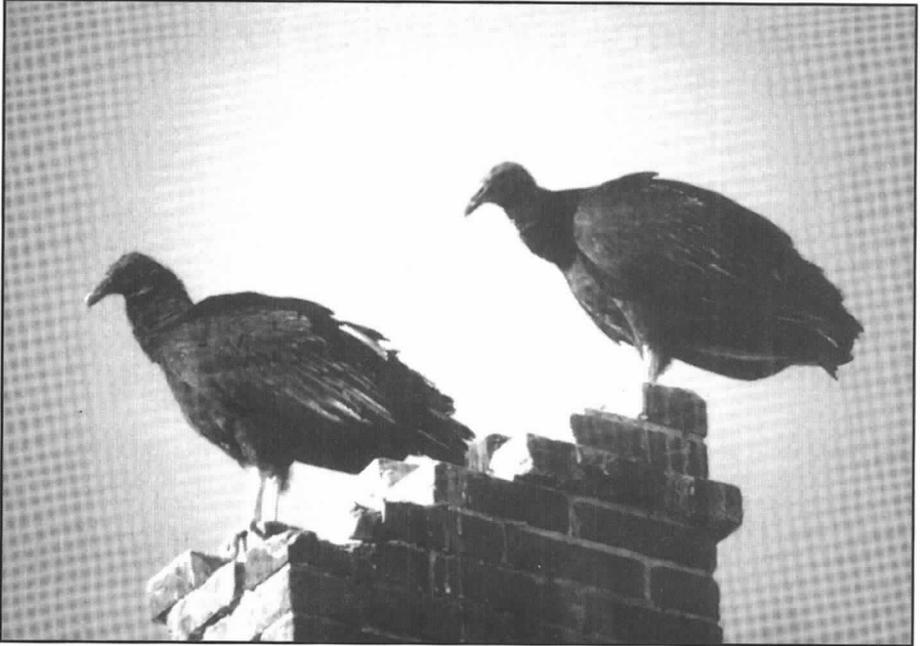




MARYLAND BIRDLIFE



Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

MARCH 1997
VOLUME 53
NUMBER 1

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209
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Cover: Black Vultures at Irish Grove Sanctuary, 1995
 Photo by Al Hauray



FIRST SIGHTING OF A GUILLEMOT (*Cephus* sp.) IN MARYLAND SINCE AUDUBON

JOY WHEELER

On March 11, 1993, I was with four other observers at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation Oceanic Division Pier, just south of the Bay Bridge (William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge) in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Earlier this day at nearby Bay Ridge we had observed a small number of Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*), Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), American Wigeon (*Anas americana*), Canvasbacks (*Aythya valisineria*), Oldsquaws (*Clangula hyemalis*), Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*), Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), and Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). After a walk through the gardens of the Londontowne Publicke House at 12:30 p.m., we were not quite ready to go home.

Because the Westinghouse Pond has often had interesting birds reported, we went there. When we arrived and scanned the pond we saw nothing more than the birds we had seen earlier at Bay Ridge. Feeling emboldened by the absence of a guard at the Westinghouse Gate we drove through unchallenged and headed south through the parking lot, driving slowly to the end of the road and back again toward the entrance looking for birds on the water close to the shore. Still unchallenged, we parked at the entrance to the pier and walked out almost to the end, where we set up our scopes to determine the differences among the many scaup (*Aythya* sp.). A Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) was diving up and down among the scaup.

A bird then came into view that immediately drew the attention of all of us, first because of its neck, completely white from bill to waterline, and second, because of its obvious alcid configuration. We had all seen alcids in the northern Atlantic and in Pacific coastal waters, but none of us had ever seen an alcid in the winter in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. We were positive it was an alcid without turning to our field guides. We began to call the further characteristics of the bird, studying it as it swam rapidly, parallel to the end of the pier. In sharp contrast to the whiteness of the neck was the black wing showing three obvious, sharply defined white diagonal slashes on the closed wing. The back of the bird, which seemed more flat than the backs of the scaup and the grebe present, was mottled with black, dark gray, and white, giving it an overall dark appearance. The crown and nape were darkened, but not as dark as the wing or the mottling on the back. The white of the neck extended around in the front of the head above the bill. The head of the bird was somewhat more flattened on top and more elongated from

bill to nape than the rounded heads of the scaup. As the bird swam from the calmer waters at about 100 feet from the end of the pier to the choppy waters farther out, it moved its head forward to an almost 45-degree angle with its body and then straight up again, holding its bill always in an elevated position.

The light was excellent, with the sun in the west, behind the observers. Among us we had two Zeiss 10x40, 1 Leitz Trinovid 7x42, and 1 Swift 8.5x44 binoculars and 1 Questar 60x and 1 Bausch and Lomb 30x spotting scope. After we called all the above characteristics of the bird, we turned to the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society 1987) to see just what kind of alcid this could be. We feel, after also referring to *Seabirds: An Identification Guide* (Harrison 1983) that the bird was a Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*), a first winter bird.

Unfortunately, by this time the Westinghouse security guard had found us and very politely, but firmly, suggested that we get permission from the main office to continue to be on the pier. Permission was not granted, however. We left, but not before an oyster boat churned in toward the pier and scattered all the birds, our alcid included. Our stay on the pier lasted from 45 minutes to an hour.

We alerted the Anne Arundel Bird Club, which sent at least one observer to check out our bird. The bird was not seen later that afternoon. The blizzard of the following three days limited further search and may have driven the bird from the Bay. We have not heard of it since. According to Robbins and Bystrak (1977) and Stewart and Robbins (1958), Audubon (1840-1844) had reported seeing Black Guillemot "as far south as the shores of Maryland." There have been no known reports since.

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[Received Sept. 23, 1993; publication withheld pending acceptance by the Maryland/D.C. Records Committee (see *Maryland Birdlife* 52:22), which, because of the difficulty in separating the Black Guillemot from the Pigeon Guillemot (*Cephus columba*) of the Pacific Ocean, "decided not to accept a specific identification based solely on geographic probability."—Ed.]



FALL MIGRATION, AUGUST 1—NOVEMBER 30, 1995

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH

The season was fairly dry with warm temperatures through September. October brought a few minor cold fronts, and there was a major frontal system in early November.

Observers: Henry & Liz Armistead, George Armistead, Todd Birutis, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Bob Boxwell, Carol & Don Broderick, Pat & Caitlin Carlton, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Ian Cornelius, Steve Cornelius, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Deanna Dawson, Bill Dobbins, Paul DuMont, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Cecily Fritz, Kevin Graff, Gary Griffith, Jim Gruber, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Wilbur Hershberger, Marvin Hewitt, David Holmes, George Jett, Mike Kerwin, Dennis Kirkwood, Bill Kulp, Jr., Pat Lanahan, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Mike & Grazina McClure, Harvey Mudd, Paul & Carol Newman, Mariana Nuttle, Mike O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Floyd Parks, Brian Patteson, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for Wicomico Bird Club), Paul Pisano, Marie Plante, Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringle, Arlene Ripley, Barbara Ross, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Stephen Simon, Don Simonson, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Connie Skipper, Paul Spitzer, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Rick Sussman, Mary Ann Todd, Mary Twigg, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb (reporting for Harford County), Hal Wierenga, Joy Wheeler, Marcia Whitmyre, Jim Wilkinson, John Wortman, Helen Zeichner, Dave Ziolkowski. Banding was conducted this fall at Cherry Creek, Garrett County by Connie Skipper and Fran Pope, at PWRC by Deanna Dawson, and at Irvine Natural Science Center, Baltimore County by Barbara Ross and others.

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.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary (Frederick), Bird Island (Harford), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Browns Bridge (Howard), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Eden Brook (Howard), Flag Ponds Park (Calvert), Gambrill SP (Frederick), Greenfield Road (Frederick), Gunpowder River (Harford), Harford

Glen (Harford), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove (Somerset), Irvine Natural Science Center, (Baltimore), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaquindi (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Morgan Run Environmental Area (Carroll), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Mt. Pleasant (Howard), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Plum Tree Path (Howard), Purse SP (Charles), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Susquehanna SP (Harford), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Truitt Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany), Turkey Point (Cecil), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington/Frederick).

Loons, Grebes. Single **Red-throated Loons** were spotted at Hooper Island on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead), at Dames Quarter Creek on Oct. 29 (Ringler+), at Point Lookout on Nov. 5 (Tom Harton), at the mouth of the Choptank River, Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 23 (Webb), an unusual location for this species, and at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 24 (DuMont). **Common Loons** included 1 flying over Tilghman Island on Sept. 10 (Reese), 1 at Ocean City on Sept. 23 (Warfield), 52 at Assateague on Oct. 29 (Czaplak, Todd), 205 at the mouth of the Choptank River in Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), and 70 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 24, where the seasonal total was 159 (Paulus). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted in Howard County at Centennial Lake and at Stanford Road Pond, Columbia on Aug. 1 (Zeichner, Farrell), and 2 were at Tydings Island on Aug. 25 (Webb). The 31 Pied-billeds at Centennial on Oct. 15 were unusually plentiful for Howard County (Ray & Norma Peterson). Thirty-three were at Piney Run the same day (Ringler). Seventy-five Pied-billeds were at the hydrilla in DC on Oct. 18 (Janni), 39 were at Tydings Island on Oct. 21 (Webb), and 36 were at Loch Raven on Nov. 21 (Simon). The lone Horned Grebe, extraordinarily early at Piney Run on Sept. 23, was probably a non-breeding straggler (Ringler). A solo **Horned Grebe** showed up at Burkittsville on Oct. 15 (I. & S. Cornelius), and others were 20 at Seneca on Nov. 15 (Czaplak, Todd), 25 at the Gunpowder River on Nov. 16 (Webb), 30 at Truitt Landing on Nov. 25 (Czaplak, Todd), and 16 at Point Lookout on Nov. 27 (Craig, Cribb). A solitary **Red-necked Grebe** was in Harris Creek, Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), and a **Western Grebe** was at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 24-26 (DuMont+).

Shearwaters, Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. Eleven **Cory's Shearwaters**, 3 **Audubon's Shearwaters**, and over 100 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were located during the Sept. 10 pelagic trip out of Ocean City, mostly in Baltimore Canyon (Patteson+). Other **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were 6 at the Ocean City inlet on Aug. 18 (Dyke), and 2 there on Aug. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Two **Northern Gannets** were at Ocean City on Aug. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), and others included 19 at Point Lookout on Nov. 19 (Boxwell), 20 at Rock Point/Cobb Island on Nov. 25 (Jett), and 200 at St. Clements Island, St. Mary's County on Nov. 26 (Ann Hobbs). A **Brown Pelican** turned up at Cedar Point, PRNAS on Aug. 14 (Rambo), 3 were at Crisfield on Sept. 23 (Czaplak, Todd), and a nice count of 124 pelicans was reported on Oct. 26 at Point Lookout (Craig), where 7 remained on Nov. 26 (Boxwell). Two immature **Great Cormorants** were at Conowingo from Oct. 8 through Nov. 5 with 1 remaining through Nov. 29 (Scarpulla+), 1 was at Point Lookout on Oct. 26 (Craig),

and 8 were at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (Czaplak, Todd). The numerous **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included 140 at Point Lookout on Aug. 8 (Craig), 5 at the Upper Elk River, Cecil County on Aug. 20 (Griffith), 55 at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese), 370 at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), 169 at Back River, Baltimore County on Sept. 24 (Scarpulla), 285 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 1 inland at Burkittsville on Oct. 14 (I. & S. Cornelius), 2000 at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Dyke), over 100 at Bel Alton on Nov. 5 ((Jett), 75 at Conowingo on Nov. 12 (Blom), 20 at Morgantown on Nov. 17 (Jett), 1 at Triadelphia on Nov. 18 (Sussman), 1 at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County the same day (Sussman), 1 at Violettes Lock on Nov. 20 (Bonham), 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Ilf, Stasz), 4 the same day at Conowingo (Scarpulla), 50 at Ocean City on Nov. 26 (Saunders), 1 at Piney Run the same day and 1 at Tyaskin on Nov. 28 (Ringler). The seasonal total of Double-cresteds over Town Hill was 29 (Paulus).

Heron, Ibis. Solo **American Bitterns** were discovered at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 27 (Czaplak, Todd), at David Force Park WMA, Howard County on Sept. 30 (Michele Wright), at Irish Grove on Oct. 28 (Ringler), at Lily Pons on Oct. 29 (Pisano), with 2 there on Nov. 4 and 1 through Nov. 19 (Lori Kay Brown, Warfield), at Alpha Ridge Park in Howard County on Nov. 3 (Solem), and in Kent County on Nov. 26 (Czaplak, Todd). Single **Least Bitterns** were found on Sept. 2 at the Gunpowder River delta (Ziolkowski), and on Sept. 16 at Jug Bay (DuMont), at Woodmark Lake in Howard County (M. McClure), and at the C&O Canal in Washington County (I. Cornelius, Stasz). Fifty-eight **Great Blue Herons** were tallied at Conowingo on Sept. 30 (Blom, Scarpulla). **Great Egrets** included 135 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 and 14 at Ridgely on Aug. 8 (Ilf, Stasz), 23 at a fish hatchery near Route 15 in Frederick County on Aug. 13 (Hershberger), 32 at Beaver Creek Pond, Washington County on Aug. 15 (Gail Ottlinger), 12 at Waldorf on Aug. 26-28 and 14 at the Bumpy Oak Road swamp area in Charles County on Sept. 4 (Jett), 1 at the C&O Canal, Washington County on Sept. 16 (I. Cornelius, Stasz), 1 at Centennial on Oct. 18 (Kerwin), 21 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), 1 at Seneca on Oct. 30 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Lily Pons on Nov. 4 (I. Cornelius+), 2 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont), and 1 at Scotland on Nov. 27 (Craig, Cribb). **Snowy Egrets** of note were 1 at Mattawoman on Sept. 4 (Ringler, Jett, Stasz), 19 at Bellevue on Sept. 23 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Centennial on Oct. 18 (Kerwin). Ten **Little Blue Herons** were checked off at PWRC on Aug. 11 (Ilf), 3 were seen in Waldorf on Aug. 19 (Jett) and 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 6 (Simon). Eighteen **Tricolored Herons** were at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Ilf, Stasz), and 2 were at Tilghman Island on Aug. 6 (Reese). **Cattle Egrets** were 57 at Courthouse Point WMA on Aug. 1 (Griffith, Holmes), 6 at Little Eagle Road, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 20 (Stasz), 35 at Harwood on Sept. 22 (Chris Swarth), 30 at Cayot's Corner, Cecil County on Sept. 23 (Griffith), 30 at Blackwater on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 4 at Scotland on Oct. 25 (Craig), and 1 in Howard County at Fulton on Nov. 15 and at Route 216 and Hall Shop Road on Nov. 16 (Farrell, Solem). Late single **Green Herons** were at Allens Fresh on Oct. 29 (Jett) and at Piney Run on Nov. 5 (Ringler). High counts for the Green Heron were 46 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Ilf, Stasz), 11 at Loch Raven on Aug. 20 (Simon, Kye Jenkins), and 12 at Bellevue on Sept. 10 (Armisteads). Dave Webb listed 28 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Conowingo on Aug. 27, and 9 were at Fair Hill on Sept. 3 (Whitmyre). Single Black-crowned were at Wilde Lake on Oct. 9 (Newmans) and at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Fore Bay Pond near Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 13 (Darius Ecker). Other Yellow-crowned were 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Aug. 13 (Vic Wolf), an immature at Harford Glen sporadically from Aug. 25 to Sept. 18 (Kirkwood+), and 1 at Sligo Creek, Montgomery County on Aug. 26 (Norm

Saunders). From 1 to 3 **Glossy Ibis** were at PWRC, Aug. 1-11 (Osenton), about 200 were near Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 13 (Reese), and 3 were near Ocean City on Aug. 20 (DuMont).

Swans, Geese. Ten **Tundra Swans** were early at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead), 23 were at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), and 590 flew over Washington Monument SP on Nov. 4 (Fritz, Paul Newton). On Nov. 5, Harry and Liz Armistead totaled 2715 Tundras for a new high at Bellevue. Over 1800 Tundra Swans were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese), and 1365 were noted for the season at Town Hill (Paulus), with over 275 there on Nov. 4 (Ringler). About 3000 Tundras were reported at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). Jan Reese counted 92 **Mute Swans** at Claiborne on Sept. 17 and 85 on the Wye River, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties on Nov. 11. A single immature Mute was found north at Havre de Grace on Nov. 11 (Wortman+). One to two **Black Swans** were observed at Eastern Neck from Nov. 11 to Nov. 25 (Roger Dodd, DuMont+). **Greater White-fronted Geese** were identified this season with an adult near Pocomoke City, the same site as last winter, from Oct. 29 through at least Nov. 29 (Ringler+). Another was at Hurlock on Nov. 20 (Churchill), 1 at Hambleton Creek pond, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 24 (DuMont), and an adult at Remington Farms on Nov. 25 (Ringler+). A probable adult **Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose** was at Chestertown sewage lagoons on Nov. 25 (Ringler). The **Snow Goose** at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Churchill) probably summered locally. Migrants were 4 of the blue race at Madonna on Oct. 23 (Kirkwood), 30 at St. Mary's City on Oct. 28 (Tyler Bell), 2000 at Dudley Corners on Oct. 29 (Farrell), and 1500, with 1000 of them blues, at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (Harry & George Armistead). Five thousand Snows were at Chestertown on Nov. 18 (Jim Gruber), 3300 were at Hurlock on Nov. 20 (Churchill), and an adult Blue was at Piney Run on Nov. 26 (Ringler). A **Ross' Goose** was discovered at Dudley Corners on Oct. 29 (Farrell), and another was present at Blackwater on Nov. 11 (Czaplak, Todd), with 4 there on Nov. 25 (Pisano, P. & J. O'Brien). Eight **Brant** were at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 was at DC on Nov. 12 (John Gottschalk), and 500 were at Assateague on Nov. 26 (Saunders). Summer congregations of **Canada Geese** were present with 200 at Piney Run on Aug. 9 and 600 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 3-10 (Ringler), and 304 at Loch Raven on Sept. 12 (Simon). A small race Canada was at Bellevue on Sept. 23 (H. Armistead), and other small race birds were single sightings at a farm pond between Westminster and Union Mills on Oct. 15 and at Piney Run on Oct. 22 and Nov. 26 (Ringler), and another in St. Mary's County on Nov. 10 (Craig).

Dabbling Ducks. Nice counts of **Wood Ducks** were 75 at Ravenwood Road, Dorchester County on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 63 at Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 16 (Magnusson), 46 at Bellevue on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), and 30 at Queenstown on Nov. 16 (Poet). Late Wood Ducks included 1 at Loch Raven on Nov. 21 (Simon), and 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). The first migrant **Green-winged Teal** were 2 at Dames Quarter on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 200 were at Blackwater on Sept. 4 (Czaplak, Todd), 37 at Cecilton on Sept. 20 (Stasz), 400 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), 35 at Clark's Farm in Howard County on Oct. 30 (Wallace), at least 80 at Tanyard on Nov. 21 (Lanahan), 43 near Frederick on Nov. 24 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 82 at Loch Raven on Nov. 26 (Simon+). Ian and Steve Cornelius totaled 209 **American Black Ducks** at Burkittsville on Nov. 18, and 300 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). A **Mallard X Wood Duck hybrid** was reported at Centennial Park on Sept. 14 and Oct. 31 (Farrell). A large summer flock of 130 **Mallards** was at Piney Run on Aug. 4 (Ringler); 235 were found in Caroline County on Aug. 11 (H. Armistead). Over 600 Mallards were at Blackwater on Nov.

5 (H. & L. Armistead), 1000 were on the Wye River, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties on Nov. 11 (Reese), 221 were at Burkittsville on Nov. 18 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 300 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Highs for **Northern Pintail** were 300 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), and 400 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead). Highs for **Blue-winged Teal** were 31 at Chesapeake City on Sept. 2 (Ringler, Stasz, Blom), 40 on the Susquehanna River below Conowingo Dam on Sept. 4 (Webb), and a flock of 120 females and immature males at Centennial on Sept. 14 (Farrell, Solem). Lone Blue-wingeds were at Lily Pons on Oct. 29 (Pisano), at Deal Island WMA the same day (Ringler), and near Grasonville on Nov. 24 (Iliff, Stasz). **Northern Shovelers** of note were 2 at Ridgely on Aug. 11 and 6 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 2 at Chesapeake City on Sept. 2 (Ringler, Stasz, Blom), 50 at Hurlock on Sept. 20 (Churchill), 12 at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on Nov. 19 (Jett), 15 at Northgate, Cecil County on Nov. 26 (Griffith), and 42 at Remington Farms the same day (Stasz). **Gadwalls** included an early 1 at Cecilton on Sept. 20 (Stasz), 105 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead), the high at Piney Run of 59 on Nov. 12 (Ringler), 21 at Burkittsville on Nov. 24 (I. & S. Cornelius), 200 at Eastern Neck the same day (DuMont), and 31 at Loch Raven on Nov. 27 (Simon). Four drake **Eurasian Wigeons** were identified at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler+), another was at Tydings Island on Nov. 11-12 (Webb), and 1 to 2 were noted at Eastern Neck from Nov. 24 (DuMont) to Nov. 26 (Stasz, Jett). The first migrant **American Wigeons** were 5 at Piney Run on Sept. 10 (Ringler), and 1 was at Allens Fresh on Sept. 16 (Jett). Others were 47 at Tydings Island on Oct. 28 (Webb), 50 at Cecilton on Oct. 26 (Griffith), the high of 5000 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), 165 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon), 33 near Frederick on Nov. 24 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 600 at Eastern Neck the same day (DuMont).

Diving Ducks. **Canvasbacks** arrived with 3 at Remington Farms on Oct. 15 (Gruber), and 3 at Tydings Island on Oct. 21 (Webb). About 2000 were reported at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). Two **Redheads** were on the Gunpowder River on Oct. 27 (Webb), and 40 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Ringler). The female **Ring-necked Duck** at Piney Run on Sept. 21 was early; the high there was 200 on Nov. 12 (Ringler). Other Ring-neckeds included 4 in DC on Oct. 12 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 in Frederick County on Oct. 14 (I. & S. Cornelius), 35 at Tydings Island on Oct. 21 (Webb), and 210 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon). A **Greater Scaup** was at Harford Glen, an unusual inland location, on Oct. 18 (Wortman), 100 were on the Potomac River in Charles and St. Mary's counties on Nov. 18 (Val Kitchens), and 3500 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Dave Webb tallied 15,000 **Lesser Scaups** on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 23; 1500 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). A single male **King Eider** was reported flying by Ocean City on Nov. 15 (Czaplak, Todd). Single **Harlequin Ducks** were noted at Ocean City on Nov. 15 (Craig Faanes), and Nov. 26 (Davis). **Oldsquaws** included 1 at Denton on Nov. 6-8 (D. Ford), 475 around the mouth of the Choptank River in Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), 11 at Great Falls, Montgomery County on Nov. 21 (Linda Friedland), 70 at Cobb Island on Nov. 25 (Jett), 1 at Violettes Lock on Nov. 30 (Bonham), 18 on Conowingo Lake on Nov. 30 (Blom), and over 1000 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). Two **Black Scoters** were at Matapeake SP, Queen Anne's County on Aug. 9 (Weesner), 1 was at Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Jett), 1 was at North Beach on Sept. 18 (Stasz), and on Nov. 27, 50 were notched at Point Lookout (Cribb, Craig), and 2 were inland at Highland Lake, Howard County (Chestem). Two **Surf Scoters** were discovered on the Gunpowder River on Oct. 22-27 (Webb), 395 were at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead), 1 was at Seneca on Nov. 2 (Czaplak, Todd), 100 were at Point Lookout on Nov. 13-27

(Cribb, Craig), and 1 was at Rocky Gap SP on Oct. 29 (Twigg). **White-winged Scoters** were also noted with 1 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon), 2 on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 23 (Webb), and 200 at Point Lookout on Nov. 27 (Craig, Cribb). About 10,000 unidentified scoters were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). The summering drake **Bufflehead** on the Susquehanna River below Conowingo was seen through Sept. 30 (Wortman+). Migrant Buffleheads were 47 at Piney Run on Nov. 5 (Ringler); 80 at Little Seneca Lake (Elitzak), and 70 at Triadelphia (Farrell, Solem) the same day, 55 at Queenstown on Nov. 10 (Poet); 200 on the Wye River, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties on Nov. 11 (Reese); 525 at the mouth of the Choptank River in Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer); 500 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 22-23 (Wheeler); 200 at Truitt Landing (Czaplak, Todd), 300 at Rock Point and Cobb Island (Jett), and 126 at Kent Island (Poet), all on Nov. 25; and 300 at Assateague on Nov. 26 (Saunders). The first two **Hooded Mergansers** at Piney Run were noted on Oct. 22 with 60 there on Nov. 26 (Ringler); 20 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Ilf, Stasz). A **Common Merganser** was at Seneca on Nov. 17 (Simonson), and a **Red-breasted Merganser**, which probably summered, was at Wenona on Aug. 5 (Ilf, Stasz). Single **Ruddy Ducks** were at Loch Raven on Sept. 28 (Simon), at Point Lookout on Sept. 30 (Boxwell), and at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Ringler). Other Ruddies were 500 at Remington Farms and 1000 at Chestertown on Oct. 15 (Gruber), 125 at Piney Run on Nov. 12 (Ringler), and 2000 at Woodberry Beach, Charles County on Nov. 18 (Jett).

Vultures, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Mississippi Kite, Harriers. Ethel Engle counted 32 **Black Vultures** at Tanyard on Aug. 9, and Jim Paulus spotted a kettle of 35 at Town Hill on Sept. 27. Others were 18 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 52 at Triadelphia on Oct. 14 (Farrell, Solem), and 127 at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom). **Turkey Vultures** of interest were 157 at Tanyard on Aug. 22 (Engle), 52 at Mardela Springs on Sept. 15 (Reese), 113 at Maryland Heights on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius), 107 at Hooper Island on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead), 97 at Turkey Point on Oct. 18 (Griffith+), 115 at Conowingo on Oct. 29 (Scarpulla), and 79 in a single kettle for a new high at Bellevue on Nov. 5 (Harry & Liz Armistead). Early migrant **Ospreys** included 1 at Triadelphia Mill Road, Howard County on Aug. 6 (Wallace), 1 at Liberty Lake on Aug. 12 (Ringler), 16 on the hydrilla in DC on Aug. 13 (Czaplak, Todd), whereas late birds were 1 at Triadelphia on Nov. 5 (Farrell, Solem), 1 at Piney Run on Nov. 18, being attacked by 2 Bald Eagles (Ringler), 1 on Tilghman Island on Nov. 19 (Reese, Willey), 1 at George Island Landing on Nov. 25 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 at Denton on Nov. 28 (Nuttle). There were three reports of **Mississippi Kites** in August; 1 at PRNAS on the 15th (Rambo), 1 at Dameron on the 25th (Craig), and 1 at Town Hill on the 27th (Paulus and Teresa Simons). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported at Turkey Point on Oct. 13 (Whitmyre, June Vaughn). Eleven **Bald Eagles** were at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), a solo eagle was at Frederick on Oct. 21 (David Smith+), 21 were checked off at Conowingo on Oct. 29 (Scarpulla), and 30 were notched at Turkey Point on Nov. 9 (Griffith+). An immature **Northern Harrier** was seen at Union Bridge on Aug. 20 (Ringler, Kulp), another was at Perryman the same day (Webb), 1 was at Elkton on Aug. 23 (Griffith), and 2 were at Sycamore Landing on Aug. 25 (Bonham).

Accipiters, Buteos, Golden Eagles. Sharp-shinned Hawks began with single sightings at Ashton on Aug. 7 (Sussman), at David Force Park WMA in Howard County on Aug. 10 (Jo & Bob Solem), and at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Reese). Eighty-nine sharpies were notched at the Turkey Point Hawkwatch on Sept. 16 (Griffith+), and 463 were tallied at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead). A **Cooper's Hawk** was checked off at Hog Island, Caroline County on Aug. 11 (H.

Armistead), another was near Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 12 (Wilkinson), and 1 was at Port Tobacco on Aug. 26 (Jett, Stasz). Others included 17 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), and 12 at Turkey Point (fide Griffith) on Oct. 13. Jim Paulus identified an immature **Northern Goshawk** at Town Hill on Sept. 19, 1 was reported at Assateague on Oct. 29 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 at Maryland Heights on Nov. 5 (Craig Faanes). Jan Reese counted 15 **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5. Some interesting **Broad-winged Hawk** sightings were 1 at Dameron on Aug. 25 (Craig), 199 in one hour at Rocks SP in Harford County on Sept. 15 (Webb), 185 over White Avenue in Baltimore on Sept. 23 (Graff), 279 in western Howard County on Sept. 27 (Wes Earp, Bob Solem), 15 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Centennial on Nov. 4 (Farrell, Solem). Fifteen **Red-tailed Hawks** were noted at Hooper Island on Oct. 8, and 19 were there on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead). Others included 140 at Turkey Point on Nov. 4 (fide Griffith), 42 at Laurel on Nov. 5 (Osenton), 107 at DC on Nov. 10 (Janni), and 30 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Harry and Liz Armistead listed 23 Red-tails at Bellevue, for a new high there, on Nov. 4, and also spotted an immature **Golden Eagle** at Blackwater on Nov. 5. Another immature Golden was at Conowingo, Nov. 12-29 (Blom+), and others included solo sightings in DC on Nov. 9 (Janni), at Hughes Hollow the same day (Cindy Loper), at Glen Echo on Nov. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), and at North East on Nov. 26 (Griffith). Rough-legged Hawks included single birds at Northgate, Cecil County on Nov. 11 (Griffith), Elliott Island on Nov. 23 (Czaplak, Todd), Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont), and a dark phase at Piney Run the same day (Stasz).

**HAWK MIGRATION AT TOWN HILL,
ALLEGANY COUNTY, FALL 1995**

COMPILED BY JIM PAULUS

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	8/21	10/29	64	8 on 10/1, 5 on 9/23
Mississippi Kite	8/27		1	Documented
Bald Eagle	8/26	11/24	21	7 on 9/2, 2 on 9/20
Northern Harrier	8/22	11/19	62	6 on 10/21, 4 on 10/3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/22	11/30	1019	106 on 10/7, 63 on 10/8
Cooper's Hawk	8/24	11/30	141	19 on 10/7, 10 on 10/13
Northern Goshawk	9/19	11/9	6	2 on 10/29
Red-shouldered Hawk	8/21	11/28	82	7 on 10/31, 7 on 11/4
Broad-winged Hawk	8/21	10/12	1382	462 on 9/19, 418 on 9/18
Red-tailed Hawk	8/21	11/30	1054	143 on 10/29, 124 on 11/4
Rough-legged Hawk	11/9	11/16	4	
Golden Eagle	10/7	11/30	37	11 on 11/8, 6 on 11/9
American Kestrel	8/21	11/5	151	20 on 10/7, 15 on 9/27
Merlin	9/18	11/17	20	2 on 9/24, 2 on 10/15
Peregrine Falcon	9/23	10/30	16	4 on 9/24, 3 on 10/1
Unidentified			61	

Total 8/21 11/30 4121 504 on 9/19, 440 on 9/18 (369 hours)

Falcons. Patty Craig counted 18 **American Kestrels** at Scotland on Aug. 31 and Harry Armistead totaled 66 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8. **Merlins** included 1 at Crisfield on Aug. 23 (Churchill), another at Turkey Point on Sept. 1, 2 at Dameron on Sept. 7 (Craig), 1 near Ellicott City, Sept. 8-19 (Ott), 1 near Lily Pons on Sept. 16 (Churchill), 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 17 (Zeichner), 1 at Liberty Lake the same day (Ringler), 1 at Lake Kittamaquondi on Sept. 23 (Chestem), 2 over White Avenue, Baltimore on Sept. 27 (Graff), 2 at Town Hill on Oct. 15 (Czplak, Todd), and 1 at Ashton on Nov. 2-16 (Sussman). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were at Camp Rodney, Cecil County on Aug. 20 (Griffith), at Conowingo on Sept. 9 (Blom, Scarpulla), at Bellevue (immature male) on Sept. 16 (Harry, George, & Liz Armistead), at Dameron on Sept. 26 (Craig), in DC on Oct. 2 (Jett), at Mariner Point Park in Harford County on Oct. 13 (Harold Boling), in Frederick County on Oct. 21 (Smith), at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 15 (Michael Bowen), and an immature was chasing shorebirds at Liberty Lake on Sept. 16 and again on Sept. 23 (Ringler+).

Gallinaceous Birds. Rick Sussman reported a nice sighting of a female **Ring-necked Pheasant** and at least 10 young off River Road in Montgomery County on Aug. 12, and John Churchill noted one at Tudor Farm in Dorchester County on Sept. 21. **Wild Turkeys** were found with 28 at Ravenwood Road in Dorchester County on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz); 18 at New Bridge Road, Cecil County on Aug. 17 (Griffith); 35 at Roop Road, Cecil County on Aug. 22 (Schultz), and 1 at Centreville on Sept. 12, at Taylors Island on Oct. 7, and at Starr on Oct. 9 (Reese, Levin Willey). Marvin Hewitt notched 17 turkeys at Greensboro on Oct. 26, Dave Harvey checked off 2 near Marriottsville on Nov. 9, and Wayne Abbott reported 5 at Prettyboy Reservoir on Nov. 29. A female **Northern Bobwhite** was flushed off a nest with 7 eggs at Bellevue on Sept. 10, was seen on the nest again on Sept. 16, and four of the eggs were hatched by Oct. 5; a total of 22 bobwhites were seen at Bellevue on Oct. 9 (H. Armistead). Seventeen bobwhites were near Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese), 2 were at Schooley Mill on Sept. 16 (Magnusson) with reports there through Oct. 2 (Solem+), and 19 were at Preston on Oct. 30 (Wilbur Engle).

Rails, Coots, Sandhill Cranes. Fourteen **Clapper Rails** were listed at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and 22 were totaled at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 along with 34 Virginia Rails (H. Armistead). A **Virginia Rail** was observed for several minutes near the Cherry Creek banding station on Sept 27 (Skipper, Gary Yoder). Early **Soras** were 1 at Mt. Nebo WMA, Garrett County on Aug. 11 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Chestertown on Aug. 20 (Gruber), 1 at Centennial on Aug. 26 (Ott, Zeichner, Jim & Carol Wilkinson), 2 at Pennyfield on Sept. 2 (Bonham), 8 at the Gunpowder River delta the same day (Ziolkowski), and 1 at the Korean War Memorial in DC on Sept. 3 (Eric Boswell). The Sora at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 1 (Czaplak, Todd) was very late for the Piedmont. A **Common Moorhen** was at Tanyard on Aug. 2 and an adult and 2 juveniles were there on Aug. 9 (Engle), 4 were seen there Aug. 11 (H. Armistead), 5 were age Road in Dorchester County on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and single reports were made at Hughes Hollow on Aug. 6 (Sussman), at Hog Island on Aug. 11 (H. Armistead), at E.A. Vaughn WMA, Worcester County on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd), near Cecilton on Sept. 4 (Griffith, Fogleman), and at PWRC on Oct. 9 (Osenton+). **American Coots** began with 1 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 2 (Ringler, Stasz, Blom), 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 21 (Ringler), and 2 at Loch Raven on Sept. 28, where 200 were estimated on Oct. 6, climbing to 1400 on Nov. 21 (Simon). Other interesting coots were 50 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 8 (Warfield), 200 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), 1400 at Tydings Island on Nov. 12 (Blom), 1200 on the hydrilla in DC on Nov. 18 (Janni), 65 at North East the same day (Griffith), 500 at Piney Run from Nov. 23 into December (Ringler), 62 at

Burkittsville on Nov. 24 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 150 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were reported by many birders in Montgomery County off River Road from Aug. 4 (Jim Green) through Aug. 26 (Czaplak, Todd).

Plovers, Avocets. **Black-bellied Plovers** began with 1 near Riley Roberts Road, Somerset County on Aug. 5 and 4 at Deal Island WMA (Iliff, Stasz); 2 were at PRNAS on Aug. 6 (Lister). Others included 1 near Poolesville on Aug. 7 (Lew Komarow), 6 in Queen Anne's County on Aug. 8 (Iliff), 2, including 1 juvenile, at Triadelphia on Sept. 16, with the juvenile seen again on Sept. 20 (Magnusson), 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 23—Oct. 1 (Ringler, Boyd), and 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). **Lesser Golden-Plovers** were noted this season with 2 at Hurlock on Aug. 20 (Jett, Stasz, Claudia Wilds), 1 in breeding plumage at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Sept. 2 (Blom, Ringler, Stasz), 1 in Washington County on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius), 3 at Hurlock on Sept. 20 (Churchill), 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 23 (Ringler, Boyd), 2-3 at PRNAS from Sept. 25-27 (Rambo), 6 at North Branch on Sept. 2 (Twigg), and 1 near Bird Island from Oct. 1-2 (Webb). Two of the endangered **Piping Plovers** were located at Assateague on Sept. 10 (Patteson+). Doug Lister counted 36 **Killdeer** at PRNAS on Aug. 6, and others included 50 at Chuck Wade Turf Farm in Frederick County on Aug. 12 (Hershberger), 115 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 45 at Browns Bridge on Sept. 10 (Saunders), 106 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10 (Ringler), 90 at Aldino Sod Farm, Harford County on Sept. 22 (Webb), 33 at Indian Creek WMA, Charles County on Oct. 15 (Jett, Stasz), 101 at Scotland on Oct. 25 (Craig), and 105 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead). The **American Oystercatcher** at Smith Island on Sept. 2 (Czaplak, Todd) was an interesting sighting, and a **Black-necked Stilt** was at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz). An **American Avocet** visited Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), where 1 was seen on Sept. 4 (Czaplak, Todd), and a female American Avocet, for the second Howard County record, was at Fulton on Sept. 9 (Osenton, Solem), and seen by many observers on Sept. 10 (Southworths+). Another avocet was at Ocean City on Nov. 26 (Saunders).

Tringine Sandpipers. **Greater Yellowlegs** of note were 37 at Shorter's Wharf, Dorchester County and 38 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and 4 at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on Nov. 19 (Jett). Twenty-six **Lesser Yellowlegs** were discovered at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 31 at Cecilton on Aug. 5 (Griffith, Powers), 35 there on Sept. 2 (Blom, Ringler, Stasz), and 20 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 16 (Ringler). The last **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted at Harney Road Pond, Frederick County on Oct. 15 (Hershberger). Eight **Willetts** were at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and 2 were near Point Lookout on Aug. 8 (Craig). Ringler located 14 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Liberty Lake on Aug. 26, and later birds were 1 at North East on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes), and 3 at Point Lookout on Nov. 13 (Craig). **Upland Sandpipers** included: 3 on Aug. 1 at Cecilton (Griffith, Holmes), 11 on Aug. 5 at Easton Airport (Reese), 41 on Aug. 6 at PRNAS (Lister), 2 on Aug. 8 in Queen Anne's County (Iliff), 8 on Aug. 11 in Caroline County (H. Armistead), 1 on Aug. 12 near Lily Pons (Hershberger), 1 on Aug. 18 at Perryman (Blom), 2 on Aug. 20 at Salisbury Airport (Pisano), 1 on Aug. 29 at Hurlock (Iliff), and 1 on Sept. 4 at Assateague (Czaplak, Todd). An Upland was also reported on Nov. 4, an unusual date, near Lily Pons (Steve Huy, I. Cornelius). A dead Whimbrel was found on a road near PRNAS on Aug. 30 (Rambo).

Calidridine Sandpipers. A **Ruddy Turnstone** turned up at the hydrilla in DC on Aug. 27 (Janni), where a **Sanderling** was located the same day (Czaplak,

Todd). Two immature Sanderlings were a nice surprise near Bird Island, Sept. 8-9, for the second Harford County record (Webb+). Others included 1 inland at Triadelphia Reservoir on Sept. 10 (Stirrat), and another that made Liberty Lake home during Sept. 16-23 (Ringler). Eight Sanderlings were found at PRNAS on Sept. 26 (Rambo). A local record high of 200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at Liberty Lake, after a storm, on Aug. 5 (Ringler), and 100 semipalms were at Ridgely earlier on Aug. 2 (Iloff, Stasz). Others of note were 40 at Loch Raven on Aug. 25 (Simon+), 50 at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Iloff), and 65 at Cecilton on Aug. 30 (Griffith, Fogleman, Charles Gant). Reports of **Western Sandpipers** were numerous including: 1 at Ridgely on Aug. 2 (Iloff), 1-2 at Liberty Lake on Aug. 5-26 (Ringler), 3 at PRNAS on Aug. 17 (Rambo, Lister), 8 at Perryman on Aug. 17 (Webb+), 1 at Loch Raven on Aug. 20 (Simon, Jenkins), 4 at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Iloff), 25 at Cecilton on Sept. 2 (Blom, Ringler, Stasz), 20 at Conowingo on Sept. 3 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 15 at Waldorf on Sept. 4 (Ringler+). A **Red-necked Stint** was reported in West Ocean City by many birders, Aug. 19-20 (O'Brien, Czaplak+). Interesting **Least Sandpipers** were 31 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iloff, Stasz), 15 at Waldorf on Aug. 26 (Jett, Stasz), 25 at Liberty Lake the same day (Ringler), 20 at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Iloff), 32 at Cecilton on Sept. 3 (Griffith), and 30 at North Branch on Oct. 8 (Twigg). **White-rumped Sandpipers** made a nice showing this fall with numerous reports such as 1 at Loch Raven on Aug. 20 (Simon, Jenkins), 1 in West Ocean City the same day (DuMont), 1 in DC on Aug. 27 (Czaplak, Todd), 2 at Hurlock on Aug. 27 (Phil Olsen), up to 3 at Conowingo on Sept. 2-4 (Scarpulla, Blom), 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10 and 2 there on Sept. 16-24 (Ringler). Harry Armistead found a new 'yard' bird at Bellevue when a White-rumped visited on Sept. 23rd, 7 were in Ocean City the same day (Czaplak, Todd), 1 was at Allens Fresh on Oct. 8 (Jett), and 2 were at North Branch on Oct. 21 (Twigg). Bob Ringler had 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** at Liberty Lake on Aug. 26, 1 or 2 of these nice-to-find birds were at Cecilton, for the first Cecil County record, Aug. 30—Sept. 8 (Mudd, Griffith+), and another was in West Ocean City on Sept. 20 (Dyke). Mary Twigg tallied 40 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at North Branch on Oct. 6. Earlier Pectoral sightings included 35 at Ridgely on Aug. 2 and 24 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iloff, Stasz), and 17 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10 (Ringler). **Purple Sandpipers** began with 2 at Point Lookout on Nov. 12 (Tom Harten), and interesting **Dunlins** were: 2 at Bird Island on Oct. 3 (Mudd), 1 at Allens Fresh on Oct. 8 (Jett), 2 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 22 and 1 there Nov. 5 (Ringler), 225 at Blackwater on Nov. 5 (H. & L. Armistead), and 14 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). Adding to the nice variety of shorebirds this season were **Stilt Sandpipers** with 1 at Cecilton on Aug. 1 (Griffith, Holmes), and Sept. 2-6 (Ringler+); 2 at Ridgely on Aug. 2 (Iloff); 1 in Waldorf on Aug. 26-28 (Jett); 3 near Bird Island on the Susquehanna, Sept. 2-4 (Blom+); 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10-16, and Oct. 1-8 (Ringler); and 1 at Lily Pons on Oct. 4 (Ricciardi), and Oct. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Two tough-to-find **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Hurlock on Aug. 20 (Jett, Stasz), and the single Buff-breasted at Aldino, Harford County from Aug. 20 (Claudia Wilds+) to Sept. 2 (Czaplak+) was reported by many birders and was the first Harford County record (Webb). Another Buff-breasted was discovered at West Ocean City on Aug. 23 (Dyke).

Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcock, Phalaropes. At Cecilton, on Aug. 5, were 134 **Short-billed Dowitchers** (Griffith, Powers), another was at Liberty Lake on August 26 (Ringler), and 2 immatures were near Bird Island on the Susquehanna River from Aug. 27 to Sept. 4 (Webb). Long-billed Dowitchers included 12 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 10 (Davis, Wierenga), 1 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 1 (Ringler, Hoffman+), 1 at West Ocean City on Oct. 28 (Czaplak, Todd), and 5 at Chance on Oct. 29 (Ringler). The solo **Common Snipe** sightings at Blackwater on Aug. 19

(Davidson, Wierenga), at Liberty Lake on Sept. 2 (Ringler), and at Cecilton (Griffith, Fogleman) and Mattawoman on Sept. 4 (Ringler, Stasz+) were a little early. Fifteen Snipe were at Tanyard on Nov. 21 (Lanahan), and 11 were at PRNAS on Nov. 24 (Lister). An **American Woodcock** was noted at Daniels on Sept. 10 (Randy Crook, Stirrat, Harveys), 1 was seen at Cherry Creek banding station on Sept 15 (Skipper, Pope), and 4 were at Laurel on Nov. 19 (Sussman). Mark Farmer reported 7 **Wilson's Phalaropes** at the hydrilla in DC on Aug. 18, 1 was found in West Ocean City on Aug. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), and 2 were at Hurlock on Sept. 3 (Phil Olsen).

Jaegers, Gulls. A **Parasitic Jaeger** and an unidentified jaeger were spotted on the pelagic trip out of Ocean City on Sept. 10 (Patteson+). There were several interesting reports of **Laughing Gulls** this season. Five were at the Upper Elk River in Cecil County on Aug. 20 (Griffith), 18 were at Conowingo on Sept. 3 (Scarpulla, Blom), 570 were tallied during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 16, and 1 was at Liberty Lake on Sept. 17 and Oct. 1 (Ringler). A **Laugher** was at the Mall in DC on Sept. 25 (Jim Felley); 474 at Back River, Baltimore County on Oct. 1 (Scarpulla); 1 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 15 (Stirrat, Richard & Randy Crook); 8 at North East on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes); 375 at Bellevue and 550 at Blackwater on Oct. 22, and 910 at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead+); 250 at Hains Point on Oct. 29 (Elitzak); 475 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead); 1 at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla); 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont); and 30 at Easton on Nov. 28 (Ringler). A **Franklin's Gull** was reported in DC at Flener). Four early **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Centennial Park on Oct. 22 (Zeichner), 26 were at Triadelphia on Nov. 16 (Farrell, Solem), and 200 were at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom). Gene Scarpulla and Rick Blom tallied 709 Ring-billed Gulls on Sept. 3 at Conowingo and 7000 there on Nov. 19. On Nov. 23, Mike O'Brien reported 2500 Ring-billeds in Ocean City. Three thousand **Herring Gulls** and two **Thayer's Gulls** were checked off at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom). George and Harry Armistead tallied 1250 Herring Gulls at Blackwater on Nov. 12. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 1 at North Beach on Sept. 25 (Stasz); 1 in Charles County on Oct. 8 (Jett); 2 at Georgetown Reservoir (Dobbins), 1 at Tydings Island (Blom), and 2 on Tilghman Island (Reese), all on Nov. 12; 3 at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom); and 4 at DC on Nov. 26 (Elitzak). Over 300 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were congregated at Cedar Point, PRNAS on Aug. 14 (Rambo), 6 were at Conowingo on Sept. 3 and up to 500 were there by Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom).

Terns, Skimmer. The solo **Caspian Tern** flying over Cherry Creek headed toward Deep Creek Lake on Aug. 12 (Pope) was an unusual sighting for that location. Other Caspians were 1 at Scotchman's Creek, Cecil County on Aug. 1 (Griffith, Holmes), 1 at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on Aug. 13 (Bob Augustine), 18 at Triadelphia on Aug. 26 (Chestem), 55 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 15 at Loch Raven on Sept. 12 (Simon), 20 at the hydrilla in DC on Sept. 17 (Czaplak, Todd), 22 at Conowingo on Sept. 23 (Scarpulla), 1 at Blackwater on Oct. 28 (Czaplak, Todd), and 2 at Flag Ponds on Oct. 30 (Ripley). Harry Armistead checked off 8 **Royal Terns** at Choptank and Hog Island, Caroline County on Aug. 11, another was at Tanyard on Sept. 1 (Engle), and late reports were of 3 at Morgantown on Oct. 28 (Jett), 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 29 (Reese), and 1 at Ridge on Nov. 13 (Craig). Five **Sandwich Terns** were spotted at Point Lookout on Aug. 22 (Craig, Cribb), and 1 was there on Sept. 6 (Charles Studeholme), and the 4th Street flats in Ocean City hosted 2 on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd). Among the **Common Terns** this fall were 1 at Tydings Island on Aug. 25 (Webb), 16 at Bay Hundred, Talbot County on Sept. 17 (Reese), and 6 the same day at North Branch (Twigg). The **Arctic Tern**

was not to be left out, with one reported at Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Some of the highs for **Forster's Terns** were 150 at Chestertown on Sept. 11 (Gruber), 584 at Conowingo on Sept. 23 (Scarpulla), 238 at Ridge on Oct. 13 (Craig), 131 at Chesapeake Beach on Oct. 21 (Stasz), and 175 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (G. & H. Armistead). Later Forster's were present on Nov. 25 with 4 at Eastern Neck (Ilf, Stasz), 4 near Rock Point (Jett), and up to 5 at Tanyard (Engle); 12 were located at Point Lookout on Nov. 26 (Craig). A **Least Tern** was discovered at Stevensville on Aug. 26 (Matt O'Donnell), and 2 **Bridled Terns** were found about 40 miles east of Ocean City on Sept. 10 (Patteson+). Three **Black Terns** were discovered at PRNAS on Aug. 10 (Rambo, Lister), and 1 was at Tydings Island on Aug. 25 (Webb), where a **Black Skimmer**, for the first Harford County record, stopped by on Oct. 1 (Wortman, Webb).

Doves, Cuckoos, Owls. The hawkwatch staff at Turkey Point noted 176 **Rock Doves** on Sept. 2 and 462 of these birds were estimated at Conowingo on Nov. 25 (Scarpulla). A **Ringed Turtle-Dove**, no doubt an escape, was observed at a feeder in Montgomery Village on Sept. 11 (Sarah Hains). Jo Solem found a very large congregation of **Mourning Doves** in Howard County with well over 800 on the power lines off Gorman Road on Aug. 9; 175 were found earlier on Aug. 5 in Cecilton (Griffith, Powers). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard doing mostly a two-note call at Morgan Run on Aug. 13 (Ringler); another was noted on the late date of Oct. 12 at Town Hill (Paulus). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** running a bit late were solo birds on Oct. 22 in Frederick County (S. & I. Cornelius), on Oct. 28 in Montgomery County (Saunders), and on Oct. 30 at Flag Ponds (Ripley). A **Long-eared Owl** was present at Turkey Point on Oct. 23 (Smoot Major) and Oct. 28 (Steve Huy). Two **Short-eared Owls** were at Taneytown on Nov. 26, the same site as last winter (Ringler). The Armisteads got their 255th species around their home at Bellevue, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, on Nov. 12. It was quite a season for Saw-whets with unprecedented numbers banded in Maryland: 334 at Turkey Point, and 332 at Assateague, where the previous high was 65. Although outside of Maryland, it is interesting to note that numbers were even higher at Kiptopeke, Virginia, a coastal concentration point, where 1020 Saw-whets were banded (David Brinker+).

Nighthawks, Swifts. The first migrant **Common Nighthawk** was at Ashton on Aug. 17 (Sussman), and at least 15 were counted at Bellevue on Aug. 18 (H. Armistead). About 100 went by DC on Sept. 3 (Jett), 123 were over Silver Spring on Sept. 4 (Donald Sweig), 70 were tallied at Hallmark Road in Columbia on Sept. 9 (Ward Ebert), 133 were noted at Northgate, Cecil County the same day (Griffith), and later nighthawks were 1 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 7 (Steve Huy+), and at Conowingo on Oct. 8 (Scarpulla). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported in Kent County on Sept. 10 (Parks), and single **Whip-poor-wills** were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 (Judy Bromley), and at Waldorf on Sept. 29 (Jett). Highs for Chimney Swifts were 500 at Roosevelt Island, DC on Sept. 23 (Birutis), over 300 at PRNAS on Sept. 25 (Rambo), and 500 at Seneca on Oct. 4 (Czaplak, Todd). Late **Chimney Swifts** were 7 at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 21 (Ralph Geuder, Solem), 1 at Town Hill on Oct. 21 (Paulus), and 5 at Turkey Point on Oct. 22 (Griffith).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in Bowie on Oct. 17 (Ann Newman), and another was at Hollywood Beach on Oct. 18 (Hyland Price). An adult female and an immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** were in DC from Nov. 12 to Nov. 20 (John Hayes+), and an adult female was at North Beach from Nov. 17 to Dec. 1 (Stasz+). Ten **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Purse SP on Aug. 28 (Jett), a nice sighting of five adult and two immature

Red-heads was made at Bellevue on Sept. 17 (Armisteads), and 3 were at Town Hill on Sept. 20 (Paulus). Mariana Nuttle checked off a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Denton on Sept. 14, and other solo sapsuckers were noted Sept. 23 at Washington Monument SP (I. Cornelius), at Rock Creek Park (Plante), and at Salisbury (Brodericks). Eight were checked off at Turkey Point on Oct. 18 (Fisher). Seventy-five migrating **Northern Flickers** were tallied at Turkey Point on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes), and 25 were found at Kent Narrows on Oct. 22 (Reese).

Flycatchers. Six individual **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sightings were made this season: at Tilghman Island on Aug. 13 (Reese), at Cherry Creek on Aug 17 and Sept 3 (Skipper, Pope), in Kent County on Aug. 24 (Parks), at Greenfield Road on Aug. 26 (Hershberger), and at Town Hill on Sept. 5 (Paulus). The last **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were 2 at Point Lookout on Oct. 11 (Craig), and 1 at Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary on Oct. 13 (Hershberger). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 16, and 2 were located at Greenfield Road on Aug. 26 (Hershberger). Two Yellow-bellieds passed Point Lookout on Aug. 29 (Craig, Cribb), and later reports were of one each at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Blom, Scarpulla) and at Salisbury on Sept. 24 (Dyke). The last **Acadian Flycatcher** submittals were on Sept. 21 at Flag Ponds (Ripley), and at PWRC (banded by Dawson) and an **Alder Flycatcher** was heard calling at Cherry Creek on Aug 13 (Skipper, Pope), the same day Jan Reese tallied 15 unidentified Empidonax flycatchers at Tilghman Island. Single Alders were also reported at Pennyfield on Aug. 27 (Czaplak, Todd), and Kent County on Sept. 2 (Parks). Jim Stasz and Ian Cornelius found a later Alder at Limekiln Road on Sept. 16 and a **Willow Flycatcher** the same day at the Funkstown water treatment plant, both in Washington County. Patty Craig identified a **Least Flycatcher** at Dameron on Aug. 22, Dawson banded 15 at PWRC from Aug. 18 to Sept. 15, and single birds near Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 26 (Wilkinson) and at DC on Sept. 27 (Czaplak, Todd) were just a few days late. Lingerings **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Centreville on Sept. 18 (Reese), and Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 24 (Holmes, Rod Burley, Solem). A **Western Kingbird** was reported at Assateague on Sept. 28 (Dyke). **Eastern Kingbirds** included 18 at Bellevue on Aug. 19 (H. Armistead, Margie Baldwin), another 18 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Reese), 14 at Annapolis on Aug. 29 (Stasz), 14 more at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), and a real lingerer at Denton on Oct. 7 (Nuttle).

Swallows, Corvids. Ethel Engle counted 130 **Purple Martins** at Tanyard on Aug. 8; about 2500 martins were at Pocomoke City on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga). Highs for **Tree Swallows** included 2500 at Conowingo on Aug. 27 (Saunders), 475 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 430 at Bellevue on Sept. 16 (Armisteads), 200 at New Windsor on Sept. 24 (Ringler), 475 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 1500 at Turkey Point on Oct. 13 (Griffith), 150 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 15 (Ringler), 100 at Myrtle Grove WMA on and 500, still on Oct. 22, at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville (Poet). November Tree Swallows included 1 at DC on Nov. 4 (Eltzack), 500 at the Ocean City Airport on Nov. 23 (O'Brien), and 7 near Grasonville on Nov. 26 (Jim Tate). Thirty-seven **Bank Swallows** were at Lily Pons on Aug. 26 (Hershberger), the high was 275 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), and a late Bank Swallow was at New Windsor on Sept. 24 (Ringler). Late **Cliff Swallows** were 1 at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 16 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 the same day at Waterford Farm, Howard County (Wallace), and 2 at New Windsor on Sept. 24 (Ringler). The high for **Barn Swallows** was 550 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 17 (Solem), and another at Point Lookout on the very late date of Nov. 12 (Craig). Jan Reese tallied over 1000 **Blue Jays** at Tilghman Island on Oct. 1. Other highs were 240 at Conowingo on Sept.

30 (*Scarpulla*, Blom), 490, including one albinistic bird, over Town Hill on Oct. 1 (Paulus), 550 at Taylors Island on Oct. 7 (Reese, Levin Willey), 358 at Washington Monument SP the same day (Fritz, Bob Lindsay), and over 800 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 8 where 2 late migrants were noted on Nov. 26 (Reese+). Bob Ringler observed about 600 **American Crows** coming to roost at Piney Run on Oct. 15, and Harry Armistead counted 235 **Fish Crows** at Bellevue on Aug. 30. Jim Paulus saw 8 **Common Ravens** together at Town Hill on Sept. 14.

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens. A few migrant **Black-capped Chickadees** were identified this fall, all in northern counties, with 1 at Hagerstown on Oct. 19 (Elizabeth Wolfe), 2 at Rohrersville on Oct. 25 (Ann Mitchell), 2 at Fair Hill on Nov. 18 (Paul Bystrak), and 2 at Glen Mary Heights, Cecil County on Nov. 23 (Griffith). Several **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported including 2 at Town Hill on Aug. 21 (Paulus), 1 at Purse SP on Aug. 27 (Jett, Stasz), 1 at Turkey Point on Sept. 1 (Whitmyre, Griffith), and 30 at Assateague on Nov. 5 (Dyke). From 1 to 8 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** were reported throughout the period at Tilghman Island, Kent Narrows, Blackwater, and E.A. Vaughn WMA by various birders. **Winter Wrens** included 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 27 (Zeichner), and 8 at Assateague on Nov. 5 (Dyke). One to 2 **Sedge Wrens** hung around Irish Grove on Oct. 28 (Pitney, Kay Gibbons, Polly Batchelder) and Oct. 29 (Ringler), and another was noted at Truitt Landing on Nov. 25 (Czaplak, Todd). Sue Ricciardi found a **Marsh Wren** at King Farm, Rockville on Sept. 4, and other interesting reports were at the Oakland Mills garden plots in Columbia on Sept. 28 (Wilkinson), and at PWRC on Oct. 12 (Osenton, Gough).

Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes, Mimids. About 50 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were near Grasonville on Nov. 4 (Jett), and at Tilghman Island (Reese) and Bel Alton (Jett) on Nov. 5. Les Eastman reported an extremely early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Havre de Grace on Aug. 27. Others were 1 at Browns Bridge on Aug. 31 (Zeichner), 1 at Turkey Point on Sept. 9 (Griffith), 100 at Point Lookout on Oct. 25 (Craig), and 50 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** included 4 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 13, and 18 there on Sept. 10 (Reese), and a late 1 at Arnold on Nov. 24 (Davidson, Wierenga). Also at Tilghman Island were over 150 **Eastern Bluebirds** on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 (Reese). The high for the **Veery** was 18 at Neavitt on Sept. 3 (Donald Meritt), and 2 were at Gambrill SP on Oct. 7 (I. Cornelius). A probable **Bicknell's Thrush** was observed at Rocks SP, Harford County on Oct. 7 (Ziolkowski), and a late **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Sugarloaf on Oct. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Ian Cornelius counted 24 migrating **Swainson's Thrushes** at Gambrills SP on Oct. 7, and Dawson banded a late one at PWRC on Oct. 31. **Hermit Thrushes** included 2 at Libertytown on Sept. 24 (Hershberger), the first one banded at Irvine on Oct. 4, 29 at Point Lookout on Oct. 26 (Craig), 20 at Assateague on Nov. 5 (Dyke), and over 30 at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese). Fifty migrant **Wood Thrushes** were tallied near Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese), 1 was spotted at Point Lookout on Oct. 11 (Craig), and the last one banded at Irvine was on Oct. 19. Jan Reese observed an **American Robin** building a nest at St. Michaels on Aug. 3 and tallied 2000 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5, and 2000 at Easton on Nov. 6. Two hundred were counted at Cherry Creek on Oct. 7 (Skipper, Pope), and Bob Ringler found about 300 Robins at Irish Grove on Oct. 29. Don Simonson counted an amazing 130 Gray Catbirds at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 17, over 25 **Northern Mockingbirds** were at Tilghman Island on Oct. 1 (Reese), and a **Brown Thrasher** was at Point Lookout on Nov. 27 (Craig).

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. A lone **American Pipit** visited Triadelphia on Sept. 11 (Chestem, Zeichner), 3 were at PRNAS on Sept. 26 (Rambo), and 200 were

near Lily Pons on Nov. 5 (Hershberger). Connie Skipper and Fran Pope reported over 150 **Cedar Waxwings** at Cherry Creek on Sept. 4, 100 were at Hancock on Oct. 7 (Linda Keller, Beth Zang), 250 were at Chestertown on Nov. 5 (Gruber), and 637 were at Turkey Point on Nov. 9 (Griffith). A **Northern Shrike** visited the Wildfowl Trust at Grasonville, Nov. 18-20 (Davis+), and another was reported at Lily Pons on Nov. 20 (Gail Mackiernan). Two **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported in shrubs on a lawn in Bozman on Aug. 21 (Herndon Steilkie), and others were 1 at Ashton on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius), 1 at Friendship, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 21 (Stasz), and others again in the Lily Pons area.

Starlings, Vireos. A large roost of **European Starlings** estimated at 8000 birds was just outside Westminster in the Avondale Run area on Nov. 2 (Ringler). Earlier, Jan Reese estimated 2000 Starlings at Centreville on Sept. 13. Thirty **White-eyed Vireos** were at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 17 (Simonson) and a late White-eyed turned up at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 16 (Solem). The first **Solitary Vireos** were 1 at Turkey Point on Sept. 5 (Griffith) and 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 15 (Solem). Norm Saunders found one on Nov. 4 at Lake Frank, Montgomery County. The last Yellow-throated Vireos were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 23 (Plante), and at Bryans Road on Sept. 24 (Jett). **Warbling Vireos** ended with 2 at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), and single sightings at Wilde Lake on Sept. 19 (Newmans), Salisbury the same day (Brodericks), and Assateague on Sept. 28 (Dyke). Banded **Philadelphia Vireos** at Cherry Creek were 2 on Sept. 10 and 1 on Sept. 20. The first sighting at Cherry Creek was on Sept. 4 (Skipper, Pope), others were seen on Sept. 10 at Greenfield Road (Hershberger), at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11 (Dobbins), and on Oct. 7 at Gambrill SP (I. Cornelius). Patty Craig submitted highs for the Red-eyed Vireo with 20 at Point Lookout and 30 at Dameron on Sept. 8. Marie Plante noted a late Red-eyed at Pennyfield on Oct. 17.

Vermivora Warblers. A **Brewster's Warbler** was found at Havre de Grace on Aug. 24 (Les Eastman), and 1 was banded at Harford Glen on Sept. 5 (Barbara Bilsborough). Others reported were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 21 (Janni), and at Roosevelt Island, DC on Sept. 23 (Birutis). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was reported at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 2 (Janni). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 2 and singles were banded there on Sept. 4 and Sept. 11. They were earlier in the east with the first report on Aug. 19 near Pocomoke City (Davis). The last Blue-winged was at Nolands Ferry on Sept. 30 (Churchill). Single sightings of the **Golden-winged Warbler** were made at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 27 (Wilkinson), at Skeleton Creek Road, Caroline County on Aug. 29 (Iloff), at Eden Brook on Sept. 6 (Solem), at Daniels on Sept. 10 (Harveys, Stirrat), and at PWRC on Sept. 20 (banded by Dawson). Seven were banded for the season at Cherry Creek between Aug. 16 and Sept. 1. **Tennessee Warblers** began with 1 at Greenfield Road on Aug. 26, and late birds were at Avondale, Carroll County (Ringler) and PWRC (Dawson) on Oct. 23. Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Pennyfield on Oct. 7 (Linda Friedland), at Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dyke), at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 15 (Ott, Randy Crook), at Morgan Run on Oct. 21 (Ringler), and later at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 25 (Claire Horvath), and Dameron on Nov. 27 (Craig). Five **Nashville Warblers** went through Turkey Point on Sept. 10 (Fisher, McCandless), and the last sightings were solo birds at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on Oct. 29 (Jett), and Chestertown on Nov. 11 (Gruber).

Dendroica Warblers. A tardy **Yellow Warbler** was found at Hagerstown on Sept. 30 (Elizabeth Wolfe), and the last **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at Gambrill SP (I. Cornelius) and PWRC (Dawson) on Oct. 7. A late **Magnolia Warbler** was

found at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 23 (Bonham); 25 were tallied earlier at Point Lookout on Sept. 19 (Craig, Cribb). A **Cape May Warbler** was checked off at Purse SP on Sept. 4 (Jett, Ringler, Stasz), and the first early **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Reese), and at West Ocean City the same day (DuMont). Black-throated Blues ended with 1 at Chestertown (Gruber), and the last one banded at Irvine, both on Oct. 24. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** arrived just a tad early with 1 at Big Pool on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius). Highs were over 100 at PRNAS on Oct. 10 (Rambo), 200 at Turkey Point on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes), 1000 at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Dyke), and 120 at Bellevue on Nov. 4 (H. & L. Armistead). The first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Point Lookout on Aug. 29 (Craig, Cribb), 15 were at Pennyfield on Sept. 24 (DuMont), 15 were at Dameron on Oct. 9 (Craig), and late birds were single sightings at Hunt Ridge, Howard County on Oct. 19 (Stirrat), and at Liberty Lake on Oct. 22 (Ringler). **Blackburnian Warblers** began with 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Jeff Effinger, Beth Olsen), and at Point Lookout on Aug. 22 (Craig), and ended with 1 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 1 (I. Cornelius), and at Conowingo on Oct. 3 (Mudd). Individual **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at Lake Kittamaquindi on Sept. 16 (Zeichner), and at Susquehanna SP on Sept. 24 (Eastman). Bob Ringler saw his last **Pine Warbler** at Liberty Reservoir on Oct. 21. Dawson banded a late Prairie Warbler at PWRC on Sept. 28. Highs for **Palm Warblers** were 15 at Taylors Island on Oct. 7 (Reese, Levin Willey), at least 30 at Schooley Mill the same day (Magnusson), and 12 at Bel Alton on Nov. 5 (Jett). A yellow Palm was at Liberty on Nov. 5 (Ringler), and the latest report for Palms was 1 on Nov. 24 at Eastern Neck (DuMont). The only **Blackpoll Warbler** banded at Irvine was late on Oct. 19. Blackpolls began with 1 at Greenfield Road on Sept. 4 (Hershberger+). Nice-to-find **Cerulean Warblers** were in Howard County with 1 at Lake Elkhorn from Aug. 3 to Sept. 3 (Wilkinson), 1 at Gwynn Acres Path on Sept. 15 (Jo & Bob Solem), and 1 during the Fall Count on Sept. 16. Irvine banded their first ever Cerulean on Aug. 25.

Other Warblers. At least ten **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 30 (Jo & Bob Solem), and 20 went through Dameron on Sept. 3 (Craig). **American Redstarts** included 1 banded at PWRC on Aug. 3 (Dawson), 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 4 (Rambo), and 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 6 (Reese), and the highs were 20 at Dameron on Sept. 3 (Craig) and 25 around Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese). A late **Prothonotary Warbler** was discovered at Conowingo on Sept. 30 (Scarpulla, Blom). Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were still at Daniels on Sept. 16 (Stirrat), Greenfield Road on Sept. 20 (Hershberger), and Flag Ponds on Sept. 27 (Ripley). The last **Ovenbird** banded at Irvine was on Oct. 25; the first report was at Dameron on Aug. 7 (Craig). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at Chestertown on Aug. 1 (Gruber), 4 were at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), and single birds were at Chestertown on Oct. 24 (Gruber) and at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 1 (Czaplak, Todd). Several sightings of **Connecticut Warblers** were submitted this fall including four banded at Cherry Creek between Sept. 1 and Sept. 16, 27 banded at PWRC, Sept. 2 to Oct. 1, 2 reported at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Janni), 1 at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Sept. 17 and Oct. 1 (Dyke), 1 at Rockburn Branch on Sept. 16 (Ott), 2 at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Meadowside Nature Center in Montgomery County on Sept. 20 (Bonham), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 7 (Jett), and another visiting the Liberty watershed on Oct. 8 (Ringler). **Mourning Warblers** were at PWRC as early as Aug. 10 (Dawson), at PRNAS on Aug. 25 (Cheeseman, Rambo), at Chestertown on Sept. 11 (Gruber), at Seneca on Sept. 13 and at Little Falls on Sept. 15 (Czaplak, Todd), at Fore Bay Pond near Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 16 (Wilkinson), and at Seneca on Sept. 25 (DuMont). Jan Reese counted over 40 **Common Yellowthroats** near Centreville on Sept. 12, 60

were at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 17 (Simonson), and the last was at Triadelphia on Nov. 16 (Farrell, Solem). A **Hooded Warbler** was banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 20. Others of note were late birds at Liberty watershed on Sept. 24 (Ringler), at the Columbia Road Golf Course on Sept. 25 (Zeichner), at Flag Ponds on Sept. 27 (Ripley), and at Hagerstown on Sept. 30 (Elizabeth Wolfe). The first **Wilson's Warbler** was banded at PWRC on Aug. 25 (Dawson), 1 was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 27 (Reese), 1 was banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 30, and a late male was at Conowingo on Oct. 29 (Scarpulla). An early **Canada Warbler** was at Lentz Road, Caroline County on Aug. 8 (Iliff), and the last was banded at PWRC on Oct. 8 (Dawson).

Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches, Sparrows. Two **Summer Tanagers** were on the Fall Count in Howard County on Sept. 16 (Maud Banks, Eva Sunell), and the last sightings were singles at Flag Ponds on Sept. 21 (Ripley), and at Hollywood on Sept. 25 (Rambo). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** included an immature male at Harford Glen on Aug. 26 (Webb), 9 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 1, over 25 just north of Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese), 10 at Roosevelt Island, DC on Sept. 23 (Birutis), 1 at Hancock on Oct. 7 (Keller, Zang), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 10 (Jett), and a female during Nov. 10-25 at Wilde Lake (Wilkinson). A male **Blue Grosbeak** was at Greenfield Road on Oct. 4 (Lois Kauffman) and a female was at UMCF on Oct. 21 (McClures). A lingering **Indigo Bunting** was at Font Hill Park in Howard County on Oct. 21 (Kerwin). **Dickcissels** were 5 at Assateague on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd), with 1 seen there from Sept. 11 through Oct. 8 (Dyke+), and a female at the Oakland Mills garden plots in Columbia on Oct. 12 (Wilkinson). **American Tree Sparrows** began Nov. 18 with 1 at Chestertown (Gruber), and 6 at Antietam and 20 at Spickler Road, Washington County (Hershberger). **Chipping Sparrows** included 40 at Blackwater on Nov. 5 (H. L. Armistead), and late ones at Bethesda (Michael Bowen) and Piney Run on Nov. 26 (Ringler), and in Thurmont on Nov. 29 (Phylis Kind). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** turned up at a feeder near Reisterstown on Nov. 8 (Jim Peters), and 1 was noted at Assateague from Sept. 28 (Dyke) through Oct. 28 (Czaplak, Todd). The high for **Field Sparrows** was 19 at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary on Oct. 9 (Hershberger). Solo **Vesper Sparrows** were at Gateway Business Park, Howard County, on Oct. 10 (Solem, Zeichner, Holmes), at Audrey Carroll on Oct. 21 (Hershberger), and at Tilghman Island on Nov. 12 (Reese). Two Vespers were located at Monocacy Bottom Road, Frederick County on Oct. 28 (Hershberger). A **Savannah Sparrow** was at Dayton on Aug. 1 (Wallace); highs were 30 at Newtown Neck, St. Mary's County on Oct. 3 (Craig), 100 at Scotland on Oct. 7 (Burr, Craig), 25 at Gateway Business Park, Howard County on Oct. 9-10 (Solem+), and 50 at Point Lookout on Oct. 25 (Craig). Two of the increasingly hard-to-find **Grasshopper Sparrows** were discovered at Gateway Park in Howard County on Oct. 12 (Solem, Wilkinson), as was a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** on Oct. 9 (Wilkinson, Solem). The last Grasshopper Sparrow banded at Irvine was on Oct. 3. Ringler found 8 **Fox Sparrows** at Hashawha in Carroll County on Nov. 12, 15 were in Harford County at Broad Creek on Nov. 18 (Webb), and 30 at Fair Hill the same day (Powers). The high for **Song Sparrows** was 75 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). **Lincoln's Sparrows** included 4 at Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 7 (Magnusson), 3 at Susquehanna SP on Oct. 9 (Webb), 22 banded for the season at Cherry Creek from Sept. 10 through Oct. 11 with the last one seen there on Oct. 18 (Skipper, Pope), the last one banded at Irvine on Oct. 25, and late birds at PWRC on Nov. 6 (Dawson) and at Plum Tree Path in Howard County on Nov. 10 (Ott). An early **Swamp Sparrow** was at Chestertown on Sept. 20 (Gruber), and at Gwynn Acres Path, Howard County on Sept. 23 (Ringler); 272 were banded at Cherry Creek from Aug. 12 through Oct. 18. Highs were 62 at Lily Ponds on Oct. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), and 27 at Chestertown on Oct. 22 (Gruber). **White-**

throated Sparrows began with 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 16 (Newmans), 1 at Joppatowne on Sept. 19 (Ziolkowski), and the first ones banded at Cherry Creek and PWRC on Sept. 20. Over 500 were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). **White-crowned Sparrows** started with 1 at Rock Creek Park (Davis) and 1 at Chestertown (Gruber) on Sept. 30, 1 at Rockburn Park on Oct. 1 (Davis), and an immature at Centennial Park on Oct. 3 (Farrell).

Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported early at Queenstown on Sept. 24 (Poet), another the same day at Gambrill SP (Hershberger), and at PRNAS on Sept. 25 (Rambo). Over 1000 were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese), and 100 were at Pylesville on Nov. 11 (Jean Fry). **Lapland Longspurs** were 10 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 23 (Ralph Whaley), 2 near Lily Pons on Nov. 26 (Gail Mackiernan), and 10 at Point Lookout the same day (Lister). **Snow Buntings** included 1 in Dorchester County on Nov. 7 (Churchill), 13 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 11 (Paulus), 1 at Point Lookout on Nov. 15 (Craig, Bishop), 16 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), 25 there on Nov. 23 (Ralph Whaley), 4 near Lily Pons on Nov. 26 (Hershberger), and 50 at Point Lookout on Nov. 26 (Lister).

Icterines. Good counts for **Bobolinks** were over 250 at Barber and Schoolhouse Roads, Talbot County on Aug. 22 (Churchill), 150 at Bridge Creek Marsh, Wicomico County on Aug. 23 (Reese), over 200 at Tanyard on Aug. 27 (Engle), 120 at Cecilton on Sept. 2 (Fogleman), and 175 at the King Farm, Rockville on Sept. 4 (Ricciardi). A very late Bobolink was at UMCf on Oct. 22 (Solem+). Large concentrations of **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 2000 at Olney on Aug. 23 (Sussman), 1100 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), 1500 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). Forty **Eastern Meadowlarks** were listed at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), and an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported at Lily Pons on Nov. 19 (Lori Kay Brown). **Rusty Blackbirds** made an appearance this season including 4 at Cherry Creek on Sept. 30, 30 there on Oct. 7 (Skipper, Pope), 1 at Collington on Oct. 1 (Edward Behr), 30 at Violettes Lock on Oct. 17 (Plante), 25 at Loch Raven on Nov. 3 (Wheeler), and 20 at Monocacy Bottom Road, Frederick County on Nov. 16 (Hershberger). Twenty-five thousand Common Grackles were estimated at Centreville on Sept. 13 (Reese); about 500 were at Cherry Creek on Oct. 7 (Skipper, Pope). Harry and Liz Armistead recorded still another high at Bellevue this season: 580 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on Nov. 4. A lingering Orchard Oriole was at Waterford Farm off Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County on Sept. 16 (Wallace), and **Baltimore Orioles** included 1 at Bellevue on Aug. 12 (H. Armistead), 5 banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 26, 30 at Assateague on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd), an immature female at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 29 (Wilkinson), and 1 at Chestertown on Nov. 23 (Peggy Lou Young).

Cardueline Finches. A **Red Crossbill** was reported at Mt. Nebo WMA, Garrett County on Aug. 11 (Czaplak, Todd). **Pine Siskins** included 10 at Bel Air on Oct. 29 (Macrina Seitz), 23 at Bray Hill in Garrett County on Oct. 30 (Skipper), and 24 in Ellicott City on Nov. 3 (Ott). Jan Reese and Levin Willey tallied 110 **American Goldfinches** at Taylors Island on Oct. 7. Others were 60 at Browns Bridge on Sept. 10 (Saunders), 50 at Conowingo on Sept. 30 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 50 at Point Lookout on Nov. 13 (Craig). Nice sightings of **Evening Grosbeaks** were 15 at Cecilton on Sept. 27 (Beverly Pierce), 83 at Sugarloaf on Oct. 10 (Czaplak, Todd), 195 at Town Hill on Nov. 3 (Paulus), 24 at Mt. Albert in Howard County on Nov. 5 (McClures), 30 at Rock Creek Park on Nov. 10 (Janni), 50 at Blackwater Refuge on Nov. 11 (Saunders), and 37 at Bray Hill, Garrett County on Nov. 27 (Skipper).

MOS SANCTUARIES WHERE WE'VE BEEN & WHERE WE ARE

DOROTHY M. MUMFORD

Currently MOS has nine sanctuaries that protect a total of 2,105 acres. They are located throughout the state from Garrett County in Western Maryland to Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. They range in size from 8 acres to 1,570 acres. They protect the flora and fauna of woodlands, fields, swamps and marshes. They provide places where MOS members can go to view nature and do research studies. They are ours and they are lovely places.

Obtaining these sanctuaries was not easy. It took the efforts of many dedicated people to bring them into being. It all started on January 13, 1956, when MOS received the generous gift of \$500 from Mr. E. John Besson, in memory of his twin sister who had passed away the previous June. Mr. Besson and his sister Adele owned a home in Chalk Point, *The Purple Martin*, and had for many years hosted an annual picnic for MOS members. Most certainly there had been talk at these picnics about the possibility of MOS having a sanctuary.

It was Mr. Besson's wish that the \$500 be invested as the start of a Sanctuary Fund with the hope that others would donate to this fund and that eventually the fund would be large enough to create income for maintaining sanctuaries. At that time MOS did not have any sanctuaries to maintain, so this gift made people to start thinking seriously about having sanctuaries. As evidence of this seriousness the By-Laws were updated to provide for a Sanctuary Committee to be made up of five people elected annually from the Board of Trustees. [Over the years the makeup of this committee evolved to fit the current needs. In 1961, the By-Laws were updated to increase the size of the Sanctuary Committee to seven members with the chairman to be elected by the Board of Trustees. In 1968 the number was increased to ten members. In 1970 it was decided to have two members from each chapter that maintained a sanctuary in addition to a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. In 1976 two members from the Board were added. About 1980 MOS did a major revision of their By-Laws. Since that time the Sanctuary Committee has been made up a Chairman and Vice-Chairman appointed by the President and one representative from each MOS chapter.]

Interest continued to build as evidenced by a two part article that appeared in 1958 in *Maryland Birdlife* (Vol. 14, pp. 66-67, 101-102) by Sterling W. Edwards called "Sanctuaries are Living Things." This article covered the topics of why we need sanctuaries, what to do on a sanctuary, and how to acquire a sanctuary. At the annual business meeting that year it was voted to increase emphasis on the acquisition of bird sanctuaries in Maryland and each chapter was charged to look for suitable properties in its area. The search began and resulted in four sanctuaries being established during the 60's—one by lease and three by purchase.

The Harford Chapter was the first to find a site—Rock Run Wildlife Sanctuary. Opened in August 1960, this first sanctuary was a 57-acre parcel with an old four-story stone house in Harford County near the Susquehanna River. It was leased from Mr. J. Gilman Paul for \$10 a month. It was embraced by enthusiastic MOS members. In the first year over 1000 visits were listed in the log book. Most

of these visitors came to help with the many, many tasks that needed to be done. The house needed to be patched, repaired, painted, cleaned and furnished. Trails were laid out, feeders erected, signs posted and, most essentially, a privy was built. Donations received included building materials, paint, tools, furniture, dishes, curtains, rugs, and a wood burning stove for heating the two main floors. Mrs. Basil Gregory, who lived about a mile away oversaw much of these activities. Gladys Cole started banding and the Robbins family laid out a 25-acre census tract. Overgrown vegetation around the house was cleared and the foundation of an old barn was discovered, on which a shelter was built in 1962.

Meanwhile members of the Allegany chapter located a piece of property in Garrett County. The Bernard A. Minick farm with 52.3 acres and a two-story wood frame house had been vacant for four years. The property was a mixture of some woods, orchards and open fields. Two streams ran through the property: Hefner Run and Carey Run. On November 24, 1962 a special statewide meeting was held at Cylburn Mansion where 108 members voted unanimously to purchase this farm for \$4,000. The deed was transferred on December 1, 1992 and Carey Run Sanctuary became our second sanctuary and the first by purchase. Mrs. C. Gordon (Billie) Taylor headed up the activities at Carey Run. In addition to the many MOS members who came to help with the refurbishing of the house and yard, there were groups from elementary schools and the Boy Scouts helped plant 1500 evergreen trees. Other groups came for bird study and to enjoy the many wildflowers. Over 1,000 visitors came in the first year (and the first 3 months were snowed in!).

The third sanctuary to be established was found by the Talbot Chapter in 1964. They had located 107.6 acres of rolling woodland on the south side of Rt. 662 about 1 mile south of Wye Mills. MOS member Robert Sharp II, an Easton realtor, was instrumental in coming to an agreement with the owner. The purchase price was \$8,100, most of which was raised by the Talbot Chapter. The following year Mrs. R. R. Spring donated 31 acres that were located on the north side of Rt. 662 and MOS purchased another 17 acres bringing the total acreage to 154. The creek that runs through the property is called Mill Creek and the sanctuary was named after it. The foundations of the old mill can still be found on the north side of the road. In 1966-67 the Talbot Chapter built a shelter on the property south of the road and established trails throughout.

The biggest and most ambitious MOS project was the purchase of 1,410 acres of mostly tidal marshland with some woodland and cultivated fields in Somerset County in September 1968. The \$80,000 purchase price was raised by donations from individuals and chapters. A complex of buildings including an old two-story furnished farm house, a barn, several sheds and shelters was accessed from Rumbly Point Road. The new sanctuary was called Irish Grove after a 300-year-old land grant that was made on part of the property. MOS members flocked to see the property and help with the many tasks to be done, mostly cleaning, repairs, painting and trail building. Gladys Cole set up her Operation Recovery banding station in the old garage. Gladys was devoted to Irish Grove and her banding project continued every fall at Irish Grove through the 70's and into the early 80's. Over the years hundreds of people assisted her in this project. The Wicomico Chapter carried on the huge task of helping with the banding, hosting groups and the forever ongoing maintenance.

In the 70's, five sanctuaries were acquired through donations of land. The first of these was Adventure which was bequeathed in a three-way trust to MOS,

Hood College and the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (Montgomery County). In 1972 a 60 acre parcel in Caroline County was purchased with the money bequeathed by Mrs. Myrtle Simon Pelot. In 1975 an eight acre marsh on a tributary of the Severn River in Anne Arundel County was donated by Col. William G. Bodenstein. In 1976 Dr. Caroline tum Suden left her residence on one and a half acres in Harford County. In 1978 The Nature Conservancy transferred to MOS fourteen acres in Frederick County which had been left to them by the widow of Seymour B. Cooper.

MOS did make two purchases with funds raised by the membership in 1972. Both of these purchases were additions to existing sanctuaries. Twelve acres were added to Irish Grove and 110 acres were added to Carey Run. This latter purchase was for \$40,000.

After a ten year gap, three more parcels of land were donated. In 1988 The Nature Conservancy transferred to MOS 85.8 acres of woodlands in Garrett County which they had received from Robert L. Wilson. In 1990 a 50 acre woodland in Talbot County was donated by 15 local land owners. In 1993 the Eastern Shore Land Trust transferred to MOS 148 acres adjacent to Irish Grove. This property was the gift of Mrs. Virginia Simmons.

So, this is how the sanctuary system grew. Eleven sanctuaries were established, nine of which are still in existence. The road was not easy with many many hours spent by MOS members negotiating deals, raising funds, trail building, banding, erecting bird houses and feeders, painting and repairing sanctuary houses, building shelters and observation decks, and the ever ongoing task of maintaining them. Along with the hard work was the pride of ownership, the satisfaction of a job well done and lots of birding and socializing with MOS members from across the state.

Two of our sanctuaries were closed and, unfortunately, both were in Harford County. The first to go was our first sanctuary, Rock Run. In 1973, after thirteen years of successful programs and projects, the property changed hands and became part of Susquehanna State Park. MOS was allowed to continue renting the house and one acre; however, three years later a fire made the house unusable. Amazingly, during the same week of the fire, MOS received the bequest of a small house on one and a half acres in Harford County from Dr. Caroline tum Suden. The house was located at the end of a dead-end street and was adjacent to Harford Glen, a 245 acre outdoor education center owned by the Harford County Board of Education. The lease at Rock Run was terminated and Harford Chapter moved their operation to tum Suden Sanctuary establishing a good working relationship with the Harford Glen facility. There were problems at tum Suden with security. The house was broken into and many of the bird mounts were stolen. In 1983, the MOS Board of Directors decided to use tum Suden to house the Atlas coordinator and his family. The house was occupied by the coordinator until 1994 at which time the Harford Chapter recommended that the property be turned over Harford Glen.

It is highly unlikely that MOS will purchase any more land for sanctuaries. During the 70's and 80's the price of real estate skyrocketed, making land purchases less possible with MOS's limited financial resources. Since 1980, two efforts were made to buy land for a new sanctuary. In 1984-85, Ben Poscover, chairman of the sanctuary committee, spent an enormous amount of time and effort

negotiating for a parcel of land in Allegany County known as Pinto Swamp without success. In 1990, John Wanuga of Talbot County left a bequest that with interest was valued at \$115,000 by 1995. Mr. Wanuga desired that the money be used to buy a sanctuary on the Eastern Shore. The Talbot Chapter went on a land search, but found that the bequest fell far short of what would be needed to buy a sanctuary. After five years it was decided to give the money to the Wildfowl Trust of North America to help purchase a parcel of land adjacent to their Horsehead Sanctuary in Queen Anne's County.

What of Mr. Besson's dream for the Sanctuary Fund that he started? During the 60's many donations were added to this fund by individuals and MOS chapters. This money was used for helping to purchase land as well as maintenance. As the fever to buy sanctuaries waned so did the donations. The Fund did grow to a fairly good size, but the present income from it is insufficient to meet the requirements of maintaining our sanctuaries. Each year the costs for the minimum maintenance that we do is more than the income and donations made for that given year. As a result the fund is now getting a little smaller each year. The cost of this maintenance will be getting bigger as time progresses due primarily to inflation. Also, in eight years time the tax deferment on Irish Grove will expire and we will again have to pay taxes on the whole 1,570 acres. This is a problem that MOS will need to address in the very near future.

Following is a review of our nine sanctuaries, in order of acquisition, with a brief description. More complete descriptions with maps, etc. of our sanctuaries can be found in the up-coming revision of the *Guide to the Sanctuaries of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.* scheduled to be available in 1997.

CAREY RUN

Purchased in December 1962 for \$4,000, the property consisted of 52.3 acres with a two-story wood frame house and some outbuildings. The Allegany Chapter conducted workdays, programs for groups and a Junior Nature Camp. An additional 110 acres was purchased in 1972 (mortgage liquidated in 1977). Indoor plumbing was installed at the house with an addition built containing two powder rooms and a shower room in 1974. A "Spring Cleaning" workday is held every year on the last Saturday in April (Easter permitting). Overnight stays at the house may be made by prior reservation from May through the second weekend in October.

MILL CREEK

Talbot County is the location of this 155 acres of woodlands and bottomland purchased in 1964. A shelter was built in 1966-67 which was accessed by an old logging road. However, vandalism became a problem in the late 70's and early 80's when the shelter became the site of beer parties. In 1987 the logging road was closed off and a new entrance was created with a parking lot which has greatly reduced the vandalism. Talbot Chapter maintains the parking lot, shelter and trails.

IRISH GROVE

There are not enough words to describe this marvelous sanctuary of some 1,570 acres of tidal marsh and woodlands in Somerset County. The headquarters off Rumbly Point Road consists of a two-story frame house, a screened dining shelter, tool shed, banding shed and a two room privy. Originally there was also a barn

(with Barn Owl nest) and several storage sheds, but these were destroyed by a tornado-like storm in May 1990. The Sanctuary house is equipped with a working kitchen and propane gas heaters. The plumbing is winterized (can not be used) from early November through March. Overnight stays in the sanctuary house may be made by prior reservation.

Established in 1968, Irish Grove has been the site of many programs and projects such as Gladys Cole's banding station in the 70's and early 80's. The Wicomico Chapter has been very active in helping with the activities here conducting workdays, hosting groups, and helping with the banding. However, there are limitations as to just how much a small local chapter can do in maintaining a sanctuary as large as Irish Grove. In 1983 the concept of conducting large workdays where MOS members from all over the state could come and help was established. There are now two annual workdays, one on the first Saturday of April (Easter permitting) and one on the last Saturday in October.

ADVENTURE

This sanctuary is the result of a gift from Alice Hostettler who left her house and 14 acres in a three-way trusteeship with MOS, Hood College and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Montgomery County). The Commission administers and maintains the facility and owns some 88 adjacent acres. Margaret Donald from Montgomery Chapter, with the help of a number of volunteers, ran an active banding station here every spring and fall from 1972 to 1995. The data base of this research is truly astounding.

MYRTLE SIMON PELOT

Mrs. Charles Pelot of Caroline County bequeathed her house to MOS in 1971. The proceeds of the sale of this house, some \$34,000, were used in 1974 to purchase 60 acres of deciduous swamp forest along Gravelly Branch. The Caroline Chapter maintains the trails in this sanctuary.

MANDARES CREEK

Donated by Col. & Mrs. William G. Bodenstein in 1975, this 8 acres of waterfront includes mostly fresh water marsh, with a lush stand of cattails, and some deciduous swamp. Located in Anne Arundel County, on the former Mandares Creek (now called Maynadier Creek), a tributary of the Severn River, this sanctuary has no access or trails.

SEYMOUR B. COOPER

This 14.3 acres of woodlands was transferred to MOS by The Nature Conservancy, who had received the property from the estate of Seymour B. Cooper. It is located on the side of Piney Mountain in Frederick County. The Frederick Chapter maintains the trails.

CAROLINE W. WILSON

Located in the Altamont section of Garrett County this sanctuary was donated to MOS by The Nature Conservancy in December 1988. It was the gift of Robert L. Wilson in memory of his aunt, Caroline W. Wilson. This site is an 85.8 acre woodland bisected by several streams. It is land-locked and the only access can be made from the railroad tracks that run along one side of it. There is a trail, the remnants of an old road, that runs the length of the property.

MARENGO WOODS

This 50 acre woodlot is located on the Miles River Neck in Talbot County. It was donated to MOS by 15 local land owners who wanted the property to be saved from development. For much of the year, there is standing water throughout the woods. There are no trails.

REFERENCES

For additional information on the acquisition and activities on the various MOS sanctuaries, consult the following references from *Maryland Birdlife*:

Rock Run: 16:45, 61, 87-88; 17:63, 105-106; 18:96-97; 19:1, 10-13, 87-90; 20:3-9; 21:110; 22:102, 113; 25:10; 30:47-48, 62; 32:10.

Carey Run: 18:85-90, 113-114; 20:10-11, 17-19; 21:90-91; 27:10, 157-169; 29:80-81, 135, 167; 31:89, 109.

Mill Creek: 20:10-14, 29; 21:55; 27:1, 9; 28:13; 29:143-149.

Irish Grove: 24:80-83, 110-113; 25:123-125; 27:10, 17-27; 28:13, 142; 30:46; 31:124-125; 44:114; 45:121-122; 46:114-115; 48:109-110; 51:35.

Adventure: 33:87; 34:S10; 35:85, 88-97; 36:1-13; 37:129-132; 46:79-82.

Myrtle Simon Pelot: 28:13; 30:62.

Caroline tum Suden: 32:10-11; 35:49; 37:73; 51:35.

Mandares Creek: 33:80; 34:S10, S13; 35:45; 46:114.

Seymour B. Cooper: 34:S10, S15.

Caroline W. Wilson: 45:121; 46:113.

Marengo Woods: 46:114.

1900 Generals Highway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RECORD GOLDEN EAGLE DAY AT TOWN HILL

JIM PAULUS

At 3 a.m. on March 6, 1997, the predicted cold front started moving across Allegany County, generating northwesterly winds of 27 to 45 m.p.h. and dropping the temperature from 51°F. at midnight to 37° at 4 a.m. This front was supposed to clear out the foul weather that the area had experienced for the past five days, making hawk counting impossible because of the rain, snow, sleet, and heavy mountaintop fog.

I arrived at the Town Hill overlook at 8:30 a.m. in the midst of a snow squall and an extremely strong northwesterly wind. Looking westward, I could see some white clouds with patches of blue sky and patches of sun shining on Polish Mountain. By 8:45 a.m., I was getting some sunshine at the overlook so I positioned my car where I could best view the west side of the ridge, the side that migrating Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) would be using today to catch the updrafts.

I did not have to wait long. Golden Eagle #1 coasted by at 8:59 a.m., seemingly unaffected by the severely strong and gusting winds. #2 appeared at 9:07, #3 at 9:46, #4 at 9:49, #5 at 9:54, #6 at 10:05, #7 at 10:08, #8 at 10:52, #9 at 11:36, #10 at 11:55, #11 at 12:19, #13 at 2:42, and the last, #13 at 2:54 p.m.

Thirteen Golden Eagles!, the most I have ever seen in one day. My previous one-day record was on November 8, 1995, when I had totaled 11. All the Golden Eagles were adults and all were using the same flight pattern, crossing the hotel about 300 feet west of where I was parked and about 400 feet above the tree tops. All were coasting/gliding on the updrafts with wing tips pulled sharply back, not flapping and moving along very steadily.

Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) were limited that day to flying in the east valley, out of the wind. One Turkey Vulture tried to cross over the ridge to the west side and was hit with such a hard gust of wind that it was literally knocked out of control and blown back across the ridge, losing several feathers in the process.

In the eight years that I have been counting migrating hawks at the overlook, today had the strongest winds that I have ever encountered there.

When I quit watching at 4:30 p.m., the temperature was 41°F. with a partly cloudy sky and the wind northwest between 20 and 30 m.p.h. Other raptors seen that day were Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), an adult Northern Goshawk (*A. gentilis*), and Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

The next day, March 7, was clear, but no raptors were seen. On March 8, however, I had a very special moment. I photographed an adult Golden Eagle soaring over the hotel at 10:38 a.m.—the 400th Golden Eagle seen by me at the Town Hill overlook since I saw my first one there on October 16, 1990.

Peak time for the spring migration of Golden Eagles at the overlook is the first two weeks of March.

P. O. Box 1883, Cumberland, MD 21501

Received March 22, 1997

WINTER SEASON, DECEMBER 1, 1995 - FEBRUARY 28, 1996

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH

The winter was cold and harsh, with several storms, particularly January 6-8, when a storm brought an accumulation of up to two feet of snow before ending. From Virginia to Massachusetts it was the snowiest winter of the century. Overall temperatures were below average, and precipitation was above average. Species such as Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs were numerous, and it was a good winter for feeder birds. However, many landbirds, waders, and shorebirds were scarce, particularly from January on.

Observers: Henry Armistead, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Larry Bonham, Michael Braun, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Ian Cornelius, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, Phil Davis, Bill Dobbins, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Jean Fry, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, Steve Huy, Marshall Iliff, George Jett, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Mariana Nuttle, Beth Olsen, Peter Osenton, Brian Patteson, Jim Paulus, Danny Poet, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Will Russell, Gene Scarpulla, Bill Scudder, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Don Simonson, L. T. Short, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Hank Stanton, Jim Stasz, Amy Thornton, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

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

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Alpha Ridge Landfill (Howard), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Flag Ponds Park (Calvert), Gunpowder River (Harford), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard, unless noted otherwise), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany).

Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Pelicans. There were 150 **Red-throated Loons** at St. Leonard's Creek, Calvert County on Dec. 29 (Watkins), and 400 at Pt. Lookout on Dec. 31 (Craig, Stasz). A lone Red-throated was found at PRNAS on Feb. 8 (Lister). **Common Loons** also visited Calvert County with 2 at Flag Ponds Park on Feb. 1 (Ripley). Others were 17 at Assateague on Feb. 2 (Churchill) and 5 at Point Lookout on Feb. 29 (Craig). **Pied-billed Grebes** included 40 at Loch Raven on Dec. 1 (Simon), and 29 at Piney Run on Dec. 25 and 3 near Cumberland on Jan. 28 (Ringler). **Red-necked Grebe** numbers were better than average with 1 at Hooper Island on Dec. 6 (Churchill), 2 at Back River on Jan. 11 (Iliff), 1 at Cove Point on Jan. 14 (Jett, Stasz), 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 25 (Lister), 2 near Ocean City on Jan. 28—Feb. 2 (Churchill, Paul DuMont), 1 at Ridge on Feb. 9-13 (Craig), 1 at

South Point, Worcester County on Feb. 18 (Czaplak, Hoffman), 2 at Ocean City on Feb. 19 and 28 (Hoffman, Churchill), and 1 at Sandy Point SP on Jan. 20 (Ricciardi+). **Northern Gannets** were spotted with 3 off Flag Ponds on Dec. 1 and 1 there on Dec. 23 (Ripley), 19 at St. Clements Island, St. Mary's County on Dec. 3 (Ann Hobbs), 300 at Point Lookout on Dec. 8 (Jim Day), 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 27 (Lister), 89 checked off during the Feb. 18 pelagic trip from Ocean City (Patteson+), and 8 on Feb. 29 at Pt. Lookout (Cribb). **Brown Pelicans** braving the elements were 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (Churchill), and 1 at Point Lookout on Feb. 25 (Beverly & Warren Walker).

Cormorants, Herons, Egrets. Ocean City remains a good place to find winter **Great Cormorants** with 4 there on Dec. 3 (Braun), and 5 on Feb. 11 (Bjerke). Seven Great Cormorants were at Point Lookout on Jan. 23 and 5 were at Ridge on Feb. 14 (Craig). **Double-crested Cormorants** included 1 on Dec. 2 at Lapidum, Harford County (Ringler+), 4 at Ocean City on Dec. 3 (Braun), 2 at God's Grace Point, Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iloff, Stasz), 2 on the Patuxent River, Calvert County on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Ricciardi), 7 at Ocean Pines on Feb. 10 (Ringler+), 7 at Point Lookout on Jan. 23 (Craig), 1 at North Beach on Feb. 13 (Stasz), 3 at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Anne Bishop, Craig), and 1 at Conowingo on Dec. 8 (Webb). An **American Bittern** was discovered at Lily Ponds on Dec. 3 (Mackiernan, Elliot Kirschbaum), 1 was seen at Assateague on Jan. 14 and Feb. 6-7 (Churchill), and another was at George Island Landing on Feb. 19 (Hoffman). The 14 **Great Blue Herons** at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on Jan. 21 (Jett) were quite a few for such a harsh January. A **Great Egret** was noted at Shorter's Wharf Road, Dorchester County on Dec. 30 (Brent Tarter, Jane Hehman, Alan Bromberg+).

Swans, Geese. **Tundra Swan** numbers were good including over 1800 tallied at Federalsburg on Feb. 26 (Short). An exotic **Black Swan** remained at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz). **Greater White-fronted Geese** were 1 at Bay Head Road, Anne Arundel on Dec. 25 (Bob Abrams) and 2 adults and an immature at Fruitland on Feb. 10 (Ringler). **Snow Geese** included 2 at Piney Run on Dec. 17-18 (Ringler, Larry Cox), 950 blue race at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), an incredible 10,000 Snow Geese at Ironshire on Feb. 10 (Ringler), and a single blue was at Centennial on Feb. 13 (Farrell) and Feb. 24 (Stanton+). **Ross' Geese** were sorted out with 2 at Blackwater on Dec. 6 (Churchill), 1, an immature blue race, at Boyce Mill Road, Caroline County on Dec. 17 (Stasz), 1 at Little Seneca Lake, a very unusual location, on Dec. 30 (Bjerke, Mark Garland), and 1 near St. Martin's, Worcester County on Dec. 30 (Hoffman, Thornton). An adult Ross' and a possible **Ross' X Blue** were reported at Route 314 and Kibler Road, Caroline County on Dec. 24 (Iloff). Three **Brant** were found at Turkey Point, Anne Arundel County on Jan. 1 (Davis). **Canada Geese** included 3030 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Dec. 16 (Wallace), and 5000 at Piney Run on Dec. 17 (Ringler). Single small race Canada Geese noted were at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 15 (Stasz), Cambridge on Dec. 30 (Alan Bromberg), and Stockyard Road, Wicomico County on Feb. 17 (Stasz).

Puddle Ducks. A male **Wood Duck** was at Lake Elkhorn throughout the period (Wilkinson+), 12 were near Ironshire on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton), a drake was at PWRC on Jan. 15 (Osenton), 60 were near Ironshire on Feb. 17 (Hoffman), a female was at Cumberland on Jan. 28 (Ringler), and 15 Wood Ducks were visiting Harford Glen on Feb. 27 (Kirkwood). Steve Simon tallied 40 **Green-winged Teal** inland at Loch Raven on Dec. 3, and 202 **American Black Ducks** were near Burkittsville on Dec. 31 (Cornelius). Highs for **Mallards** were 300 at Back River on Jan. 11 (Iloff), 750 at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), and 630 at West Ocean

City on Feb. 19 (Hoffman). Twelve **Northern Pintails** were found at Flag Ponds on Dec. 1 (Ripley), over 50 were at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 175 were tallied at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), and 90 were checked off near Girdletree on Feb. 19 (Hoffman). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were discovered at Grasonville on Nov. 24 (Ilf). **Northern Shovelers** included 22 at West Ocean City on Feb. 19 (Hoffman), and 12 at Scotland on Feb. 24 (Craig). **Gadwall** numbers were good with 25 at Piney Run on Dec. 3 (Ringler), over 50 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz), and 80 at Assateague on Feb. 1 (Churchill). Up to 150 **American Wigeon** were counted at Loch Raven on Dec. 1 (Mike Kerwin, Simon). An exotic **Mandarin Duck** was reported at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 1 (Stasz), and a male **Baikal Teal** was identified at Pasadena on Feb. 12 (Leanne Pemburn).

Diving Ducks. **Canvasbacks** made the best showing in decades with counts of 2000 at Cambridge on Dec. 17 and an astonishing 20,000 at Arundel-on-the-Bay on Jan. 1 (Davis), 5000 at North Beach on Jan. 12 (Stasz), 5000 at Fairhaven on Jan. 14 (Davis), over 5000 at Choptank on Jan. 25 (Don Ford), and 2500 at St. Michaels on Feb. 29 (Reese). **Redhead** numbers were better than usual with 1 at Denton on Dec. 1 (Hewitt), 3 drakes on the Gunpowder River on Dec. 2 (Webb), 6 at Centennial on Dec. 15 (Farrell, Zeichner), 30 at Little Seneca Lake on Dec. 16 (Adam Dietz), 11 near Burkittsville Dec. 29—Jan. 9 (Wilbur Hershberger+), a nice count of 74 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon), 12 at Arundel-on-the-Bay on Jan. 1 (Davis), at least 15 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 5 at Hagerstown on Jan. 15 (Ilf, Stasz), 12 at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Bishop, Craig), 11 at PRNAS on Feb. 28 (Craig), and 38 at Millstone Landing Road, St. Mary's County on Feb. 28 (Stasz). Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 120 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon), 300 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 24 (Jett, Stasz), and 145 at Beauvue on Feb. 25 (Stasz). Interesting **Greater Scaup** reports were of over 1000 at Arundel-on-the-Bay on Jan. 1 (Davis), 700 at Rock Point on Jan. 6 (Jett), 1 in the Potomac River at DC on Jan. 15 (Dobbins), a female at Centennial on Feb. 13 (Farrell), 2 at Triadelphia on Feb. 24-25 (Farrell, Solem), and 500 at Morningside on Feb. 26 (Jett). Bob Ringler notched a nice count of about 15,000 **Lesser Scaup** at the Gunpowder River on Dec. 2. **Common Eiders** were present with 7 at Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Reese), and 10 there on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton). **Harlequin Ducks** continue to be fairly reliable Ocean City inlet winter visitors with one to two drakes from Dec. 3 (Braun) to Feb. 19 (many observers). A first-year male Harlequin was at PRNAS on Feb. 28 into March (Lister). **Oldsquaws** included 50 at Seneca on Dec. 2 (Simonson), 1 at Loch Raven on Dec. 17 (Simon), 300 at Rock Point on Jan. 6 (Jett), 1500 at North Beach on Jan. 12 (Stasz), and 2 at Bivalve on Feb. 19 (Stasz). **Black Scoters** were 150 at Point Lookout on Dec. 16 (Cribb) and 500 at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (Hoffman). A drake **Surf Scoter** was on the Gunpowder River on Dec. 2 (Webb), and others were 75 at Flag Ponds on Jan. 14 (Ripley), 93 at Cove Point on Jan. 14 (Jett, Stasz), and 300 at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (Hoffman). Jim Stasz counted 40 **White-winged Scoters** at North Beach on Jan. 12 and turned in good counts for **Common Goldeneyes**: over 2500 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6, 850 at North Beach on Jan. 12, and 73 at Cambridge on Feb. 11. **Buffleheads** included 150 at Rock Point on Jan. 6 (Jett), 350 at North Beach on Jan. 12 (Stasz), 500 at Flag Ponds on Jan. 14 (Ripley), and 400 at South Point, Worcester County on Feb. 18 (Hoffman). **Hooded Mergansers** were 175 at Piney Run on Dec. 17 (Ringler) and 74 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon). Highs for **Common Mergansers** were 500 on Jan. 21 at Riverside (Jett), 25 at Denton on Feb. 9 (Hewitt), 1500 at Fredericktown on Feb. 10 (Stasz), and over 150 at Triadelphia on Feb. 24 (Farrell, Jett, Stasz). Seventy **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Rambo). Bob Ringler checked off 125 **Ruddy Ducks** at Piney Run on Dec. 3, and 800 were tallied at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Bishop, Craig).

Diurnal Raptors. Thirty **Black Vultures** were at Fredericktown on Feb. 10 (Stasz), and 95 **Turkey Vultures** were noted at Wilde Lake on Jan 6 (Farrell, Solem). An **Osprey** was reported at Roosevelt Island, DC on Dec. 6 (Peter Kaestner), 1 was at Ruppert's Island, Montgomery County on Dec. 8 (David Winer), 1 was in Snow Hill on Dec. 17 (Tina and Curtis Dew), and another was reported in DC on Feb. 14 (Dobbins). Two **Bald Eagles** were inland at Piney Run on Dec. 17-18 (Ringler, Larry Cox). **Northern Harriers** included 5 at Scotland on Dec. 5 (Craig), 6 at Allens Fresh on Dec. 21 (Jett), and 40 in southern Dorchester County on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell). Interesting **Northern Goshawk** reports were received: 1 in Montgomery County on Dec. 17 (Mackiernan), an immature in east Columbia on Dec. 24 (Ecker), an immature in Harford County at Fountain Green on Jan. 9 (Jon Cupp, Jr.), 1 at Darnestown on Jan. 10 (John Rhines), 1 at Cockeysville on Jan. 14 (Kye Jenkins), an adult at Orleans Road, Allegany County on Jan. 15 (Paulus, Simons), an immature at Centennial from Jan. 26 through Feb. 13 (Farrell+), and 1 at Aberdeen on Feb. 18 (Randy Robertson). A western-type rufous morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was reported at Brighton Dam and Ten Oaks Road in Howard County on Dec. 25 (Farrell, T. Dennis Coskren), and a dark-morph was also reported near the Cecil-Kent County line on Feb. 18 (Ricciardi, Lynn Davidson, Hal Wierenga). **Rough-legged Hawks** included 1 near Frederick on Dec. 3 (David Abbott), 2 at Brighton Dam and Ten Oaks Roads in Howard County on Dec. 23 (Solem, Iliff+), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on Jan. 8 (Wilkinson), 1 near Preston on Jan. 8 (Pat Groller), 1 near Quinn Road, Kent County on Jan. 13 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 near Lilypons on Jan. 14 (Simonson), 1 at Taneytown on Jan. 15 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 in Frederick County on Feb. 3 (Huy, Cornelius), 1 at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison), 1 at Dameron on Feb. 14 (Cribb), and 2 more in St. Mary's County on Feb. 25 (Stasz+). Interesting **Golden Eagles** were 1 near Chevy Chase on Dec. 12 (Ecker), an immature at Conowingo on Dec. 30 (Greg Futral) and Jan. 14 (Les Eastman), and an adult at North Branch on Jan. 28 (Paulus, Simons). Harry Armistead and Will Russell noted a Golden Eagle at Blackwater on Feb. 17 and another the same day at the Transquaking River Bridge, swooping at a Wild Turkey that had been sitting in a tree. **Merlin** reports included 1 near Lilypons on Dec. 3 (Mackiernan+), 1 at California on Dec. 9 (Craig), 1 at Bellevue on Dec. 17 (Armistead), 1 at Chevy Chase on Dec. 25 (Ken Harnet), 1 at West Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Reese), 2 at Assateague on Jan. 5 and 1 there on Feb. 14 (Churchill), 1 at St. Mary's City on Feb. 20 (Jane Kostenko, Tyler Bell), and 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 24 (Stasz, Jett). **Peregrine Falcons** were 1 in St. Mary's County on Dec. 16 (Steve Sanford+), 1 at Conowingo on Dec. 24 (Scarpulla), 1 at Solomons Island on Dec. 26 (Iliff), 2 at Ocean City on Dec. 28 (Sheppard+), and 1 at Rockville on Jan. 30 (Ellen Scofield).

Turkeys, Rails, Common Moorhen, Coots. Twenty **Wild Turkeys** were located near Church Creek in Dorchester County on Jan. 20 (Peter Kaestner), 20 in Frederick County on Jan. 21 (Dave Smith), and 8 at Blackwater on Feb. 17 and 2 the same day at the Transquaking River Bridge (Armistead, Russell). Three **Clapper Rails** were noted at Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 31 (Stasz, Jett). A **Common Moorhen** was near Ironshire on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton), and **American Coots** included 80 south of Burkittsville on Dec. 3 (Cornelius), 500 at Piney Run the same day (Ringler, Greg Kline), 1200 at Loch Raven on Dec. 17 (Simon), and 120 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 24 (Stasz, Jett).

Killdeer, Oystercatchers, Sandpipers. Fifty **Killdeer** were observed at Ridge on Dec. 2 (Craig), and 45 **American Oystercatchers** were listed at Ocean City on Feb. 17 (Hoffman). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was in DC on Feb. 14 (Dobbins), 15 were at Blackwater and 4 at Elliott Island on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell), 1 was at

George Island Landing on Feb. 19 (Hoffman), and 5 were at the Elliott marshes on Feb. 25 (Bjerke). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was near Lilypons on Dec. 8 (Wilbur Hershberger), and 3 visited Assateague on Jan. 22 (Churchill). **Ruddy Turnstones** included 33 at Point Lookout on Dec. 22 (Cribb), and 184 totaled during the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 28 (Sheppard+). A **Red Knot** was noted in Ocean City through Feb. 28 (Churchill). Interesting **Sanderlings** were 4 at Benoni Point on Dec. 17 (Armistead, Spitzer), 11 at Cove Point on Jan. 14 (Jett, Stasz), 140 at PRNAS on Feb. 7 (Rambo+), and 34 at Point Lookout on Feb. 9 (Cribb). Eight **Dunlins** were discovered at Tilghman Island on Dec. 3 (Reese), and 1 was at PRNAS on Jan. 3 and Feb. 7 (Rambo, Lister, Craig). Four **Common Snipe** were observed at Wakefield, Carroll County on Feb. 4 (Ringler), and 5 at Rench Road, Washington County on Feb. 13 (Weesner). Seven **American Woodcock** were at Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig), and 1 was observed displaying at the Elliott marshes on Feb. 25 (Bjerke).

Gulls. A **Laughing Gull** was sorted out at Conowingo on Dec. 8 (Webb); 3 were at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 15 (Stasz). A **Black-headed Gull** was reported at Ocean City on Jan. 13 (Richard Wilt). **Bonaparte's Gulls** seemed scarce with 40 at Blackwalnut Point, Talbot County on Dec. 11 (Churchill) and 12 at Scotland on Jan. 3 (Craig Boxwell, Cribb). Highs for **Ring-billed Gulls** were 20,000 at Conowingo on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Jim Potyraj), 975 at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), 4,000 in Frederick County on Jan. 27 (Doug & Nancy Parker), 5000 at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 6 (Stasz), and 2000 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig). **Herring Gulls** included 10,000 at Conowingo on Jan. 6 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 1200 at the Somerset County Landfill on Feb. 17 (Stasz). A **Thayer's Gull** was identified at Conowingo on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Jim Potyraj), with 2 there on Jan. 6 (Scarpulla, Blom). Another was reported at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison, Olsen). A handful of **Iceland Gulls** were found this winter: 1 at Ocean City on Dec. 28 (Robbins+), 3 at Conowingo on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Potyraj), 1 at Greenbelt Lake on Dec. 30 (Churchill), 7 at Conowingo on Jan. 6 (Scarpulla, Blom), 2 first-winter birds at Brown Station Landfill near Upper Marlboro on Feb. 10 (Ricciardi), 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 17 (Hoffman), and a first-winter bird at Jug Bay on Feb. 18 (Osenton). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 1 at Piney Run on Dec. 3 (Ringler); 3 at Conowingo on Dec. 10 (Scarpulla), and 6 there on Jan. 6 (Blom); 1 at Greenbelt Lake on Dec. 15 (Churchill); 1 at McNair Golf Course, DC on Dec. 16 (Elitzak); 1 at the Gunpowder River delta on Jan. 21 (Dave Ziolkowski), 1 at Linkwood on Feb. 10, 1 in Ocean City the same day, and 2 in Fruitland on Feb. 11 (Ringler); 1 at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison); 1 at Jug Bay on Feb. 18 (Osenton); and 1 at Triadelphia on Feb. 24 (Farrell). Several **Glaucous Gulls** in first-winter plumage were noted: 1 at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), 1 at the Appeal landfill in Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 2 at the Reichs Ford landfill near Frederick on Dec. 30 (Harvey & Marion Mudd), 1 at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 5 (Stasz), 1 at Ocean City on Jan. 9 (Churchill), and 1 at the Tidal Basin in DC on Jan. 26 (Dobbins). A second-winter Glaucous was at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison, Olsen).

Kittiwakes, Terns, Alcids. Two **Black-legged Kittiwakes** entertained the pelagic party from Ocean City on Feb. 18, as well as a **Common Murre**, 3 **Thick-billed Murres**, 56 **Razorbills**, and 28 unidentified large alcids (Patteson+). Two **Forster's Terns** were noted at the Ocean City inlet on Jan. 1 (Hoffman, Thornton), and another was at Leonardtown on Feb. 27 (Lisa Lister).

Owls. On Jan. 31, for the third year in a row, a **Barn Owl** was found roosting in an old photo blind at Bloodsworth Island (Lister). An emaciated **Barred Owl** was captured at Eldersburg for rehabilitation on Jan. 14 (Ringler). The harsh winter no doubt contributed to the fine showing of **Long-eared Owls** with 1 at Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 9 (Craig), 2 near Millington on Dec. 29 and 1 there Jan. 13 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 to 2 near Lily Pons from Dec. 30 through the period (Mckiernan+), 1 at Point Lookout on Jan. 4 (Craig+), 2 at Ellicott Mills Middle School, Howard County on Feb. 10 (Stanton), and 1 at Merkle WMA on Feb. 28 (Stasz). Five **Short-eared Owls** were at Beauvue on Dec. 16 (Cribb), and others were 1 at Allens Fresh on Dec. 21 (Jett), 2 at Andrews AFB on Dec. 22 (Coglins), up to 7 at Taneytown from Dec. 23 to Feb. 4 (Stasz, Ed Boyd, Ringler+), 4 at Quinn Road, Kent County on Dec. 29 (Stasz), 2, three miles northwest of Queen Anne on Jan. 2 (Reese), 1 to 2 throughout the period at Assateague (Churchill), 2 at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), 4 at Middle Neck Road, Cecil County on Feb. 10 (Stasz), and 10 at Elliott Island and 2 at Transquaking River Bridge on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell). In line with the big fall banding season, several **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were noted during the winter with 5 at the Frederick Watershed on Dec. 2 and 3 there on Feb. 25 (Huy), 1 at PRNAS on Dec. 4 (Rambo, Lister+), 1 at Ellicott City on Dec. 6 (Stanton), 1 at Dameron on Dec. 10 (Craig), 1 to 2 at Patuxent River SP, Howard County, Dec. 15—Feb. 10 (Sheppard+), 1 found dead at Centennial Lane on Dec. 16 (Stanton), another dead near Bellevue on Dec. 17 (Armistead+), 1 at Queenstown on Dec. 28 (Poet), 4 at Assateague during the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 28 (Robbins+), 1 at the milk plant in Howard County on Jan. 3 (Solem), 1 at Hughes Hollow on Jan. 6 (Huy, Cornelius), and 1 the same day in Kent County (Stasz).

Phoebes, Horned Larks. Three hardy **Eastern Phoebes** were discovered at Dameron on Jan. 2 (Craig), another was at Dunkirk on Jan. 6 (Ripley), and still another at Ironsides the same day (Jett). **Horned Larks** were widespread and numerous this winter including: 1150 near Lily Pons on Dec. 10 (Bob Abrams), 200 off Linthicum Road in Howard County on Dec. 16 (Wallace), 1000 at Clark's Lane in Caroline County on Dec. 16 (Stasz, Ricciardi, Rittenhouse), 200 at Bradenbaugh on Dec. 22 (Kirkwood), 150 at God's Grace Point, Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 350 at Ridgley on Jan. 2 (Reese), 163 at Quinn Road, Kent County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 200 at Massey on Jan. 13 (Iliff, Stasz), and on Jan. 15, 125 at Clear Spring, 183 at Route 86 and Mill Point Road, Washington County, 200 west of Keysville Road, Carroll County, and 500 at Uniontown (Iliff, Stasz). Others were 350 off Route 304 south of Route 405 in Queen Anne's County on Jan. 16 (Iliff), 110 at Route 99 just west of Underwood Road, Howard County on Jan. 28 (Bob & Jo Solem+), 200 at Daisy and Bushy Park Roads, Howard County on Feb. 4 (Jim & Carol Wilkinson), 200 at Waddell's Corner, Dorchester County on Feb. 11 (Stasz), and 168 at Ironshire Station Road, Worcester County on Feb. 19 (Stasz).

Swallows, Fish Crows, Chickadees, Marsh Wren. A **Tree Swallow** was noted at Point Lookout on Dec. 6 (Cribb), and others were 5 at West Ocean City on Dec. 31 (Tarter, Hehman, Bromberg), 3 at Assateague on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton), and 1 at Point Lookout on Feb. 24-25 (Craig, Cribb, Stasz). Up to 700 **Fish Crows** were gathered at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom). **Black-capped Chickadees** were sorted out with 1 at Joppatowne at a feeder on Feb. 2 (Ziolkowski), another at a feeder in Pylesville on Feb. 10 (Fry), and 1 at Hollywood from Dec. 26 to Jan. 13 (Rambo). A **Marsh Wren** was discovered at the Patuxent River marsh in Charles County on Dec. 25 (Jett), and another was at Elliott Island on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell).

Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings. Solo **Gray Catbirds** were found toughing out the winter at Ashton on Jan. 9 (Rick Sussman), and at Point Lookout on Feb. 4 (Bishop, Craig). Single **Brown Thrashers** were at Harford Glen on Jan. 27 (Jon Cupp, Sr.), at St. Michaels on Feb. 2 (Reese), at Jug Bay on Feb. 18 (Osenton), and at Cornfield Harbor Feb. 25-28 (Craig, Stasz). Three Brown Thrashers were checked off at Scotland on Feb. 7 (Craig). **American Pipits** included 50 at Dameron on Dec. 5 (Craig), 200 at Greenwell SP, St. Mary's County on Dec. 26 (Bob Boxwell), and 20 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig). Jane Farrell and Jo Solem listed 120 **Cedar Waxwings** at Centennial Park on Jan. 5, and 100 were tallied at Point Lookout on Feb. 19 (Craig, Cribb).

Shrikes, Warblers. A **Northern Shrike** was at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville from Dec. 9 (David Cohen) until at least Dec. 22 (Iliff, Stasz). Another was reported at Assateague from Jan. 14 to Feb. 17 (Churchill). Other than the Lily Pons area, the only **Loggerhead Shrike** was at Route 13, Mardela Springs, Wicomico County on Feb. 19 (Stasz). **Orange-crowned Warblers** reported were single sightings in Worcester County near Berlin on Dec. 24 (Don Broderick) and at South Point on Dec. 28 (David Mozurkewich). Another was discovered at Back River on Dec. 30 (Scarpulla, Blom, Cullison). A **Nashville Warbler** was checked off on Dec. 2 at Dameron (Craig), and **Pine Warblers** included 20 at Point Lookout on Dec. 6 (Cribb), 1 at Dameron on Dec. 10 and 3 there on Feb. 23 (Craig), 3 at UMCF on Dec. 23 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 at Andrews AFB on Jan. 6 (Martha Coglin), 1 at Bellevue on Jan. 24 for the first winter record there (Armistead), 1 at Waldorf on Feb. 25 (Jett), 1 at Great Mills, St. Mary's on Feb. 28 (Rambo, Craig, Lister), and 1 at Dunkirk on Feb. 28 (Ripley). A western race **Palm Warbler** at North Branch made the Allegany CBC on Dec. 16 (Paulus, Simons). Documentation was submitted for a **Wilson's Warbler** at Dunloggin Court, Columbia on Dec. 10 (Kurt Schwarz).

Towhees, Sparrows. Twenty-five **Eastern Towhees** were at Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig). Lots of **American Tree Sparrows** were evident with 30 at Lily Pons on Dec. 10 (Robb Brumfield), 2 at Scotland on Dec. 16 (Steve Sanford+), 25 at Spesutie Island, Harford County on Dec. 18 (Webb), 48 at Back River on Dec. 30 (Scarpulla, Blum, Cullison), 25 at Allens Fresh on Jan. 1 (Jett), over 50 at Stemmers Run, Cecil County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 6 at Blacks, Kent County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 7 at Dameron on Jan. 13 (Craig), 46 at Frenchtown Road, Cecil County on Jan. 13 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 at a feeder at Queenstown on Jan. 8, Jan. 14 and Feb. 16 (Poet), 1 at Choptank on Jan. 16 (F.Ford), 30 at Centennial on Jan. 24 (Farrell), 8 at Waldorf on Feb. 4 (Jett), 1 at Smithville, Feb. 11-17 (Scudder), 6 at West Ocean City on Feb. 17 (Hoffman), 15 at Elliott Island on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell), 4 at Myrtle Point, St. Mary's County on Feb. 18 (Jane Kostenko, Tyler Bell), and 4 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig, Cribb). **Chipping Sparrows** included 15 at St. Michaels on Dec. 28 (Reese), 1 at a feeder in Bel Air on Jan. 9 and Jan. 12 (Webb), 1 at a feeder in Pylesville on Feb. 3 (Fry), 1 at a feeder at Fountain Green on Feb. 4 (Jon Cupp, Sr.), 1 at Chingville, St. Mary's County on Feb. 18 (Tina Dew), 9 at Stevensville on Feb. 20 (Reese), and 1 at Dameron on Feb. 27 (Craig). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** visited a backyard at Boring on Jan. 3 (Gail Frantz). Several birders reported numerous **Field Sparrows** visiting feeders this season, particularly after snow storms. **Savannah Sparrows** included 13 at Eger Price Road, Cecil County on Jan. 13 (Iliff, Stasz), 2 at a feeder in Queenstown on Jan. 14 (Poet), 4 at Indian Creek WMA, Charles County on Jan. 17 (Stasz), and 10 at PRNAS on Feb. 26 (Lister). Highs for the **Fox Sparrow** were 35 at Point Lookout on Jan. 12 (Craig), and 23 at Assateague on Feb. 3 (Churchill). For the **Song Sparrow**, highs were 150 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig, Cribb), and 150 at Assateague on Feb. 28 (Churchill). A

Lincoln's Sparrow was located at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 14 (Stasz). An **Oregon Junco** was reported at Mitchellville on Jan. 7 (Mike Shaeffer).

Longspurs, Snow Buntings. **Lapland Longspurs** were numerous and widespread including: 2 near Lily Pons on Dec. 1 (Churchill) and up to 12 there on Dec. 10 (Bob Abrams), 3 at PRNAS on Dec. 4 (Craig, Lister, Rambo), 50 at Claggett Center, Frederick County on Dec. 10 (Robb Brumfield), 195 at Clark's Lane, Caroline County on Dec. 16 and several there until Dec. 24 (Iliff), 3 at Ridgely on Dec. 19 (Hewitt), 2 at Uniontown on Dec. 23 (Stasz, Ed Boyd) and Feb. 1 (Ringler), 1 off Triadelphia Mill Road in Howard County on Dec. 25 (Stasz), 2 at God's Grace Point, Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 off Quinn Road, Kent County on Dec. 29 (Stasz), 2 at PRNAS on Jan. 3 (Rambo, Lister+), 1 at Indian Creek WMA on Jan. 14 (Iliff, Jett) for the first Charles County record, 1 at Bradenbaugh on Jan. 13 (Kirkwood), 1 off Route 99 near Underwood Road on Jan. 28 (Farrell, Solem, Coskren), a female at Daisy and Bushy Park Roads in Howard County on Feb. 4 (Jim & Carol Wilkinson), 4 at Bradenbaugh on Feb. 10 (Kirkwood), 9 at Christopher Road, Cecil County on Feb. 10 and 3 at Ironshire Station Road, Worcester County on Feb. 19 (Stasz). **Snow Bunting** sightings were also numerous beginning with 25 on Dec. 3 at Sandy Point S.P. (Matt O'Donnell), and 35 on Dec. 4 at PRNAS (Rambo, Lister, Craig). Some others were 5 on Dec. 22 and Jan. 15 at Bradenbaugh (Kirkwood), 4 on Dec. 19 and 50 on Dec. 28 at Ridgely (Hewitt), and 1 off Triadelphia Mill Road in Howard County on Dec. 25 (Stasz). Highs were 100 at Clark's Lane in Caroline County on Dec. 24 (Iliff, Stasz), 300 at Ridgely on Jan. 14-17 (Scudder), and 50 at PRNAS on Jan. 3 (Lister+).

Icterines, Finches. Seventy-five **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at Ridgely on Jan. 15 (Scudder), and a female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was discovered at Pond Neck Road, Cecil County on Feb. 10 (Stasz). **Rusty Blackbirds** included 10 at Sixes Bridge Road, Carroll County on Jan. 15 (Iliff, Stasz), and 60 at Bollinger School Road, Frederick County on Jan. 21 (Stasz, Ringler). A pair of **Brewer's Blackbirds** were identified at a cattle feed yard at Hassenger's Corner, Kent County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), still present on Jan. 16 (Iliff). A **Baltimore Oriole** was noted at La Plata on Jan. 1 (Jett, Patteson), and 1 to 2 were at Dunkirk from Dec. 16 to Feb. 5 (Ripley). A first-year male was at a feeder at Tanyard on Jan. 26-27 (Engle). Details have been submitted for a female **Pine Grosbeak** at a feeder in Allegany County on Jan. 8 (Paulus). A partial albino **House Finch** and a yellow male were reported at a feeder in Queenstown on Jan. 14 after a snow storm (Poet). A few **Common Redpoll** reports were submitted including 1 at Mountaindale Road, Frederick County on Dec. 16 (Mike Welch), 1 at Stemmer's Run, Cecil County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 2 at Darnestown on Jan. 20 (Daryl Olson), and 1 at Indian Head, Charles County on Feb. 2 (Carol Ghebelian, Jett). One or two were also near Oakland from Feb. 9 to Feb. 20 and 3 were at Bittinger on Feb. 18 (Skipper). **Pine Siskins** included 16 near Oakland on Dec. 7 (Skipper), 24 at Havre de Grace on Dec. 16 (Les Eastman), and 16 at Davidsonville on Jan. 23 (Davis). A **European Goldfinch**, most probably an escape, was reported at St. Michaels on Jan. 13 and again on Feb. 24-25 (Stacy Ringle, Len Warriner). **Evening Grosbeaks** were 30 at New Germany SP, Garrett County on Dec. 2 (Churchill), 3 females at a feeder in Queenstown on Dec. 20 (Poet), 15 at Ironside on Jan. 6 (Jett), 14 at PWRC on Jan. 23-29 (Osenton), and a nice count of 50 near Oakland on Feb. 20 (Skipper).

ALBINISTIC BLUE JAY IN CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND

RICHARD JULE HOLLIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Received 24 February 1995

BIRDS OBSERVED EATING ADULT GYPSY MOTHS IN JUNE 1990

JOANNE K. SOLEM

During the early evening of June 25, 1990, my husband, Bob, and I watched three crows (*Corvus* sp.) sail into the tops of several tall oak trees (*Quercus* sp.) in our back yard south of Columbia, in Howard County, in central Maryland. That year we had a heavy infestation of gypsy moths (*Lymantria dispar*) and by this date the females had emerged and begun laying eggs. Watching through binoculars it was easy to see the white insects against the dark bark, and I could see that the crows were seizing and swallowing the female moths. The crows remained for 10 to 15 minutes, staying generally in the interior of the trees at a height of 40 to 50 feet. The only break in the steady foraging was when a brown gypsy moth fluttered past one of the birds, which turned and snatched it from the air. It then returned to its methodical attack on the easily captured females. At no time did any of the crows make a sound that was audible to us, and since both American (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Fish (*C. ossifragus*) Crows occur in the area, it was not possible to determine which species these were.

During the period while we were observing the crows we also watched a Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) pluck a female gypsy moth off a trunk and swallow it whole. On the following day, again early in the evening, an immature Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) was feeding on the ground in the yard. At one point it grabbed a male gypsy moth out of the air and swallowed it whole before resuming its foraging.

On June 27 a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) was feeding on the ground in the yard when it suddenly snatched a male gypsy moth out of the air. After swallowing it whole it pursued another that was fluttering above a patch of *Pachysandra*.

Although gypsy moths in the adult stage may not be a favorite food of many birds, it appears that when they are plentiful, they will be eaten by a number of species.

10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Maryland.

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Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.



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Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4698

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