observed at Barren Island on June 3 (Armistead). The first migrant **Western Sandpiper** was noted at Remington Farms, Kent County on July 16 (Ringler, Stasz, Iliff, Jett). Interesting **Least Sandpiper** sightings were 1 at North Branch on July 2 (Twigg), 1 at Loch Raven on July 3 (Simon), and 4 at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead). **Stilt Sandpipers** included 6 at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead), 1 at Blackwater on July 22 (Czaplak), and 6 at Blackwater on July 29 (Armistead, Baldwin, Todd). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were 2 at Barren Island on June 3 (Armistead), 6 at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on July 2 (Craig, Bishop), 1 at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead), and 8 at Blackwater on July 29 (Armistead, Baldwin, Todd).

Gulls, Terns. A total of 36 **Laughing Gulls**, with 5 nests, were at Barren Island on June 3, and 20 adults, along with 1 nest with an egg, were present at Spring Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor). Thirty-five **Laughing Gulls** in basic plumage were at Tilghman Island on June 11 (Reese). Another **Laugher** was near Lake Elkhorn on July 10 (Wilkinson), and 1 was at Northgate, Cecil County on July 30 (Griffith). **Ring-billed Gulls** included 1 at Loch Raven on June 2 (Simon), 157 at Perry Point, Cecil County on June 3 (Griffith), 2 adults at St. Michaels on June 22 (Reese), 1 at Loch Raven on June 28 (Simon), 1 immature through the summer at Piney Run, the first known to stay that long, and the first migrant at Eldersburg on June 29 (Ringler), 2 adults displaying at Bellevue on July 3 (Armistead), and 140 at Tilghman Island on July 30 (Reese). Harry Armistead surveyed **Herring Gull** nests this summer on various islands in Dorchester County reporting: 27 nests with several eggs at Barren Island on June 3 with a total of 262 birds observed, and a huge colony at Spring Island with an estimated 240 pairs present July 2, with 32 nests and scores of flightless young. Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at Perry Point, Cecil County on June 3 (Griffith). Thirty-seven **Great Black-backed** and a nest with 2 eggs were tallied at Barren Island on June 3 and 30 adults, with at least 3 large, flightless young were at Spring Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor). Mary Twigg reported 3 **Caspian Terns** at Rocky Gap SP on June 29, an adult in winter plumage was at Triadelphia on July 22 (Chestem, Osenton), and 1 **Caspian** was at Tilghman Island on July 30 (Reese). A **Royal Tern** was at Denton on July 14 (Hewitt), and 6 were counted at Elliott Island, Dorchester County on July 29 (Armistead, Baldwin, Todd). **Forster's Terns** included 2 at Cecilton on June 15 (Griffith, David Holmes) and 2 at Loch Raven on June 28 (Simon). Harry Armistead reported a large colony of mostly **Forster's**,

with some Common Terns, on a small island just south of Barren Island with an estimated 329 pairs nesting. Harry also spotted 2 **Black Skimmers** on a sand bar on Tar Bay on June 3, but no sign of breeding was observed; he found 19 skimmers at Deal Island on July 10.

Whip-poor-wills, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. A nice count of twenty **Whip-poor-wills** was made at Elk Neck State Forest in Cecil County on June 17 (Griffith, Kelly Powers, Marcia Whitmyre). Reese found a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Royal Oak on June 2, and observed a male **Hairy Woodpecker** feeding a fledgling at St. Michaels on June 29. Ringler reported an **Acadian Flycatcher** at a nest with young at Morgan Run in Carroll County on July 8. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** nest with 4 eggs was discovered at St. Michaels on June 14 (Reese). An unusual sighting of a **Gray Kingbird** was reported at Point Lookout SP on July 22 (Craig), and it was reported there again on July 23 (Bob Boxwell, Craig).

Horned Larks, Swallows, Blue Jay. Jan Reese noted a flock of 18 **Horned Larks** at Centreville on July 14, and Ethel Engle estimated over 250 **Purple Martins** at Tanyard on July 30. A single **Tree Swallow** was at Barren Island on the unusual date of June 3 (Armistead). Jim Wilkinson spotted 2 Tree Swallows at Gateway Business Park in Howard County on July 9-10, and 3 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at Holland Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor). Early migrant **Bank Swallows** included 2 on Holland Island on July 2 (Armistead, Taylor), 1 at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead), and 1 at Chaffers Mill Road, Howard County on July 15 (Wilkinson). A possible migrant **Blue Jay**, found by Jan Reese at Tilghman Island on July 30, was an interesting sighting.

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creepers. Connie Skipper found a **Black-capped Chickadee** feeding young along Rock Lodge Road, McHenry on June 9. Reese found a **Brown-headed Nuthatch** nest with 4 young in a bird box on the lawn of Lorraine and Mike Kozel at St. Michaels on June 8. A **Brown Creeper** was carrying food to a nest with young at Swallow Falls SP on May 28 (Ringler+).

Wrens, Thrushes, Loggerhead Shrike. A **Winter Wren** was discovered at Sang Run—Cranesville Road in Garrett County on June 10 (Skipper), and 135 **Marsh Wrens** were tallied at Deal Island WMA on July 10 (Armistead). A late migrant **Swainson's Thrush** was at Bellevue on June 4 (Armistead), and 8 different male **Hermit Thrushes** were singing along Rock Lodge Road, McHenry on July 14 (Skipper). Two **Loggerhead Shrikes** were located by George Jett at Masser Road, Frederick County on June 24.

Warblers. Connie Skipper found a **Blue-winged Warbler** along Potomac Camp Road, Deer Park in Garrett County on June 5, and a **Lawrence's Warbler**, singing a Blue-winged song, was discovered on June 11 along the railroad tracks west of Route 97 at the Carroll/Howard county line (Dave & Maureen Harvey). Seven **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, with 1 feeding young, were along Rock Lodge Road, McHenry on June 22, 12 different males were singing there on July 7, and 3 were there, including 1 feeding young, on July 14 (Skipper). Connie Skipper checked off a male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** singing along Rock Lodge Road, Garrett County on July 14 and 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 4 singing males and a female gathering rootlets, along Rock Lodge Road, McHenry on July 14. An Ovenbird nest with 3 large nestlings was located near Starr on June 20 (Reese).

Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Dickcissels. Dave and Maureen Harvey listed a **Summer Tanager** at Soldier's Delight on June 17, and several **Rose-**

breasted Grosbeaks were discovered along Fishing Creek Road, Frederick County on June 24 (Jett). Bob Ringler heard a **Dickcissel** near Detour on June 4, saw 1 there on June 10, and saw 1 and heard another there on June 11. The field was mowed the next week and no more were to be found. A Dickcissel was heard singing near Ingleside on July 9 (Jett, Stasz).

Sparrows. Bob Ringler noted that his only Carroll County sighting of a **Savannah Sparrow** was near Bruceville on June 4. A couple of other Savannah reports were turned in, 3 at the north end of Shriver Road in Frederick County on June 25 (Wilkinson), and 2 at Cecilton on August 2 (Griffith, Gant). Once again Connie Skipper studied Garrett County **Henslow's Sparrows**, reporting 6 at Potomac Camp Road, Deer Park and 2 along Combination Road, Deer Park on June 5. During June 1—July 21, she banded 10 adults and 8 juveniles along Rock Lodge Road and identified 15 singing males on territories. On July 17 she found 1 on a different reclaimed strip mine along Rock Lodge Road. Dave Czaplak noted a Garrett County Henslow's at the Glades on June 10. With a lot of pishing, Harry Armistead tallied 337 **Seaside Sparrows** at Deal Island WMA on July 10. Two **Swamp Sparrows** were singing at the Kings Creek Preserve near Easton on June 10 (Reese), and 6, including 2 feeding young, were along Rock Lodge Road, McHenry on June 16 (Skipper). Dave Weesner reported an adult **White-throated Sparrow** at the feeder of Harold and Dinnie Winger in Hagerstown during June 20-26.

Bobolinks, Grackles, Pine Siskin, Exotics. Bob Ringler found a **Bobolink** at Keysville on June 4 and 3 there on June 11, before the field was mowed, and another at a different site at Keysville on June 17. Several Bobolinks were in Frederick County in the Fourpoints area on June 24 and along Francis Scott Key Road on June 25 (Jett). Other Bobolinks were 6 at a third site in Keysville on June 25, probably including the birds that had been forced from the first site when it was mowed (Ringler), 2 along Shriver Road and 1 along Fourpoints Bridge Road in Frederick County on June 25 (Wilkinson), 19 seen along Rock Lodge Road in Garrett County on July 19 (Skipper), 5 migrants at Morgan Run in Carroll County on July 22 (Ringler), 1 at Easton on July 28 (Armistead), and 3 at Tilghman Island on July 30 (Reese). A pair of **Boat-tailed Grackles** with 1 young at a nest were found at Tilghman Island on June 11 (Reese), and 6350 **Common Grackles** were tallied at Blackwater on July 29 (Armistead, Baldwin, Todd). A **Pine Siskin** was at Swallow Falls SP on July 16 (Czaplak). Finally, a male **Green Peafowl** was observed at the Nature Conservancy's Kings Creek Preserve, in Talbot County on June 10 (Reese).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

ATLAS COMMITTEE

The atlas page proofs are due to us from the printer approximately June 19. MOS is supposed to return them by July 29. We have been told the Atlas will be published in November or December [later the estimated date was changed to January 1997].

John Malcolm, Chairman

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The following grants were approved by the MOS Education Committee between June 1, 1995 and May 1, 1996:

CHAPTER GRANTS:

1. Allegheny County Chapter. To purchase 4 pairs of binoculars for bird walks at the Rocky Gap State Park Nature Center. Their naturalist is a member of MOS.	\$200.00
2. Anne Arundel County Chapter. To purchase slides for a slide show program to be given to local groups.	\$200.00
3. Baltimore Chapter. 6 subscriptions for the Audubon Adventure magazine for elementary school classrooms.	\$200.00
4. Carroll County Chapter. To purchase Birds of North America software for visitor center exhibit at Bear Branch Nature Center/Hashawa in Westminster. Also 3 pairs of binoculars for nature walks.	\$200.00
5. Harford County Chapter. To purchase bird identification posters for county high schools, and bird slides for presentations to local groups.	\$200.00
6. Kent County Chapter. Funds to pay for a Wildfowl Trust "raptor program" to be presented to the students at Rock Hall Elementary School.	\$ 50.00
7. Montgomery Chapter. Funds to be used toward a permanent educational display about birds.	\$100.00
8. Wicomico County Chapter. 6 subscriptions for the Audubon Adventure magazine for elementary school classrooms.	\$200.00
Total given for Chapter Grants	\$1350.00
Total budgeted for Chapter Grants	\$3200.00
Funds not spent for Chapter Grants	\$1850.00

SPECIAL GRANTS:

<i>Multimedia Bird Book</i> computer software to loan schools in Maryland	\$ 55.95
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PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

Money to support Partners in Art, reaching 575 students in Maryland and 575 students in South and Central America	\$200.00
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ASA WRIGHT NATURE CENTER IN TRINIDAD

Bird video for their local environmental education training center.	\$ 15.00
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WORCESTER COUNTY SCHOOL

Add wildlife plants and bird feeders to bird sanctuary/outdoor classroom at a school in Berlin, Maryland.	\$200.00
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MARYLAND STATE ENVIROTHON

To help fund the state competition	\$400.00
For one case (24) of <i>Field Guide to Birds of North America</i>	\$200.00

Total for Special Grants	\$1070.95
Total for 8 Chapter Grants	\$1350.00

Total for Both	\$2420.95
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COSTS FOR THE CHAN ROBBINS COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES AND CEREMONY

Total cost not available yet and will be carried over into next year's budget.

GLADYS COLE MEMORIAL AT IRISH GROVE

Total costs not yet available and will be listed in next year's budget.

Linda Bystrak, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Long Range Planning Committee continues to provide assistance to other committees and to state officers. This year we worked briefly with the Education Committee to plan the MOS-sponsored trail at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center honoring Chandler S. Robbins' 50 years of service with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

We commend the officers and committee chairs for making a prompt effort to meet some of the MOS 50-year recommendations detailed in this committee's 1995 report. Of the five stated goals, significant strides have already been made in reaching the following three: (1) Youth involvement; (2) Publications' timeliness, and (3) The protection of birds and their habitats.

The revitalized Education Committee is making a major effort to reach out to youth. The Scholarship Committee continues its mission to influence young people. The careful cultivation of this age group should bear significant fruit eventually.

With the recent more timely publication of *Maryland Birdlife* and the continued lively and thorough coverage of activities by *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, members are being kept abreast of Society recreational, research, and conservation activities. The recent publication of the revised edition of the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland* has given state birders a reference of unparalleled quality and usefulness. We congratulate the authors for producing a truly outstanding publication. The "yellow book" will again be the envy of birders nationwide.

As part of MOS's commitment to protect birds and their habitats, the Sanctuary Committee continues to oversee MOS lands responsibly. In addition, the Society's participation in Partners in Flight and, more recently, in the American Bird Conservancy are measures of our increasing desire to be vocal and visible in bird protection in a larger sphere. State, chapter, and individual support of FUNDAECO and other organizations preserving wintering habitats reflects an increasing sophistication in our understanding of bird preservation.

This responsiveness to long range goals augers well for the continued health of the organization.

Joanne K. Solem, Chairman

**MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR
MAY 1, 1995 THROUGH APRIL 30, 1996**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
OPERATING FUND		
INCOME:		
Dues	20,000	19,587.50
Transfer from		
Sanctuary Endowment	630	
Investment Income	750	1,563.79
Publications Income	1,000	238.80
Mail Permit Contribution	43	37.50
Membership Pins	100	331.00
Miscellaneous		
Environmental Fund of Maryland		3,681.67
TOTAL	22,023	25,440.26
EXPENSES:		
Publications Committee		
<i>Maryland Birdlife</i>	8,850	6,595.46
<i>Yellowthroat</i>	7,000	8,784.71
TOTAL	15,800	15,380.70
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICE:		
President's Expenses	100	45.78
Vice President's Expenses	50	
Secretary's Expenses	75	60.00
Treasurer's Expenses	75	106.48
Executive Secretary	2,400	2,425.00
Postage	300	329.84
Bulk Mailing Permits	255	255.00
Membership List Database	550	627.57
Printing and Duplication	300	168.45
Office Supplies	200	8.39
Publicity and Awards	500	26.78
Affiliations	225	225.00
Liability Insurance	550	550.00
MOS Telephone	500	486.36
Contingencies	500	529.46
TOTAL	6,630	5,844.11

COMMITTEE RELATED EXPENSES:

Budget Committee	25	
Conservation Committee	500	
Education Committee	100	462.83
Library Committee	500	
Conference Committee	1,200	10.21
Gifts Committee	50	
Long Range Planning	20	
Nominating Committee	50	
Speakers Bureau	100	
Records Committee	250	
Research Committee	100	
Scholarship Committee		54.38
Contingencies	200	
May Count Coordination	50	
TOTAL	3,095	527.42

CONFERENCE:

1995 Conference	Income	12,701.50
	Expenses	25,946.98
1996 Conference	Income	13,990.00
	Expenses	490.89

OPERATING FUND — OTHER FUNDSCosta Rica - *OTS* Donation

Maryland Atlas:

Begin	2,589.27
Expenses	0.00
Balance	2,589.27

Atlas—Chesapeake Bay Trust

Begin	5,134.49
Expenses	0.00
Balance	5,134.49

Rain Forest Challenge—*FUNDAECO*

1994/95 Income	5,802.50
Total sent to <i>FUNDAECO</i>	5,802.50

Brazil *IEF*

Begin	50.00
Income	750.00
Balance	800.00

MOS Brochures

Balance	2,879.26
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MOS Conference

3,000.00

Index, Maryland Birdlife:

Balance	2,740.00
Expenses	1,400.00
Balance	1,340.00

ITEMBUDGETACTUAL**SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND**

INCOME:

Dividends	3,300	4,181.41
Contributions	100	1,393.00
Life Membership	400	
TOTAL	3,800	5,574.41

EXPENSES:

Bond Maint.	15	15.00
Transfer to Operating Fund	630	
Transfer to Sanctuary Fund	2,655	
TOTAL	3,300	15.00

SANCTUARY FUND

INCOME:

Transfer	2,655	
Interest Income	850	274.57
Use Fees — Irish Grove	500	465.00
Carey Run	1,500	
Signs	100	121.00
TOTAL	5,605	860.57*

EXPENSES:

Irish Grove	4,150	4,947.24
Carey Run		303.47*
Liability Insurance	800	868.00
Contingencies	2,000	

Total Sanctuary Expenses	6,950	6,118.71*
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*The income and expenses for Carey Run reflect income received by or expenses paid by the MOS treasurer.

SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance	23,085.92
Div/Int	1,468.36
Balance	24,554.28

EXPENSES:

Irish Grove	
BALANCE	24,554.28

ITEM**BUDGET****ACTUAL****SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND****INCOME:**

Contributions	200	172.00
Div/Int	3,500	4,878.57
Carryover from 1996	147.47	

TOTAL	3,700	5,198.04**
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** Amount available for Summer 1997 MOS Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP FUND**INCOME:**

Summer 1996 Income:

Div/Int		4,157.47
Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship		700.00
Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship		700.00

Total Income		5,557.47
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Scholarship Expenses:

Summer 1996 Scholarships		5,400.00
Maintenance Fee		15.00

TOTAL		5,415.00
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RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND**INCOME:**

Contributions	100	
Div/Int	2,200	3,405.46**

** Amount available for 1996/97 Research Grants

EXPENSES:

Grants		4,460
Maintenance Fee		15
TOTAL		4,475

EDUCATION FUND

BEGINNING BALANCE		32,472.54
Div/Int		2,027.64
Balance		34,500.18
Education Grants		3,116.83
ENDING BALANCE		31,383.35

FUTURE ATLAS ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE	2,379.24
INCOME:	
Div/Int	1,506.04
TOTAL	3,885.28
EXPENSES:	
Maintenance Fee	15.00
ENDING BALANCE	3,870.28

UNASSIGNED BEQUESTS

BEGINNING BALANCE	57,050.52
Div/Int	3,034.11
ENDING BALANCE	61,084.63

YELLOWBOOK UPDATE FUND

BALANCE	11,000.00
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Jeff Metter, Treasurer

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

At the close of the fiscal year 1994/95 the MOS research grant fund contained \$4,490.84. During the 1995/96 fiscal year two research grants were awarded. Hillary Stern received \$3,000 for "Collection and compilation of hematological data in selected Maryland waterbirds." Dave Brinker and Matt Rowe received \$1,460 for "Winter movements and habitat use of Northern Saw-whet Owls on Assateague Island, Maryland." No other proposals were received. The income during fiscal year 1995/96 from interest on the research endowment amounted to \$3,194.96. The balance in the MOS Research Grant Fund at the beginning of the 1996/97 fiscal year was \$3,225.30.

The Research Committee organized the 8th annual afternoon paper session for the 1996 conference. Abstracts of the papers presented were included in the conference program. Attendance at the Saturday afternoon paper session was good with approximately 40 people in attendance.

David F. Brinker, Chairman

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Sanctuary Committee conducted three workdays this past year. Two were at Irish Grove, the fall workday on the weekend of October 28-29, 1995 and the spring one on the weekend of April 13-14, 1996. The other workday was held on April 27, 1996 at Carey Run. The Committee thanks the many volunteers who come out and make these workdays a success.

Lola Oberman, who for several years has been handling the sale of signs for Private Sanctuaries, retired from this position. The Committee thanks Lola for a job well done. Karen Morley, from the Baltimore Chapter, has graciously volunteered to be Lola's replacement.

In closing I want to mention that in July of 1995 the Sanctuary Committee lost a long-time, hard-working member when Dan Folk of the Allegany Chapter passed away. For over 20 years, Dan, with his wife Charlotte, saw to the upkeep and use of Carey Run Sanctuary. Everyone who stayed overnight at Carey Run met Dan when he would come out to make sure that everything was working OK. He had lots of stories about Carey Run and the history of the area. At the annual workdays he greeted all the volunteers who came to help. He will be missed.

Dotty Mumford, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Eleven applications were received this year, and eight scholarships were awarded. Two of the scholarship winners plan to attend the Annual Conference dinner on Saturday evening. Our committee has done an excellent job. We expect to do an even better job next year by expanding our recruitment. The 1996 Ornithology Scholarship winners were as follows:

Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship: Bruce Barbarasch, Program Coordinator, National Aquarium, Baltimore.

Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship: Sharon Overholser, Animal Keeper, Bird Department, Baltimore Zoo.

The Ecology Scholarship winners were as follows:

Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship: Ruth E. Wilsey, Environmental Education Teacher, Harford Glen Environmental Center.

Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship: Mary Ellen Dore, DNR, Annapolis.

Helen Miller Memorial Scholarships (4): Bobbie Miyasaki, Science Coordinator, Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore; Mellissa A. Zeman, University of Maryland student, Maryland Science Center; Heather Glenn, Teacher, Berlin; Katie Eberhart, Teacher, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Salisbury.

Mrs. Isa Sieracki, Chairman

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

The Chapter began and ended its year with picnics at Jug Bay and Meyer's Station. The well-attended monthly meetings had guest lectures on a wide variety of topics, including Birds of the Aleutians, Birds of the Bahamas, Wild Turkeys, Butterflies and Dragonflies. Paul Engman presented a program on owls for our annual Robert E. Heise, Jr. Wildlife Lecture at the Blue Heron Room in Quiet Waters Park. All funds raised at this lecture were donated to the MOS Scholarship and Sanctuary Funds.

Despite several cancellations due to inclement weather, the Club conducted thirty local field trips. Our field trip co-chairs Peter Hanan, Sue Ricciardi, and Larry Zoller planned a wide variety of trips appealing to all members, from novice birders to experts. The 82 different participants saw a total of 231 species on these trips. In addition, Peter Hanan led extended trips to Michigan and Arizona which yielded many much sought species including Northern Hawk-Owl, Snowy Owl, Elegant Trogon, and White-eared and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds. Club members also participated in the May Count and the Annapolis Christmas Count.

Al Haury again helped organize and conduct our annual bird seed sales held in conjunction with Friends of Quiet Waters Park. The profits from the sale greatly strengthened the Chapter's finances.

The Chapter continued its active participation in community activities. We participated in Earth Day celebrations at Quiet Waters Park and the Naval Academy. Together with local conservation organizations we co-sponsored a lecture series at Quiet Waters Park. Club members gave bird lectures at local schools and civic organizations and also led public bird walks at Sandy Point and Quiet Waters Park.

John and Helen Ford were elected Honorary Life Members in recognition of their years of service and their dedication to furthering the objectives of the Anne Arundel Bird Club and the MOS. This year's Conservation Award was given to John Schorpp in recognition of his work preserving habitat and protecting nesting Ospreys at the Naval Antenna Facility at Greenbury Point.

Stephen Hult, President

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

The Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) is the host chapter for the MOS conference this year. The event is being organized by Mary Byers and her many helpers. Their dedication and hard work will provide everyone with a wonderful experience. Thanks must also go to trip leaders from the BBC and other chapters.

The BBC cooperated with a number of organizations, providing volunteers and materials for educational and informational purposes. BBC members staffed

booths, passed out informational materials, and answered questions at Rocky Point Park during "Coastweek," at the Maryland Science Center on its "Bird Day," at the National Aquarium on "International Migratory Bird Day," and at the Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Campus on its "Earth Day." Individual recognition goes to Joy Wheeler, Mark and Leanne Pemburn, Terry and Roberta Ross, Anneke Davis, Carolyn Webb, and Betsy Taylor for volunteering their time and expertise.

Students from Baltimore City and County schools have always benefited from the BBC. This year, students from 17 schools (1,290 students) visited Cylburn Arboretum. Volunteers led bird and nature walks around the arboretum and gave workshops at various schools and colleges. Six schools received subscriptions to Audubon Adventures (thanks to MOS). Again, special recognition goes to Joy Wheeler, Patsy Perlman, Mike Baker, and others.

On the technological side, the BBC web page on the internet was created and is currently maintained by our webmaster, Terry Ross. Not only up-to-date information on interesting sightings is on the web, but also the BBC trip schedule. Chip Notes issues, minutes from the Board meetings, and useful information relating to birds. The web address is <http://204.255.212.10/~tross/baltbird.html>.

Information on bird populations gathered by Leanne Pemburn and others for the Gwynn Falls—Leakin Park Ornithological Survey proved useful to the DNR and the Heritage Program in their planning for the area's future. The BBC Site Guide is taking shape and being reviewed by several experts. Thanks to members who provided descriptions of various sites.

Again, many thanks to the volunteer members of BBC for their other contributions, such as the maintenance and upgrade of the Cylburn Museum, the feeding of birds at Cylburn, and participating at various meetings on environmental issues.

Sukon Kanchanaraksa, President

CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Carroll County Bird Club's 1995-1996 season was busy and fun. Our eight monthly meetings at Carroll Community College featured speakers who honed our warbler (Pete Webb) and gull (Jim Stasz) identification skills, taught us more about American Kestrels (Mark Hoffman) and Maryland butterflies (Dr. Dick Smith), took us on birding trips to South Africa (via film, hosted by Dave Harvey), the Bahamas (Tony White), and the American prairie (Dr. Robert Trever), and explained the mysterious horseshoe crab mating that brings the phenomenal shorebird migration to Delaware Bay (Dr. Ben Poscover). Thanks to Laura Tarbell for coordinating refreshments and the many members who treated us with goodies!

Club volunteers (Bob Ringler, Jerry and Laura Tarbell, Bill Kulp, Jr., Dave Hudgins, Dave and Maureen Harvey) led both planned and spontaneous field trips to Carroll County hot spots as well as more distant trips to view raptor migration (Hawk Mountain, Town Hill, and Fort Smallwood) and winter concentrations

(Conowingo Dam and Ocean City). Other special trips included Jug Bay and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. It was a cold, rainy day on Jug Bay in October when the irrepressible Greg Kearns took us on a pontoon boat trip for Soras; his enthusiasm and his kept promise of a Sora-in-hand made it a fine day in spite of the chilly drizzle! In April, Peter Osenton led us on a non-public trail near the National Wildlife Visitor Center at the Patuxent Research Center where we had a remarkable encounter with dozens of Palm Warblers, many other spring migrants, winter lingerers, and local species. We enjoyed a tour of the Visitor Center, a quick tailgate lunch, and a walk around Cash Lake afterwards. We also had two fabulous weekend birding trips: New Year's at Ocean City and Memorial Day at Carey Run Sanctuary.

Bill Kulp answered questions about birding and distributed MOS literature at Carroll Community College's Expo for community nonprofit groups in November, and both he and Laura Tarbell helped about 60 youngsters make construction paper birds at Carroltown Mall for the Children's Fair in May. Several members participated in the second annual fall count, the winter count (we particularly enjoyed Kathy Harden's post-count dinner and tally), and May bird counts. Members represented the club's interests by sitting on a planning committee for a combination hike-bike-bluebird trail at Carroll Community College (Erma Gebb and Sue Yingling) and speaking before the County Commissioners about the proposed Westminster Linear Park (Maureen Harvey).

Our club is pretty close and many friendships have been found and strengthened by shared fun at social events. Our annual January Holiday party was hosted by Sue and Splinter Yingling with great food, high spirits, and hilarious games, followed by a sobering drive home in the first 1996 blizzard! Our summer picnic was on a beautiful June afternoon, hosted by Doris and Bill Kulp, Jr., with more great food, high spirits, horse-drawn buggy rides, and lawn sports.

With just over 40 members, our club is fairly small. Thanking all the volunteers who made club events so successful would really end up being about equal to our membership list! Special thanks to our past presidents (Bob Ringler, Bill Kulp, Jr., and Melinda Byrd), the 1995-96 officers (V.P. Laura Tarbell, Treas. Barbara Gaffney, Sec'y Dave Hudgins, State Dir. Sue Yingling) for advice and moral support as well as jobs well done.

Maureen F. Harvey, President

CECIL CHAPTER

The Cecil County Chapter of MOS, now in its third year, has become an active and energetic group.

Chapter members participate in Christmas Counts in several Maryland and Delaware counties, as well as the annual May and Midwinter counts. In addition, the chapter established a hawk watch at Turkey Point which has been quite successful. We are presently seeking funding to erect a platform at Turkey Point to increase visibility at the hawk watch.

Chapter members have also assisted Dave Brinker of the Maryland DNR with two ongoing projects: (1) maintaining fences and signage at a Least Tern colony

on an island in the Susquehanna Flats, and (2) expanding his study of Saw-whet Owl migration by establishing a banding station at Turkey Point. This banding station was responsible for the capture, banding, and safe release of 334 saw-whets in its first season.

Field trips have ranged from walks in the Elkton Town Park, to trips to Cape May, NJ, and day-long excursions along the Maryland-Delaware Coast in search of wintering waterfowl.

In conjunction with Cecil Community College, the chapter has established educational programs for people of all ages. We have an annual elderhostel program for seniors, a "Kidz in Kollege" program for children 8-14, and an adult continuing education program available at the Cecil county campus.

Gary Griffith, President

FREDERICK CHAPTER

The Frederick Chapter offered a full and varied program of activities that were both enjoyable and well attended. The rough winter weather cancelled one regular meeting and one outing.

We continued to meet monthly at the Frederick High School although we found ourselves displaced from our traditional meeting room of many years. We met in somewhat unsatisfactory space of the science labs, but expect to return to our old space next year.

This was the first year of our expanded regular monthly calendar, adding a regular meeting in May and moving our picnic meeting to June. Our topics (and speakers) were: The Galapagos (Ian Cornelius), Sparrows and Finches (Bill Oberman), Backyard Biodiversity (Craig Tufts), Bald Eagles (Glenn Therres), Birding Argentina and Peru (Stauffer Miller), The Galapagos II (Greg Kearns), Spring Wildflowers (Bob Johnson), and Black Skimmers (Dave Brinker). The June picnic meeting was held again sat Pinecliff Park on the Monocacy River.

Ten field trips were offered to a variety of locations in the county, neighboring counties, and to Delaware and Virginia. We also participated in the Catoctin and Sugarloaf Christmas Counts, the Frederick County Midwinter Count, and the Frederick County May Count. A day-long clean-up outing to the Ballanger Creek Park resulted in removal of several truckloads of debris and trash and a number of trail improvements.

On May 4 the Chapter hosted the MOS Board meeting.

Plans for next year's program include a continued expanded offering of program meetings and an enlarged selection of organized outings.

Bob Johnson, President

HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Harford Chapter continued to grow in size and activity through its 47th year. We began the year with our annual picnic at Rocks 4-H Camp with Tom Congersky and many others contributing and preparing an excellent fare. Our annual post-dinner bird walk yielded some interesting birds given the time of day.

Our newsletter, *Wrenderings*, continues to strive for excellence. Editor Les Eastman scans each issue into the World Wide Web. David Webb has contributed an interesting column to each issue summarizing local sightings, which should provide an interesting legacy of Harford's birdlife for generations to come. Many local birders contribute to the column.

Our November meeting featured local amateur naturalist and photographer, Robert Rinker; in his presentation, "Maryland in Living Color," he discussed his pursuits of the many birds he had photographed, describing "behind the scenes" aspects of many of his subjects. Birds of North Central Wyoming, which highlighted our January meeting, presented research and birding experiences of our own David Ziolkowski. The March meeting focused on local habitat preservation with David Miller's presentation on the Harford Land Trust, an organization dedicated to protecting Harford's open spaces. Our final meeting in May featured Dr. L. Scott Johnson on "Hard Lives of Second Wives: An Inside Look at Polygamy of House Wrens." Dr. Johnson gave an excellent discussion of how and why many males at his study site were polygamous, and the underlying benefits for their mates.

The strange winter, with its excessive snowfall, provided many sightings of unusual birds for our area. Many people reported Evening Grosbeaks at their feeders, Saw-whet Owls were seen on the winter counts and throughout the winter, with an unusual number, as well as a Long-eared Owl, reported injured to Wildlife R&R. Early this spring, Debbie Bowers provided many in our club with their first local look at a Townsend's Solitaire, a bird with few records in eastern North America.

At our annual awards presentation, Dr. William McIntosh and Jean and Larry Fry each received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of their hard work and participation in the club. David Webb received the county Lister of the Year with 224 species seen; Harold Bowling received the Rookie of the Year Award, and Bird of the Year went to the Black Skimmer discovered at Havre de Grace by John Wortman.

We participated with our display at the Havre de Grace Earth Day Celebration at the Decoy Museum on April 20. We had fun talking to many who were interested in our club, and hope to see many as members in the future.

Our emphasis on providing many fun and informative field trips continues to be our goal under our Field Trip Chairman, David Webb. Some of our trips included visits to the Delaware refuges, Carey Run Sanctuary, Gunpowder Delta, the National Zoo, and the National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent. In addition to visits to local hot spots there were specialty trips: a pot-luck shorebird trip, night-hawk watches atop the Bel Air Municipal Garage, and whips-and-owls trips.

We mourn the passing of Joan McIntosh this year. Joan has participated in various ways and will be sincerely missed. A small donation was made in her name at the Hopkins Breast Center where she had spent many volunteer hours. Other donations were given to the Harford Land Trust and Wildlife R&R for their work in helping birds, and a small donation was provided for a local ceramics student for clay used in developing a style of bird house for cavity nesting species.

Looking back, our club had a great year and I had a lot of fun being part of it. None of the work of the club could really come together if not for the help of its officers. Many thanks go to Past President Jean Fry, Editor Les Eastman, Field Trip Chairman David Webb, Vice President Randy Robertson, Recording Secretary Mary Procell, Corresponding Secretary Carole Vangrin, Treasurer Joyce Gorsuch, Dinner Reservations Shirley Geisinger, State Education Representative David Ziolkowski, State Sanctuary Representative Russ Kovach, and our State Directors, Tom Congersky, John Nack, and Joe Vangrin. Thanks to all for your help and enthusiasm.

Mark S. Johnson, 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 Ann Rattereman, a hospitality table overseen by Maud Banks, and frequent special displays created by Martha Chestem. A table of free magazines, articles, brochures, etc., encouraged members to browse and to recycle material. The club newsletter, edited by Darius and Paula Ecker, provided timely information to the membership. 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.

Darius Ecker started The Electronic Goldfinch this past year as the Howard County Bird Club went online and now provides access to virtually all the birding links available on the internet.

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 wished to pursue their passion of county ticking.

The club provided displays at the Howard County Fair. Many educational presentations by various members were made to school classes, retirees, and other groups using the club's mounted specimens of slide programs.

Conservation emphasis this year focused on actively letting our politicians know that we support things like the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, safe drinking water, National Forests, Wildlands, and keeping health and environmental standards strong. Bob Solem continues to work diligently and has provided 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. This is vital when we are represented by people who ask things like "why is there a need for flowers?", a quote from Roscoe Bartlett (R - 6th Dist, MD).

Numerous chapter members continued active field work with participation in the Triadelphia Christmas Count, Midwinter Count, May Count, and the Fall Count. Seasonal migration records were compiled by Joanne Solem from data submitted by several dozen people. Bird checklists for major parks and open space continue to be compiled under Jane Farrell's direction. The new book on bird finding in Howard County, edited by Joanne Solem, is now available. Members are also working with the Howard County Conservancy surveying the birds, plants, and butterflies at Mt. Pleasant, a 225-acre farm. The 17th annual list of all bird species seen in the county was again compiled by Jane Farrell; the 1995 total was the second highest ever, 232 species.

This marked the 17th year of the club's twice yearly seed sales under the leadership of Eileen Clegg.

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

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

David A. Harvey, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter lost some members and gained new ones during 1995-1996. The net result was a group a bit smaller but no less enthusiastic, that decided to focus on environmental concerns during the year.

The September program "Audubon Summer Ecology Workshop" set the tone. This talk was by Peggy Ford, recipient of the chapter's Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship which funded her workshop experience. Jed Howell, Kent County High School teacher, spoke on the Envirothon Program. Later programs included "How Watersheds Work" by Worrall "Nick" Carter, "The New River Stewardship: Community, Ecology and Economy" by members of the Chester River Association, "Migration Patterns and Identification of Fall Hawks" by Rick Blom, "Terns" by Claudia Wilds, and "Earthwatch Ornithological Trips" by Daphne Gemmill. Unfortunately, "Assateague: Jewell of the East Coast" by Judy Johnson had to be canceled because of the notorious peninsula blackout.

Other activities included two winter feeder watches, participation in the Audubon Christmas Count (Paul Tolson, compiler), and the spring migration count (Floyd Parks, compiler), an annual dinner and annual picnic, participation in National Hunting and Fishing Day, and the Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition.

Successful field trips included places new to our members—Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary and Horn Point Environmental Program, as well as visits to a duck banding station in Dorchester County and the Pickering Creek Environmental Center.

The chapter received a grant from the state education committee to fund a program of Horsehead Wetlands Center at the Rock Hall Elementary School.

Dolly Minis, a member who studies and records bird calls, conducted several bird walks during the year at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge and Tuckahoe State Park. Stephen Hitchner continued his monitoring of a bluebird trail on Kinnard Point.

Margaret Blair designed the winning pin for the MOS Convention in June: a kingfisher on an oak leaf. This is the second year she has won this award.

Martha Webster, as Publicity Chairman, got complete coverage of the chapter's activities in the Kent County News.

Clara Ann Simmons, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Montgomery County enjoyed a fine array of programs and field trips and many opportunities to share birding experiences. Meetings usually are on the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church in Potomac, Maryland. It's a good idea to check the club calendar because of occasional changes. Visitors are always welcome.

Julie Kelly organized an excellent, wide-ranging calendar of monthly speaker programs that included Tony White's "Birds of the Bahamas," Craig Koppie's "Recovery of the Eastern Peregrine Population," Craig Faanes' "The Eskimo Curlew in the Lesser Antilles," Luther Goldman's "Aspects of Nature in National Wildlife Refuges," Karene Motivans' "The Habitat Benefits of Piping Plover Management on Assateague Island," Christine Montouri's "Bird Rehabilitation Pros and Cons," and George Jett's "Think Globally, Bird Locally." The January meeting was cancelled because of bad weather.

Linda Friedland put together a field trip program of over 50 trips—the most extensive program in years. Forays included beginners' trips, "seniors" trips, and a range of other outings both on weekdays and weekends.

In October the chapter sponsored a picnic at Black Hill Regional Park. Members enjoyed some good food and managed to find Red-headed Woodpeckers and other interesting species. The chapter's annual social, organized by Lydia Schindler, was held at the Far East restaurant in Rockville. About 125 members enjoyed the annual dinner. As usual the highlight of the evening was the open invitation for attendees to share their personal bird slides. Everyone had a great time.

Montgomery County continued to sponsor the Seneca Christmas Count, for which Bill Kulp coordinated the tally. Members participate in an ever-growing number of counts through the year.

Louis DeMouy, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Bird Club held its regular monthly meetings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Bioscience Building on the fourth Tuesday of each month, September-November and January-May. This past year proved to be busy, productive, and rewarding.

At our meetings, Luther Goldman presented "Wildlife and Scenery of the National Wildlife Refuge System: a National Treasure"; Chandler Robbins spoke on "Winter Habitat Use by Migrant Songbirds in Central America"; Robert Ringler presented "Birds of South America"; David Wilcove of the Environmental Defense Fund discussed "The Endangered Species Act"; Daniel Boone presented "Maryland Wildlands"; Daphne Gemmill featured "Madagascar"; and Dr. William Oberman impressed us with "Tanzania's Wildlife Parks." Members night was highlighted with superb slide presentations by Paul Nistico, Luther Goldman, and Wayne Barnes.

Other activities included participation by club members in two joint birding trips with the Prince George's Audubon Society, Christmas, May, and Midwinter Bird Counts, and the annual field trip and picnic at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in June. Our Conservation Committee, chaired by Eleanor Robbins, carried out an active advocacy role on conservation issues.

The highlight of the year for our chapter was our participation in the Chandler S. Robbins dedication ceremony held by the MOS and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on June 9, 1996 to honor Chan for his 50 years of service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. This included dedication of the Chandler Robbins Nature Trail at the National Wildlife Visitor Center and dedication of a large area of forest in the Central Tract of the Research Center where Chan had been studying bird populations for 50 years. At the same ceremony, Marco Cerezo, Director of FUNDAECO, presented Chan with a plaque naming the biological station at the Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve in Guatemala the Chandler Robbins Biological Station in recognition of Chan's efforts in forest conservation and ornithology education in Guatemala. Another of our members, Fred Fallon, was presented the MOS Valued Service Award for his dedicated conservation efforts.

Tom Loomis, President

TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER

Our fall program began in August with Sunday morning walks under the leadership of Jan Reese. The last Sunday of the month featured a day trip to the Delaware coast, led by Marge Baldwin. Additional trips to Cape Charles and Cape May were led by Harry Armistead and Hernson Steilkie. Levin Willey brought us to Blackwater Refuge. Les Coble, George Didden, and Don Merrit led autumn walks in local birding areas. The day of the Christmas Count, some members tallied birds at backyard feeders while others collected data in the field. The day closed with a pot luck supper, smoothly orchestrated by Bobbie Sinderman. John Snyder organized the data.

Spring brought new adventures as we headed for Pocomoke Forest under the leadership of Steve Ford. Ranger David Davis hosted our trip to Wye Island and Don Merrit led us along the trails at Horn Point. Les Coble, Danny Poet, and Jan Reese led the local outings. Frequently our Sunday morning trips are followed by breakfast at a chapter member's home. Hosts were Carolyn Mills and John Snyder, Linda and Paul Makosky, Marty and Sam King, Len and Ruth Warriner, Myra and Bill Novak, Reta and Vic Stover, Les Coble, Joyce and Don Merrit, and Nancy and Bernie Burns. The efforts of Jean Crump are responsible for coordinating this part of our program.

In the fall our three evening programs are held on the second Thursday of the month. They were launched in September with a presentation by Lucretia Krantz and Don Feron of the Wildlife Trust of North America. Live birds enhanced their talk. In October Dr. Stan Bysshe told us about his trip to Costa Rica with area high school kids. November brought Rich Dolesh who informed us about the protection of natural areas in Brazil. The spring meetings began in February with Dr. Trever reporting on his travels along the Snake River. March ushered Dave Brinker into our meeting to share his research on Saw-whet Owls in the mid-Atlantic states. Ben and Ross Hawkins visited us in April with a multi-media presentation starting the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. That evening we also met Rick Leader, the new Executive Director of Pickering Creek. None of these activities would have been successful without the tireless work of Myra Novak who persisted in getting our schedule into *The Star Democrat*.

Chris Sheldon, chair of the conservation issues committee, supplied us with information concerning environmental issues. Letters were sent to public officials concerning some of these issues. We had another good year.

Liz Lawlor, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Washington County Chapter continued to hold monthly meetings at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center on Mt. Aetna Road, generally on the fourth Tuesday. Speakers covered the following topics: Birds of Kenya, The Great Desert Basin, Birds of Australia, Owls, Planting for Wildlife, and Spring Wild Flowers. It is hard to believe no meetings were cancelled because of snow.

We started the year by participating in Indian Springs open house at Blairs Valley Lake. At this "Go Wild Day" we met lots of people, raffled off a bird book and signed up some new members. Later our membership voted to donate \$100 to Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area to the watchable wildlife program for a wildlife viewing boardwalk and platform. In September we bought a podium for the Mt. Aetna Nature Center.

We held our Christmas Count with 32 members participating; and 26 members took part in the May Count. We ran field trips to Emmitsburg, Indian Springs Wildlife Area, North Branch of the Potomac, Washington Monument State Park, C & O Canal, Piney Run Park, Gettysburg, and Blairs Valley.

Several members assisted with the spring and fall hawk migration counts at Washington Monument State Park. We also participated in the clean-up day at Carey Run Sanctuary.

Our season ended on a sad note with the death of Cam Lewis. He was one of our more active and most loved members. His presence will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Dave Weesner, President

WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

Membership remained constant with 31 single and 18 household memberships. Attendance at the eight meetings averaged about 32 people. We were fortunate to have excellent speakers, two of whom were our own members making presentations on the International Crane Foundation and hosting an evening at the Ward Museum (featuring the exhibit "Shadow Birds"). The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided three wonderful programs: "Scales and Tails," Otter Relocation, and Using Native Plant Materials in Landscaping. We also "joined" Bob Ringler on a slide trip to Costa Rica, and a local gardener shared ideas for gardening for hummingbirds and butterflies.

The eight field trips included Chincoteague, Bombay Hook and Blackwater Refuges, Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, Cape Henlopen State Park, Pocomoke River Drainage, and the Eastern Shore Birding Festival at the Bay-Bridge Tunnel. Our June trip to local birding areas will end with the traditional club picnic hosted by Carol and Donald Broderick. Charlie Vaughn coordinated club participation in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and May Count. A number of club members participated in the October workday at Irish Grove and once again Ruth Denit graciously supplied turkey for our Irish Grove workers' mid-day meal.

Club members were active in our community (locally and at the state level) with representation on The Nature Conservancy, Maryland Partners in Flight, and the MOS Education and Conservation committees. The club continues to be involved with conservation issues, particularly with the Maryland Wildlands Campaign.

Our club was fortunate to receive two MOS education grants: the first (1994/95) supported our efforts with bluebirds, the second (1995/96) provided support for introducing the Audubon Adventures program in five local elementary schools. Three of our members will receive scholarships from MOS for summer camp activities.

Linda Hardman, President

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CONTENTS, SEPTEMBER 1996

Waterfowl Use of Coastal Ponds	<i>John V. Dennis</i>	75
Spring Migration, March 1 - May 31, 1995	<i>Daniel & Linda Southworth</i>	80
Breeding Season June 1 - July 31, 1995	<i>Daniel & Linda Southworth</i>	91
Annual Reports of Committee Chairmen		96
Annual Reports of Chapter Presidents		105

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