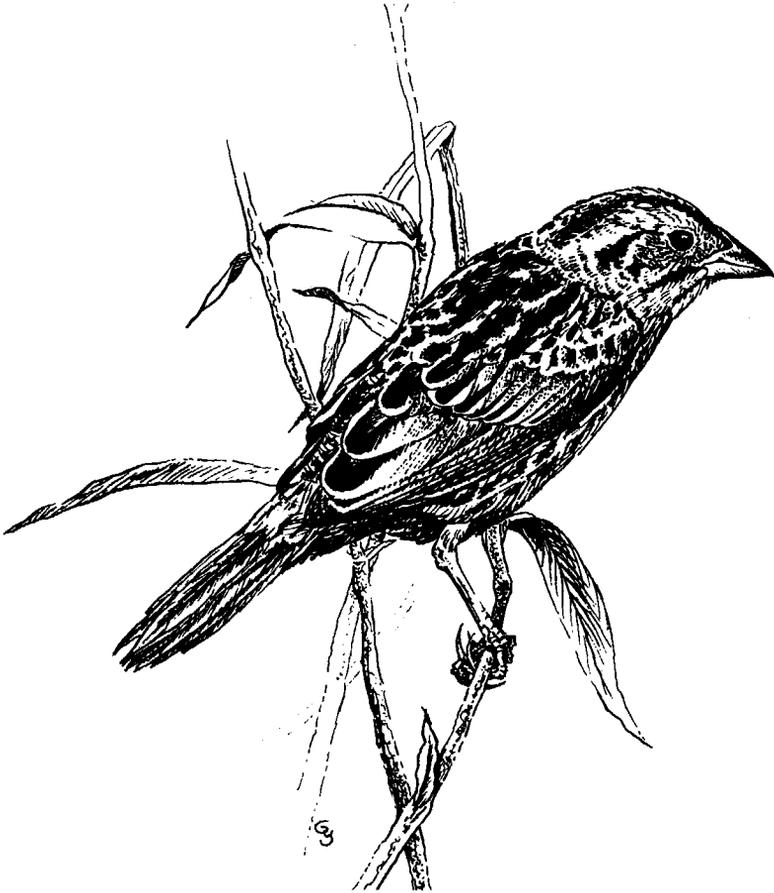


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*Cover: The Henslow's Sparrow is a secretive grassland bird found in western Maryland.
(Illustration by Gary Yoder)*



MONITORING AND BANDING THE HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

CONNIE S. SKIPPER

ABSTRACT

The Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) is a Maryland threatened species. It has gradually disappeared from Maryland except for the westernmost counties, where it uses the newly formed habitat of reclaimed strip mines. In 1989 I discovered a small colony of these sparrows. I began to monitor that site, two other colonies, and to actively search for new colonies. From these observations I hypothesized that Henslow's Sparrows return to previous nesting sites, or nearby suitable sites, until vegetation becomes unfit for nesting purposes. To test this hypothesis I began a study with two objectives: (1) field visits to monitor known breeding populations and search for new colonies, and (2) a banding study to determine whether Henslow's Sparrows return to previous nesting sites or natal areas. I have discovered ten new colonies and monitored two previously occupied sites. Of these twelve sites, three colonies have disappeared due to succession and one was lost to pasturing of cattle. As of August 1998, eight sites were still occupied by breeding Henslow's Sparrows.

I banded 87 Henslow's Sparrows from 1994 through 1997. Thirty-seven of these were adult males. None of the juvenile birds banded were subsequently captured. Of the seven breeding males banded in 1995, one adult male was recaptured in 1996. Four adult males banded in prior years were recaptured in 1997. This was the first documentation of breeding Henslow's Sparrows returning to their previous nesting site (Skipper 1998).

INTRODUCTION

Many grassland birds have experienced significant declines from 1966 through 1991 over most of the United States according to the Breeding Bird Survey (Peterjohn and Sauer 1993). One of these grassland species, the Henslow's Sparrow (see front cover), shows a -8.8 % per year long-term trend ($P < 0.01$) from 1966-1995 (Peterjohn et al. 1996). It is now a Maryland threatened species. Robbins and Boone (1984) stated that habitat loss is a major contributing factor to the decline in Henslow's Sparrows in Maryland. Hands, et al. (1989) list many research needs concerning this species. It is conceivable that grassland preservation and management benefiting Henslow's Sparrows will be instituted in Maryland in the future. Basic information on habitat requirements and reproductive ecology must be discovered before wise management decisions can be made.

Species and Habitat Description

Population Characteristics

Henslow's Sparrows are perplexing birds. They are found in loose colonies in scattered concentrations, while nearby apparently identical habitat remains unoccupied (Hyde 1939). They are known for their sporadic appearances, present some years but not others, on the same site. This is seen in Wiens' 1969 study and on two of the Garrett County sites. However, Henslow's Sparrow colonies occur on some sites year after year.

Nesting Habitat

Henslow's Sparrows have fairly rigid nesting habitat requirements. Standing dead residual vegetation (Zimmerman 1988), litter depth, and density of the vegetation (Robins 1967, Wiens 1969) are important components of the Henslow's Sparrow habitat. Herkert (1994) found that Henslow's Sparrows preferred tall, dense vegetation. They also avoid woody growth. Zimmerman (1988) found less woody vegetation within Henslow's Sparrow territories than outside their territories. Wiens (1969) found that fields with extensive brush or shrubby vegetation were not occupied by Henslow's Sparrows. Nests are usually placed on the litter about 2.5–7.5 cm above ground at the base of a grass clump (Hyde 1939, Robins 1967).

Field Size

In addition to specific vegetation requirements, grassland size appears crucial to Henslow's Sparrow habitat selection. Herkert's (1994) analysis of abundance and distribution patterns of Henslow's Sparrows in Illinois showed that habitat size was a significant factor to these nesting sparrows. He rarely found them on grassland fragments less than 100 ha. Likewise, these sparrows require about 28 ha in New York (Smith 1991), and in Kansas at least 30 ha (Zimmerman 1988). Individual territories range from 0.4 to 0.9 ha (Terres 1987). Henslow's Sparrows appear to choose the largest grasslands available in an area, yet use only a small portion of the grassland for nesting purposes.

Associated Species

Other grassland birds commonly associated with the Henslow's Sparrow in Garrett County include the Grasshopper Sparrow (*A. savannarum*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and occasionally the Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). These birds will also benefit from grassland preservation and management.

Site Fidelity

A large portion of my work with the Henslow's Sparrows has been determining whether they return to previous nesting sites. I found two references to banding of Henslow's Sparrows in the literature. Robins (1967) marked 44 birds in 1966 in Michigan. None of these birds were among the breeding birds observed on his study site or in the immediate area in 1967. Hands et al. (1989) stated that none of the 39 Henslow's Sparrows banded by Zimmerman in Kansas returned to the study site the following year. Zimmerman, in personal communication with

them, suggested that Henslow's Sparrows may not be site faithful because of the unpredictable nature of their preferred habitat (Hands et al. 1989).

I became fascinated with the Henslow's Sparrow on a May Count in 1989. I reviewed the "Report of Statewide Bird Count" and "Breeding Season" articles in *Maryland Birdlife* from June 1985 through the current issue. This investigation of the Henslow's Sparrow population status in Maryland revealed that this species has disappeared from all Maryland counties except for the westernmost portion of the state. The Maryland and D.C. breeding bird atlas found them in Garrett and Allegany Counties and in three blocks on the coastal plain. Those on the coastal plain were all on the lower Eastern shore, with none of the sites occupied since 1989 (Robbins and Blom 1996). Since 1990 all breeding season reports have been from Garrett County (GC), with the exception of three reports from adjacent Allegany County. All of these sightings in GC since 1989 have been on reclaimed strip mines, with the exception of an old field at Finzel Swamp near Frostburg.

Henslow's Sparrow Habitat on Garrett County's Reclaimed Strip Mines

One of the best places in GC to find the type of habitat preferred by Henslow's Sparrows is on reclaimed strip mines (RSM). Since the late 1960s, legislation required all strip mines in Maryland to be reclaimed. Landowners have the choice of replanting with grasses and legumes, or a combination of trees and grasses. For the first 5-6 years, vegetation is too sparse to support Henslow's Sparrows. As succession improves conditions, Henslow's Sparrows may move on site. If the site was reclaimed with trees and grasses, it may accommodate the sparrows only a few years until shrubs and trees dominate, and the sparrows abandon the site. Reclamations with only grass and legumes can support Henslow's Sparrows for many years. Coal was mined in GC from four coal basins, the Potomac River Basin, Georges Creek Basin, Casselman River Basin, and the Youghiogheny River Basin. These RSMs were often located quite near to one another, creating potential habitat for the Henslow's Sparrow which was easily accessible to expanding colonies.

I began to annually monitor breeding populations in Garrett County in 1990. In 1992 I began searching for new colonies. I found that in western Maryland there are very few sites with suitable nesting habitat; it seemed unlikely that a new colony of Henslow's Sparrows was finding these few suitable areas each year. The Grasshopper Sparrow is a close relative of the Henslow's Sparrow. Nearly half of the male Grasshopper Sparrows banded in Florida were observed on territories within 100 m of their capture locations in succeeding years (Delaney and Progulskje 1992). It seemed reasonable that Henslow's Sparrows do the same. My field observations led me to hypothesize that Henslow's Sparrows do return to previous nesting sites, or nearby suitable sites, until vegetation becomes unfit for nesting purposes. I started the banding study in 1994 to obtain this information. Thereafter, my study of Henslow's Sparrows in Garrett County had two objectives: (1) Field visits to monitor known breeding populations and search for new colonies, and (2) a banding study to determine whether Henslow's Sparrows return to previous nesting sites or natal areas.

METHODS

Survey Method

Field surveys simply consisted of at least annual visits to each site known to support Henslow's Sparrows in the past. Often I visited the site twice per season. I walked the entire

field in a pattern such that I could hear any singing male. I recorded the number heard making certain no male was counted more than once. The past two years I sketched the field with the location of each male in relation to other males and habitat landmarks. I was chiefly concerned with presence or absence of the birds. I searched for new colonies on RSMs adjacent to known Henslow's Sparrow colonies. Most site visits were done before 10:00 a.m. when the birds were most likely to be singing. All site visits were done between May 15 and August 31, the safe dates given for Maryland breeding birds (Robbins and Blom 1996).

Banding Method and Study Site

Nylon mist nets were set up during the breeding season on suspected male territories. Any captured Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow or Savannah Sparrow was marked with a numbered, aluminum butt-end USFWS band. I recorded information on each bird and released it. To calculate the breeding male population figure for the banding site, I roughly mapped the territory of each singing male in relation to habitat landmarks and other males.

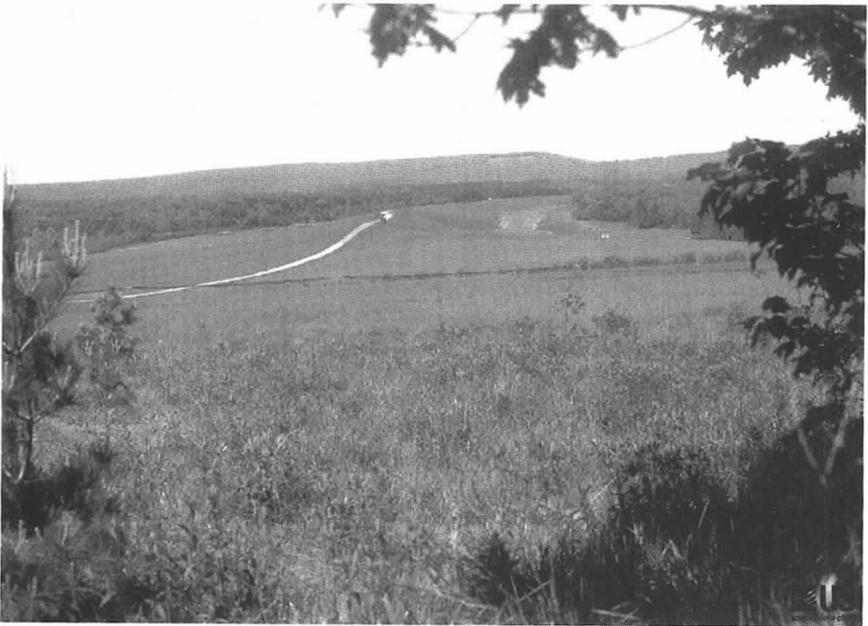


Figure 1. The study site is a 79 hectare reclaimed strip mine supporting a large colony of Henslow's Sparrows. (Photograph by Connie S. Skipper)

The banding site (Figure 1) is a 79 hectare reclaimed strip mine near Rock Lodge Road, McHenry, MD. This site has been mined, and reclaimed in stages over a 12-year period from 1976 to 1987. A 1.6 km long, narrow pond is on the north side of the reclamation, which itself is 3.2 km long. Much of the site is lush vegetation completely undisturbed except by wildlife. Sections of the reclamation are planted in grasses and legumes, while other sections are planted in grasses and small trees. For a detailed description of the banding methodology and vegetation, see Skipper (1998).

RESULTS

Survey Results

Table I is a summary of dates and locations of Garrett County Henslow's Sparrow reports since 1985. For the sake of brevity, I've included only the report per breeding season with the highest number of birds.

Table I. Summary of Breeding Henslow's Sparrow Reports since 1985 in Garrett County, Maryland.

POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Chestnut Grove Road	4	6/0 3/89	(Ringler 1989)
	2	5/12/90	(J. McKearnan, pers. comm.)
	1	7/13/91	(Southworth and Southworth 1991)*
	0	6/ 3/92	Skipper
Combination Road	?	6/ /89	(K. Dodge, pers. comm.)
	3	6/13/91	Skipper
	4	6/30/92	Skipper
	2	5/17/93	Skipper
	2	6/15/94	Skipper
	3	5/23/95	Skipper
	3	5/30/96	Skipper
	1	5/22/97	Skipper
Lost Land Run, Site 1	3	5/16/98	Skipper
	4	7/16/92	Skipper
	0	5/26/93	Skipper
	0	6/15/94	Skipper
	0	5/23/95	Skipper
	0	5/30/96	Skipper
	0	6/23/97	Skipper
Lost Land Run, Site 2	4	7/16/92	Skipper
	1	5/26/93	Skipper
	0	6/15/94	Skipper
	0	5/23/95	Skipper
	0	5/30/96	Skipper
	5-8	6/23/97	Skipper
Lost Land Run, Site 3	5	7/27/98	Skipper
	0	6/15/94	Skipper
	6	6/05/95	Skipper
	1	5/30/96	Skipper
	5	6/30/97	Skipper
4	7/27/98	Skipper	

Gortner	2-3	7/03/90	(Ringler 1990)
White Church-Steyer Road	11	7/03/97	Skipper
	16	6/23/98	Skipper
Audley Riley Road	4	6/12/97	Skipper
	4	6/26/98	Skipper
Sharpless Mine Road	6	7/10/97	Skipper
	9	6/26/98	Skipper

GEORGES CREEK BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Finzel	6	5/23/92	(Southworth and Southworth 1992)
	1	6/13/93	(Southworth and Southworth 1995)
Carey Run	1	6/12/90	(Ringler 1990)

CASSELMAN RIVER BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Negro Mountain	1	7/12/87	(Ringler 1987)
Accident-Bittinger Road	8	7/14/91	(Southworth and Southworth 1991)*
	6	6/01/92	(Southworth and Southworth 1992)*
	2	7/29/93	Skipper
	0	6/30/94	Skipper
	2	5/22/95	Skipper
	0	5/31/96	Skipper
	0	5/21/97	Skipper
Glades	1	6/10/95	(Southworth and Southworth 1996)**
Rock Lodge Rd. & Peat bog	1	7/17/94	(Southworth and Southworth 1995)**
Rock Lodge Road, Site 1	15	Summer 94	Skipper
	15	Summer 95	Skipper
	21	Summer 96	Skipper
	19	Summer 97	Skipper
	6-7	7/29/98	Skipper
Rock Lodge Road, Site 2	6	7/12/94	Skipper
	1	7/17/95	Skipper
	3	5/31/96	Skipper
	0	6/27/97	Skipper
	0	7/10/98	Skipper

Frank Brenneman Road	4	6/11/96	Skipper
	10	7/02/97	Skipper
	10	7/28/98	Skipper

YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Friendsville	?	1985-1991+	(R. Farrar, pers. comm.)

* A conversation with M. O'Brien on 6/20/95 pinpointed his sightings to the above named sites. His 1991 and 1992 sightings combined the Accident-Bittinger Road site and a site approximately 1 mile distant.

** These sites may be one of the sites listed above, but differently described.

I first discovered a Henslow's Sparrow on a reclaimed strip mine (RSM) on Chestnut Grove Road on May 13, 1989. Two Henslow's Sparrows were heard at that site on May 12, 1990. M. O'Brien (pers. comm.) heard one here on July 13, 1991, but none have been heard there since that time.

Kevin Dodge also heard a Henslow's Sparrow on Combination Road during the summer of 1989. This location is about 10½ miles from the Chestnut Grove Road site. Henslow's Sparrows have been present in small numbers at Combination Road each year since 1989.

On July 16, 1992, I found two colonies on RSMs near Lost Land Run, each with four singing males. These colonies are located within 1½ miles of the Combination Road site. On May 26, 1993, this area was again checked. One bird was heard on the lower site (Lost Land Run, site 2). The upper site (Lost Land Run, site 1) had no birds. The lower site had no birds since 1993, until they reappeared again in 1997 and 1998. In 1994 I hiked across the valley to an adjacent RSM (Lost Land Run, site 3) and found no Henslow's Sparrows. In 1995 I discovered six singing males there. One was heard there in 1996, five in 1997, and four in 1998. All of the above sites are located in the Potomac River Basin.

A very cooperative coal company owner showed me three new sites in the Potomac River Basin in 1997. I gave him three criteria for the RSMs I wanted to visit: (1) an undisturbed site, meaning no grazing or annual mowing, (2) reclaimed at least five years ago, and (3) at least 12 ha (30 acres) in size. Each of these sites yielded Henslow's Sparrows. A RSM on Audley Riley Road had four singing males in 1997 and four in 1998. The site on White Church-Steyer Road had at least 11 singing males in 1997 and 16 in 1998. The site on the Sharpless Mine Road had six singing males in 1997 and 9 in 1998.

The Casselman River Basin has provided habitat for a number of colonies. On June 1, 1993, I heard two Henslow's Sparrows along the Accident-Bittinger Road. Apparently, birds were heard here in 1991 and 1992 by M. O'Brien (pers. comm.). None were found here in 1994. The birds returned in 1995, but were again absent the following years.

Within one and a half miles of the Accident-Bittinger Road site, near the Rock Lodge Road, is the previously described study site (Rock Lodge Road, site 1). I visited this site on June 30, 1994. Nine singing males were heard that day. I revisited the site many times over

succeeding weeks and identified territories of 15 singing males. Territories of 15 singing males were identified on this site in 1995, 21 territories identified in 1996, and 19 territories identified in 1997. Six to seven singing males were heard on this site on July 29, 1998.

On July 12, 1994, on a RSM approximately ½ mile from the Rock Lodge Road, site 1, I located another colony with six singing males (Rock Lodge Road, site 2). One was heard here in 1995 and three were present in 1996. None were found here in 1997 or 1998.

In 1996 approximately ¾ miles from the previous site, on the Frank Brenneman Road, I located yet another RSM with four singing males. I found ten singing males at this site in both 1997 and 1998.

I've searched many hectares of grazed pastures and annually mown hay fields. Not once have I found any Henslow's Sparrows in these habitats, even though all of the associated species, with the exception of Horned Larks, can be found in hay fields mown annually.

Banding Results

I banded a total of 87 Henslow's Sparrows from 1994 through 1997. In 1994, I banded 16 Henslow's Sparrows between July 14 and August 3 [14 days, 353 net-hours (NH)]. In 1995, I banded 18 Henslow's Sparrows between June 14 and July 21 (13 days, 143 NH). In 1996, I banded 31 Henslow's Sparrows between July 10 and August 9 (15 days, 278 NH). In 1997 I banded 22 Henslow's Sparrows between July 11 and August 6 (15 days, 376 NH). See Table II for a summary of these bandings grouped by age and sex. Though my target species was the Henslow's Sparrow, I also banded 37 Grasshopper Sparrows and 29 Savannah Sparrows that were incidentally captured.

Table II. Age and sex of Henslow's Sparrows banded from 1994 through 1997.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Adult Male</u>	<u>Adult Female</u>	<u>Adult Unknown</u>	<u>Juvenile Unknown</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1994	6	1	1	8	16
1995	7	3	0	8	18
1996	14	3	0	14	31
1997	10	6	0	6	22

Five adult Henslow's Sparrows returned to their previous nesting sites. One adult male Henslow's Sparrow (#1710-81329) was recaptured on July 30, 1996, that had been banded on July 17, 1995 as an adult. He was recaptured on territory approximately 165 m from the previous year's capture site. On July 12, 1997, an adult male (#1710-81342) previously banded on July 18, 1996 was captured approximately 56 m from the previous year's capture site. On July 16, 1997, an adult male (#1710-81346) was captured approximately 61 m from the previous year's capture site. On July 22, 1997, an adult male (#1710-81347) was captured approximately 102 m from the previous year's capture site. On August 6, 1997 an adult male (#1710-81326) was captured approximately 86 m from the 1995 banding site. No bird banded as a juvenile returned to its natal site.

A number of Grasshopper Sparrows showed breeding site fidelity. An adult male Grasshopper Sparrow was captured on June 1, 1995, that had been banded on July 26, 1994 as an adult bird. A different male Grasshopper Sparrow was captured on July 17, 1996, that had been

banded on June 1, 1995, as an adult bird. In addition, on June 20, 1996, I spotted three Grasshopper Sparrows with bands. No banded Savannah Sparrows were recaptured in subsequent years.

DISCUSSION

Vegetation changes appeared to be the reason Henslow's Sparrows deserted a site in nearly all cases. As previously described, they need undisturbed grasslands, prefer tall dense vegetation with an accumulation of litter, and avoid areas with extensive woody growth. Though I didn't do vegetation measurements, there were usually obvious visible changes. The Chestnut Grove site became overgrown with black locusts. At the Lost Land Run, site 1, small pines had been planted on the area the spring of 1993 and no birds were found thereafter. At the Lost Land Run, site 2, black locusts had overgrown much of the site, though areas of grassland remained. Surprisingly, Henslow's Sparrows once again appeared on this site in 1997 and again in 1998. The Accident-Bittinger Road site had no Henslow's Sparrows present in 1994. No obvious vegetational changes had occurred. They returned in 1995, but in 1996 no Henslow's Sparrows were found. This was most certainly due to the presence of a large herd of grazing cattle which had clipped the grass quite short. The Rock Lodge Road, site 2, vegetation has become quite poor and I was not surprised to find no Henslow's Sparrows there in 1997 or 1998. I've found these birds very positively associated with birdsfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). On the Rock Lodge Road, site 2, this legume is largely being replaced with goldenrod. It seems that Henslow's Sparrows consistently occupy large sites with their preferred vegetation. Smaller sites or those with marginal vegetation are where we see the inconsistent returns from year to year.

Some adult Henslow's Sparrows exhibit breeding site fidelity. The return of a previously banded adult male in 1996 was the first documentation that this is true. This was further supported by the four birds recovered in 1997 that had been banded in 1995 and 1996. Considering the small number (6) of male Grasshopper Sparrows banded in 1994 and 1995 and the number of recoveries (2) and banded singing male sightings (3) in 1996, it seems that a good percentage of these birds are exhibiting breeding site fidelity. Delaney and Progulske (1992) observed 45% of the male Grasshopper Sparrows banded in prior years on territory in succeeding years. The closely related Henslow's Sparrow, on the other hand, appears to have a lower percentage of birds returning to their breeding grounds.

Capturing these wily birds required much trial and error, hard work, and persistence. I captured 6 out of 15 adult males the first year and 7 out of 15 the second year. No previously banded bird was recovered. It was inconclusive whether the sparrows exhibited site fidelity since I'd captured less than half the population of singing males, and some mortality had surely occurred over the intervening year. I refined my capture techniques in 1996 and was able to capture two-thirds of the male population, 14 out of 21. Of these, one was a previously banded bird. I captured nearly three-fourths, 14 out of 19, of the male population in 1997. Four of these were previously banded birds. This means that 21% of the population were returning birds, assuming none of the uncaptured birds were banded (which is unknown).

Although the percentages of adult birds exhibiting site fidelity are not overwhelming, I consider it to be a significant one. So much yet needs to be known about this tiny, secretive bird. In this region, what is the minimum field size Henslow's Sparrows will populate? Do juveniles return to their natal site? Are a low percentage of adults returning to their breeding grounds on a consistent basis? What vegetation factors could be reliable indicators of whether

the Henslow's Sparrow will use a site or not? Answers to these questions are pertinent to effective and responsible land acquisition and management for this species' benefit.

Management should include either burning or mowing portions of the grassland on a rotational schedule according to Zimmerman (1988) and Herkert (1994). This would periodically retard woody growth, as well as leave sufficient nesting habitat with standing dead vegetation and accumulated litter. Henslow's Sparrows are precluded from recently burned areas, but burning stimulates aboveground productivity of grasses and removes woody growth, which in turn results in better habitat in successive years (Zimmerman 1988, Herkert 1994).

Currently GC supports a good population of Henslow's Sparrows. A minimum of 61 singing males were found in 1997 and 57 in 1998. However, as the RSMs go through the natural process of succession, much of their habitat will disappear. Furthermore, surface mining is nearly a thing of the past in GC according to Mr. Fred Bagley (pers. comm.) from the Maryland Bureau of Mines. Therefore, no new habitat areas will become available. We will see fewer, more widely dispersed, sites hospitable to breeding Henslow's Sparrows.

The Henslow's Sparrow is only one of many grassland birds showing a decline in numbers. I believe steps should be taken to preserve some of our grassland ecosystems and manage the grasslands to support the Henslow's Sparrow population. Doing so will also benefit all associated species and, therefore, maintain the diversity of Maryland's avifauna.

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FALL MIGRATION AUGUST 1–NOVEMBER 30, 1997

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

There were no significant cold fronts in September and October, and Neotropical migrants seemed few and far between. November was a little chilly and rainy.

Observers: George Armistead, Henry & Mary Armistead, Maud Banks, Mary Jo Betts, Anne Bishop, Rick Blom, Bob Boxwell, Ed Boyd, Carol & Don Broderick, Christy Carter, Jane Coskren, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Sam Dyke, Darius & Paula Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Gary Felton, Inez Glime, Kevin Graff, Gary Griffith, Jim Green, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Wilbur Hershberger, Marshall Iliff, Kye Jenkins, Patsy Kennan, Dotty Mumford, Mariana Nuttle, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Norm & Fran Saunders, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Kurt Schwarz, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Rick Sussman, Chris Swarth, Debbie Terry, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Joy Wheeler, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

Hart-Miller reports were provided by Gene Scarpulla. Banding efforts at Cherry Creek were led by Connie Skipper.

Abbreviations: DC — District of Columbia, NWR — National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS — Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), PWRC — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's), PWRC/N — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Anne Arundel), SP — State Park, UMCF — University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard), WMA — Wildlife Management Area, WS — Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary (Frederick), Alpha Ridge Park (Howard), Back River (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Blair's Valley (Washington), Broadford Lake (Garrett), Browns Bridge (Howard), Brown's Station Landfill (Prince George's), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Clark's Lane (Caroline), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Horsehead Wetlands Center (Queen Anne's), Hugg-Thomas WMA (Howard), Irish Grove (Somerset), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Kings Creek Preserve (Talbot), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Mason-Dixon Farm (Frederick), Merkle WMA (Prince George's), Mountain Lake

(Garrett), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Pleasant Valley (Garrett), Remington Farms (Kent), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Terrapin Point Park (Queen Anne's), Town Hill (Allegany), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Turkey Point (Cecil), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise), Wilde Lake (Howard).

Loons, Grebes. A possible **Pacific Loon** strayed into Maryland waters on the Susquehanna River on Nov. 7, and was seen on occasion through Nov. 23 (Blom+). If accepted, this would be Maryland's first record. The first **Red-throated Loon** was spotted at Choptank on October 29 (Iloff), and 3 were inland at Piney Run Park on November 8 (Ringler), the same day that about 110 were found at Conowingo Lake (Blom, N. & F. Saunders). Connie Skipper found an immature **Common Loon** at Deep Creek Lake on Aug. 5-6. The high was 250 at the mouth of Harris Creek in Talbot County on Nov. 6 (Mark Holland). On Nov. 9th there were 52 at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County (Craig, Bishop), and 56 at Broadford Lake and 66 at Deep Creek Lake (Iloff, Stasz). **Pied-billed Grebes** most likely bred at some ponds in Brandywine with Jim Stasz finding 2 adults and 9 juveniles there on Aug. 29. He noted 18 there on Sept. 23. **Horned Grebes** included one at Loch Raven on Aug. 24 (Simon, Jenkins), 1 at Little Seneca Lake and 3 at Seneca on Oct. 6 (N. & F. Saunders), and a high of 35 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 23 (Iloff, Stasz). An **Eared Grebe** was located this season at Hurlock on Sept. 6 (Iloff, Stasz), and another was reported at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 5 (Blom), and on Nov. 15 (Griffith).

Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. An Aug. 17 pelagic trip out of Ocean City yielded 13 **Cory's Shearwaters**, 2 **Greater Shearwaters**, 29 **Audubon's Shearwaters**, and 305 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. This pelagic trip, led by Brian Patteson, also located a couple of Maryland firsts, a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** and a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**. Marty Cribb spotted a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** in the Chesapeake Bay in Somerset County on Aug. 2. A sub-adult **Northern Gannet** was checked off at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 23 (Craig, Iliff, Stasz), and **Brown Pelicans** included 23 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 19 with the last 4 there on Nov. 23 (Craig). Iliff and Stasz found an immature **Brown Pelican** at Nanticoke Harbor on Oct. 26 for the first Wicomico County record. Sightings of **Double-crested Cormorants** remain numerous and wide-spread, including 178 at PRNAS on Sept. 10 (Rambo), 150 at Conowingo Dam on Sept. 29 (Iloff), 175 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12 (Reese), 150 over Town Hill on Oct. 1 and 190 there on Oct. 11 (Paulus, Czaplak), 18 at Big Pool on Nov. 7 (Iloff, Stasz), and 60 at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iloff). **Great Cormorants** were present this fall with 1 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 11th, 1 to 3 at Pt. Lookout from Oct. 21 (Craig) through Nov. 23 (Iloff, Stasz), and an immature at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 5 (Blom) and Nov. 11 (Stasz).

Herons, Ibises, Vultures. Jim Stasz discovered an **American Bittern** at Terrapin Point Park on Oct. 25. Among the numerous **Great Blue Herons** were 21 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3 and Aug. 9, and 175 at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 26 (Blom). **Great Egrets** included 31 at Loch Raven on Aug. 15 (Simon, Terry), and single late birds at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 9 (Iloff), Lake Elkhorn (Banks) and Upper Marlboro (Stasz) on Nov. 10, and at Millstone Landing Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 23 (Iloff, Stasz). Notable reports of **Snowy Egrets** were 109 at North Beach on Aug. 16 (Stasz), 1 at Kent Narrows on Nov. 2 (Boyd, Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (N. & F. Saunders). Late **Little Blue Herons** were 1 at Scotland on Oct. 7 (Craig, Cribb), and 2 at West Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Graff). **Cattle Egrets** were 72 at Blackwater on Aug. 23 (H. Armistead), 60 near Salisbury on Sept. 12 and 40 near Cokesberry on Sept. 14 (Iloff, Stasz), 40 at Kent Island on Oct. 2 (Iloff), and 1 at Park Hall, St. Mary's County on Nov. 8 (Craig). Nine **Green Herons** were at Terrapin Pt. Park on Sept. 12 (Iloff, Stasz), and 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 11 (D. & P. Ecker, Wilkinson). Helen Zeichner listed 4 **Black-**

crowned Night-Herons at Wilde Lake on Aug. 4. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were not to be left out with 4 at Lilypons on Aug. 17 (Hershberger), and 3 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz). Kyle Rambo reported 14 **White Ibises** at PRNAS on Aug. 22, and two **Glossy Ibises** were at North Beach Aug. 18-19 (Stasz). Another Glossy was at Scotland on Sept. 12 (Craig). The high for **Black Vultures** was 150 at Brown's Station on Oct. 30 (Iliff). Black Vultures were found out west with 2 at Pinto on Nov. 9 (Iliff, Stasz), and in Garrett County, 4 were feeding on a dead deer along Bishop Road near Rt. 42 on Nov. 19 (Kevin Dodge), and 1 was near Paradise Point Road on Nov. 23 (Skipper). The high for **Turkey Vultures** was 140 at Ridgely on Sept. 25 (Iliff).

Geese, Swans. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was located near Centreville on Oct. 29 (Iliff), and Blackwater hosted one during Nov. 5-22 (Iliff, Welch, Smith+). Two others were at John Brown Road, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 26 (Iliff). White **Snow Geese** arrived with 1 at Blackwater on Sept. 20 (George & H. Armistead), and 2 at Westminster on Oct. 4 (Ringler). Single blues were at Blackwater on Sept. 20 (G. & H. Armistead), at Broadford Lake on Oct. 4 (Stasz), and 3 were at Redhouse on Nov. 8 (Iliff, Stasz). The high for Snow Geese was 8000 near Sudlersville on Nov. 2 (Iliff, Boyd, Stasz). Danny Bystrak reported a **Ross's Goose** flying north at North Beach on Oct. 18. An adult and a family group of 2 adults and 3 juvenile Ross's Geese were discovered near Snow Hill on Oct. 26 with 2 immature *Snow x Ross's* hybrids (Iliff, Stasz). Another Ross's was found near Starr on Oct. 29 (Iliff), and one, seen by many birders, was at Greenock from Nov. 20 through the end of the month (Iliff+). Blackwater hosted 2 Ross's Geese from about Nov. 2 to at least Nov. 5 (H. Armistead, Iliff+). Matt O'Donnell reported the first **Brant** with 5 at Sandy Point on Nov. 2, and 2 were at Piscataway on Nov. 16 (Green). **Canada Geese** included 216 at Loch Raven on Aug. 12 (Simon, Terry) and 1240 at Blackwater on Aug. 23 (H. Armistead). Quite a few of the small race were found, with single sightings on Oct. 25 at Wye Island (Stasz), Nov. 2 at Denton (Iliff, Boyd, Stasz), Nov. 18 near Centreville (Iliff), Nov. 20 at Piscataway Creek (Stasz), Nov. 20-29 at Greenock (Iliff+), Nov. 23 near Hughesville (Iliff, Stasz, Jett), Nov. 26 near Route 16, Dorchester County and at Central Sod Farm, Queen Anne's County (Iliff), and Nov. 28 off Oland Road, Frederick County (Hershberger). Steve Simon found 2 **Mute Swans** at Loch Raven on Aug. 19-26. Fifteen of the big birds were at Terrapin Pt. Park on Sept. 7, and a depressing 263 were tallied at Eastern Neck NWR on the same day (Iliff, Stasz). Other Mute Swans included 1 at Piney Run Park on Sept. 20 that was still present on Nov. 20 (Ringler, Nielsen), 150 at Neavitt on Oct. 5 (Reese), and 125 at the mouth of the Wye & Miles Rivers (Talbot/Queen Anne's) on Nov. 15 (Reese). **Tundra Swans** began with 2 at Tall Timbers on Sept. 30 (Carter), and 12 at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Oct. 5 (Hershberger). High counts were 298 at Rocky Gap on Nov. 16 (Iliff, Ryan Lesh, Stasz), and over 650 at Preston on Nov. 27 (Engle).

Puddle Ducks. Late **Wood Duck** reports included 8 at Queenstown on Nov. 22 (Reese) and 2 at Hashawha, Carroll County on Nov. 30 (Ringler). A *Wood Duck x Mallard* hybrid was reported at Centennial Lake, Oct. 15-25 (Schwarz, Kennan), and at Wilde Lake on Nov. 8 (Coskren). Mary Jordan reported an exotic **Mandarin Duck** near the zoo at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30. **Green-winged Teals** began with 1 at North Beach on Aug. 19 (Stasz). Higher numbers included 195 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 3 (Skipper) and 1000 in the greater Blackwater area on Nov. 5 (Iliff). Blom found over 200 **Mallards** at Havre de Grace on Oct. 11, Skipper tallied 325 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 18, and about 200 were at Bryans Road on Nov. 23 (Iliff, Stasz, Jett). **Northern Pintails** began with 1 at Easton on Sept. 6 and 2 at Remington Farms on Sept. 7 (Iliff, Stasz). The high for **Blue-winged Teals** was 250 at W. Libertytown, Worcester County on Sept. 14 (Iliff, Stasz), and a late one was at Lime Kiln Pond, Howard County on Nov. 29 (Wallace). **Northern Shovelers** kicked off with 1 at Redhouse

on Sept. 1 (Felton). Jan Reese found 75 Shovelers at Easton on Sept. 14, and George Jett tallied 170 at Hurlock on Oct. 15. Four **Gadwalls** were at Easton on Sept. 25, and 60 were at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iloff), and another 60 were at Bryans Road on Nov. 23 (Iloff, Stasz, Jett). Marshall Iliff took photos of an adult male **Eurasian Wigeon** at Brown's Station on Oct. 30, and the bird was still present and seen by others on Nov. 3. **American Wigeon** began with 3 at Loch Raven on Aug. 31 (Wheeler) and 6 at Easton on Sept. 6 (Iloff, Stasz).

Aythya Ducks, Eiders, Harlequin Ducks, Oldsquaw. A summering **Canvasback** was still at Centennial on Aug. 31 (Coskren, Schwarz+), and 2 were at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 7 (D. Ecker). A summering female **Ring-necked Duck** was still present at Centennial on Aug. 31 (Schwarz, Kennan+). A female **Greater Scaup** was identified inland at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 8, and 25 were at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iloff, Stasz). A **Lesser Scaup** was at Unity on Oct. 6 (N. & F. Saunders). An immature male **King Eider** was at the Cambridge Marina from Nov. 22 into December (David Smith, Pitney+), and 3 **Harlequin Ducks** were found at the reliable Ocean City inlet beginning on Nov. 9 (Graff). **Oldsquaws** included 10 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12 (Reese), 14 in Garrett County on Nov. 8 (Iloff, Stasz), 8 at Lapidum, Harford County on Nov. 11 (Stasz), and 40 at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 25 (Pisano, Paul O'Brien).

Scoters and Other Diving Ducks. Marshall Iliff checked off 17 **Black Scoters** on the Choptank River opposite Kingston Landing on Oct. 20 for a first Caroline County record, and 3 **Surf Scoters** were also there. Black Scoters were found in good numbers in Western Maryland with 14 at Broadford Lake, 22 at Little Meadows Lake, and 239 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 8, and 1 at Edgemont Reservoir and 3 at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 9 (Iloff, Stasz). Scarpulla found 2 Surf Scoters at Hart-Miller on Oct. 26. Reese found large counts in Talbot County on Nov. 2 with 350 at Tilghman Island and 1000 at Claiborne. A Surf Scoter visited Lapidum, Harford County on Nov. 8 (Eastman, Saunders), and farther inland, 6 were at Deep Creek Lake and 14 at Broadford Lake on Nov. 9 (Iloff, Stasz). About 800 Surf Scoters were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 15 (Craig). **White-winged Scoters** included 1 at Bivalve on Oct. 26 (Iloff, Stasz), 3 at Conowingo on Nov. 7 (Blom), 1 at Lapidum on Nov. 8 (Eastman+), 4 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 8 and 1 at Brandywine on Nov. 22 (Iloff, Stasz), and 1 at Rileys Lock, Montgomery County, Nov. 28-30 (Jane Whitaker, Henry Louie+). November 11 produced a major fallout of **Buffleheads**. In Howard County 85 were at Centennial and 88 at Triadelphia (Burley, Schwarz, Kennan); on the Susquehanna River 300 were at Conowingo and 300 at Lapidum (Stasz); in Carroll County 617 were at Piney Run, 52 at Liberty Lake, and 50 at Westminster Reservoir (Ringler); and in Washington County 108 Buffleheads were at Greenbrier SP (Weesner). The bob Ringler got the first **Hooded Merganser** this fall with one at Piney Run on Sept. 28. The first **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 16 at Grasonville on Nov. 3 (Reese). Iliff listed 75 Red-breasteds at Aberdeen on Nov. 20. Reese tallied over 1200 **Ruddy Ducks** at the mouth of the Wye and Miles Rivers on Nov. 15, and Dave Mozurkewich estimated 5000 at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 22.

Hawks, Eagles, Falcons. The latest **Osprey** was at Long Neck Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 23 (Iloff, Stasz). Interesting locations for **Bald Eagles** were Liberty Lake where 2 were spotted on Sept. 1 (Ringler), Broadford Lake where an adult was noted on Sept. 20 (Iloff, Stasz), and Deep Creek Lake where an adult was found on Nov. 3 (Skipper). Early **Northern Harriers** were 1 at Allens Fresh on Aug. 8 (Jett, Stasz), 1 at Ashton on Aug. 21 (Sussman), and 1 at Queenstown on Aug. 22 (Poet). Mary Jo Betts had a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in her Columbia yard on Aug. 2nd, and 21 were counted at Turkey Point on Aug. 31 (Griffith+). Jim Paulus tallied 63 Sharpies and 19 **Cooper's Hawks** at Town Hill on Oct. 10. Other Cooper's were

single sightings at McGinnes on Aug. 1 (Reese), at North Beach on Aug. 2 (Stasz), and at Hart-Miller on Aug. 23. At Town Hill, Jim Paulus checked off an immature **Northern Goshawk** on Oct. 8, 764 **Broad-winged Hawks**, in only two hours, on Sept. 16, and a dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** on Oct. 18. **Golden Eagles** were also listed with 1 at Lilypons on Oct. 12 (Hershberger) and 1 at Turkey Point on Nov. 14 (Griffith). Patty Craig noted a migrant female **American Kestrel** at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on Aug. 14, and **Merlins** began with single birds at North Beach on Aug. 19 (Stasz), in Waldorf on Sept. 1 (Jett), and one found injured at St. Michaels on Sept. 5 (Reese+). Six Merlins were checked off at Turkey Point on Sept. 13 (Griffith). Dave and Maureen Harvey had a nice sighting of a **Peregrine Falcon** at Hugg-Thomas WMA on Aug. 31. Three Peregrines were notched at Turkey Point on Sept. 13 (Griffith), and another was near Waldorf on Nov. 9 (Bishop).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots, Sandhill Crane. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were scarce, but 2 were at Tall Timbers on Sept. 25 (Carter). **Wild Turkeys** included 15 near Cokesbury and 25 near Catchpenny Road, Wicomico County on Sept. 14 (Iliff, Stasz), 12 at Jug Bay on Sept. 27 (L. Klickner), and 14 at Hunting Creek Road, Calvert County on Oct. 16 (Jack Leighty). The only upland report for **Northern Bobwhite** was of 4 at Blair's Valley on Oct. 19 (Iliff, Stasz). Don Broderick saw a **Black Rail** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 29, and a **King Rail** was at Chaptico on Sept. 27 (Stasz). Seven **Virginia Rails** were at Wetipquin on Oct. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), and 8 were marked off at Hart-Miller on Nov. 15 (Scarpulla, Cullison+). Out west, a Virginia Rail was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25 (Skipper), and Jim Stasz found an immature **Sora** at Broadford Lake on Sept. 20, and 2 Soras at Redhouse on Oct. 4. Easton Waste Water Treatment Plant hosted the high for **Common Moorhens** with 60 on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz). Six fledgling **American Coots** were discovered in a weedy impoundment at Easton on Aug. 10 (Levin Willey, Shirley Bailey). Other coots included 2 at Loch Raven on Aug. 26, 2000 there on Nov. 5 (Simon, Terry, Landers), 2000 at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iliff, Stasz), and over 2600 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 18 (Skipper). A **Sandhill Crane** was reported flying southeast across Route 5 near Forest Park on Sept. 24 (Rambo).

Plovers, Avocets. There were 123 migrating **American Golden-Plovers** at Hanesville Road, Kent County on Sept. 7, and other highs reported by Iliff and Stasz included 53 at Doub's Turf Farm, Frederick County on Sept. 9, and 59 at Clark's Lane on Sept. 12. Jim and Marshall also noted 21 goldens at Taneytown on Sept. 19, and two juveniles near Lilypons on Nov. 7. The latest **Semipalmated Plover** was at Boonesboro on Oct. 19 (Iliff, Stasz). Among the numerous **Killdeer** reports were 450 at Cordova and 650 at Clark's Lane on Sept. 25 (Iliff). **American Avocets** made an appearance this fall with 1 near Gaithersburg on July 31 (Michael Welch), 2 at Blackwater on Oct. 25 (H. & M. Armistead+), and 1 there on Oct. 28 (Sally Wechsler).

Yellowlegs through Turnstones. The high for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 34 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz), and the last report was of 7 at Pomonkey on Nov. 23 (Jett+). Jim Stasz identified an eastern race, juvenile **Willet** on Aug. 1 at North Beach where 2 were on Aug. 19, and 1 to 2 juvenile western Willets were there during Aug. 13-19 as well. Marshall Iliff saw a juvenile western race bird at Terrapin Pt. Park on Aug. 9. The high for **Spotted Sandpipers** was a nice count of 40 at Hurlock on Aug. 2, and the last report was of a late one at Easton on Nov. 18 (Iliff, Stasz). **Upland Sandpipers** were found on Aug. 2 with 4 at Cox Sawmill Road and 20 at Research Farm in Queen Anne's County, and 17 at Oakland Farm, Caroline County (Iliff, Stasz). Harry Armistead, Mark Hoffman, and Paul O'Brien found 14 **Whimbrels** at Assateague on Aug. 18, and 2 **Marbled Godwits** were located at North Beach on Aug. 12 (Stasz).

Calidridine Sandpipers. A Sanderling was at Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 4 (Stasz). The highs for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 286 at Loch Raven on Aug. 2 (Simon, Jenkins), and 267 at North Beach on Aug. 14 (Stasz). A **Western Sandpiper** at Red House on Sept. 20 (Felton) was notable. **Least Sandpipers** running late were the last reports of 2 in Queen Anne's County near Route 213, and 1 at Brown's Station on Nov. 22 (Stasz, Iliff). The latest **White-rumped Sandpipers** were 1 at Tanyard on Nov. 26 (Iliff), and 1 at Liberty Lake on Nov. 30 (Ringler). Hart-Miller again hosted **Baird's Sandpipers** including 8 on Oct. 5th; others included 1 at Remington Farms on Sept. 7 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Havre de Grace on Oct. 11 (Blom). The high for **Pectoral Sandpipers** was 34 at North Beach on Aug. 18 (Stasz). Interesting **Dunlins** were 2 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 and 1 each at Funkstown and Blair's Valley on Oct. 19 (Stasz, Iliff), 60 at Tanyard on Nov. 5 and 40 there on Nov. 26 (Iliff), 21 at Conowingo on Nov. 7 (Blom), and 41 at Jug Bay on Nov. 18 (Swarth, Mumford). The latest **Stilt Sandpipers** were 1 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 4 (Ringler), and 11 near Grasonville on Oct. 8 (Iliff). It was a good year for nice-to-find **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** including 3 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 and 3 there on Oct. 5. Others reported by Iliff and Stasz included 1 at Hanesville Road, Kent County on Sept. 7, 1 at John Brown Road, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 7 and 3 there on Sept. 25, 1 at Mason-Dixon Farm on Sept. 9, 1 near Pleasant Valley on Sept. 20, 1 at Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 24, and 2 at Clark's Lane, Caroline County on Sept. 25 and Sept. 28.

Dowitchers, Snipe, Phalaropes. The high for **Short-billed Dowitchers** was 59 at North Beach on Aug. 18 (Stasz), and 3 late birds were at Scotland on Sept. 29 (Rambo). On Sept. 7, single **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at Terrapin Pt. Park and at Remington Farms (Iliff, Stasz), and another was at Horsehead on Sept. 25 (Sebastini). **Red-necked Phalaropes** were also checked off this fall with 3 tallied during the pelagic trip out of Ocean City on Aug. 17 (Patteson+), 1 at Fairmount WMA, Somerset County on Aug. 19 (Patsy & Eric Decker), and 1 at Ridgely on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz). **Red Phalaropes** were not to be left out, with 1 identified during the Aug. 17 pelagic trip, and a juvenile at Ridgely on Oct. 2 (Iliff).

Parasitic Jaeger, Gulls. A juvenile **Parasitic Jaeger** was reported at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 7 (Blom). Highs for **Laughing Gulls** included 2000 at PRNAS on Aug. 28 (Rambo), 3000 at the Route 213 Pond, Queen Anne's County on Oct. 20 (Iliff), and 8000 at Brown's Station on Nov. 3 (Iliff, Stasz). A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** was seen at Upper Marlboro on Nov. 3 (Stasz, Iliff) and was with a second-winter bird there on Nov. 18 (Stasz). Highs for **Bonaparte's Gull** were 600 at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 5 (Blom) and 400 at Back River on Nov. 20 (Iliff). George Jett tallied 1500 **Ring-billed Gulls** at the Charles County landfill on Nov. 8, and Rick Blom estimated 7500 at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 26. Single adult **Herring Gulls** were found at Deep Creek Lake and Grantsville on Nov. 8, and an immature was at Rocky Gap on Nov. 9 (Iliff, Stasz). A first-winter, fly-by **Thayer's Gull** was reported at the Charles County landfill on Nov. 21 (Iliff). Among the numerous **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reported were 6 at Brown's Station on Oct. 30 and Nov. 13 (Iliff), 3 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 2 (Reese), and 1 at the Charles County landfill on Nov. 8 (Jett). A **Glaucous Gull** was reported from PRNAS on Aug. 26 (Rambo), and another at Bay Ridge on Nov. 18 (Iliff). The many **Great Black-backed Gulls** included 320 at PRNAS on Aug. 13 (Rambo), and 1107 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 23.

Terns, Doves, Cuckoos, Swifts. An adult **Gull-billed Tern** was seen flying over the marsh at Terrapin Pt. Park on Aug. 16 (Stasz). Harry Armistead found 3 **Sandwich Terns** at Assateague on Aug. 16, and 4 were at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz). A **Forster's Tern** was inland at Greenbrier SP on Aug. 26 (Weesner), and Eastman reported 6 late birds at Havre de Grace

on Nov. 23. Marty Cribb and Patty Craig reported 15 **Black Terns** at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 23, and 2 there on Sept. 30. Craig tallied 112 **Mourning Doves** at Scotland on Aug. 14, and Iliff listed 200 at Lilypons on Sept. 9. Kyle Rambo reported a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Hollywood on Aug. 5, and 1 was banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 13. Bill Scudder tallied 700 **Chimney Swifts** at Greensboro on Sept. 20, 350 were at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 25 (Stasz), and 300 were in Washington County on Oct. 3 (Stasz).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. A **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported in Caroline County near Federalsburg, off-and-on from Sept. 10 through at least Sept. 21 (Ross Robinson+). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 1 (Skipper), and 2 were banded there, one on Aug. 26 and one on Sept. 8. Ed Boyd encountered an Olive-sided in Carroll County at Marriottsville on Sept. 20, and another was found at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore on Sept. 28 (Steve Sanford). The **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Denton on Oct. 31 (Nuttle) was extraordinarily late, and the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** found by Norm and Fran Saunders in Dorchester County on Aug. 9 was a little early. An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard calling several times at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 8 (Iliff). The last **Eastern Kingbirds** were one each at Tall Timbers on Sept. 26 (Carter), and at Tanyard on Oct. 3 (Engle).

Vireos, Corvids, Horned Larks. Dotty Mumford found a late **White-eyed Vireo** at Jug Bay on Nov. 18. A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was at Aberdeen on Nov. 20 (Iliff). Running late were the single **Yellow-throated Vireos** found on Oct. 5 at Woodmont Road, Washington County (Stasz), and at Patuxent River Park, Montgomery County (Sussman), and the single **Warbling Vireos** at Morgantown Road, Charles County on Sept. 22 and at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Jett, Stasz, Iliff). Four **Philadelphia Vireos** were banded for the season at Cherry Creek with the first one on Sept. 1. A late **Red-eyed Vireo** was banded at PWRC on Nov. 5 (Deanna Dawson). **Blue Jays** flying south at Woodmont Road, Washington County on Oct. 5 numbered 400 (Stasz), and Jan Reese estimated over 700 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12. High counts of **Fish Crows** included 400 at Brown's Station on Sept. 24 and again on Nov. 22, and 200 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz). An albino Fish Crow was noted at Alpha Ridge Park on Nov. 2 (Kerwin). Jim Paulus viewed 9 **Common Ravens** at Town Hill on Oct. 18.

Swallows. **Purple Martins** running late included 105 at Vienna on Sept. 20 (G. & H. Armistead), and 2 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 5. A late **Tree Swallow** was at Merkle WMA on Nov. 13 (Iliff). Marshall Iliff found late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** with 2 at the Route 309 ponds on Nov. 18, and 2 at Jug Bay on Nov. 19. An amazing 6000 **Bank Swallows** were at Hurlock on Aug. 16 (Stasz), and 1000 were at Hart-Miller on Sept. 13, where the last 2 were found on Oct. 26. The last **Cliff Swallow** was at Easton on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz), and the high for **Barn Swallows** was 300 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 13. An albino Barn Swallow was reported at Conowingo on Sept. 5 (Eastman), and a late Barn Swallow was at Wilde Lake on Oct. 21 (Betts).

Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** began early with the first in Caroline County on Aug. 11 (Nuttle), where 2 others were on Sept. 19 (Glime), increasing to over 50 at Smithville on Nov. 2 (Scudder). Liberty Watershed also hosted over 50 on Nov. 28 (Boyd, Stasz). A **Brown-headed Nuthatch** was found at Horsehead on Sept. 9 (Sebastini). Eighteen migrating **House Wrens** were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig). Two **Marsh Wrens** were found out west at Pinto on Sept. 21, and another at Blair's Valley on Oct. 5 (Stasz, Iliff). Five Marsh Wrens were banded at Cherry Creek from Sept. 25 to Oct. 12. The high for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was 50 at Dameron on Oct. 11 and again on Oct. 22 (Craig), and for **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, 12 at Terrapin Pt. Park on Aug. 9 (Iliff), and 20 at

Tilghman Island on Aug. 10 (Reese). Norm and Fran Saunders discovered a very late Blue-gray at Cornfield Harbor on Nov. 29.

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits, Starlings. The first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Daniels on Sept. 20 (Stirrat), and another was at Parsonsburg on Sept. 21 (Pitney). Others included 4 at Allens Fresh on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz), 4 at Accident on Oct. 4 (Stasz), and 5 at Waldorf on Oct. 5 (Jett). Solitary **Bicknell's Thrushes** were identified at Glissan's Mill Road, Frederick County on Sept. 27 (Hershberger), and banded at Jug Bay on Oct. 17 (Bystrak). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were a tad early in southeastern Carroll County on Sept. 20 (Boyd). Jan Reese estimated over 6000 **American Robins** congregated at Easton on Nov. 18, and Jim Stasz discovered 2 **Northern Mockingbirds** at Deep Creek Lake, an unusual location for this species, on Oct. 4. **American Pipits** were very early with 1 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 12, and 2 at Triadelphia on Sept. 12 (Stasz). The highs were 75 at UMCF on Oct. 18 (Ott+), and 65 at Easton on Nov. 18 (Iliff, Stasz). Marshall Iliff estimated that about 3000 **European Starlings** were thronged together at Mason-Dixon Farm on Sept. 9, and a flock of about 1500 was at Lexington Park, St. Mary's County on Oct. 3 (Craig).

Warblers. The first migrant **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Queenstown on Aug. 17 (Poet). Fred Burggraf reported a **Lawrence's Warbler** at Dentsville on Sept. 11. Six solitary **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported for the fall: Frederick Watershed on Sept. 12 (Hershberger), Dameron on Sept. 16 (Craig), Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 4 (Stasz), Rock Creek Park on Oct. 11 (Hilton, Janni, Pisano), Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iliff), and at Centennial on Nov. 11 (D. & P. Ecker). The last **Yellow Warblers** were singles on Sept. 27 at Pt. Lookout and Smith Island (Iliff, Stasz). Norm Saunders checked off 18 **Black-throated Green Warblers** at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 28. Migrant **Yellow-throated Warblers** were few, with 2 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 10 (Reese), and 1 in St. Mary's County on Oct. 12 (Carter), the extreme dates. Twenty-five **Palm Warblers** were notched at UMCF on Oct. 18 (Ott+), and 58 of the western race were banded at Cherry Creek from Sept. 6 through Oct. 11. Palm Warblers of the yellow race included 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 and 23 there on Oct. 18, and 25 at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iliff). Those identified as the western race also included 6 in the Pleasant Valley area on Sept. 20 (Iliff, Stasz), 6 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 18, and singles at Long Neck Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 23 and at Skeleton Creek Road, Caroline County on Nov. 26 (Iliff, Stasz). The only **Cerulean Warbler** report was the one at Assateague on Aug. 18 (H. Armistead, M. Hoffman, P. O'Brien). Patty Craig and Bob Boxwell found the most **Black-and-white Warblers** with 20 at Pt. Lookout SP on Sept. 5, as well as the last **American Redstart** there on Oct. 28. The final **Northern Waterthrush** reports were 1 at Tall Timbers on Oct. 19 (Carter), and 1 at Jug Bay on Nov. 4 (Mumford). There were few **Louisiana Waterthrushes** this season; Marty Cribb found a late one at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 12. There were 10 **Mourning Warbler** reports this fall, and 6 **Connecticut Warblers** were banded at Cherry Creek from Sept. 7 through Oct. 4. **Wilson's Warblers** ended with 1 at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Oct. 19 (Ott).

Cardinaline Finches, Dickcissels, Sparrows. The single **Blue Grosbeaks** at Ninetown Road, Caroline County on Oct. 20 and at Easton on Oct. 29 (Iliff) were a little late, as was the last **Indigo Bunting** at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 20 (Craig). Two **Dickcissels** were still at Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Saunders), and 1 was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 13. **American Tree Sparrows** commenced with 2 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 19 (Ott), and Connie Skipper found 1 at Blakeslee, Garrett County on Nov. 3. The high counts for **Chipping Sparrows** were 60 at Wheaton on Oct. 25 (Saunders) and 60 at Port Tobacco on Nov. 2 (Jett). Three solitary **Clay-colored Sparrows** were identified this fall: near Cohill, for the first Washington County record, on Oct. 5

(Stasz), at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 14 (Craig), and an immature in Caroline County on Oct. 18 (Stasz). Danny Poet found a **Field Sparrow** nest with 4 eggs at the Wye Research Center in Queenstown on Aug. 6. Two **Savannah Sparrows** were noted at Clark's Lane on Sept. 6 (Iloff, Stasz), and others included 58 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 11, 40 at PRNAS on Oct. 16 (Craig), 100 at UMCF on Oct. 18 (Ott+), and 60 at Mason-Dixon Farm on Oct. 19 (Iloff, Stasz). The last reports for **Grasshopper Sparrows** were 1 at Sideling Hill Creek, Allegany County on Oct. 5 (Stasz), 1 at Audrey Carroll AS on Oct. 11 (Hershberger), 2 at Hope Road, Queen Anne's County on Oct. 18 (Stasz), 1 at Ninetown Road, Caroline County on Oct. 20 (Iloff), and 1 at Millington on Nov. 2 (Stasz). Single **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were identified this season at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 27 (Gaskill, Iliff, Stasz), at Easton on Oct. 13 (Les Coble), at Assateague on Oct. 14 (Pisano, Janni), at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 18 (Iloff) and Oct. 25 (Stasz), and at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 23 (Boxwell, Craig). An early **Fox Sparrow** was banded at Cherry Creek, on Oct. 5. The high counts for **Song Sparrows** were 118 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 18, 175 at UMCF on the same day (Ott+), and 100 at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iloff). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports included 1 at Jug Bay on Sept. 6 (Bystrak), 3 at Pinto on Sept. 21 (Iloff, Stasz), 3 at Unger Road, Carroll County on Oct. 11 (Boyd, Stasz), 2 at Blair's Valley on Oct. 19 (Iloff, Stasz), and 1 at Jug Bay on Nov. 3 (Bystrak). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 14 (D. Ecker), 40 were at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Oct. 19 (Ott), 35 were at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iloff), and 120 were near the Nanticoke River in Wicomico County on Oct. 26 (Iloff, Stasz). There were 395 Swamp Sparrows banded at Cherry Creek from Aug. 23 through Oct. 18. The numerous **White-throated Sparrow** reports included 250 at Wye Island on Oct. 25 (Stasz).

Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Bobolinks, Cardueline Finches. A **Lapland Longspur** was a nice treat for Gene Scarpulla and party at Hart-Miller on Nov. 15. Snow Buntings included 1 heard at Brown's Station on Nov. 13 (Iloff), 2 at Rocky Gap on Nov. 29 (Pisano, Janni), and 54 at Hart-Miller the same day. No males were seen in a flock of 150 **Bobolinks** at Scotland on Aug. 14 (Craig). Other large gatherings of Bobolinks included 300 at Easton on Sept. 4 (Reese), and 300 at Hurlock on Sept. 6 (Iloff, Stasz), with the final report of 7 near Talbot's Landing, Howard County on Oct. 22 (Ralph Geuder). An early **Purple Finch** turned up at Great Mills on Sept. 4 (Lisa Lister); another was at Rising Sun on Sept. 14 (Scott Powers). Jan Reese estimated about 350 **House Finches** at Bellevue on Oct. 26. A few **Red Crossbills** were found this fall including 1 at Centennial on Nov. 2 (Betts, Orr, Kerwin+), 1 heard at PWRC on Nov. 12 (Iloff), 1 near Old Neck Road, Cecil County on Nov. 15 (Griffith), 1 at PWRC/N on Nov. 19 (Iloff), 6 near Trotter Road, Howard County on Nov. 21 (Aelred Geis), and 3 at New Germany SP on Nov. 29 (Pisano, Janni). Also making an appearance were 8 **White-winged Crossbills** at Turkey Point on Nov. 14 (Griffith), and 8 at Germantown on Nov. 25 (Czaplak). Michael Bowen reported a **Common Redpoll** in Ocean City on Nov. 9, and Dave Harvey tallied about a dozen **Pine Siskins**, for the first of the season, at Hugg-Thomas WMA on Oct. 4. The high for Pine Siskins was 50 at Elkton on Nov. 14 (Griffith). **Evening Grosbeaks** began with 90 at Town Hill on Oct. 21 (Paulus), and 18 on Nov. 5 at Price Road Pond, Harford County and 25 the same day at Conowingo Lake (Blom). Connie Skipper found 30 Evening Grosbeaks near Oakland on Nov. 14.

Corrigendum: The 10 Lapland Longspurs and 50 Snow Buntings found by Doug Lister on Nov. 26, 1995 (Volume 53, No. 1) were actually at PRNAS, not at Point Lookout.

HAWK MIGRATION AT WASHINGTON MONUMENT STATE PARK FALL 1997

COMPILED BY DAVE WEESNER

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	8/30	11/3	117	17 on 9/19, 14 on 9/12
Bald Eagle	9/6	11/16	21	3 on 9/13, 3 on 10/30
Northern Harrier	9/6	11/26	51	4 on 9/19, 10/11 & 10/31
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/25	11/23	806	130 on 10/13, 87 on 9/19
Cooper's Hawk	9/1	11/12	82	13 on 10/10, 11 on 10/11
Northern Goshawk	10/30	11/4	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/16	11/23	61	15 on 11/11
Broad-winged Hawk	8/25	10/11	1900	1487 on 9/19, 117 on 9/14
Red-tailed Hawk	8/30	12/6	944	129 on 11/10, 103 on 11/11
Rough-legged Hawk			0	
Golden Eagle	11/2	11/25	6	2 on 11/19, 2 on 11/16
American Kestrel	8/29	10/20	45	6 on 10/10, 5 on 9/21
Merlin	9/7	10/31	4	
Peregrine Falcon	9/13	11/12	14	3 on 9/28
Unidentified			97	
TOTAL (79 days, 354 hours)	8/15	12/6	4,150	1611 on 9/19, 166 on 10/13

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