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Cover: Adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Huntley Meadows, VA, Summer 1994. Photo by Al Haury.



TUFTED DUCK IN CALVERT COUNTY, THE SECOND FOR MARYLAND

TYLER BELL

I work for the Academy of Natural Sciences Estuarine Research Center on the grounds of Jefferson Patterson Park in St. Leonard, MD. Over the years, I've been compiling a list of birds for the park and noticed that I was missing some waterfowl from the list. So, at lunch on March 18, 1997, three colleagues and I went down to the Patuxent River to scope out the situation.

When we arrived on the pier, I looked upriver and noticed there were a number of Greater and Lesser Scaup and a dark-backed bird that I thought to be a Ring-necked Duck, one of the birds missing from my park list. I put the scope on it and instantly knew that it was an adult male Tufted Duck! I said to the group, "I've got a Tufted Duck!" To which they replied, "No way." When I said I was serious, they became excited and we all looked through the scope at it before I attached the camera to attempt some photos (which turned out lousy, by the way).

The sky was cloudy with a breeze of about 5 mph from the northeast. Visibility was unlimited. It was about 50° F. Fortunately, my wife, Jane Kostenko, and I had been chasing an Eared Grebe that Patty Craig had found at Point Lookout State Park. We were armed to the teeth with our scope, a Bausch and Lomb Criterion 4000 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector spotting scope (66x fixed), 10x40 Zeiss binoculars, as well as the camera and mount. It couldn't have happened at a more opportune time!

When I first looked at the duck through the scope, it was in profile. The tuft was quite long, hanging down the nape almost to the bird's back. Numerous observers noticed that after it dove and resurfaced, it would shake the tuft back and forth to dry it. There was no mistaking the identity of this bird!

I asked two of my friends to stay on the bird while I went back to the lab (a half mile away) to activate the phone tree and tweak the Internet. First, I called my wife, Jane Kostenko, who bailed from work right away, then I called some local birders and finally, I sent email messages to *Birdchat*, *MarVaDel* (MD Osprey wasn't born yet), and as many birders as I had in my e-mail address book. Then I ran back down to the dock to wait for people to come. By the end of the afternoon, when it started raining heavily, there had already been nine observers.

The next morning started off ominously with rain mixed with snow. Despite the nasty weather, many people came from all over the state to see the duck. The Internet and local phone trees had spread the word effectively. By the end of the second day, about a dozen more birders had seen the bird.

On March 20, I arrived at 7:05 a.m. in time to greet a departing birder from D.C. who had just seen the bird slightly downriver of the dock. When I went down to look at it, it was gone, never to be relocated despite a massive effort by numerous people from as far away as New Jersey. Jim Stasz managed to find three Eared Grebes near the pier and Jane and I found another across the river at Greenwell State Park. Jim Stasz found the Ring-necked Ducks that I had originally gone out to look for. In all, over 60 people signed the log book placed on the pier by the Academy, and over two dozen people saw the bird during its 36-hour stay.

I would like to thank the staff of the Academy of Natural Sciences for allowing visitors onto the pier, which is normally used for scientific research only, and the staff of Jefferson Patterson Park, who allowed visitors on the park property despite the fact that the park is officially closed to the public until April 15.

BALD EAGLE RESCUE

STEVE REED AND ALLAN HAURY

On Sunday morning, October 19, 1997, a light, steady rain was falling and the temperature was holding at 56° F. Steve Reed, one of the Rangers at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, received a call from the Tauts who live near the park in Bay Ridge. The Tauts found two Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) down on the ground and in distress in their back yard. Because this seemed somewhat odd, Steve asked for a description of the birds, which was clearly that of mature Bald Eagles.

In an attempt to get assistance in rescuing the eagles, Steve first called the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The person that answered the phone tried to convince Steve that the birds were Ospreys, not eagles. Because it was Sunday, DNR assistance could not be provided. Noah's Ark said that if Steve would capture the birds and bring them in, they would take a look at them. Anne Arundel County Animal Control was unavailable as they were responding to a call about a raccoon in a dumpster at a Seven Eleven, but would be available after they were done there.

Steve decided to get the assistance of Michael Murdoch, Quiet Waters Park Superintendent, and go to the Tauts and see what he could do. Steve's experience as a director of a nature center and children's farm caring for birds of prey ranging in size from Barn Owls to Golden Eagles would be very helpful in determining what to do. At the Tauts', the distressed eagles were on the ground in a drainage ditch. Animal Control showed up and all went to the birds. Animal Control poked at the eagles with a capture stick which didn't seem too swift. Steve approached the birds and found that one bird had its talons buried in the side of the other. After removing two of the talons from the side of the other bird, Steve moved the two birds to a picnic table to finish the separation. This process was enough to make the eagles separate on their own and fly off some 50 feet away, apparently to get their bearings. Then they flew off in different directions.

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852 Redwood Trail, Crownsville, MD 21032

[Note: This is a rewrite of an article by Ranger Reed for the *Quiet Waters Park Newsletter*.]



SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1 – MAY 31, 1997

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

After a warm winter, some early movements were detected, particularly among wood warblers; but migration activity in general seemed lackluster. Much of early May was damp and cool.

Observers: Henry & Liz Armistead, Anne Armistead, Mary Armistead, Stan Arnold, Walter Barrows, Tyler Bell, Ann Bishop, Rick Blom, Bob Boxwell, Don & Carol Broderick, Martha Chestem, Ian Cornelius, Steve Cornelius, Patty Craig, Todd Day, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Ward Ebert, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Fred Fallon, Jane Farrell, Kurt Gaskill, Carol Gheblian, Greg Gough, Jim Green, Sue Hamilton, Wilbur Hershberger, Robert Hilton, Steve Huy, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Jane Kostenko, Ellen Lawler, Paul & Carol Newman, Mariana Nuttle, Doug Odermatt, Bonnie Ott, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for Wicomico County), Danny Poet, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Ringle, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Sue Schneider, Stephen Simon, Don Simonson, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Leslie Starr, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Rick Sussman, Joe Turner, Mark Wallace, Dave Weesner, Mike Welch, Howard Youth, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: DC — District of Columbia, NWR — National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS — Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, PWRC/North — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center North Tract, SF — State Forest, SP — State Park, UMCF — University of Maryland Central Farm, WMA — Wildlife Management Area, WS — Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: American Chestnut Land Trust (Calvert), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Elliott Island (Dorchester), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Harney Road Ponds (Frederick), Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore), Hughes Hollow (Mont-

NOTE: Starting with Volume 54, *Maryland Birdlife* is following the taxonomy and sequence as published in the 7th Edition (1998) of the A.O.U. Check-list. You will notice especially the insertion of the vultures between the herons and the geese, the shrikes and vireos preceding the crows, and many changes in sequence within the waterfowl. See book review on page 48.

gomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Kershner Pond (Frederick), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Pennyfield (Montgomery), PRNAS (St. Mary's), PWRC (Prince George's), PWRC/North (Anne Arundel), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard, unless noted otherwise), UMCF (Howard), Vantage Point (Howard), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington).

Banding was conducted by Jim Gruber at Narnia Farm, about two miles east of Chestertown on the Chester River.

Loons, Grebes. In general, loon numbers were low this spring, but a handful of **Red-throated Loons** were noted including 1 at Little Seneca Lake on March 8 (Day, Gaskill), 4 at Cobb Island on March 15 (Jett), 8 at North Beach on April 7 (Stasz), and 12 in Ocean City on April 15 (Reese). Patty Craig listed 10 **Common Loons** at Point Lookout SP on March 10, 6 were checked off at Loch Raven on March 23 (Simon+), and 1 was found at Greenbrier SP on March 28 (Weesner). The last Common Loon was at Point Lookout SP on May 30 (Craig). Interesting late spring **Pied-billed Grebe** sightings included 2 at Elms Environmental Center in St. Mary's County on May 19 (Boxwell, Schneider), and one at PWRC/North on May 21-26 (Arnold). **Horned Grebes** were well represented this season with numerous reports including 1 at Little Seneca Lake on March 8 (Barrows), another at Lilypons the same day (Day, Gaskill), 100 at South Point, Worcester County again on March 8 (Dyke), 300 at Point Lookout SP on March 11 (Craig), 250 at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz), and late solo birds at Pt. Lookout SP on May 15 (Craig), and at Wilde Lake on May 20 (Odermatt). Several birders reported 1 or 2 **Red-necked Grebes** at Little Seneca Lake from March 8 (Barrows) through March 17 (Witebsky), and St. Mary's County's first **Eared Grebe** was seen at Pt. Lookout SP from March 10-13 (Craig, Rambo). Jim Stasz located an Eared Grebe on March 16 at North Beach, and 3 on March 20, for a Maryland high count, at Jefferson-Patterson Park, Calvert County, where 1 was noted through March 29 (Jett). Greenwell SP in St. Mary's County also hosted an Eared Grebe on March 22 (Bell, Kostenko), as did Hart-Miller on March 23 (Scarpulla, Blom).

Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. **Northern Gannet** numbers, which were fairly low, included 1 at North Beach on March 1 and 22 there on March 13 (Stasz), 5 at Pt. Lookout on March 7 and 25 there on March 15 (Craig, Kostenko, Bell), and 1 at Bellevue on March 29 (Armisteads, Emilie Harting). A nice sighting of an **American White Pelican** flying north was made at Fort Smallwood on May 1 (Wierenga, Fritz, Geuder, Eberly), and Patty Craig reported a **Brown Pelican** at Pt. Lookout on May 12 and 6 there on May 30, and a **Great Cormorant** there on March 20. Among the numerous **Double-crested Cormorants** were 585 in DC on April 11 (Pisano), 295 at Hart-Miller on April 13 (Scarpulla), 400 at Ocean City on April 15 (Reese), 10 at The Glades, Garrett County on April 23 (Skipper), 785 at Conowingo on April 25 (Blom), 105 at the US 301 bridge, Charles County on May 10 (Jett), 4 at Pt. Lookout on May 27 (Craig), and 32 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+).

Herons, Ibises. An **American Bittern** visited the relatively new Font Hill Wetlands Park in Howard County on May 10-11 (Karan & Bill Blum, Marilyn Veek+), and another was at Seneca on May 15 (Evelyn Christopher). On April 7, three **Great Blue Heron** nests were noted at Vantage Point and 7 young were counted there on May 30 (Chestem). There were 150 **Great Blues** at Conowingo on April 25 with many active nests (Blom), and 7 nests with at least 21 young at Lake Whetstone, Montgomery County on May 10 (Hilton). **Great Egrets** included 3 at Blackwater on March 15 (Arnold), 1 at Vantage Point on May 22 (Chestem,

Zeichner), and 1 at PWRC/North on May 30 (Arnold). The Armisteads spied a **Snowy Egret** at Bellevue on March 28, and Patty Craig listed 6 at Pt. Lookout on April 25 and found a **Little Blue Heron** there on April 30. Other Little Blues included singles at Lilypons on May 3 (Welch), at Loch Raven on May 6 (Simon), and at Indian Head, Charles County on May 10 (Gheblian). A **Tricolored Heron** visited Ocean City on April 5 (Youth), 2 were at Cove Point on May 2 (Greg Miller), and 1 was at Pt. Lookout on May 4 (Day). **Cattle Egrets** included 6 at Herrington Harbor, Anne Arundel County on April 7 (Stasz), 2 at Wye Research Center, Queen Anne's County on April 11 (Poet), 1 at Parrish Farm, Charles County on April 16 (Jett), and 12 at Scotland on April 22 (Craig). Stephen and Ian Cornelius discovered a **Green Heron** at the C&O Canal in Frederick County on April 5; other singles were found on April 7 at Wilde Lake (Zeichner), and at Pt. Lookout (Craig). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at UMCF on April 5 (Farrell, Jett+), and an amazing 200 were reported at the National Zoo colony in DC on April 6 (Rena Yont). Others included 11 at Conowingo on April 25 and 15 there on May 24 (Blom). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** included 3 at Sligo Park, Montgomery County on March 23 (Nick Noutis), 1 at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on May 3 (Gheblian), 1 in DC on May 5 (Pisano), and 2 at PWRC/North on May 24 (Fallon). A **Glossy Ibis** was checked off at Blackwater on April 5 (Green), 7 were listed at Pt. Lookout on April 20 (Kostenko), and 1 was there on May 12 (Craig, Bishop).

Vultures. Fifty **Black Vultures** were at Dameron on March 21 (Craig), and 65 at Conowingo on May 24 (Blom). **Turkey Vultures** included 40 at North Beach on March 8 (Stasz), and 45 at Centreville on April 24 (Reese).

Swans, Geese. Gene Scarpulla and party reported 525 flyover **Tundra Swans** at Hart-Miller on March 8, 40 were seen at Starr on April 10 (Poet), and an immature was at PWRC/North from April 28 through at least May 26 (Arnold+). Jan Reese found a **Mute Swan** nest at St. Michaels on March 12, and the Armistead family discovered 12 of the swans, including 2 adults and 4 downy young in one cove, at Bellevue on May 24. Thankfully, however, total numbers of Mute Swans seemed down from previous years with the high of 85 at St. Michaels on May 22 (Grace Hoster). **Canada Geese** continue to be numerous and widespread. Howard County totaled 515 on their May Count on the 10th (Solem+), and Frederick County totaled 666 on their May Count the same day (Welch+). Clifton Horton reported 2 **Barnacle Geese** at Davidsonville on March 17.

Puddle Ducks. Stan Arnold counted 71 **Wood Ducks** at PWRC/North on March 18. Stasz found 28 **Gadwalls** at Upper Marlboro on March 25. Simon notched 35 Gadwalls at Loch Raven on April 5, as well as 60 **American Wigeon** there on March 9. Fifty of the wigeon were at Nanticoke Marshes on March 24 (Stasz). Mark Wallace checked off 85 **American Black Ducks** at Clark's Farm in western Howard County on March 6, and Darius Ecker found a pair at Lake Elkhorn on May 17. Twenty-five **Mallards**, including a female with 11 downy young, were discovered at Back River on April 19 (Scarpulla+). **Blue-winged Teals** included 2 in DC on March 15 (Pisano, Janni), 30 at Hughes Hollow on March 25 (Green), and 5 at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla+). Sixty-five **Northern Shovelers** were at Blackwater on March 19 (H. Armistead), and 24 were at Upper Marlboro on March 27. Jim Stasz totaled up 70 **Northern Pintails** at the Nanticoke marshes on March 24. **Green-winged Teals** included 4 at Myrtle Grove WMA on March 8 (Jett), 3 at Big Pool on March 9 (Huy), 40 at Tanyard on March 24 and 50 in the Nanticoke Marshes, Wicomico County on the same day (Stasz), and 115 at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead+). Two **Ruddy Shelducks** were reported at Lake Elkhorn on March 9 (Ecker).

Diving Ducks. Harry Armistead tallied 210 **Canvasbacks** at Cambridge on March 19, and Michael Bowen reported 200 at West Ocean City on March 23. Jo Solem had a nice count of 20 **Redheads** at Cooksville on March 8. **Ring-necked Ducks** began with 35 at Kershner Pond on March 2 (I. & S. Cornelius), 30 were at Leonardtown on March 14 (Rambo), 84 were tallied in Denton on March 24 (Stasz), and 150 were at Myrtle Grove WMA on March 24 (Jett). The high for Ring-necks was 470 inland at Deep Creek Lake on March 14 (Skipper). The last reports were of 1 at Harney Road Ponds on May 10 (I. & S. Cornelius), and a wintering pair at Centennial on May 17 (Kurt Schwarz). On March 18, an adult, male **Tufted Duck** was found at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County for Maryland's second record and the first since 1979 (Bell, Kostenko). George Jett listed 250 **Greater Scaup** at Cobb Island on March 15, 15 were at Violettes Lock on March 24 (Green), and the high was 978 at Hart-Miller on March 28 (Scarpulla+). Highs for **Lesser Scaup** were 425 at Bellevue on March 18 (H. Armistead), and 446 at Hart-Miller on March 28 (Scarpulla+). **Common Eiders** were found at Ocean City again with the high of 18 on March 18 (Dyke), and the last report of 1 on May 18 (Paul DuMont). A **King Eider** was reported at Pt. Lookout on March 16 (Arlene Ripley). Ocean City remains a good place to find **Harlequin Ducks**, including 6 on the 16th and 23rd of March (Dyke, Bowen), and 5 on April 15 (Reese). An **Oldsquaw** was at Rileys Lock, Montgomery County on March 8 where 21 were tallied on March 26 (Green), 1 was inland at Greenbrier SP on March 23 and March 28 (Weesner), and the highs were 300 at Bellevue on March 18 and 200 at Cambridge on March 19 (H. Armistead). Overall, numbers of **Black Scoters** and **White-winged Scoters** were low, but Harry Armistead tallied 3730 **Surf Scoters** at Bellevue on March 18. The high for **Bufflehead** was 300 at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz), and late reports were of singles at DC on May 11 (Hilton), and at Pt. Lookout on May 15 (Craig). A late **Common Goldeneye** was reported at Merkle WMA on May 31 (Ken DeCoster). **Hooded Mergansers** included 12 at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on March 8 (Jett), and 20 at Lilypons on March 9 (Clive Harris). **Red-breasted Merganser** reports were numerous, including these early migrants: 3 at Kershner Pond on March 2 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 5 at Greenbrier SP on March 4 (Weesner). Others, all on March 8, were 18 at Triadelphia (Solem), 30 at Little Seneca Lake (Barrows), 70 at Hains Point (Pisano, Janni), and 133 at Hart-Miller (Scarpulla+). Seventy Red-breasteds were at Bellevue on March 28 (Armisteads, Harting), and 2 at Pt. Lookout on May 29 (Rambo). Harry and Liz Armistead turned in the high for **Ruddy Ducks** with 840 at Bellevue on March 30. A lingering Ruddy was at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+).

Diurnal Raptors. See the Table compiled by Sue Ricciardi for a summary of the Fort Smallwood hawk migration. Early **Ospreys** included 3 at Scotland on March 2 (Craig, Bishop), 1 at Upper Marlboro on March 3 (Stasz), 1 at Solomons Island on March 8 (Bell, Kostenko), 2 at Benedict the same day (Phil Davis), and 2 at the Wye Research Center, Queen Anne's County on March 11 (Poet). A **Mississippi Kite** was checked off at Fort Smallwood on May 12 and May 17 (per Ricciardi). A **Northern Harrier** was discovered on May 16 at Allens Fresh (Jett), and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found at Lake Elkhorn on May 18 (Ecker). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at PWRC/North on May 30 (Arnold). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported at Beltsville on March 28 (Elaine Hendricks), and a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks**, in courtship flight, was observed at Trappe on March 10 and March 12 (Reese). A light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at Elliott Island on April 13 (Armistead+). **Golden Eagles** in Dorchester County were 1 at Decoursey Bridge Road on March 12 and 2 at Bestpitch Ferry Road the same day (Greg Inskip), and an immature at Blackwater on May 3 (H. Armistead+). **Merlins** began with solo reports at North Beach on March 13 (Stasz), at Salisbury on March 15 (Dyke), at Pt. Lookout on March 22 (Craig), and at DC the same day (Pisano, Janni). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was at Triadelphia on April 5 (Farrell, Jett, Sussman), and another was near Urbana on May 4 (Welch).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots. **Wild Turkeys** included 1 at Dameron on May 11 and May 24 (Craig), 1 at Phoenix Road, Baltimore County on May 17 (Simon), 2 males near Spook Hill Road, Baltimore County on May 20 (Carroll Metrick), and 11 at PWRC/North on May 21 (Arnold). A **Black Rail** was seen at Cornfield Harbor on May 10 (Bishop) where it was heard on May 11 (Craig). A **Clapper Rail** was also at Cornfield Harbor on May 13 (Craig), and **King Rails** included 1 at Nanticoke Marshes on March 24 and another at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz). Hart-Miller yielded 3 **Virginia Rails** on March 2 and 10 on April 13 (Scarpulla), and 1 was at Lilypons on April 20 (Hershberger). **Soras** included single birds at North Beach on April 13 (Stasz), at Lilypons on April 26 (Joy Peters), and at Deal Island WMA on May 24 (Saunders). Harry Armistead and several observers found a **Common Moorhen** at Elliott Island on April 13, and 6 were at Easton on May 22 (Saunders). Steve Simon and party tallied the high for **American Coot** with 300 at Loch Raven on March 9. Others included 125 at Ocean Pines on March 12 (Reese), 185 at Deep Creek Lake on March 14 (Skipper), 110 at Solomons on March 31 (Reese), 1 at Pt. Lookout on May 15 (Craig), and 2 at PWRC/North on May 26 (Arnold). A **Chukar** was reported in the River Road and Berryville Road areas of Montgomery County on March 10 (Tom Fry), March 25 (Frank Schaff), and on April 9 (Bruce Hill).

Cranes, Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. **Sandhill Cranes** made quite an appearance this spring with an immature at South Point, Worcester County on March 7 (Dyke), 1 at PWRC on March 21 seen flying over the captive pens there (George Gee), an immature at Tilghman Island on March 22 (Reese), 1 near Lisbon on May 8 (Diane Nagengast), and 1 at Buckeystown on May 10 (Earl Fogelberg). **Black-bellied Plovers** began with 1 at Scotland, March 23-26 (Craig, Bishop), 1 at Starr on April 10 (Poet), and 2 at Blackwater on April 12 (Armistead, Bob Trever+). Later **Black-bellieds** were 1 at North Beach on May 24 (Stasz), 5 at Bellevue on the same day (Armisteads), and 12 at Hart-Miller on May 24 and 2 there on May 31 (Scarpulla+). A late **Common Goldeneye** was reported at Merkle WMA on May 31 (Ken DeCoster). On May 22, Connie Skipper found a **Black-bellied** near Pleasant Valley Road in Garrett County, an unusual location for this species. **Semipalmated Plovers** included 1 very early at Hart-Miller on April 27 (Scarpulla), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on May 3 (Ghebelian+), 7 at Scotland the same day (Craig, Bob Boxwell, Cribb), and 37 at Tanyard on May 10 (Engle). Among the many **Killdeer** were 47 at Kershner Pond on March 9 (I. & S. Cornelius), 1 sitting on four eggs at Queenstown on March 13 (Poet), 300 at Scotland on March 20 (Craig), and a nest with 4 eggs at Hooper Island on May 3 (Armistead+). Harry Armistead reported 2 **American Oystercatchers** at Hooper Island on March 19, and Jane Kostenko checked off 4 at Pt. Lookout on April 20. A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Deal Island WMA on April 30 (Lawler), 1 was at Blackwater on May 3, and 2 were there on May 10 (Armistead, Will Russell+). Scarpulla and party found 5 **American Avocets** at Hart-Miller on May 24.

Tringine Sandpipers. An early **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Kitt's Pond, St. Mary's County on March 5 (Craig), and others included 45 at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 26 (Jett), 60 at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo), 1 at Pt. Lookout on May 21 (Craig), and 1 at North Beach on May 24 (Stasz). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Blackwater on March 19 (H. Armistead), 2 were at Scotland on March 21 (Craig), and 40 were tallied at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo). **Solitary Sandpipers** included 12 at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo), 1 at Atkins Arboretum, Caroline County on May 18 (Reese), 1 at St. Mary's City on May 20 (Craig, Boxwell), 2 at Loch Raven on May 22 (Simon), and 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 28 (Ecker). Armistead and party found 5 **Willetts** at Elliott Island on April 13, Hilton checked one off at Laytonsville on April 15, another was at Pt. Lookout on May 21 and 3 were at Cornfield Harbor the same day (Craig), and 2 were at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+). Patty Craig found a **Spotted Sandpiper** at

Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on April 23, over 50 were at Pennyfield and Violettes Lock on May 19 (Simonson), and 1 was at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig).

Curlews, Godwits, Turnstones. Kyle Rambo found 3 **Upland Sandpipers** at PRNAS on April 28. **Whimbrels** included 2 at Assateague on May 3 (Joy Peters), and a wonderful flock of 180 at Bellevue on May 24 (Armisteads). A **Marbled Godwit** visited Ocean City on April 15 (Reese), and 18 **Ruddy Turnstones** were at PRNAS on May 26.

Calidridine Sandpipers. Twenty-five **Sanderlings** were at PRNAS on May 26 (Craig, Bishop). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** began with 15 at Hart-Miller on April 27 (Scarpulla), and 1 at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo); they peaked with 645 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at Scotland on March 26 (Craig, Bishop), 46 were at Centreville, Queen Anne's County on May 10 (Poet), 23 were at North Beach on May 15 (Stasz), and 2 were at Pt. Lookout on May 21 (Craig). **White-rumped Sandpipers** began with 2 at Red House Pond, Garrett County on May 3 (Gary Felton) and 3 the same day at Blackwater (Armistead+). Later White-rumps were 1 at North Beach on May 23 (Stasz), and 4 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). Among the early **Pectoral Sandpipers** were singles at Scotland on March 22 (Craig), and at Hart-Miller on March 28 (Scarpulla+). Late Pectoral Sandpipers were 1 at Harney Road Ponds on May 10 (I. & S. Cornelius), 2 at Tanyard on May 10 (Engle), and 1 at Fulton on May 14 (Solem). Paul DuMont reported 8 **Purple Sandpipers** remaining at Ocean City on May 18, and a **Dunlin** was notched at Pt. Lookout on March 10 (Craig). Other Dunlins were 1 at Hart-Miller on March 23 (Scarpulla+), 1 at North Beach on April 5 (Stasz), 9 at PRNAS on May 26 (Craig, Bishop), and 53 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+).

Snipe, Woodcock, Phalaropes. Rambo tallied 40 **Common Snipe** at PRNAS on March 8, 45 were at Scotland on March 25 (Craig), and 15 were near Grasonville on April 12 (J. Sebastiani). Highs for **American Woodcock** were 30 at PRNAS on March 8 (Rambo), and 14 near Shady Grove, Montgomery County on March 9 (Sussman). Tom and Joan Christensen reported a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Great Falls Park, Montgomery County on May 11, and 3 were at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+).

Gulls. Early **Laughing Gulls** were 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 4 (Craig), 2 at Easton on March 9 (Davis), 2 at Upper Marlboro on March 11 (Stasz), and 1 at Salisbury on March 12 (Reese). Highs were 600 at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead, Levin & Ryan Willey+), 500 at Mill Creek Preserve, Talbot County on April 20 (Reese), and 4 at Hains Point on May 30 (Pisano). From 1 to 4 adult **Little Gulls** were identified at Hart-Miller periodically from March 23 through April 13 (Scarpulla+). A **Black-headed Gull** was at Conowingo on March 7 (Les Eastman), and a first-winter bird was at Ocean City on April 15 (Reese). Inland **Bonaparte's Gulls** were located this spring with 5 at Violettes Lock on March 24 (Green), 2 at Centennial on March 31 (Farrell), and 21 at Fulton on April 12 (Solem). Two late Bonaparte's were at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+). Sam Dyke reported a breeding-plumaged adult **California Gull** at Salisbury on March 6. Kyle Rambo reported an **Iceland Gull** at Solomons Island on March 13, and Scarpulla and party found 1 at Hart-Miller on May 31. Five **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found throughout DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni), and 8 were at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). A **Glaucous Gull** was at Wilde Lake from May 15 through May 24 (Odermatt+), and 32 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at Conowingo on May 24 (Blom).

Terns, Skimmers, Puffin. **Caspian Terns** included 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 15 (Day, Gaskill), 1 at Blackwater on April 5 (Arnold), 8 at Hart-Miller the same day (Scarpulla+), 26 at Wilde Lake on April 24 (Newmans), 87 at Blackwater on April 27 (H. Armistead+), and 398 at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla). **Royal Terns** began with 2 at Morgantown on March 22 (Jett+), 1 at Leonardtown on March 28 (Rambo), and 10 at Ocean City on April 5 (Youth). Others included 1 at Choptank on May 9 (D. Ford), 3 at Cambridge the same day (Reese), 1 at Hart-Miller on May 10 and May 19 (Scarpulla+), and 120 at Morgantown on May 10 (Jett). A **Common Tern** was at PRNAS on March 27 (Rambo), and 2 were at Hains Point on May 30 (Pisano). **Forster's Terns** included 6 on March 14 at Leonardtown (Rambo), 1 on March 19 at Hooper Island (H. Armistead), and 1 on April 5 at Salisbury (Lawler). A **Least Tern** was found at PRNAS on April 9 (Rambo), 7 **Black Terns** were tallied at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+), and 5 **Black Skimmers** were notched at Ocean City on April 5 (Youth). Arlene Ripley reported an **Atlantic Puffin** at Pt. Lookout on March 16.

Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts. The first **Black-billed Cuckoos** were singles at Rock Creek Park on May 3 (Gail Mackiernan), and at PWRC/North the same day (Rod Burley). A Black-billed was reported at Denton on May 15 (Nuttie). A **Barn Owl** was reported on the roof of a four-story building in DC on April 5 (Matthew Pizzi), and another flew across Route 34 in Keedysville on May 31 (Huy). Earl Bassinger reported a **Great Horned Owl** on a nest at Pt. Lookout on March 15, and a Great Horned owl was seen there on April 20 (Joe Gagli). An injured **Long-eared Owl** was found in St. Michaels on March 7 (Kelly Allen), and **Short-eared Owls** were 1 at Hart-Miller on March 2 (Scarpulla), and another at Parsonsburg on April 24 (Brodericks). Steve Huy captured 6 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at the Lamb's Knoll banding station in Washington County on March 7. **Common Nighthawks** began with 1 at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on May 3 (Ghebelian+), and another in DC on May 4 (Pisano). Others included 18 at Lake Elkhorn on May 17 (Ecker), and 20 at Fort Smallwood on May 19 (per Ricciardi). An early **Whip-poor-will** was at Waldorf on April 4 (Jett). **Chimney Swifts** started with one each at PWRC/North on March 26 and at Bowie on March 27 (Fred Fallon), 2 at California on March 28 (Kostenko), 2 at Centennial on April 5 (Farrell, Jett), and 2 at Salisbury on April 8 (Lawler).

Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported near Waldorf on the early date of March 18 (Lee Duer, Jean Agnew), and another on April 13 at St. Michaels (Reese). Jim Stasz reported a migrating **Belted Kingfisher** at North Beach on March 9, and **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included 8 at Pt. Lookout on May 4 (Day), and 8 at Douglas Point Marsh, Charles County on May 16 (Jett). A late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was discovered at Daniels on May 10 (Stirrat).

Flycatchers. A nice **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was near Governor's Bridge Road, Prince George's County on May 12 (Fallon, Robert Davis), and another was found at Seneca on May 18 (Youth). Solo **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported at Nassawango Creek, Wicomico County on May 22 (Lawler), and at Triadelphia Lake Road, Montgomery County on May 31 (Sussman). Single **Alder Flycatchers** were listed at PWRC/North on May 21 (Gough), and at Hughes Hollow the same day (Marie Plante). A **Willow Flycatcher** was noted at General Smallwood SP, Charles County on May 3 (Ghebelian+), and a **Least Flycatcher** was at Kensington, Montgomery County on April 28 (Ralph Whaley). **Great Crested Flycatchers** began with 1 in Wicomico County on April 25 (Dyke), 1 at Blackwater on April 27 (H. Armistead+), and 1 at Beauvue on April 28 (Tina Dew). Patty Craig reported another Great

Crested nesting in a martin house in Dameron with five eggs on May 30. Early **Eastern Kingbirds** were 1 at St. Michaels on April 20 (Reese), and another at Centennial the same day (Ecker). Don Simonson and Byron Swift reported a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Milepost 21 on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on May 3.

Shrikes, Vireos, Corvids, Larks. No Maryland reports for **Loggerhead Shrikes** were turned in this spring. **White-eyed Vireos** began just about on time on April 19 with 1 at Meadowside Nature Center (Sussman), and 3 at Swainson's Creek Marsh, Charles County (Jett). An early **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at Wilde Lake on April 9 (Zeichner), followed by 1 each at Hollywood and Dameron on April 13 (Rambo, Craig). A Blue-headed running a bit late was at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla, Cullison). The first Wicomico **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on April 15 (Dyke), and 1 arrived in Calvert County on April 21 (Starr, Turner). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported at Pennyfield on May 3 (Simonson), and at Centennial on May 10 (Mike Leumas, Anne Marie Rater). The first **Red-eyed Vireo** was in Calvert County at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 21 (Hamilton). George Jett found about 3000 **American Crows** at a roost along Route 301 near Waldorf on March 8, and Paul Fritz discovered an albino American Crow at Hancock on April 5. The high for **Fish Crows** was 200 at Nanticoke Marshes on March 24 (Stasz), and 3 **Common Ravens** were noted at the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederick County on March 11 (Kathleen McDonough). Fred Fallon found 4 **Horned Larks**, including one fledgling, on the early date of May 10 at Merkle WMA.

Swallows. **Purple Martins** began with 1 at PRNAS on March 22 (Rambo), and 2 at Wilde Lake on March 25 (Zeichner). The first **Tree Swallows** were 7 at Violettes Lock on March 4 (Green), and others were 40 at Big Mill Pond, Dorchester County on March 12 (Reese), over 100 at North Beach on April 7 (Stasz), and 200 at Dameron on April 26 (Craig). The early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were single sightings at Lilypons on March 8 (Day, Gaskill), at Upper Marlboro on March 19 (Stasz), at Leonardtown on the same day (Craig), and in DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni). **Bank Swallows** began with 2 each at Clark's Farm, Howard County on April 7 (Wallace), and Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead, Harvey & Marion Mudd+). About 150 Bank Swallows were over Deep Creek Lake on May 10 (Skipper). **Cliff Swallows** included 3 at Triadelphia on April 14 (Solem), 1 at Leonardtown on April 25 (Rambo), 2 at Pt. Lookout on May 4 (Day, Schneider), 1 at two different spots in Charles County on May 10 (Jett), and over 130 at Deep Creek Lake the same day (Skipper). The first **Barn Swallows** were 1 at Lilypons on March 23 (Hershberger), 2 at PRNAS on March 26 (Rambo), 3 at Hollywood the same day (Craig), 2 at Bellevue on March 28 (H. & L. Armistead, Harting), 1 at Kershner Pond on March 30 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 3 at Centennial Park on March 31 (Farrell). There were about 215 Barn Swallows at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla+). Following a large midge-type insect hatch at the west end of Deep Creek Lake, around 1350 Barn Swallows were tallied on May 10 on just a portion of this large lake (Skipper).

Chickadees, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. Patty Craig found 4 young **Carolina Chickadees** in a bluebird house at Dameron on May 1, and noted an adult there feeding a fledgling on May 24. Tina Dew reported 2 **Carolina Wrens** with a nest and 1 egg at Beauvue on March 18, which is probably an early record egg date. **House Wrens** began early with 1 on April 13 at three locations: Martinak SP (Nuttle), Dameron (Craig), and Hart-Miller (Scarpulla+). Another was at Nolands Ferry, Frederick County on April 15 (Hershberger). Patty Craig identified a late **Winter Wren** at Dameron on May 7, and Don Simonson notched a nice hard-to-find **Sedge Wren** at Pennyfield on May 17. **Marsh Wrens** began with 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 30 (Green), 2 at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead, Trever+), and 3 at Hart-Miller on

April 19 (Scarpulla+). Patty Craig found her first migrant **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at Pt. Lookout on March 11 and the last there on April 30. Roxanna Laing had a nice count of 15 in DC on March 23. A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Lake Elkhorn on May 12 (Ecker), and **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** began with 1 at PRNAS on March 22 (Rambo).

Thrushes, Mimids. A late migrant **Veery** was present at Dameron on May 23 (Craig). The first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Hallmark Road, Howard County on May 7 (Ebert), 1 was noted singing at Dameron on May 11 and 1 was at St. Mary's City on May 20 (Craig, Boxwell), and another was at Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough). Jim Gruber banded a **Bicknell's Thrush** at Narnia Farm on both May 18 and May 19. The first **Swainson's Thrush** was at Pt. Lookout on April 30 (Craig), and a **Hermit Thrush** was banded at Narnia Farm on May 14, somewhat late. **Wood Thrush** got started with 1 at Rohrersville on April 14 (Anne Mitchell), and 1 at Hollywood on April 17 (Rambo). Jan Reese found an **American Robin** singing its courtship song at Trappe on the early date of March 10, and found a robin's nest with 3 eggs at Claiborne on April 26. Patty Craig observed one making its nest at Pt. Lookout on April 7. Reflecting the mild winter, **Gray Catbirds** were in evidence early with 2 at Bellevue on March 18 (H. Armistead), the first report in Wicomico County on March 21 (Dyke), 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 29 (Bell, Kostenko), 1 at Port Republic on April 7 (Turner, Starr), 1 at Williston on April 9 (A. Jones), 1 banded at Narnia on April 11, and 1 at Keedysville on April 19 (Huy). A pair of **Northern Mockingbirds** was observed collecting nesting material in a yard in Frederick on March 27 (Elise Thrasher). Two **Brown Thrashers**, one of them singing, were noted in Dameron on March 18 (Craig), 1 was at PRNAS on March 21 (Arnold), and another was in DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni).

Waxwings, Starlings, Pipits. Highs for **Cedar Waxwings** were 100 at Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough), and 146 at Bellevue on May 26 (Armisteads). Patty Craig noted a recently fledged **European Starling** at Pt. Lookout on the early date of May 27. Highs for **American Pipits** were 28 at Scotland on March 2 (Bishop, Craig), 40 at Lilypons on March 29 (Green), and 30 at Griffiths Neck Road, Dorchester County on April 5 (Green). The last pipit report was one at Lilypons on May 13 (Welch).

Vermivora Warblers, Parula. Howard County was the place for hybrid **Brewster's Warblers** this spring with one on May 10 at Jennings Chapel Road (Phil & Barbara Davis), and another checked off on May 11 at Rockburn Branch Park (Darius & Paula Ecker). Rick Sussman found another nearby in Montgomery County at Triadelphia on May 10, and Bill Dobbins located another at Rock Creek Park on May 9. The last **Tennessee Warbler** submittal was 1 at Conowingo on May 24 (Blom), and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was checked off at St. Mary's River SP on May 18 (Schneider). An injured Orange-crowned was found near Boy Scout Road, Garrett County on May 16 (Linda Weeks). **Nashville Warblers** ended with 1 at Kindler, Howard County on May 22 (Solem). The first report for a **Northern Parula** in Wicomico County was on the early date of April 5 (Dyke); another was at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 7 (Hamilton).

Dendroica Warblers. The last **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were singles at Wilde Lake (Newmans), at North Beach (Stasz), and at Salisbury all on May 23 (Lawler), and at Washington Monument SP on May 28 (Weesner). An early **Magnolia Warbler** was noted at Patapsco SP, Carroll County on April 15 (Ed Boyd), and the last 2 were at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig). A very early **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was reported in Wicomico County on April 10 (Brodericks); the last were singles banded at Narnia on May 22 and found at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison). The high for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was

150 at Centennial Park on April 13 (Farrell), and the last were solo sightings at Wilde Lake (Odermatt), and Narnia (Gruber) on May 24. Sam Dyke noted the first Wicomico County **Black-throated Green Warbler** arrival on April 19, and another was in Claiborne on April 26 (Reese); the last were solo reports on May 23 at Dameron (Craig), and on May 24 at Henrynton, Howard County (Solem) and at Washington Monument SP (Weesner). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was discovered along Maple Glade Road, Garrett County on April 30 (Skipper), and 2 late Blackburnians, a male and a female, were notched at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were early with single reports on March 22 at American Chestnut Land Trust (Hamilton), on March 24 in Wicomico County (Dyke), on March 27 at Violettes Lock and on March 30 at Pt. Lookout (Green). **Pine Warblers** got started with 5 at Scotland on March 2 (Bishop, Craig), 4 at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on March 5 (Craig), and 1 at Hains Point and 2 at the National Arboretum in DC on March 8 (Pisano, Janni). Patty Craig observed a Pine Warbler collecting horse hair for a nest at Dameron on April 11. **Prairie Warblers** started early with solos in Wicomico County on April 10 (Dyke), at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead+), and at Dameron the same day (Craig). A **Palm Warbler** in Wicomico County on March 1 (Dyke) probably overwintered; while the first migrants were 1 at Wilde Lake on March 29 (Odermatt, Zeichner), and a Yellow Palm Warbler banded at Narnia on March 28. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were right on time with 1 at Rock Creek Park on May 4 (Mackiernan), and ended about right as well with 2 at Dameron on May 23 (Craig), and 3 at Lake Elkhorn on the same day (Ecker). The last **Blackpoll Warblers** were also on schedule with 5 at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig), 1 at Hains Point on the same day (Pisano), and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). The first **Cerulean Warbler** was at PWRC/North on April 27 (Arnold), and another was at Pt. Lookout on May 21 (Craig).

Other Warblers. **Black-and-white Warblers** got started with 1 in Wicomico County on March 25 (Dyke), 1 at American Chestnut Land Trust on March 31 (Starr, Turner), and 1 at Hollywood on April 3 (Rambo). April 4 was the very early arrival date in Wicomico County for an **American Redstart** (Dyke); the next report was of two at Swainson's Creek Marsh, Charles County on April 19 (Jett). A redstart was at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). Continuing the early arrival trend, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was reported in Wicomico County on April 6 (Dyke). Others, at sites where they are not known to breed, included 1 at Vantage Point on May 14 (Zeichner), 1 at Liberty Lake, Carroll County on May 17-24 (Ringler), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 18 (Ecker), and 1 above Laurel on May 28 (Robbins). **Worm-eating Warblers** also arrived early in Wicomico County with 1 on April 15 (Dyke), and tying the state arrival record, on the early date of April 5, were single **Ovenbirds** in Wicomico County (Dyke), at Narnia (Gruber), and at Blackwater (Green). Another was at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 7 (Hamilton). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in Wicomico County on March 21 (Dyke). **Kentucky Warblers** began April 10 in Wicomico County (Brodericks); on April 18 one was in Greensboro (Marvin Hewitt). A **Connecticut Warbler** was reported from Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough). The first **Common Yellowthroat** reported was 1 in Wicomico County on April 4 (Dyke), and the first **Hooded Warbler** was there as well on April 10 (Brodericks). Another Hooded was at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 19 (Starr, Turner). A female **Wilson's Warbler** was at Stanford Boulevard, Howard County on May 30 (Farrell), and a **Canada Warbler** was at Dameron on May 26 (Craig). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** turned up at Pt. Lookout on April 22 (Cribb, Craig). Fred Fallon reported that he observed a chat perfectly imitating an American Robin at PWRC/North on May 15.

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Dickcissels. A male **Summer Tanager** near Schooley Mill on May 5 (Craig Sholley), and one at Soldiers Delight, Baltimore County on May 18 (Donald Mattson) were at interesting locales. The first **Scarlet Tanager** was at Salisbury on

April 23 (Brodericks), and the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Washington Monument SP on April 27 (Weesner). Another Rose-breasted was at Bryant Woods School in Howard County on April 30 (Ott), and they ended with one at Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough). Ethel Engle found 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** just a tad early at Hog Island Wharf, Caroline County on April 22, and Kyle Rambo checked off an **Indigo Bunting** about a month early at PRNAS on March 22. Wilbur Hershberger was treated to a **Dickcissel** at Lilypons on May 18.

Sparrows. Late **American Tree Sparrows** included 1 at Centennial on March 21 (Farrell, Coskren), 1 singing at Scotland on March 28 (Craig), and another at a feeder in Braddock Heights on April 7 (Jane Huy). The 2 **Chipping Sparrows** near Lilypons on March 8 (Day, Gaskill) may well have wintered locally. Patty Craig tallied about 20 chippers at Soller's Wharf Road, Calvert County on March 20, the same area where some were checked off during an earlier Winter Count. Patty discovered her first singing Chipping Sparrow for the spring at Hollywood on March 25. Jan Reese noted three **Savannah Sparrows** at St. Michaels on March 21, and others included 3 in DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni), and 50 at Scotland on March 28 and 40 at Pt. Lookout on April 30 (Craig). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were just about on schedule this spring with the first at Ridge on April 27 (Bishop, Craig). Todd Day reported a **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Pt. Lookout on May 4, and Jim Stasz found a **Seaside Sparrow** at North Beach on April 13. Another Seaside was at Elliott Island the same day (H. Armistead+), and one was at Pt. Lookout on April 27 (Craig, Bishop). The high for **Fox Sparrows** was at Pt. Lookout with 6 on March 15, the same location for the **Song Sparrow** high of 100 on March 10 (Craig+). Scarpulla and party tallied 97 Song Sparrows at Hart-Miller on March 28. Sam Dyke reported a singing **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Nassawango Preserve, Worcester County on May 14, and Patty Craig turned in the high for **White-throated Sparrows** with 756 at Pt. Lookout on March 10. Bob Ringler found a lingering White-throat at Gunpowder Falls Road, Carroll County on May 18 and one was banded at Narnia on May 22. A late **White-crowned Sparrow** was under a feeder near Old Middletown Road, Frederick County on May 16 (I. Cornelius). About 100 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were tallied at Dameron on March 11 (Craig), and a late junco was at Washington Monument SP on May 24 (Weesner).

Snow Buntings, Icterids, Cardueline Finches. Hart-Miller hosted 14 lingering **Snow Buntings** on March 8 (Scarpulla+), and the high for **Bobolinks** was 450 at Fort Smallwood on May 15 (per Ricciardi). The high for **Red-winged Blackbirds** was 2500 at Cambridge on March 10 (Reese). Eighteen **Eastern Meadowlarks**, many exhibiting courtship behavior, were noted at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on the early date of March 5 (Craig). Two meadowlarks were seen in DC, an uncommon location for this species, on March 8 (Pisano, Janni). Twenty-five **Rusty Blackbirds** were tallied at Edgewood on April 21 (Les Eastman), and another 25 were checked off at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 27 (Jett). About 3000 **Common Grackles** were massed at Cambridge on March 10 (Reese), and a pair of Common Grackles was seen making a nest on April 30 at Pt. Lookout where one was observed feeding nestlings on May 21 (Craig). **Orchard Orioles** began with 1 at Schooley Mill on April 26 (Ecker, Zeichner), and 1 was at a suet feeder in Garrett County on May 23 (Joyce Colbert). A first-year male **Baltimore Oriole** was seen at a feeder at Williston, Caroline County from Feb. 3 through April 14 (A. & R. Jones, Engle). A male **House Finch** was seen feeding a recently fledged youngster at Dameron on May 19, near where a **Pine Siskin** was observed from March 6 through April 28 (Craig). Eighteen Pine Siskins were listed at Mill Creek Preserve, Talbot County on April 20 (Reese). Ten **Evening Grosbeaks** were in a yard in Frederick on March 21 (Elise Thrasher), and one was noted at PWRC/North on May 9 (Arnold).

BOOK REVIEW:
CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS
OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION,
7TH ED., 1998
Allen Press, Lawrence, KS. 829 pp.

Ever since 1886 the A.O.U. Check-list has been the standard for classification and distribution of North American birds. Initially North America was defined as that part of the continent and associated islands lying north of the Mexican border, plus Greenland and Baja California. In the 6th edition (1983), Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and the Hawaiian Islands were added and Greenland was dropped.

For each species, the Check-list gives Latin name and original citation, English name, Habitat, Distribution (breeding, winter, migration, and casual or accidental records outside the normal range), and frequently additional Notes on relationships with other species. All previous editions included the standard number that was assigned to each species way back in 1886 (e.g., 766 = Eastern Bluebird). These numbers were widely used for labeling eggs and bones, and as shorthand in field notes, and they are still used for coding bird banding and other records. Regrettably, these numbers were dropped in the 7th edition.

For most species that nest in the continental United States the accounts in the 7th edition are detailed, occupying about half a page each; but for resident Latin American, Caribbean, and Hawaiian species as many as four to six species may be covered in a single page. In the 4th and 5th editions there was a separate account for each subspecies, but this feature was omitted in the 6th edition and only partially restored in the 7th through recognition of "groups" within certain species. Five groups are recognized under Dark-eyed Junco; and two are recognized for the Winter Wren (the American *hiemalis* group and the Old World *troglodytes* group), but no groups are recognized for the Song Sparrow, for which 31 subspecies were listed in the 5th edition.

The Contents pages in the front of the book provide a handy index to the 23 Orders of North American birds and to the families and subfamilies under each, with their official Latin and English names. And following the Preface is a handy list of Latin and English names of all 2,008 species in their latest accepted sequence. This is where you can quickly glance through the list of 29 vireo species to verify that *Vireo solitarius* is once again called the Blue-headed Vireo. But you may have trouble finding the vireos if you have not heard that shrikes and vireos now precede the jays and crows.

Another innovation in this edition is a list of official French names for all species. The Index, however, includes only Latin and English names. You will find it is easier to locate a species by its English name than by its Latin name, as the Latin species name is not indexed under its genus.

Because scientists are constantly learning more about the relationships among species, through their songs, their DNA, and their behavior, we can expect more lumping and splitting, and more changes in names and in taxonomic sequence in the future. —Ed.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

CAREY RUN SANCTUARY BLUEBIRD BOX TRAIL

Carey Run Sanctuary, located near Finzel, Maryland, has been the site of a bluebird box trail for over 30 years. The trail has changed through the years as the sanctuary expanded and as fields became overgrown. During the 1997 breeding season, 36 nest boxes for bluebirds were available in five of the sanctuary's fields.

Bluebirds began nesting in late April with the first eggs observed on April 26th and the first young recorded on May 11th. The second nesting cycle started in early June. The last eggs were seen on July 5th, and the last young were noted on July 20th. Seven bluebird pairs produced 33 eggs and 22 young, an average of 4.71 eggs and 3.14 fledglings per attempt. The fledging rate was 67 percent. In 25 years of records, bluebird nesting attempts have ranged from three to thirteen; total number of eggs has ranged from 15 to 65, and the number of fledglings has ranged from 8 to 40. Fledging rates varied from 38 to 100 percent.

Three other species used the nest boxes in 1997: Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and Black-capped Chickadees. Tree Swallows begin their single nesting cycle in late May (May 24th) and concluded in early July. They produced 10 nests, 40 eggs, and 26 fledglings, averaging 4.00 eggs and 2.60 young per nesting. This was a success rate of 65 percent. House Wrens nested repeatedly from late May to mid-August. Eleven nestings resulted in 70 eggs (6.36/nest) and 56 young (5.09/nest) with a fledging success rate of 80 percent. A single nesting of chickadees resulted in seven eggs and six young (86 percent successful). Chickadees nested from late May through late June.

Four old nest boxes were replaced with the aid of Kent Cadotte and Dr. Charles Hager. June Bracken, and Sara and Sean Devlin assisted with checking the nest boxes.

Bill Devlin

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The 53rd annual conference of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held in Garrett County at the Wisp Hotel on the weekend of May 15-17, 1998. The 231 registered attendees enjoyed the program and spotted 144 species of birds on field trips. Friday evening's speaker was Dr. William Sladen, Director of Environmental Studies at Airlie Center in Warrenton, Virginia. The title of his talk was "Restoring Trumpeter Swans to the Chesapeake Bay." MOS president Bob Rineer presided over the annual business meeting on Saturday evening, May 16. New officers elected were Norm Saunders (President), Karen Morley (Vice President), Kathy Neugebauer (Secretary) and Jeff Metter (Treasurer).

Fran Pope and Connie Skipper of Garrett County took the lead roles in organizing and coordinating the activities of the conference. Field trips were planned by Gwen Brewer and Kevin Dodge. Barbara Johnson and Barbara Boone organized an art exhibit displaying the work of eight local artists. The conference preparation team also included a number of key workers from neighboring Allegany County — Gwen Brewer, Roy Brown, Gladys Faherty, Charlotte Folk, Kathleen Helker, Charlotte Icardi, and Steve Icardi. In addition, Mary Twigg, Bob Twigg and others also gave generously of their time. Sybil Williams coordinated a silent

auction. The total proceeds (\$1,552) were donated in the name of MOS to Nature Conservancy programs in Garrett County. Dave Brinker and Sue Riccardi arranged presentations of research papers on Saturday afternoon. John Malcolm organized the competition for the conference pin. This year's winner was Gemma Radko of Montgomery County, whose design of a Black-throated Blue Warbler aptly captured a Garrett County bird seen by many at the conference. Bob Rineer presented recognition awards to Jo Solem for her work on the Long-term Planning Committee and to Linda Bystrak for her work on the Education Committee.

The society's next conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Solomons Island in Calvert County on the weekend of May 14-16, 1999.

Lou DeMouy, Chairman

COUNTY LIST COMPILER

This was the twelfth year the MOS compiled locality lists submitted by its members. For 1997, 71 observers submitted list totals, down two from last year. Of these 71, five were first-time submitters (up one from last year). Currently, 155 observers are in the database, reflecting that not everyone submits updated list totals each year.

Administrative note: I am considering purging the database of observer data that have not been updated within the last five years. This policy would keep the database reasonably fresh and provide a method to deal with people whose membership in the MOS has lapsed, including former members who have moved away or are deceased. Some listing organizations (like the ABA) will publish only those totals that are submitted and signed each year. My proposed policy is more generous and considers that some members just don't get around to updating their lists each year. I will not implement such a policy without at least a year's advance warning. Let me know what you think.

"Maximum" locality numbers represent the total number of species reported in a given locality. The maximums used in the 1997 report came from the *Official List of the Birds of Maryland* (March 1998) for Maryland, and the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland* (Third Edition, May 1996) for the counties. New species are being added to each county's list annually.

Administrative note: There is currently no committee or MOS administrative body that tracks the maximum number of species for each county. The MD/DC Records Committee no longer reviews "county firsts" and the current numbers from the "yellow book" are becoming outdated. Therefore, I am asking for a volunteer from each county to track and report the county totals (the "maximum" numbers) to me each year. Some counties, such as Howard, Harford, and Cecil already have people that track these data. Please contact me directly if you are willing to do this.

The actual county list data were reported in Volume 18, Number 3 of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* (May/June 1998).

Phil Davis, MOS County List Compiler
Pdavis@ix.netcom.com (301) 261-0184

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

According to an Account Inquiry I received from MOS Treasurer Jeff Metter, the following grants were disbursed in FY 1997–1998:

Anne Arundel County Chapter	\$200.00
Baltimore Chapter	\$200.00
Carroll County Chapter	\$198.60
Carroll County Chapter	\$200.00
Cecil County Chapter	\$200.00
Harford County Chapter	\$200.00
Howard County Chapter	\$200.00
Maryland Envirothon	\$400.00
Montgomery County Chapter	\$200.00
Nanjemoy Creek Envir. Ed. Center	\$200.00
(should have been reported in 1996–1997)	
Washington County Chapter	\$200.00

Maud Banks, Chair

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

We received materials from the estate of Irving Hampe, first president of the MOS. These included original art work, collections about birds, Mr. Hampe's field notes, and many of his journals. His ornithology journals, bird banding journals, oology journals and those of which we already have a complete series were given to Scott Johnson, professor of ornithology at Towson University. Mr. Hampe's decoys were appraised by John Sullivan, a specialist in Upper Chesapeake Bay items, who identified them as to their origin, their carver, their dates and their value. Many of these items will be offered in silent auction in upcoming MOS Conferences. Gloria and Irving Meade of Montgomery County MOS provided much valuable help in organizing these materials.

We received materials from the estate of John Sommer (1880–1965). Mr. Sommer was a contemporary of Frank Kirkwood, one of Maryland's early ornithologists. The committee had been alerted to the existence of these records ten years ago by Brooke Meanley, one of our members who knew Kirkwood and Sommer. We were able to come to an agreement acceptable to John Sommer, Jr. when we made a contribution of \$100 to the Food Truck Fund of Northern Baltimore County, an effort to provide food for the homeless, in exchange for the items. We believe it was well worth it.

Both the above collections are housed at Cylburn in two large metal cabinets, one funded by the Library budget, the other funded by the Baltimore Bird Club. They are in a room on the third-floor landing. For access to these collections for use and browsing, please contact the committee, Joy Wheeler, chair, 410-825-1204.

A stamp identifying *Life Histories of North American Birds* as a donation of the MOS has been made available to an MOS volunteer to the Enoch Pratt Free Library to imprint each unit of the series.

Joy Wheeler, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Since this report marks my retirement as chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, I'd like to take the opportunity to make a few brief observations.

During my 18 years in this position, certain concerns have been ongoing; they will probably remain priorities in the foreseeable future. Timely publications, effective publicity, and membership expansion are three of the most important. Stable financing is vital to the Society's research, scholarship, education, and sanctuary efforts. Participation in the World Series of Birding, initiated this year, may become a permanent source of funding. In addition, encouraging the membership to consider bequests or regular gifts could also make a noticeable difference in the success of ongoing programs.

MOS is dedicated to furthering the understanding and protection of Maryland birds and their habitats. These aims are fulfilled in various ways; among them are individual field work, annual counts, county and state publications, and projects such as the statewide atlas. All these endeavors utilize the formidable knowledge, long-term commitment, and intense interest of a sizable proportion of its members.

Environmental horizons have widened in the past two decades as members have worked individually and collectively to aid birds on their breeding, migratory, and wintering grounds. This organization has become an increasingly important player in these efforts and its role is likely to increase.

While optics and references have become more sophisticated and birders more skilled, this increased competence has been a change of degree rather than of focus. MOS continues to be a volunteer organization with birds as its primary interest, though many individuals exhibit an eclectic absorption in other aspects of the natural world.

Along with success in increasing our knowledge of Maryland birds and maintaining a commitment to habitat preservation, the first 53 years of this Society have offered ample opportunities for fun and friendship. With continued clarity of purpose, the long-range potential for MOS looks bright.

Joanne K. Solem, Chairman

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

During the 1997/98 fiscal year one research grant was awarded; G. Michael Haramis and Gregory D. Kearns received \$2,000.00 for the proposal "Length of Stay, Survival, and Habitat Use of Fall Migrant Sora (*Porzana carolina*) on the Patuxent River Marsh as Determined by Radio Telemetry." This study represents continuation of ongoing research and funding of the one proposal deferred from last year. No additional proposals were received. At the close of fiscal year 1997/98 the MOS research grant fund contained \$1,066.32. The income during fiscal year 1997/98 from interest on the research endowment amounted to \$3,373.87. The balance in the MOS Research Grant Fund at the beginning of the 1997/98 fiscal year was \$4,440.19.

The Research Committee organized the 10th annual afternoon paper session for the 1998 conference. Since its inception in 1989, a wide variety of topics have been covered in the 43

paper presentations. The annual conference is the singular opportunity for people interested in birds in Maryland to share their knowledge with others from across the Free State. All MOS members, professionals and amateurs alike, are encouraged to participate in projects that increase the knowledge of Maryland birdlife, to present their findings at the annual conference, and to publish in *Maryland Birdlife*.

David F. Brinker, Chairman

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

During the past year, three work days were held: two at Irish Grove and one at Carey Run. At the fall work day at Irish Grove we were able to scrape and prime one half of the roof of the pole barn. We had hoped to complete the roof work at the spring work day, but because of rain we had to postpone it. Instead we built a new longer bridge along Rail Trail and moved the older shorter one to a new location. We hope to complete the roof work at the next fall work day.

At the Carey Run work day the house was cleaned and trails pruned. One big problem there is that beavers have established themselves in the pond and have enlarged the pond so much that water was spilling over the earthen dam and causing erosion to the dam. We are in the process of installing some "baffles" in hopes of correcting the situation.

Slow, but steady, progress is being made on the revision of the sanctuary guide. The new guide will have more information and better maps. The sanctuaries will be listed by category as to their type of use, with more space allotted to those sanctuaries that have facilities. It is my goal to have this guide in print before the end of the year.

One major concern for our sanctuaries is the increasing cost of maintenance, especially for Irish Grove. We need to decide just what we want our sanctuaries to be, how much it will cost, and from where the money is to come.

Thanks again to all those wonderful volunteers who give their time and effort to make our sanctuaries places of peace, beauty, and refuge.

Dorothy M. Mumford, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our committee is now operating with several new members who have expertise in evaluating applicants and one who has personal knowledge of Audubon workshops. This year we again contacted all public schools in Maryland to recruit candidates for scholarships. Also, the newly formed Publicity Committee helped us.

We received 19 applications this year and were able to award nine scholarships. Next year I expect we will be able to give out ten. This year's winners were: Martha Barss, David Belford, Martha Damon, Liz Davis, Tod Hall, Theodore Kallmyer, Matthew Minloch, William Offutt, and Colleen Reilly. None of this year's winners were scheduled to attend the Annual Conference.

Mrs. Isa Sieracki, Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
OPERATING FUND
Financial Report for Fiscal Year
May 1, 1997 through April 30, 1998

<i>Item</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
INCOME		
Dues	\$18,000.00	\$17,925.00
Transfer SanEnd	\$630.00	\$630.00
Investment Income	\$1,200.00	\$1,812.98
Income, miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$2,927.05
Mail permit contribution	\$42.50	\$42.50
Environmental Fund MD	\$1,500.00	\$3,454.99
TOTAL	\$22,372.50	\$26,792.52
EXPENSES		
MARYLAND BIRDLIFE		
Printing	\$6,000.00	\$4,844.38
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$816.65
Labels, etc.	\$200.00	\$88.25
YELLOWTHROAT		
Printing	\$6,000.00	\$6,702.52
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$1,332.16
Labels, etc.	\$400.00	\$126.18
TOTAL	\$14,600.00	\$13,910.14
ADMINISTRATIVE		
President	\$100.00	\$-
Vice President	\$50.00	\$-
Secretary	\$100.00	\$-
Treasurer	\$150.00	\$69.00
Executive Secretary	\$2,400.00	\$2,563.12
Postage	\$400.00	\$490.90
Bulk Mailing Permits	\$255.00	\$255.00
Membership List	\$550.00	\$651.49
Printing/Duplication	\$250.00	\$-
Office Supplies	\$150.00	
Publicity/Awards	\$300.00	\$28.85
Affiliations	\$325.00	\$225.00
Liability Insurance	\$300.00	\$180.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$191.65
Telephone	\$600.00	\$568.29
TOTAL	\$6,430.00	\$5,223.30

COMMITTEE RELATED

Atlas	\$200.00	\$-
Budget	\$25.00	\$-
Conference	\$1,200.00	\$-
Conservation	\$1,000.00	\$-
Education	\$100.00	\$-
Gifts	\$20.00	\$287.00
Library	\$250.00	\$-
Long-range Planning	\$50.00	\$409.00
May Count Coordination	\$50.00	\$-
Nominating	\$50.00	\$-
Records	\$250.00	\$-
Research	\$50.00	\$-
Scholarship	\$125.00	\$-
Speakers Bureau	\$50.00	\$126.98
TOTAL	\$3,420.00	\$822.98

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$24,450.00 \$19,956.42

CONFERENCE

1997 Conference	Income	\$6,911.00
	Expenses	\$19,534.00
1998 Conference	Income	\$39,642.00
	Expenses	\$11,836.31
1999 Conference	Income	
	Expenses	\$1,000.00

OTHER OPERATING FUNDS

Maryland Atlas	Begin	\$865.51
	Expenses	\$636.00
	Balance	\$229.51
FUNDAECO	Begin	\$193.67
	Income	\$153.00
	Expenses	\$193.67
	Balance	\$153.00
Brazil IEF	Begin	\$800.00
	Income	
	Expenses	
MOS Brochure	Balance	\$2,879.26
MOS Conference	Balance	\$3,000.00
Index Maryland Birdlife	Balance	\$1,340.00

SANCTUARY FUND**INCOME**

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Transfer—	Endowment Fund	\$3,355.00	\$4,660.31
	Interest Income	\$1,500.00	\$245.07
	Sales	\$250.00	\$660.00
	Use Fees	\$1,000.00	\$316.00
	TOTAL	\$6,105.00	\$5,881.38

EXPENSES

	Carey Run	\$1,000.00	\$1,534.80
	Irish Grove	\$4,000.00	\$6,051.93
	Liability Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$720.00
	Contingencies	\$2,000.00	
	TOTAL	\$8,000.00	\$8,306.73

SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT**INCOME**

	Life Memberships	\$400.00	
	Contributions	\$200.00	\$230.00
	Investments	\$4,000.00	\$5,060.31
	TOTAL	\$4,600.00	\$5,290.31

EXPENSES

	Bond Maint.		\$15.00
	Transfer, Oper. Fund	\$630.00	\$630.00
	Transfer, Sanct. Fund	\$3,355.00	\$4,660.31
	TOTAL	\$4,000.00	\$5,290.31

EDUCATION FUND

		\$4,200.00	\$2,527.22
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SCHOLARSHIP FUND**INCOME**

	Contribs.—Endowment	\$400.00	\$100.00
	World Nature Assn. Schol.	\$850.00	\$595.00
	Gibson/Mendenhall Schol.	\$850.00	
	Div./Int. Investments	\$4,000.00	\$4,484.49
	TOTAL	\$6,100.00	\$5,179.49

EXPENSES

	MOS Scholarships	\$4,000.00	\$5,285.00
	Orville Crowder Schol.	\$850.00	\$595.00
	Gibson/Mendenhall Schol.	\$850.00	
	TOTAL	\$5,700.00	\$5,880.00

RESEARCH FUND**INCOME**

Contributions	\$100.00	\$-
Div/Int	\$2,000.00	\$3,373.87
Carry-Over		\$1,066.32
TOTAL	\$2,100.00	\$4,440.19

EXPENSES

Grants	\$2,600.00	\$2,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,600.00	\$2,000.00

DONATIONS, BEQUESTS RECEIVED \$6,130.56

Jeff Metter, Treasurer

**ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTERS****ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAPTER**

Our year began with the fall bird count on September 13; 15 participants found 114 species. Kevin Dodge of Garrett Community College spoke on Night Sounds at our Annual Dinner on October 18. Speakers at our other meetings were Roy Brown, one of the artists for the Breeding Bird Atlas; Jeff Peters, speaking on Gadwalls; Julie York, discussing Black-necked Stilts; Gladys Flaherty, who used slides taken by the late Dr. Richard Johnson to illustrate a talk on Wildflowers; and Jon Boone, who spoke on Bluebirds.

Field trips took us to Carey Run Sanctuary for a September picnic, to the Brooks Bird Club banding station at Dolly Sods in Tucker County, West Virginia; to Town Hill to observe the fall migration of raptors; to Shawnee State Park in Pennsylvania; to Garrett County ponds in late March; and to the Powder Mill banding station near Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

Twenty-three observers tallied 68 species on the Christmas Count, and 24 participants found 59 species a month later on the Midwinter Count. The May Count had 20 observers and a fine total of 147 species.

Visiting members from other MOS Chapters joined us for the annual spring clean-up at Carey Run Sanctuary, and 24 of our members helped with the annual MOS Convention at Wisp in Garrett County. Our chapter donated \$200 to the Wolf Swamp Habitat Restoration Project.

Gladys Faherty, President

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

A year of interesting lectures and great field trips was enjoyed by all. The lectures, which are the main function at our eight monthly meetings during the year, were excellent. Highlights included: Steven Hult's talk and slides about the birds, mammals, reptiles, geography, and

geology of the Galapagos including an insight into El Niño; Ben Poscover's *The Partnership of Migrating Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs* including the current status of the Horseshoe Crab issues; our Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Program about *Wildlife Gardening* by Richard Pais and finally, to end the year, Velvet Kitzmiller talking about *Rehabilitating and Respecting Wildlife*.

Organizing the lecture series, arranging for and taking the speakers to dinner before the programs, and other miscellaneous assistance to me were the hard and greatly appreciated work of Sue Ricciardi, 2nd Vice President and Program Chair. Our lectures always include refreshments provided by many volunteers and organized by our Secretary, Laura Glass. Thanks to the volunteers and especially to Laura for all of her hard work, including organizing the Christmas Count Tally-up food and refreshments.

The 31 field trips took 104+ folks to both local and far-ranging locations to look for birds. Larry Zoller, 1st Vice President and Field Trip Chair, made sure the trips were varied and to good locations, including a trip to Smith Island and cruising the bay, where we had good looks at gannets. To date, 236 species have been seen. My thanks go to Larry and all of the trip leaders for making them all successful. Peter Hanan's Maniac Tours with 11 birders went to Sault St. Marie in February with Bohemian Waxwing, Boreal Chickadee, Gyrfalcon, Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl and Snowy Owl as target birds. All were seen except for the Great Gray Owl.

The Club donated \$500 to the MOS 1998 World Series of Birding. Fall and Spring picnics rounded out the year.

Al Haury, President

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

During this past year, the Baltimore Bird Club has continued its support of educating people about birds and their roles in our lives. Using funds from the MOS Education Committee, six schools received subscriptions to *Audubon Adventures*, bringing the total to 18 subscriptions over the past three years to *Audubon Adventures*. New undertakings include a mural display to be installed on the second floor of Cylburn depicting the Web of Life at Cylburn. This display, under the direction of Joy Wheeler, Patsy Perlman and Jim Peters, was supported by the Etta Wedge Education Fund and the Martin Fund.

As usual, students from various schools visited Cylburn for an educational guided trip around the grounds and mansion. This year, nine BBC volunteers took part in leading 20 school tours.

Following the bird survey of Gwynn Falls/Leakin Parks in 1996, BBC received a \$1,000 grant from the Heritage Museum to conduct an additional bird survey of the Parks in 1997-1998 as a part of a larger wildlife census of the area.

The Baltimore Site Guide was finally completed. The Guide was put together in response to requests by members in a mailed questionnaire several years back for a collection of information on popular birding locations in Baltimore City and County. Many individuals volunteered their time and effort in putting it together. Recognition and their contributions can be found in the Guide.

One person who deserves special thanks from all members is the editor of *Chip Notes*, Steve Sanford. His contribution is one of the least recognized, but it is this contribution that keeps members informed about the Club. Similarly, Terry Ross, who manages the BBC web site, also deserves recognition. It is through the web site that BBC is known throughout the world. In addition, thanks also must go to Leanne Pemburn, who monitors and manages the Baltimore Bird Line.

With the coming of a new season, a new group of officers were elected. Thanks are due to departing officers and board members — Debbie Terry, VP; Bob Wood, treasurer; Joe Lewandowski, Gail Frantz, and Elliot Kirschbaum, board members. It has been a wonderful experience serving with all of you.

Sukon Kanchanaraksa, President

CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Carroll County Bird Club's 1997–1998 season was busy and fun. We held eight monthly meetings at Carroll Community College or Bear Branch Nature Center with an average attendance of 21 members and guests. The featured speakers covered many topics of interest including "Planting for Wildlife" (Sue Yingling and Kathy Gilleland), "The Status of Bald Eagles in Maryland" (Glenn Therres), "Birding Observation Skills" (David Holmes), "Cinnamon and Birds of Indonesia" (Hank Kaestner), "Birds and More from the Galapagos" (Greg Kearns), "Birds of Australia" (Don Messersmith), "Maine Memories" (Bob Ringler), and "Bats" (Bill Kulp, Jr.). Thanks to Laura Tarbell for coordinating refreshments and the many members who treated us with goodies!

Volunteers Bill Ellis, Dave Harvey, Mark Hoffman, Bill Kulp, Jr., Bob Ringler, Dave Smith, and Jerry Tarbell led both planned and spontaneous field trips to Carroll County hot spots as well as more distant trips to view fall raptor migration at Pennsylvania's Hawk Mountain, winter congregations at Black Hill Regional Park and Lilypons Aquatic Gardens, and early spring migrants at Point Lookout. We also had a wonderful Presidents' Day weekend birding trip to the Eastern Shore.

Volunteer efforts weren't limited to field trips. Several members participated in the annual fall count, the winter count, and May bird count. These bird counts were made more memorable by the delicious meals and tally rallies that followed at Laura Tarbell's, Kathy Harden's, and Amy Hoffman's homes. Sue Yingling served on a committee that developed the newly opened Hike-Bike-Bluebird Trail at Carroll Community College. Maureen Harvey and Roxanne Yeager represented the club's interests at Teaming with Wildlife meetings. Amy Hoffman, Mark Hoffman, and Jerry Tarbell wrote many letters for the club to endorse, to public officials and private companies concerning Teaming with Wildlife and the preservation and maintenance of wildlife habitat. Erma Gebb planted cheerful flowers and Gerry Mathias helped out at Piney Run Nature Center.

Our club is pretty close and many friendships have been found and strengthened by shared fun at social events such as our annual January Holiday party, hosted by Sue and Splinter Yingling with great food, high spirits, and hilarious games.

We were happy to add several new members this year who have brought new enthusiasm into our already exuberant group. Conversely, we were sorry to have our long-time Treasurer, Barb Gaffney, and helpful spouse George move off to the wilds of Garrett County (lucky for

the western counties, though). We won't get to see them as often but know they're never too far away for a quickie weekend visit. Thanks, Barb, for serving so faithfully, and for teaching our next Treasurer, Greg Klein, the ins and outs of this very important position.

Maureen F. Harvey, President

CECIL BIRD CLUB

The Cecil Bird Club was very active in boosting the membership and increasing club name recognition. Club brochures and field trip schedules were placed throughout the county at libraries, garden centers, local "feed" stores, nature centers, and waterfowl museums. Club activities were placed in local newspapers, in weekly calendars and with local birding columnists, as well as on-line mention. Also being used for the first time is local cable channel advertising. We also attended several community events with a club display, where brochures, etc. were handed out. Thanks to Scott and Kelly Powers for orchestrating these events, and to Ken Drier and Marcia Whitmyre for planning and time commitments as well in all of the above mentioned. Scott also agreed to take over as field trip chair in December 1997. He has been doing an excellent job ever since in getting us to many excellent Cecil Sites and beyond. A "birding by ear trip," listening for whips at a state park, "Cecil shorebirds" and "Conowingo eagles and waterfowl" give an idea of trip variety. We have been seeing new faces on field trips and at meetings through the spring '98 schedule, so are heartened by this good sign. Like several of the other counties, we really struggle to maintain a decent membership. Marcia Whitmyre asked me if I would be willing to take over as President due to her busy work schedule. I agreed, and was duly elected at our September 1998 meeting. Marcia remains as Vice-President, and has been a great help in "showing me the ropes." Other folks mentioned above have also been a wonderful support, as well as Jonah Goodwin, who remains as secretary/treasurer. The county gained some notoriety in November 1997 with the appearance of a Pacific Loon. Area birders also enjoyed a good winter for finches, with appearances of Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills.

Leslie Fisher, President

FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

We started our year by participating in the Koi festival at Lilypons Water Gardens. It was a great event for us. We added several new members while they were visiting our booth. Our first program was a real hit with the members, young and old. Mark Spurrier of the Maryland Parks and Recreation service presented his Scales and Tales program. At this meeting we also started a series of short presentations focusing on separating look-alike species pertinent to the time of year. Everyone seemed to gain from the crash courses.

We had ten regularly scheduled membership meetings and 14 outings including no fewer than five bird counts. At our meetings Paul O'Brien took us on a wonder foray into the wilds of coastal Texas. Everyone wanted Paul to lead a trip for the chapter ASAP. Bernice Culver shared her incredible talents as a carver of birds and wildlife and challenged us to complete a Canada Goose head that she handed out. I haven't seen any finished carvings yet. Our annual Christmas dinner was delicious as usual. Dave Harvey took us to Kruger National Park in Africa with wonderful slides and incredible stories. It's nice to know that such wilderness still exists.

Once again, we were honored to have Stauffer Miller as a speaker. He shared slides from South America and Japan. The wonderful variety of birds is truly amazing. He seems to organize excellent trips. Where do I sign up? We were thrilled to go back to Australia with Beth Zang. This was a real "outback" trip. We were camping in primitive settings and having a marvelous time. The birding was extraordinary. We learned details of the wonderful life history of the horseshoe crab, and how tens of thousands of shorebirds are dependent on this fragile resource for their successful northward migration. Ben Poscover's presentation left us all thinking about the Delaware Bay and how wonderfully complex the web of life really is.

Field trips were well attended and delightful. From Lilypons to coastal Delaware, we found a great variety of species and many members added treasures to their life lists. Highlights included a Greater White-fronted Goose at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Bald Eagle at Black Hill Reservoir, and Red-headed Woodpeckers and Ruffed Grouse in our county.

We are looking forward to our annual picnic to be held in late June. Will the Red-shouldered Hawks be fledged by then?

Wilbur Hershberger, President

HARFORD BIRD CLUB

Our club decided to make an early start on the year by having a summer social at the Anita Leight Estuary Center in Abingdon. This is a new facility concerned with research and educational programs. The number of participants exceeded initial expectations, and we now plan on repeating this each summer. The social featured light fare and conversation in an informal atmosphere. The guest speaker was Mr. Keith Pardieck of the U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, who presented a program on the North American Breeding Bird Survey.

We officially started our 49th year with our annual picnic at Rocks 4-H Camp. This year's crowd was one of the largest ever. Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson provided ample delicious fare for all. The White Elephant auction featured auctioneer Randy Robertson, who held out for the highest bid on each item. Treasurer Joyce Gorsuch was very pleased with the results, which greatly enriched our depleted bank account. The annual bird walk was held up by the merriment provided by the auction.

Our club continues to grow slowly. It seems as though we have plenty of new members, and people in the community appear very interested. Unfortunately, we also lose members because of transfers or other reasons.

We continue our three dinner meetings per year at Churchville Presbyterian Church. The church women can no longer provide a meal in January, but we continue with a meeting and a guest speaker. The November meeting featured Linda and Paul Bystrak, who presented a program on the Pilot Serpentine Barrens in Cecil County. The January meeting provided Mark Johnson with an opportunity to return to the front of the room, and he presented a slide show on the pros and cons of ecological risk assessment. Dave Brinker had a reprise as speaker in March, and his program was concerned with the status of Saw-whet Owls. The final dinner meeting in May featured Dr. Deidre DeRoia, speaking about the status of wildlife on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Mark Johnson "retired" as club president and was replaced by Larry Fry. Mark was kept very busy by his two young sons, doctoral research, and his full time job on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Mark was president for two years and contributed to the progress the club has made. He received a gift of the Breeding Bird Atlas at the summer social. We hope to keep Mark involved and maybe he will return as president in the future.

Les Eastman continues to improve the appearance and presentation of the newsletter, making it one of the best in MOS. He also has created and maintains the club's web site. He is a real webmaster, and the club members greatly appreciate his efforts.

The club offers a wide variety of field trips, usually four or five per month. Dave Webb and members of the field trip committee continue to do an outstanding job planning and coordinating them. The trips are well publicized in local media outlets, thanks to the efforts of Jean Williams, and we continue to attract new members and other participants through these trips.

In addition, the club participated in the Fall Count on Sept. 20, the Christmas Count on Dec. 29, the Mid-winter Count on Jan. 31, and the International Migratory Count on May 9. The Christmas Count had the largest number of participants ever, and we finally achieved our long-standing goal of going over 100 species. A total of 103 species were found.

For the past several years, the bird club has provided a donation to the county Envirothon competition. This year we increased our contribution to \$150.

The annual Earth Day celebration in Havre de Grace features exhibits from many environmental organizations. We have our display there every year and hand out copies of the county checklist and newsletter. Many questions are asked by people attending, usually beginning with, "What kind of bird...?"

Winners of the annual club awards were: County Lister, Dave Webb; Distinguished Service, Jean Williams; Rookies of the Year, Ruth Wilsey and Glen Hedelson; and Birds of the Year, crossbills at Broad Creek Memorial Camp, BSA.

This year the club decided to enter into a partnership with the Anita Leight Estuary Center. Heather Helm, Chief Naturalist at the center, proposed that the club develop a garden for the birds. Members provided \$465 in contributions. The garden will include shrubs and perennials to attract birds and butterflies, and we are also going to construct bird feeding stations and bird houses. The club presented a copy of the *Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and the District of Columbia* to the center for its reference library.

An education grant of \$22 was received from MOS to donate copies of the *Breeding Bird Atlas* to Harford County Libraries and to the County Historical Society. We will have to apply for another grant next year to complete the objective of having a copy in each major library in the county.

Finally, three projects are yet to be completed. One long-standing project is to print a brochure describing birding in Harford County. We are also developing a slide program featuring the birds and birding locations in Harford County. The last project is to provide a detailed brochure describing birding sites in the county. Hopefully this year will see completion or more progress on these projects.

Larry Fry, President

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER (25th Anniversary Year)

The opening meeting in September brought together for special mention four of our founding members who remain active birders and naturalists in Howard County. Several early members were also invited to come back and share memories.

Fall activities included a Butterfly Search in late August, the fourth annual Fall Count in September, something new in October — a Geology Jaunt through the county, and the annual Sundays in November series of bird walks around Lake Centennial.

Winter brought the Triadelphia Reservoir Christmas Count, a chance to start our New Year's List on New Year's Day, which may become an annual event, the Mid-winter Count early in February and Pot Luck Dinner late in the month.

Our annual Spring Sundays at Centennial began in March and continued into April, which may be a permanent change. May Count and the 1998 Conference at Deep Creek Lake rounded out the year.

The nine monthly programs brought Mike Mennett of the Watkins Wildlife Nature Center, Paul Spitzer, the Chesapeake's foremost loon researcher, former chapter President Ralph Geuder's Galapagos Islands presentation, Craig Sholley's program on the Masai Mara and mountain gorillas, Hank Kaestner searching for cinnamon in Indonesia, Dave Brinker on Saw-whet Owls, an update on Central America by Chan Robbins celebrating the 25th anniversary of his first program for the club, Greg Kearns on the Texas Gulf Coast, and finally closing as we opened with a 25th-year memory, Larry Hood, another founding member, came back to our chapter to present our last program, "Birding in England." Kudos to Jane Geuder, program organizer!

Special thanks to Bonnie Ott for organizing field trips, walks, and leaders and to Mary-Jo Betts for the Pot Luck Dinner.

To our Count Coordinators Mike McClure, Chuck Stirrat, David Holmes, Jo Solem, and Paul Zucker and to our Seasonal Records coordinator Jo Solem and Annual List compiler Jane Coskren we owe a debt of gratitude, for this is where the most serious purpose of our club is met.

In addition to the above, Karla Pearce took over organizing our presence at the Howard County Fair, Marty Chestem put together displays at all our meetings and the Fair, Paula Ecker got our newsletter out and Elayne Metter got the word to the media, Eileen Clegg handled the Fall Seed Sale which allows us to make substantial contributions in the area of local and international conservation, and Marty Chestem and Tom Strickwerde continue to get out the issues of *Maryland Birdlife* for MOS.

Finally, I want to thank all those who have served on our board of directors, faithfully attending county and state meetings and helping make the decisions which allow us to serve so many. This club remains vital and active. We maintain numerous core events in ornithology and add new adventures in other disciplines such as botany, entomology (butterflies and dragonflies), and geology as our membership grows and changes.

Maud Banks, President

JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

The Jug Bay Bird Club completed a busy and productive year. We held extra board meetings in Shady Side and Upper Marlboro to decide and plan our future. We are making an effort to reach the birders in the Southern Maryland areas by rotating meetings and field trips in those areas. Marilyn Guerra, VP, and Mike Callahan, Publicity, were busy planning our yearly calendar to meet those needs. Betty Porter created the newsletters, Jean Tierney graciously accepted the Secretary position, and Bob Courtemanche remained as our trusty Treasurer. Gary Flenner is guiding our club as our Director, and Dale Johnson accepted the President's position.

Our activities included Clean-Up Day at the Wildfowl Trust and presentation of a pair of binoculars to Nanjemoy Education Center in Charles County. They also received a grant from MOS for more binoculars for the students. JBBC also asked for a grant to build a new traveling display. At our Director's suggestion, the club leaped in to volunteer to host the '99 Conference, along with Southern Maryland Audubon and Anne Arundel Bird Club. All of our officers are involved in the year-long process.

The annual functions include the December Christmas Party with members' slide show, Christmas Bird Count, elections in March, Bluebird Trail maintenance at the Park, a June picnic and boat trip on the Patuxent River.

Our field trips were varied and prolific. We traveled to Waggoner's Gap for hawks; to Chincoteague with our Florida Annex of the JBBC, for a showy array of waterfowl, and a Christmas parade; New Year's Day trip to Ocean City and Delaware for Harlequins, eiders, Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, and a Ross's Gull, led by Bob and Anne Courtemanche; and our own Patuxent River Park birding and boat trips to our "club bird," the Sora rail.

The monthly speakers delighted and informed us with tales from Australia by Mary Kilbourne and Greg Kearns; SE Arizona videos by Dale Johnson; Whooping Crane show-and-tell by Matt Kinloch.

Our new season has begun with a flurry of activity surrounding the '99 Conference with many committee meetings in Southern Maryland.

We thank our officers and members for their continued hard work, and look forward to an exciting and productive new year.

Dale Johnson, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter remains small, with about 50 members, of whom only about 20 are active. We lost two good members: Maggie Duncan, a State Director for our Chapter for more than 20 years, was in ill health and moved to Maine to live with her son; and our Treasurer, Robert Regester, died in April of 1998. We miss the fellowship and guidance of both of them.

We had seven meetings throughout the year, with topics ranging from Steve Hitchner's report on 11 years of study of bluebirds in his bluebird boxes, and Jim Gruber's report on the bird-banding station we support, to Cavity Nesters and Bird Songs. Field trips had sporadic

attendance, with the most popular being to the Ted Harvey tract in Delaware, and Blackwater Refuge. Other field trips included Conowingo Dam, Bombay Hook, and Chesapeake Farms. Our chapter remains involved in activities at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, with the heavy involvement of members Howard McIntyre and Dolly Minis, who lead most of the birding trips there, and help at the refuge by other members when the need arises. We finished the year with a picnic at Turner's Creek Park.

We manned a table at the Chestertown Wildlife Show in October of '97 and also had a display at the Earth Day Celebration in Centreville in April of '98. We sponsored the Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship, which was won by Tod Hall of the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury. We also had a yard sale to earn money for the chapter and our bird-banding station's nets.

Gail Regester, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

The Chapter's year began on a sad note, with the death in June of Claudia Wilds. In addition to her many contributions nationally and regionally, Claudia had long enriched the life of the Chapter. She served as President, presented slide lectures, offered expert advice, and led regular field trips — to the Zoo, to the shore. In her will, Claudia left us her ornithology books and slides. We have arranged for the bulk of the book collection — enhanced by bookplates designed by Pat Moore — to be housed at Black Hill Visitor Center, while books on shorebirds will go to the library at the Audubon Naturalist Society. The Chapter also received ornithology books from the estate of long-time member Bob Hahn. These were made available to members, per his wishes, at the April meeting.

A series of Thursday evening walks to check on the Dickcissels near Lilypons, along with outings to Bombay Hook and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuges, tided us over the summer. In the fall a burst of trips (scheduled by Linda Friedland) took us to Rock Creek Park, the emerging Rachel Carson Conservation Park, the C&O Canal, canoeing on the Potomac, Blackwater NWR, and Cape May.

At our monthly meetings (organized by David and Helen Gray), Susan Salmons reported her research on Northern Spotted Owls, Chan Robbins took us Wintering with Neotropical Migrants in Central America, member Gail Mackiernan entertained us with a lively picture of birding in Peru, and photographer Bob Mumford shared his exquisite slides from Churchill, Manitoba. The November meeting featured a bake sale, organized by Linda Friedland. In December the Chapter hosted the State Board meeting at Black Hill Visitor Center.

Members participated in Breeding Bird Surveys in county parklands in June, hawk watches in the fall, and several Christmas Counts. The Chapter sponsors the Seneca count, and Chapter members also coordinate the DC, Triadelphia, and Sugarloaf Counts. MCC members also coordinate the May Count.

We kept open the lines of communication with our 300+ members through the bimonthly *Chat*, edited by Janet Millenson, and our *MccBird* Web page, masterminded by Kathy Neugebauer. This year we added a recycling-library table at our meetings, supervised by Mieke Mehlman. In January, the local newspaper ran an enthusiastic story on the Club. In February, the Chapter extolled the virtues of birding, and of the MOS, in an exhibit at the Potomac

Library. And we printed "wallet cards" containing Chapter information to hand out to potential recruits that we meet along the byways. We also took a vocal role in reviewing the evolving Master Plan for Black Hill Regional Park.

Winter saw many of us chasing crossbills near Liberty Reservoir. The traditional winter excursion to the Outer Banks, in addition to serving up Painted Buntings and Cinnamon Teal, gives the Chapter a chance to reciprocate the hospitality offered by the local North Carolina bird club: chapter member Bill Oberman showed them the same tantalizing glimpse of birding in Tanzania that he had presented to the Chapter in January. Other meetings featured chapter members Bill Young recounting his recent bird-travels to Australia and Don Messersmith describing rare cranes he studied in poor and remote provinces of China. In May, DNR waterfowl biologist Larry Hindman outlined "The Mute Swan Dilemma." Spring migration highlights included outings to Point Lookout, Roosevelt Island, and Garrett County.

For the third year in a row, the Club's annual Social (organized by Dillon Rankin) took place in March at a Chinese restaurant in Rockville. About 80 members attended, and a highlight, as usual, was the members' slide show. In April, we helped Chapter member Denise Gibbs install plantings for her innovative Bluebird Habitat at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood, financed by a \$5,000 grant from the MOS. More than 40 Chapter members attended the state conference, and several played prominent roles: Lou DeMouy organized it, Sybil Williams ran the highly remunerative silent auction, and Gemma Radko designed the winning pin.

Lydia Schindler, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

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

Topics at our meetings this year included: Birds of Costa Rica and Panama with information on photography, travel, and locations by Cortez C. Austin, Jr.; Habitat Studies in powerline rights of way, sludge piles, and wetlands by Dr. Matt Perry; Birding in the West by Paul A. Zucker; Birding video tapes; Birding in Hungary and Poland by Dr. Donald Messersmith; Neotropical Migrant Landbirds at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, including breeding bird distribution and habitat use during migration; and Members' Night with slide and video presentations by members. The annual bird walk and picnic were scheduled for June 13 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Other activities included participation by club members in local bird counts and birdathons, participation by several chapter members in Central American neotropical studies and preservation efforts, and donations by the chapter to help support local Central American conservation groups. Our Conservation Committee, chaired by Eleanor Robbins, continues to carry out an active advocacy role on conservation issues.

Tom Loomis, President

TALBOT CHAPTER

During the '97-'98 season the Talbot Chapter's membership grew to 83 paid members. We conducted over 46 morning bird walks and five all-day field trips.

In September we participated in the "Open House" at Horsehead Wetlands Center and celebrated the purchase of additional acreage for this sanctuary, aided by a bequest from our deceased member, John Wanuga. Last month our chapter placed a permanent bench outside the information center at Horsehead in memory of John, and a bronze plaque will be placed on the bench before the end of this month.

Bernie Burns, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Washington County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society held its meetings at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center on the fourth Tuesday of the months September through April, at 7:30 PM. There was no meeting in December or May; the summer months' gatherings were picnics followed by some birding.

Our year began in September with a potluck dinner followed by a presentation on falconry and raptor conservation by Floyd Presley, a Maryland falconer. He brought a new view on the subject to us as well as a beautiful Harris's Hawk that he uses in his sport. I also had other speakers I knew through my work with raptors and migration: Steve Cardano spoke about Ospreys along the Patuxent, Sue Salmons on Northern Spotted Owl populations in Oregon, and Gavin Shire on how ultra-light aircraft are being used to teach waterfowl to migrate. Dave Brinker also spoke about Maryland's biodiversity. All gave excellent presentations to our group. I thank each of them for travelling all the way to our county to share their knowledge and experiences with us.

Field trips were made to locations throughout the state. Overnight trips were taken to Dolly Sods in West Virginia for fall warbler migration, and to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The chapter voted to support the efforts of the Teaming With Wildlife coalition. A much-needed donation of a mist net was made to my Saw-whet Owl banding project as well.

We lost two of our members in November, John Thrasher and Clarence Parker. They will both be missed by all of us.

I was grateful for the opportunity to serve this office. Unfortunately, the demands of my career and my work with raptors made it difficult to do so, and I've had to give up the position after only a year. I'd like to thank the fellow officers who supported me during this time. Special thanks go to our secretary, Janet Shields, for stepping in and taking over during those times when I couldn't be there and for reminding me to be there the days I did make it. I'd like to also thank past president Dave Weesner for his dedication to the chapter as president, enthusiastic member, and coordinator of our Christmas and Spring counts. I'm sure he will be welcomed back to the position of president. I wish him a strong membership!

J. Steven Huy, President

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