

ISSN 0147-9725



MARYLAND BIRDLIFE



Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

MARCH–DECEMBER 2000
VOLUME 56
NUMBERS 1– 4

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Cover: Young Brown Pelicans on Spring Island, Dorchester Co., MD, June 13, 2000.

Photo by George Armistead.



FIRST MARYLAND NEST OF LONG-EARED OWL (*ASIO OTUS*) SINCE 1950

MARSHALL J. ILIFF, MATT HAFNER AND GEORGE L. ARMISTEAD

The reclaimed strip mines on the east slope of Big Savage Mountain in southeastern Garrett and southwestern Allegany counties provide hundreds of acres of dry, hilltop grasslands that are unique in Maryland and have recently been an area of great interest to the authors. One of the more interesting of our discoveries was a Long-eared Owl nest found during the spring of 2000. What follows is a description of the nest site and the nesting progress of the owls, as well as an historical perspective on what is known of breeding Long-eared Owls at the southern margin of their range. Owing to the sensitive nature of the site and out of respect for the landowner, we do not give the specific location here, though the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program has been given the exact location.

Iliff, Hafner, Jim Stasz, and Kevin Fehskens visited the site around dusk on March 25, 2000 to look for Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*). After watching up to four Short-eared Owls and five Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) feed over the fields, we decided to investigate an isolated pine grove in the field for roosting owls, specifically Long-eared. The time was about 5:00 p.m. and after about five minutes of exploration Hafner called out that he had flushed an owl. Iliff and Fehskens were in a small clearing and able to see the bird fly overhead. For the next two minutes four *Asio* owls were seen flying overhead with languid wingbeats, periodically clapping their wings loudly. The sounds were unfamiliar, but eventually owls were seen to pause in the air and clap the wings together. Identification as Long-eared Owl was not obvious, since we knew Short-eared Owl to be in the area (albeit over the fields, not in the grove) and since light was fading.

After it seemed that the owls had settled in again, one owl could be heard calling a single long “whooo” note, repeated at 2-3 second intervals. We identified the call as the advertising call of Long-eared Owl. Iliff and Fehskens rejoined Hafner, who had flushed a single owl and not moved thereafter. We listened to the calling Long-eared Owl for a period, then attempted “squeaking” in a small clearing. Almost immediately, an *Asio* owl flew straight toward us and using a flashlight we were able to see the diagnostic primary pattern of Long-eared Owl. One more squeak and the owl came and sat on a nearby branch, allowing several minutes of magnificent perched views. Unaware of our discoveries within the grove, Stasz then joined us from the wood edge. We spent the next half hour listening to duetting Long-eared Owls giving the long “whooo” call from different locations within the grove. On the basis of the wing claps and the apparently territorial birds (we had never previously heard the advertising call in Maryland) we all agreed that we had probably discovered a nesting location for Long-eared

Owl, although we were surprised by the close proximity of two pairs. Our later research revealed that Long-eared Owl can breed in loose colonies, especially during times of exceptional prey density (e.g. Ehrlich et al. 1988).

The next visit to the site was on May 16, when Iliff and Armistead arrived at the grove at 5:00 p.m. planning to scour it for a Long-eared Owl nest. Iliff had recently spent time in Montana where Denver Holt of the Owl Institute of Montana shared much of what he had learned in 15 years of Long-eared Owl research there. Our strategy was to explore the entire grove looking for used squirrel, crow, or raptor nests, and hoping to flush a perched bird. While the female sits on the nest with the eggs or the young, the male perches nearby and the



*Adult male Long-eared Owl near nest,
Garrett County, May 16, 2000.
Photo by Marshall J. Iliff*

presence of a roosting male is how many nests in Montana have been discovered (Denver Holt, pers. comm.). After an hour of searching only one small corner remained to be checked. Iliff was startled when he glanced up to see four young Long-eared Owls sitting on a large stick nest about 6 m off the ground in a pine. We watched the nest for five minutes through the scope from a distance of 20 m and Iliff took several photos. In addition to the four downy young, the adult female was also on the nest. The male was found perched within 8 m of the nest where he was alert and watching us, but was otherwise undisturbed. Iliff took several photos of the male as well, before backing quietly out of the grove. Over fifteen Long-eared Owl perches were found in the grove, all in pines and marked by large amounts of whitewash and 2-4 cm pellets, though none looked recent. Further exploration of the field area revealed a pair of Short-eared Owls hunting through the evening (found nesting there in June), as well as long-dead individuals of both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls. Iliff returned at night with a small party of others on May 19 when one adult was seen on the grove edge and one young was still visible in the nest.

Our next visit to the site was on the morning of June 16, when Iliff, Hafner, and Stasz explored the grove. The nest was inactive and no birds were perched nearby. No recent evidence of roost sites was found then, despite considerable looking. Finally, near the north edge of the grove, we flushed a recently fledged Long-eared Owl and later we saw it well. Another Long-eared Owl flushed inside the grove but we did not see it well enough to determine the age. We left wishing to cause no further disturbance. On June 17 we visited at dusk but did not enter the grove. A single adult Long-eared Owl was hunting over the fields along the edge of the grove (Iliff, Hafner).

Iliff, Hafner, Armistead, and Stasz made a final visit to the site on July 1 at 12:00-1:00 a.m.. A small amount of squeaking on the east side of the grove elicited a calling response from a Short-eared Owl, and shortly after that we heard begging calls of at least two owls. The calls were short and raspy, unlike begging calls of more common Maryland owls. With a light we confirmed that the birds were Long-eared Owl fledglings, still with some down on the facial disks. One of the birds called from the edge of the grove, in plain view on a perch about 3 m high. The other was initially on the edge but moved several meters inside the grove and continued its begging calls from within. Iliff obtained several minutes of good tape recording of the calls. We did not see or hear adults in the area.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The nest site is in a pine grove (about 6 acres) atop a ridge in a reclaimed strip mine on Big Savage Mountain in southeastern Garrett County. The pine grove is roughly circular in shape and perched on the high point of a ridge through the fields. Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) is the dominant species inside the grove, but there are small patches of Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginianus*) and scattered White Pines (*Pinus strobus*) as well. All pines are between 9-15 meters tall and thus about 30 years of age.

The internal structure of the grove is ideal for Long-eared Owls (Rick Blom & Hal Wierenga pers. comm., pers. obs.), in that the understory is mostly clear providing clear flyways that the owls can drop into to move quickly through the forest. The several small clearings within the forest provide additional good hunting habitat.

The surrounding area is a several hundred acre reclaimed strip mine. The field area has undergone very little regeneration and hosts almost no woody plants. The grasses of the field are fairly dry and sparse along the ridgetops but can be quite lush, up to one meter tall in places, in areas of low relief that collect more water but remain dry underfoot. Some large patches of vetch (*Vicia* spp.) grow here. A central ridge runs roughly northeast to southwest at the site, with a few gullies creating small hillocks. At the location of the pine grove, a perpendicular ridge running roughly east-west joins on the east side of the main ridge, but does not continue to the west side of the ridge.

The presence of a wintering population of Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*), migrant Northern Harriers, and nesting Long-eared and Short-eared Owls at the site suggests a substantial small rodent population. Dissection of the 13 Long-eared Owl pellets collected on May 16 revealed that the birds had been feeding exclusively on Meadow Voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), with at least ten complete skulls in the pellets.

THE NEST SITE

The nest tree was located about 20 m from the edge of the grove along the northwest margin. It was placed in a fairly tall (17 m) Red Pine at about six meters. The nest was placed in a crotch where a horizontal branch met the trunk. It was a platform about 1 m in diameter, fairly deep (0.3 m) and was composed of large sticks, roughly 1-2 cm in diameter. Based on the construction of the nest, the size of the sticks used, and its location, Stasz and Iliff independently suspected it was built by Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*), which are common in the

area. An American Crow (*C. brachyrhynchos*) nest might also be possible, but the large sticks used did not seem consistent with a nest of that species.

STATUS IN MARYLAND

This is the ninth nest of Long-eared Owl found in Maryland, the first indication of nesting west of the Piedmont in Maryland, and the first nesting confirmation since 1950.

Long-eared Owl has apparently declined in Maryland as in other eastern states. Stewart & Robbins (1958) cite Alexander Wetmore who said this species "has decreased greatly over the recorded abundance of 50-60 years ago." Stewart & Robbins (1958) summarize the species' nesting in the state prior to 1958, and no nests have been known since:

"Rare and local permanent resident in the Piedmont and Western Shore sections. Also occurs in the Allegheny Mountain, Ridge and Valley, upper Chesapeake, and Eastern Shore sections. There are definite breeding records for Baltimore County near Randalstown in 1893 (Kirkwood 1895), in Dulaney Valley in 1898 (F. C. Kirkwood), near Sweetair in 1936 (F.C. Kirkwood), and near Loch Raven Reservoir in 1946 (Kolb 1947); for Montgomery County near Rockville (Baird et al. 1874), near Brighton in 1892 and Olney in 1950 (H. B. Stabler); for Prince George's County near College Park in 1945 (J.N. Hamlet); for Anne Arundel County (E.J. Court); and for the District of Columbia in 1890 (C.W. Richmond, E.M. Hasbrouck) and 1894 (W. Palmer, E.M. Hasbrouck)."

Nesting season is listed as "Mid-Mar to early Jun with extreme egg dates (5 nests) Apr 3, 1898, in Baltimore County (F.C. Kirkwood) and May 1, 1950, in Montgomery County (H.B. Stabler)." Extreme nestling dates (4 nests) are given as "Apr 14, 1946, in Baltimore County (Kolb 1947) and Jun 1, 1950 in Montgomery County (H.B. Stabler)." Kirkwood (1895) gives further details of the 1893 Randalstown nest "On Apr 22 (1893, Gray and Blogg), a set of six eggs, nearly hatched, was collected near Randalstown, from an old crow's nest about 20 feet up in a small pine." Kolb (1947) gives the best details of a Maryland nest. That nest was discovered at Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore County, in a 30-year-old pine plantation. One young and two eggs were in the nest at its discovery on April 14, 1946, and by April 20 all three eggs had hatched but the young were of quite different sizes. On April 28, and again on May 4, only the largest two chicks remained, and the smallest was found dead at the base of the nest tree. A visit on May 13 revealed no sign of adults or young, which were believed to have fledged by this date. Kolb describes various distraction displays which were performed on his three Apr visits. The nest was 18 ft from the ground in an old crow's nest, about 20 yards from the edge of the plantation, and about 200 yards from a small marshy area that Kolb thought was rich in Meadow Voles, and on April 14 he found one headless vole in the nest.

Any May sighting of a Long-eared Owl likely indicates a nesting attempt, but since the last confirmed breeding in 1950 there have been only two summer reports of Long-eared Owl in Maryland (Robert F. Ringler, pers. comm.). A bird was heard in Montgomery County May 28, 1967 (*Atlantic Naturalist* 22:180) and a sick male found in a yard near Royal Oak, Talbot County, on June 21, 1981 (*Maryland Birdlife* 37:138) died the same day. Though the gonads were reportedly very small, enlarged gonads would not be expected in June for a species that mates primarily in late winter and very early spring. There was an additional anecdotal report of an injured Long-eared Owl found in Somerset County and taken to a rehabilitation facility during the summer in the 1980s (Bobbie and Randy Stadler *vide* Jim Stasz).

STATUS IN SURROUNDING STATES

Long-eared Owl has been confirmed nesting in all northeastern states south to Virginia. In the Midwest, confirmed breeding extends south only to Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, except for a record from Arkansas (DeSante & Pyle 1986).

Delaware has just two breeding records: occupied nests found in 1937 in northern Delaware, one with 5 eggs on April 25 and another which had 4 young and 1 egg on May 4 (*Bird Lore* 39:315). Historical sources imply other records suggestive of breeding, and one heard giving the advertising call at Cape Henlopen in the Spring of 2000 was believed also to be a possible breeder (Mary Gustafson, pers. comm.).

In Virginia three nests were found in Loudoun County in 1973: one in a Scrub Pine 0.5 mi south of Dulles Airport had young in April; another nest off Rte. 645 between Arcola and Ashburn had five eggs, March 31 – April 4, and four young on May 2, which later fledged; the third on Dulles Airport property had four eggs in late April and four young in the nest on May 26, which were watched as fledglings through July (*Raven* 48:32). Clapp (1997) also mentions the following nests: one with six small young in the Balston heronry on April 20, 1890, another nest there with four small young, May 5-14, and a nest at Blacksburg with young, May 9-20, 1939. Clapp (1997) infers egg dates for Virginia as being April 2-26 for the Blacksburg nest, and March 25 - late April for the Balston nests. Other breeding records are known in the Mountain and Valleys Section from Highland, Russell, and Washington Counties (Kain 1990). Although Kain (1990) also mentions a nest record from Augusta County, that record is not included by Larner (1998) who lists just four winter records for the county.

In nearby Pennsylvania, Long-eared Owls are “rare and local breeding residents” which may be found statewide (McWilliams & Brauning 2000). Preferred habitat is described as “pine plantations and mixed woodlands close to open fields,” with Todd (1940) supporting the latter saying that while they are “generally associated with conifers, most prey items were meadow and house mice, residents of open country.” The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas found nesting in Beaver, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Tioga Counties. McWilliams & Brauning (2000) list additional nestings in Columbia and Indiana Counties since completion of the atlas in 1989. Additional historical nesting was cited from Beaver, Berks, Blair, Butler, Chester, Crawford, Erie, Lehigh, Montgomery, Warren, Westmoreland, and York Counties (Todd 1940, Poole unpub. ms.). Steve Santner in The Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (Brauning 1992) provides a thorough account of its breeding status in the state. Habitat in the northern part of the state is described as mixed woodlands with fields nearby for hunting while in the southern part of the state all “confirmed breeding records [4] were of birds in pine plantations near fields.” The account stresses the difficulty in surveying for this species in that not only are Long-eared Owls nocturnal, secretive, usually quiet, and rare across much of their range, but they also begin nesting early, even before all winter residents have departed. Thus April and March sightings are hard to categorize. That it is more common than shown by the atlas is recognized and made especially clear in that one observer in Carbon County was able to locate the species in three adjacent blocks, thanks to the “great deal of time he spent searching specifically for owls.”

Breeding evidence is scarce even in well-canvassed New England where it is presumably a more regular breeder. In Connecticut, Zeranski & Baptist (1990) call it a “very rare and infrequent nester in dense, mature woodlands” with the “most recent nesting in 1982 in Wethersfield.” Veit & Peterson (1993) describe its status in Massachusetts as a “rare breeder”

for which it is “exceedingly difficult to find conclusive evidence.” They list nine locations that have had breeding confirmations (nests or recently fledged young) since 1955, but note that calling birds have been heard at a number of other localities in the state.

Long-eared Owl numbers have declined markedly since the turn of the century. Declines are specifically mentioned for Maryland (Stewart & Robbins 1958), Delaware (Hess et al. 2000), Pennsylvania (McWilliams & Brauning 2000), and Connecticut (Zeranski & Baptist 1992). In Brauning (1992) Steve Santner points out that Long-eared Owls may have been persecuted by those that mistook them for Great Horned Owls — a species that carried a bounty for many years. It seems also that modern day birders and ornithologists are less likely to encounter Long-eared Owls, especially nesters. Modern day birders are less intrepid, spending more time at refuges and birding from well-marked trails rather than backcountry areas frequented by ornithologists of days past. Further, much of what is probably appropriate habitat for this species is probably tied up in private land and not accessible.

DISCUSSION

It is clear that in 2000 at least one pair of Long-eared Owls nested at this site in southeast Garrett County. One fledged young seen on June 16 and two seen on July 1 were presumably from this nest. Baicich & Harrison (1997) say that young leave the nest at 23-24 days, fly at 30-40 days, and are independent at about 60 days. Based on this information, we estimate that the owls photographed in the nest on May 16 were about two weeks old. Assuming an incubation period of 30 days (Baicich & Harrison 1997) implies egg laying in late March or early April. At the time of the observation on May 19 I had assumed that only one bird was present because of predation or because they were out of sight in the nest basin. After revisiting the site I do not think the fairly large owlets could have hidden from view on May 19 and think it more likely that three birds left the nest between May 16 and 19. On June 16 the one fledgling we saw was fully capable of flight, matching well the estimates suggested by Baicich & Harrison (1997), who would have the birds flying by June 5 if they left the nest on or about May 19. Although our March 25 visit suggested that there were two territorial Long-eared Owl pairs in the area, we had no further evidence of more than one pair despite the four return visits to the site. I think it unlikely that another pair nested in the grove, since the one occupied nest appeared to be the only possible nest site available.

We are, of course, anxious to learn whether the owls will return to this site. The winter of 1999-2000 was a very good one for owls. Judging by reports submitted to *North American Birds* for the mid-Atlantic Region, numbers of Long-eared Owls were above average (Liff and Stasz found wintering Long-eared Owls at four additional sites in Maryland during the winter) and Short-eared Owls were far above the recent average. Northern Saw-whet Owls are the best understood of the irruptive winter owls due to recent banding operations throughout the East. The fall of 1999 was the best year ever at many inland monitoring sites and second only to the fall of 1995 at coastal stations. The winter of 1995-1996 also seemed to be an especially good year for Long-eared Owl, judging by birder reports, so there may be some correlation between invasions of Northern Saw-whet Owl and years of abundance for Long-eared Owl. Since nesting populations of Long-eared Owl are highly mobile and will nest only when prey density is sustainable, it will be interesting to monitor this potential colony in later years.

Early April checks of other known Long-eared Owl roost sites in Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties revealed no birds or recent evidence in a cursory check of the former site, but one bird was still roosting at the latter site on April 9 (Liff, Armistead). A return visit to the

Talbot County site on May 8 did not turn up any Long-eared Owls and revealed no evidence of nesting, though the search was not thorough enough to eliminate the possibility. Given the oft-cited difficulty of finding breeding evidence in this species, we deem it likely that the species persists as a regular nester in Maryland, though focused searches will be necessary to confirm this. Such searches should concentrate on known winter roost sites and in pine groves amid or adjacent to extensive suitable fields that are rich in rodent life, especially those known to host Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers in winter.



*Nest with young Long-eared Owls,
Garrett County, May 16, 2000.
Photo by Marshall J. Iliff*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks are due Jim Stasz, who discovered the area in question and who was integral to the exploration of the site and monitoring of the owl nest. Bob Ringer's impressive database aided tremendously with tracking down previous Maryland nest records, and Bob graciously provided a copy of Kolb's 1947 paper. Denver Holt of the Owl Institute of Montana showed Iliff nesting areas in Montana and provided essential tips on how to locate an active nest. Finally, we would like to thank Hal Wierenga and Rick Blom, both of whom know more about Maryland Long-eared Owls than any others, and who have gradually imparted some of their accumulated wisdom to the authors.

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MAY COUNT REPORT: SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1999

WANDA DIANE COLE

This was the 52nd annual statewide May Count for Maryland. This year, a total of 484 Maryland birders spent 1,717.71 hours traveling 5,456.3 miles to count and identify 171,184 birds — an average result. There were 251 bird species observed in Maryland, with two of them reported for the first time in the state's history of May Count. Birders were in the field for most of the 24-hour day, with 68 observers spending 42.5 hours and traveling 220 miles to report 371 nocturnal birds.

Species highlights include the “first-time for May Count” sighting by David Raleigh Smith of a Franklin's Gull in a recently plowed field near Burkittsville in Frederick County (FR). Another “first” is a single Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow reported by Jim Boxwell, Anne Bishop and Patty Craig, who observed the bird along St. Clarence Creek in St. Mary's County (SM). This species has recently been recognized as a distinct species, and any previous sightings would have been reported as simply Sharp-tailed Sparrow. A Mississippi Kite was observed at Myrtle Point Park in St. Mary's County by Jane Kostenko and J. Tyler Bell. This species was last reported during May Counts 1996 and 1993. Thirteen Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported by 10 observers in seven counties, all west of Chesapeake Bay; a Western Sandpiper was observed by Doty Mumford along the edge of a pond near Harwood in Anne Arundel County (AA); two Sedge Wrens, one in Garrett County (GA), the other observed in Prince George's County (PG) by Dan Boone, Jon Boone, and Barbara Dowell. A single Swainson's Warbler was observed at Tuckahoe State Park in Caroline County (CN) by Mike Price and Steve Westre. All of these species required the submittal of full details of the sighting.

Interesting species observed, which required some details, include a single Red-throated Loon (CV), two Northern Gannets (TA), 30 Brown Pelicans (SM,TA,DO), one Anhinga (SM), 30 Snow Geese (KE), one Redhead (GA), one Black Scoter (SM), two Merlins (CH,SM), five Peregrine Falcons (AA,QA,DO), two Black Rails (DO), one Upland Sandpiper (PG), two White-rumped Sandpipers (DO), two Stilt Sandpipers (DO), one Black-headed Gull (KE), one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (SM), one Philadelphia Vireo (PG), 16 Common Ravens (GA,AL,WA,FR), one Red-breasted Nuthatch (AL), one Winter Wren (GA), two Brewster's Warblers- a hybrid of Blue-winged x Golden-winged (AL,PG), one Orange-crowned Warbler (SM), 3 Henslow's Sparrows (GA), two Lincoln's Sparrows (AL,AA), four Dickcissels (GA,HA,AA), and 19 Rusty Blackbirds (HA,PG).

Species missed on this count include Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Surf and White-winged Scoters. Sadly, the two species with the highest number of individuals were Common Grackle, 10,017, and European Starling, 8,386. Other “problematic” avians: House Sparrow, 2,604, Brown-headed Cowbird, 1,755, Blue Jay, 3,200, American Crow, 3,523, and Fish Crow + crow sp., 1,094.

Ospreys, 850, and Bald Eagles, 204, show a healthy rebound from the days of DDT poisoning. The harbingers of spring, American Robin, 5,613, and Eastern Bluebird, 1,473, continue at stable numbers. This is the average during the 1990s for bluebirds, whose num-

bers would vary +/- 200. The number for robins is also typical; however, during the 1990s, its numbers have bobbed back and forth across the mean by as many as 3,000.

The breakdown by species group: owls, four species, 194 individuals; caprimulgids, three species, 177 individuals; herons, six species, 1,558 individuals; egrets, three species, 285 individuals; bay/non-sea ducks, 21 species, 2,829 individuals; swallows, six species, 10,723 individuals; wrens, five species, 2,558 individuals; vultures, two species, 2,228 individuals; buteos, three species, 461 individuals; accipiters, two species, 150 individuals; falcons, three species, 79 individuals; rails, five species, 207 individuals.

Grassland species: Bobolink, 4,194, is the high for the 1990s, up from a low of 1,600 in 1996, and was reported in all but three counties. Eastern Meadowlark, 442, is down by ten from last year, up from a low of 356 in 1996. It was reported from all but two counties, but it is still in decline from its 1992 report of 691. Northern Bobwhite, 147, was missed in eight counties, is up from last year's low of 91, but continues to decline from a "high" of 411 in 1993. This is a sad reflection of the bias toward placing development and athletic complexes in "previously disturbed areas," rather than setting aside some of these areas as managed grassland habitat. In the days of my youth (mid-1960s), my explorations happened upon a young brood of 20 bobwhite chicks. I often fell asleep listening to the twilight calls between bobwhite adults and their young. Red-winged Blackbird, 8,010, on the other hand, is one grassland species still doing quite well, although this is down from its 1992 high of 11,151. Old field species have remained stable since 1992: Yellow-breasted Chat, 369; Prairie Warbler, 530; and American Goldfinch, 3,470.

Have Cattle Egrets found their way back to the African continent? This year's sighting of 73 Cattle Egrets is the record low for this decade, 324 in 1992, and less than half of last year's total of 165. All things being equal regarding number of observers and weather conditions, this appears to be an interesting decline. The night-heron numbers are up from last year: Black-crowned, from 9 to 34, Yellow-crowned, from 6 to 17, and are nearly typical for the decade. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron numbers have not exceeded 10 during the decade, but the number of Black-crowned Night-Herons is far lower than the 171 reported in 1992.

As the saying goes, if you don't like the weather in Maryland, wait 20 minutes and it will change. And so it did for this day. The weather across the state: low of 44° to a high of 70° in the Allegheny Plateau (GA, AL), with rain ending before noon, mostly cloudy all day; low of 59° to high of 75-80° in the Ridge and Valley region (WA, FR), rain ending before noon, variable cloudiness; the Piedmont region (HO,MO) recorded a low of 60° to high of 77°, rain ending by noon, variable clouds; western Coastal Plain (PG, AA, SM, CV, CH) reported a low of 48-64° at dawn to a high of 72-84°, with localized rain showers in the afternoon, variable cloudiness and light to variable winds; and the eastern Coastal Plain started with a low of 53-65°, high of 73-86°, no rain, and predominantly cloudy. Winds across the state were predominantly from the south, ranging from light winds from the southeast to steady winds (10-15 mph) from the southwest. The birds were catching a good tail wind all day.

I want to thank my husband, Danny K. Watkins, and former co-worker, Mark Eanes, for helping me enter data for this report, with special thanks to Mark Eanes and fellow MOS member, Dr. Mark Johnson, for helping me understand and use the Excel software which produced the table. Until next year....

PARTICIPANTS IN MAY COUNT 1999

(Names of compilers are in bold italics.)

Allegany (AL): Gwen Brewer, Roy Brown, John Churchill, Chuck Hager, Emily Hager, Olivia Hager, Pam Hager, Charlotte Icardi, Barbara Johnson, Kevin Kalajz, Tracy Kalajz, Ray Kiddy, Toa Kyle, Dorothea Malec, John W. Norris, Susan Sires, Mary Twigg, Bob Twigg. **Compiled by Teresa Simons.**

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Baltimore County & City (BA): Bill Balfour, Jeanne Bowman, Anne Brooks, Brent Byers, Mary Byers, Simon Calle, Mary Jo Campbell, Ruth Culbertson, Ralph Cullison, JoAnn Dryer, Muffin Evander, Gail Frantz, Greg Futral, Shirley Geddes, Kevin Graff, Josie Gray, Dot Gustafson, Ann Higgins, Jane Highsaw, Him Highsaw, Kye Jenkins, Sukon Kanchanaraksa, Elliot Kirschbaum, Nancy Kirschbaum, Dolly Leonig, Peter Lev, **Michele Melia**, Paul Noell, Patsy Perlman, Mac Plant, Linda Prentice, Meg Pryor, Bob Rineer, Steve Sanford, Jeannie Sawyers, Gene Scarpulla, Steve Simon, Van Stewart, Deborah Terry, Pete Webb.

(continued on page 24)

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AA Anne Arundel	HA Harford
AL Allegany	HO Howard
BA Baltimore City/County combined	KE Kent
CV Calvert	MO Montgomery
CE Cecil	PG Prince George's
CH Charles	QA Queen Anne's
CR Carroll	SM St. Mary's
CN Caroline	SO Somerset
DC Washington, D.C.	TA Talbot
DO Dorchester	WA Washington
FR Frederick	WI Wicomico
GA Garrett	WO Worcester

MAY COUNT 1999

Species:	GA	AL	WA	FR	CR	BA	HA	CE	HO	MO	DC
Red-throated Loon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Common Loon	11	0	0	1	1	1	8	3	1	0	~
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	~
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	~
Northern Gannet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Brown Pelican	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Double-crested Cormorant	17	0	7	72	18	133	52	61	17	116	~
Anhinga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
American Bittern	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	~
Least Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	~
Great Blue Heron	4	16	4	15	2	98	73	15	56	123	~
Great Egret	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	1	~
Snowy Egret	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	1	1	0	~
Little Blue Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	~
Tricolored Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Cattle Egret	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	~
Green Heron	10	12	10	23	3	9	8	6	28	19	~
Black-crowned Night-Heron	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	12	~
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	2	~
Glossy Ibis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	~
Black Vulture	0	2	14	5	0	31	15	33	44	14	~
Turkey Vulture	54	60	78	91	22	67	25	53	145	67	~
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Canada Goose	96	85	184	442	27	228	84	40	531	478	~
Mute Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	~
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Wood Duck	37	50	10	15	0	8	35	9	28	42	~
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
American Wigeon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	~
American Black Duck	0	1	0	159	0	0	5	2	0	2	~
Mallard	140	47	151	0	8	73	8	30	138	135	~
Blue-winged Teal	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Northern Pintail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	~
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Redhead	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Ring-necked Duck	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	~
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Lesser Scaup	10	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	0	0	~
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
White-winged Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Oldsquaw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Hooded Merganser	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	~
Red-breasted Merganser	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Common Merganser	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	~
Ruddy Duck	6	0	27	0	0	1	26	6	10	1	~

MAY COUNT 1999

PG	AA	CV	CH	SM	KE	QA	CN	TA	DO	WI	SO	WO	MD Total
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
0	6	10	1	17	3	2	0	4	16	3	~	1	89
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	~	1	8
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	~	0	6
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	~	0	2
0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	1	15	0	~	0	30
176	357	47	39	79	25	21	11	102	34	155	~	31	1570
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	8
1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	~	0	11
140	131	28	178	50	52	56	52	47	86	2	~	0	1228
5	4	5	2	7	1	7	0	5	30	0	~	11	87
1	10	10	0	3	2	8	5	5	69	0	~	4	125
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	2
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	2	3
0	1	0	0	23	2	20	8	3	1	0	~	1	73
36	30	15	5	12	13	9	13	8	3	0	~	2	274
1	2	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	7	0	~	0	34
0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	5	17
0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	~	16	24
15	33	23	15	19	43	26	11	8	12	0	~	1	364
97	194	92	57	92	160	106	157	131	45	28	~	43	1864
0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	~	1	26
554	198	74	238	162	130	46	125	77	266	32	~	72	4169
0	59	23	1	79	48	47	0	16	12	0	~	0	294
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	~	0	2
106	67	0	19	22	27	24	23	19	37	0	~	3	581
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	~	0	5
5	2	0	1	6	3	3	0	1	35	0	~	0	225
148	213	110	50	85	169	98	45	39	40	16	~	0	1743
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	~	0	19
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	2	0	~	0	22
0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	11
0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	6
0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	36
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	~	0	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	~	0	1
9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	23
0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	~	0	10
0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	9
0	19	0	2	0	25	0	0	6	0	0	~	0	129

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

Species:	GA	AL	WA	FR	CR	BA	HA	CE	HO	MO	DC
Osprey	1	0	1	5	0	22	22	0	2	5	~
Mississippi Kite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Bald Eagle	2	1	9	1	0	1	29	6	4	3	~
Northern Harrier	1	4	8	4	0	4	8	2	6	3	~
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	3	2	0	2	4	1	5	1	~
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	5	3	0	0	2	0	33	0	~
Red-shouldered Hawk	13	7	14	10	1	11	1	2	7	19	~
Broad-winged Hawk	9	10	20	1	11	4	0	0	15	0	~
Red-tailed Hawk	3	6	11	25	5	13	7	8	4	10	~
American Kestrel	0	0	0	21	0	4	4	1	0	0	~
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Ring-necked Pheasant	15	2	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	~
Ruffed Grouse	24	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	~
Wild Turkey	0	0	0	5	0	5	8	0	2	2	~
Northern Bobwhite	0	1	0	0	0	0	15	1	0	1	~
Black Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Clapper Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
King Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	~
Virginia Rail	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	~
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	~
Common Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	~
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	~
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	~
Semipalmated Plover	55	36	21	0	0	12	0	16	47	1	~
Killdeer	0	3	1	36	1	35	10	10	15	15	~
Greater Yellowlegs	13	0	1	18	0	6	3	15	2	1	~
Lesser Yellowlegs	10	8	4	15	0	19	1	22	97	1	~
Solitary Sandpiper	32	11	19	30	0	22	8	9	49	10	~
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	~
Spotted Sandpiper	1	4	3	48	3	40	15	6	1	34	~
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Semipalmated Sandpiper	16	9	0	6	0	16	0	10	88	3	~
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Least Sandpiper	2	0	0	20	0	119	15	115	2	1	~
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	15	3	0	~
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	~
Stilt Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Peep sp.	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	~
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Common Snipe	9	2	3	8	0	0	1	1	2	0	~
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	~
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	~
Franklin's Gull	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Black-headed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Bonaparte's Gull	0	1	0	0	0	8	3	0	3	~	~
Ring-billed Gull	3	1	1	44	0	30	12	332	21	18	~

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

PG	AA	CV	CH	SM	KE	QA	CN	TA	DO	WI	SO	WO	MD Total
51	216	42	85	126	39	56	30	76	39	29	~	3	850
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
6	23	8	19	15	14	8	12	7	31	3	~	2	204
10	12	0	1	4	1	0	3	3	9	0	~	1	84
4	60	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	89
0	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	~	0	61
11	15	9	5	17	1	1	0	0	1	0	~	1	146
0	43	0	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	~	1	124
14	20	7	12	14	5	10	7	0	7	0	~	3	191
16	13	3	1	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	~	0	72
0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	2
0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	~	1	5
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	25
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	44
0	3	13	1	2	1	4	19	5	10	0	~	10	90
6	14	4	7	11	5	21	25	18	15	1	~	2	147
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	~	0	2
0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	20	0	~	0	25
2	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	3	5	~	0	18
0	3	1	2	2	9	0	0	18	104	0	~	0	147
0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	~	0	15
0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	14	9	0	~	0	31
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	~	0	16
0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	~	1000	1008
1	36	6	1	3	38	2	15	5	95	0	~	14	404
37	28	17	20	39	16	11	30	51	21	5	~	5	406
43	18	28	10	17	6	16	10	18	25	4	~	8	262
17	15	38	23	34	55	5	5	17	35	0	~	6	427
32	17	3	7	6	4	2	0	4	23	0	~	2	290
0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	~	7	30
55	61	19	16	59	12	5	9	10	3	0	~	0	404
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	~	6	14
0	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	~	0	20
11	40	22	0	3	9	0	6	22	25	0	~	0	286
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
50	101	69	20	86	385	3	29	8	198	0	~	24	1247
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	~	0	2
0	4	0	0	2	38	0	17	0	1	0	~	0	85
0	0	0	0	0	75	0	0	6	259	0	~	10	359
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	~	0	2
0	0	0	0	2	0	50	0	15	0	0	~	0	87
0	0	5	0	0	8	0	0	0	4	0	~	4	21
0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	~	1	31
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	~	0	13
382	677	0	9	0	116	346	17	2498	160	155	~	166	4529
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
0	13	1	0	2	56	0	0	0	0	1	~	0	88
69	210	108	114	322	627	91	63	96	4	2	~	19	2187

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

Species:	GA	AL	WA	FR	CR	BA	HA	CE	HO	MO	DC
Herring Gull	0	0	0	0	0	384	1	5	0	0	~
Great Black-backed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	185	0	0	0	0	~
Gull sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	~
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	0	0	294	14	0	0	0	~
Royal Tern	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	~
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8	0	0	~
Forster's Tern	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	~
Least Tern	0	0	0	0	0	8	15	0	0	0	~
Rock Dove	67	44	119	145	43	87	7	3	160	34	~
Mourning Dove	162	95	238	246	60	121	51	38	344	105	~
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	7	6	1	1	1	0	0	7	4	~
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	19	24	41	5	9	8	6	19	61	~
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Great Horned Owl	0	1	3	3	0	1	0	1	4	1	~
Barred Owl	3	2	4	4	0	3	0	0	9	5	~
Common Nighthawk	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	3	~
Chuck-will's-widow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Whip-poor-will	0	3	4	6	0	7	0	2	0	0	~
Chimney Swift	18	53	89	229	47	49	14	34	181	121	~
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	51	23	21	10	6	15	5	2	16	22	~
Belted Kingfisher	6	7	6	19	3	12	6	1	23	7	~
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	~
Red-bellied Woodpecker	19	51	74	103	21	82	25	17	220	96	~
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Downy Woodpecker	45	29	37	59	10	34	2	4	84	33	~
Hairy Woodpecker	10	6	14	12	1	7	4	0	26	11	~
Northern Flicker	49	33	38	40	11	31	17	7	65	33	~
Pileated Woodpecker	15	28	12	23	1	5	1	1	30	41	~
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	4	7	22	1	13	2	3	21	34	~
Acadian Flycatcher	2	10	3	62	1	15	3	4	45	59	~
Willow Flycatcher	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	~
Least Flycatcher	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Empidonax sp.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	~
Eastern Phoebe	52	37	42	48	4	28	4	3	70	28	~
Great Crested Flycatcher	15	36	44	103	10	31	17	24	44	71	~
Eastern Kingbird	21	20	44	95	2	109	82	15	120	39	~
White-eyed Vireo	3	9	5	11	19	63	40	14	114	41	~
Blue-headed Vireo	57	2	2	3	1	1	1	0	4	1	~
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	18	4	7	7	27	9	4	36	21	~
Warbling Vireo	2	5	24	15	4	6	0	3	4	113	~
Philadelphia Vireo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Red-eyed Vireo	78	78	38	122	23	163	47	34	401	218	~
Blue Jay	237	152	204	150	65	333	28	45	404	165	~
American Crow	318	146	210	304	72	182	19	58	478	277	~
Fish Crow	0	14	12	61	1	36	12	3	41	14	~
Crow sp.	0	0	0	0	0	24	12	0	284	60	~
Common Raven	6	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Horned Lark	0	3	0	18	0	0	0	12	2	0	~
Purple Martin	8	0	93	72	35	13	13	10	60	5	~

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

PG	AA	CV	CH	SM	KE	QA	CN	TA	DO	WI	SO	WO	MD Total
10	70	17	26	104	8	44	1	39	60	0	~	20	789
1	34	7	24	29	1	4	0	9	35	0	~	7	336
25	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	~	0	51
3	5	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	~	0	321
0	29	45	59	22	1	0	0	0	1	5	~	0	167
0	4	25	1	1	4	3	0	2	8	0	~	0	60
9	28	23	10	71	2	9	12	18	65	20	~	24	299
0	4	1	0	0	5	33	3	0	7	0	~	0	76
38	74	1	3	6	43	28	105	9	4	6	~	8	1034
276	219	105	119	151	195	107	120	164	67	10	~	14	3007
2	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	~	0	36
58	13	6	33	8	4	5	13	14	14	3	~	0	363
1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	~	0	9
2	5	1	2	2	4	0	2	2	1	0	~	0	28
2	0	3	0	4	12	0	5	28	10	0	~	1	79
1	11	10	8	3	2	0	8	2	3	0	~	0	78
31	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	~	0	46
0	1	1	1	13	0	1	2	8	31	1	~	1	60
8	5	6	5	3	0	0	9	0	12	0	~	1	71
219	165	50	83	111	48	36	179	58	13	7	~	4	1808
15	48	16	7	22	9	11	42	13	8	5	~	7	374
15	19	14	7	11	2	2	5	5	1	1	~	0	172
1	1	1	8	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	~	1	27
128	121	66	68	72	26	48	42	45	7	6	~	7	1344
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
28	33	26	11	24	11	13	17	17	12	4	~	4	537
14	13	4	2	6	3	1	2	10	2	0	~	1	149
33	69	8	10	22	14	14	14	27	17	5	~	3	560
26	23	10	10	7	4	5	16	3	5	0	~	4	270
32	20	23	25	20	14	14	18	10	6	6	~	10	311
64	48	85	41	57	4	8	8	4	1	8	~	16	548
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	4
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	~	0	9
1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	~	0	7
49	31	18	22	16	6	8	24	0	0	2	~	4	496
39	43	16	24	56	39	53	78	66	28	18	~	17	872
89	120	25	30	42	25	22	38	25	23	19	~	2	1007
110	124	66	75	117	36	47	32	14	18	12	~	11	981
0	11	0	1	1	3	0	8	0	0	0	~	0	96
17	18	8	8	5	4	0	3	2	0	2	~	8	212
1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	181
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
333	345	242	209	248	46	44	45	49	13	15	~	9	2800
208	730	78	0	116	45	68	83	60	6	13	~	10	3200
239	334	149	162	278	40	42	74	78	35	14	~	14	3523
43	39	19	10	33	13	18	20	41	11	3	~	4	448
67	54	32	3	43	0	25	32	10	0	0	~	0	646
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	16
4	0	0	1	9	1	17	57	10	12	1	~	2	149
40	210	193	141	113	66	73	345	107	70	34	~	4	1705

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

Species:	GA	AL	WA	FR	CR	BA	HA	CE	HO	MO	DC
Tree Swallow	373	40	124	54	21	147	1300	92	63	82	~
N. Rough-winged Swallow	45	24	51	38	0	42	4	28	64	32	~
Bank Swallow	19	0	1	0	1	900	109	5	0	1	~
Barn Swallow	313	62	80	213	48	294	324	26	305	57	~
Cliff Swallow	53	11	2	0	0	50	0	0	53	8	~
Carolina Chickadee	0	0	67	121	25	106	16	52	245	176	~
Black-capped Chickadee	244	64	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Tufted Titmouse	116	107	111	152	54	136	12	21	349	184	~
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
White-breasted Nuthatch	58	26	23	27	7	24	3	3	39	31	~
Brown-headed Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	~
Carolina Wren	11	38	52	93	11	84	23	23	206	114	~
House Wren	67	35	76	123	30	62	14	10	125	107	~
Winter Wren	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Sedge Wren	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Marsh Wren	0	2	0	1	0	6	11	0	0	0	~
Golden-crowned Kinglet	15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	2	4	5	2	10	4	0	24	1	~
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	38	95	36	129	21	105	30	40	309	171	~
Eastern Bluebird	32	34	136	61	15	49	62	7	145	24	~
Veery	7	2	1	11	11	59	5	6	65	20	~
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	~
Swainson's Thrush	3	1	6	10	1	24	2	1	46	18	~
Hermit Thrush	18	6	1	3	0	4	1	0	3	0	~
Wood Thrush	49	37	82	219	48	110	34	42	354	105	~
American Robin	443	403	480	554	107	264	28	108	426	98	~
Gray Catbird	125	113	145	454	206	383	53	65	706	272	~
Northern Mockingbird	1	29	116	137	17	69	39	42	199	39	~
Brown Thrasher	19	20	44	29	8	4	12	14	23	13	~
European Starling	226	214	630	1006	127	260	189	109	696	186	~
American Pipit	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	15	10	0	~
Cedar Waxwing	2	90	57	70	48	235	25	13	286	255	~
Blue-winged Warbler	1	5	2	4	12	19	0	7	27	4	~
Brewster's Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Golden-winged Warbler	11	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	~
Tennessee Warbler	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	9	~
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Nashville Warbler	4	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	~
Northern Parula	30	15	2	85	25	126	50	34	231	203	~
Yellow Warbler	91	64	31	102	34	94	129	16	145	35	~
Chestnut-sided Warbler	76	16	2	13	2	45	2	1	36	18	~
Magnolia Warbler	48	10	2	10	3	17	5	2	41	12	~
Cape May Warbler	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	2	~
Black-throated Blue Warbler	34	7	4	50	58	173	14	9	294	115	~
Yellow-rumped Warbler	64	53	72	149	19	552	250	232	705	203	~
Black-throated Green Warbler	148	16	10	17	12	66	14	2	54	17	~
Blackburnian Warbler	25	0	1	4	2	4	0	0	3	8	~
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	11	4	1	0	2	0	1	5	16	~
Pine Warbler	1	6	5	2	0	7	0	4	5	5	~

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

PG	AA	CV	CH	SM	KE	QA	CN	TA	DO	WI	SO	WO	MD Total
205	497	24	82	59	225	36	77	40	54	4	~	8	3607
17	45	69	12	22	7	1	1	0	0	0	~	2	504
0	47	5	0	2	10	4	3	6	7	0	~	0	1120
207	250	149	193	213	161	191	186	138	121	31	~	44	3606
1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	~	0	181
152	168	65	73	100	51	41	48	66	24	20	~	19	1635
0	0	0	0	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	312
202	221	96	102	158	33	45	53	60	26	15	~	17	2270
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
25	10	3	3	2	2	2	6	13	1	0	~	4	312
0	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	9	0	~	3	21
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	2
128	177	109	72	119	37	65	48	66	19	19	~	10	1524
33	73	7	4	8	7	23	18	11	16	2	~	4	855
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	2
8	8	15	12	8	35	2	1	2	63	0	~	2	176
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	17
1	13	1	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	~	0	85
193	166	110	112	43	8	24	16	12	27	18	~	26	1729
135	129	103	91	129	61	41	119	52	35	6	~	7	1473
23	31	2	0	8	4	7	1	5	1	0	~	0	269
2	4	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	13
12	29	1	2	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	~	0	164
4	0	2	0	1	0	2	6	0	0	0	~	0	51
240	276	117	76	130	115	88	49	72	2	15	~	19	2279
301	327	181	153	296	292	402	419	218	56	28	~	29	5613
280	305	56	50	118	54	128	55	55	12	12	~	5	3652
70	114	48	61	159	107	90	96	61	22	11	~	7	1534
35	42	26	21	114	12	25	40	23	0	4	~	7	535
712	455	261	204	745	435	273	1000	217	250	66	~	125	8386
0	1	0	0	0	2	100	0	0	0	0	~	0	137
150	217	106	27	131	15	53	27	66	15	7	~	0	1895
0	1	0	1	1	5	2	0	1	0	0	~	0	92
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	16
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	~	0	18
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	16
162	167	149	135	87	50	40	9	33	2	2	~	6	1643
61	66	13	13	22	35	16	8	15	8	7	~	3	1008
6	10	3	0	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	~	1	240
15	23	1	2	2	4	2	1	4	0	0	~	0	204
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	~	0	12
191	60	33	8	23	21	7	3	15	2	1	~	0	1122
344	523	24	54	50	182	297	58	79	24	4	~	1	3939
20	19	11	1	3	12	0	0	2	0	0	~	0	424
4	2	0	0	0	8	1	1	0	0	0	~	0	63
5	6	22	2	1	3	2	1	1	2	4	~	10	100
7	27	20	22	45	5	4	2	14	34	8	~	8	231

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

PG	AA	CV	CH	SM	KE	QA	CN	TA	DO	WI	SO	WO	MD Total
55	82	11	37	65	2	4	26	3	7	9	~	16	530
2	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	~	0	27
6	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	~	0	29
70	76	48	29	51	9	9	4	7	3	0	~	2	603
1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	54
64	79	51	10	37	29	28	11	20	2	2	~	10	848
115	113	40	19	11	19	7	0	19	6	3	~	24	1244
18	11	2	16	4	3	8	11	3	5	15	~	24	151
1	3	18	0	16	1	2	2	12	8	4	~	12	210
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	~	0	1
181	186	20	97	156	24	35	26	41	22	23	~	24	1665
16	25	3	5	4	16	4	2	3	0	0	~	0	184
11	9	20	17	11	5	2	1	7	0	2	~	4	224
37	7	29	17	21	5	8	3	6	0	1	~	0	217
338	402	110	101	195	148	112	58	115	105	28	~	16	3470
44	20	60	45	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	2	290
0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	9
1	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	53
51	24	24	36	41	13	11	34	1	15	2	~	9	369
8	11	28	14	27	0	1	3	11	7	7	~	4	128
81	77	54	52	33	25	20	8	16	2	5	~	4	948
141	176	45	55	77	39	40	41	38	17	11	~	0	1633
113	85	50	62	157	34	80	122	38	60	34	~	11	1806
88	86	45	25	37	14	81	47	9	3	4	~	5	904
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	~	0	17
60	59	0	5	13	19	1	3	14	11	0	~	4	406
19	9	4	17	75	10	18	14	21	14	3	~	0	287
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	3
0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	0	~	0	18
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	1
0	1	16	0	5	0	0	0	0	111	0	~	0	133
86	39	31	16	72	17	27	29	11	10	0	~	1	1384
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	2
51	33	1	3	3	13	11	0	4	9	0	~	2	281
172	183	21	5	22	57	65	11	24	3	0	~	3	1973
0	2	0	0	1	6	7	2	2	1	0	~	0	155
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	10
382	467	179	135	235	151	146	95	143	24	37	~	12	4528
14	31	0	0	1	5	3	0	12	0	0	~	1	309
20	31	12	16	38	9	18	55	8	18	9	~	0	268
364	136	119	143	176	32	60	61	24	35	7	~	11	2014
0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	4
210	91	2515	40	7	2	1	0	4	1	0	~	0	4194
456	800	405	232	536	626	486	409	390	501	168	~	74	8010
21	17	11	16	47	11	11	7	12	20	3	~	5	442
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	19
0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	21	0	~	7	34
540	565	371	282	1034	642	844	1276	500	500	104	~	127	10017
167	123	74	35	123	105	99	96	61	32	24	~	32	1755
4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	~	0	59

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

Species:	GA	AL	WA	FR	CR	BA	HA	CE	HO	MO	DC
Orchard Oriole	2	9	10	11	2	21	45	6	34	12	~
Baltimore Oriole	70	58	121	99	34	90	28	32	92	45	~
Purple Finch	24	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
House Finch	62	58	162	122	32	58	9	25	145	53	~
Pine Siskin	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~
American Goldfinch	323	235	204	323	38	209	19	24	456	256	~
House Sparrow	58	165	202	419	41	65	9	24	168	45	~
Total Individuals	7822	5273	6980	11864	2544	11584	4944	3292	17554	8,046	~
Total Species	147	144	143	152	103	160	139	133	147	146	~
Observers	36	18	24	20	6	40	6	7	68	40	~
Owlers	3	2	4	2	0	~	0	4	2	4	~
Total Parties	37	18	15	10	5	~	2	5	37	22	~
Party Hours on Foot	111.8	45	52.5	43.5	25	~	6	~	186.9	106.5	~
Party Hours by Car	57.75	22	47	48	3	~	2	~	21.2	6	~
Party Hours by Bike	1.5	0	0	0	0	~	0	~	0	0	~
Party Hours by Boat	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	~	0	0	~
Party Hours Owling	1.5	2.5	2.5	2	0	~	0	~	1.5	0	~
Total Party Hours	172.5	69.5	102	93.5	28	~	8	~	209.6	112.5	0
Miles on Foot	55.5	32.5	15	34	14	~	6	~	141.9	91	~
Miles by Car	429.6	169.5	441	681	63	~	47	~	238.4	71	~
Miles by Bike	7	0	0	0	0	~	0	~	0	0	~
Miles by Boat	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	~	0	0	~
Miles Owling	9	5	14	5	0	~	0	~	0	0	~
Total Miles	501.1	207	470	720	77	~	53	~	380.3	162	~

May Count Participants (continued from page 13)

Calvert (CV): Mary Baldwin, Tim Baldwin, Tony Barbour, David J. Bohaska, Paula W. Bohaska, Andy Brown, Susan Freis, Sue Hamilton, Tom Harten, Jack Leighty, Susan Leighty, Mary Norblit, **Arlene Ripley**, Barry Spaulding, Leslie Starr.

Caroline (CN): Debby Bennett, Bob Donaldson, Ethel Engle, Inez Glime, **Mariana Nuttle**, Mike Price, Ross Robinson, William Robinson, L.T. Short, Isabelle Todd, Michael Todd, Steve Westre.

Carroll (CR): Mary Ellen Gearhart, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Henry Leskinen, Gerald and Laura Tarbell. **Compiled by Robert Ringler.**

Cecil (CE): Ken Dryer, Leslie Fisher, **Parke John**, Nick Merryman, Scott Powers, Marcia Whitmyre.

Charles (CH): Jean Artes, Bonnie Bick, Isobel Bryant, A. Cantelli, Steve Cardano, Cora Fulton, Carol Gheblian, George Harrington, George Jett, Bob Lukinic, Dolores McLean, Paul Nistico, Hayward Swisher, **George Wilmot.**

Dorchester (DO): George L. Armistead, **Henry T. Armistead**, Marshall J. Iliff.

MAY COUNT 1999 (CONTINUED)

PG	AA	CV	CH	SM	KE	QA	CN	TA	DO	WI	SO	WO	MD Total
48	44	4	33	23	30	30	83	33	32	21	~	4	537
31	41	4	12	3	45	23	39	14	1	0	~	3	885
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	30
91	152	81	71	194	69	27	70	41	9	5	~	6	1542
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	6
266	323	119	75	155	55	86	93	144	13	21	~	33	3470
145	89	110	57	255	147	57	458	46	30	8	~	6	2604
12965	15402	8839	5638	10138	7456	6412	7799	7550	5005	1506	~	2574	171,187
157	181	149	137	170	158	134	133	141	160	89	~	124	251
49	62	19	14	24	13	9	12	8	3	2	~	4	484
4	6	6	6	8	4	5	3	2	3	0	~	0	68
33	42	13	14	20	8	8	9	6	1	2	~	4	311
143	135	86.75	32.75	60.17	13.5	36.5	32	56.75	10	5.5	~	10.83	1199.9
24	42.2	9.5	35.25	45.78	25	25.3	19.5	5.3	6	7.25	~	8.25	460.28
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	~	0	4.5
4.5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	10.5
2.5	2.5	3	5	6.03	2.5	0.5	3.5	2	5	0	~	0	42.53
174	185.7	99.25	73	112	41	62.3	55	67.05	21	12.75	~	19.08	1717.71
82	58	57.3	25	52	14	20.5	10	18.9	4	4.5	~	5.5	741.6
110	105	88	322	458.4	286	240	226	169.8	135	66	~	90	4436.7
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	~	0	15
12	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	43
6	0	1.5	50	53.5	24	0	7	0	45	0	~	0	220
210	194	146.8	397	563.9	324	260.5	243	196.7	184	70.5	~	95.5	5456.3

Frederick (FR): Mary Ann Beverly, Vera Brechbiel, Kathy Calvert, Bill Effland, Chuck Finley, Patti Finley, Katherine Grandine, Wilbur Hershberger, Lynn Isaacson, Lois Kauffman, Linda Keller, Doug Parker, Nancy Parker, Bill Quynn, Gail Quynn, David Raleigh Smith, Todd Treichel, David Wallace, *Michael Welch*, Beth Zang.

Garrett (GA): Denise Bee, Mark Beshe, Dave Brandes, Hillel Brandes, Gwen Burkhardt, Kevin Dodge, Courtney Englar, Conor Forrester, Cotton Forrester, John Forrester, Barbara Gaffney, George Gaffney, LeJay Graffious, Frances Hoecker, Harold Hoecker, Sheila Hughes, Jan Janssen, Hillar Klandrof, Annette Livengood, Jim Livengood, Shane Livengood, Cheryl Newcomb, Hannah Newcomb, Steve Newcomb, Jell Opel, Bill Pope, *Fran Pope*, Danny Quinn, Barbara Skipper, Connie Skipper, Jesse Skipper, Dave Walbeck, Gary Yoder, Irene Yoder, Samuel Yoder.

Harford (HA): Tom Congersky, *Mark Johnson*, Russ Kovacks, Brian Moyer, Suzanne Procell, David Webb.

Howard (HO): Glenn Austin, Maud Banks, Mary-Jo Betts, Bill Blum, Karan Blum, Carl Brudin III, Joe Byrnes, Marty Chestem, Jane and Dennis Coskren, Jeff Duguay, Ward Ebert, Darius Ecker, Paula Ecker, Jeffrey Friedhoffer, Carol Garza, Edwin Gould, Shiras Guion, Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Jane Heim, Emmalyn Holdridge, David Holyoke, Diane John, Mike Kerwin, Dave Kubitsky, Mike Leumas, Nate Levy, Nathaniel Levy, Larry Line, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure, Elayne

Metter, Jeff Metter, Barry Miller, Sue Neri, Doug Odermatt, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Anita Picco, Susan Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, Ann Marie Raterman, Nanine Rhineland, Chan Robbins, Stuart Robbins, Carol Roberts, Gary Roberts, Susan Setterberg, Philip Smith, Romayne Smith, Bob Solem, Jo Solem, Pat Stewart, Chuck Stirrat, Tim Strikwerda, Eva Sunnell, Marilyn Taylor, Jackie Telford, Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, **Paul Zucker**, Sherry Zucker.

Kent (KE): Jon Cupp, Sr., Jon Cupp, Jr., Sarabelle Hitchner, Stephen Hitchner, John C. Lorenz, Dolly McSorley, **Floyd L. Parks**, Marie P. Parks, Zachary D. Parks, Gail Register, Paul Tolson, Katherine Walker, Pat Wilson.

Montgomery (MO): Dave Bottom, Joy Bowen, Mike Bowen, Judy Bromly, Barry Cooper, Ellen Dashner, Lou DeMouy, Bill Freeman, Linda Friedland, Becky Garling, Peter Gedling, David Gray, Helen Gray, **Rob Hilton**, Ann Hobbs, Dick Homan, Miriam Hursey, Giesela Locherer, Cyndie Loeper, Ann Lucy, Nancy MacClintock, Lucy MacClintock, Gail Mackiernan, Minette McCullough, Janet Millenson, Elaine Miller, Daryl Olson, Helen Patton, Marie Plante, Gemma Radko, Glen Richardson, Richard Schubert, Lisa Shannon, Sally Wechsler, John Williamson, David Winer, Jane Winer, Bob Winters, Paul Woodward, Howard Youth. *Compiled by Rick Sussman.*

Prince George's (PG): Marty Barron, Tom Beal, Laura Blackwell, Dan Boone, Jon Boone, Mike Callahan, Geoffrey Cant, Catherine Cant, Robert Caswell, Ellen Caswell, Andy Cooper, Pam Cooper, Ann Courtemanche, Bob Courtemanche, John Croft, Deanna Dawson, Craig DeForest, Drake Deming, Dean Denno, Jan Denno, Barbara Dowell, Malcolm Doying, **Frederick Fallon**, Jane Fallon, Mike Haramis, Jeff Hatfield, Glory Houck, Leon Jordan, Greg Kearns, Lynn Kenny, Peter Kenny, Mary Kilbourne, Matt Kinlocke, Bryan Knedler, Eileen Marsh, Elwood Martin, Helen Meleney, Ted Michelek, Larry Murphy, Jane Nicholich, Henrietta Phelps, Jack Saba, Bill Scheig, Jeff Shenot, Joan Snyder, Kate Spencer, Carolyn Sturtevant, Jean Tierney, Paul Wood.

Queen Anne's (QA): Lori Byrne, Wanda Cole, Jim Gruber, Ryan Lesh, Roland Limpert, Jim McCann, Danny Poet, **Glenn Therres**, Elizabeth Zucker.

Saint Mary's (SM): Tyler Bell, Anne Bishop, Bob Boxwell, Jim Boxwell, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Jeff Futrell, John Horton, Jane Kostenko, Doug Lister, Gus Lister, Lisa Lister, Greg Miller, Kyle Rambo, Roger Stone, Esty Stowell, Helen Stowell, Elaina Tuttle, Beverly Walker, Warren Walker, **Ernie Willoughby**, Shirley Wood, Ann Ziccardi, Tony Ziccardi.

Talbot (TA): Dave Anderson, Wayne Bell, **Les Coble**, Steve Ford, Richard Kleen, William Peak, Jan Reese, Les Roslund.

Washington (WA): Genevieve Beck, Lois Beck, Janet Hessler, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hull, Steve Huy, Bob Keedy, Mary Keedy, Judy Lilga, Peggy McEwan, Ann Mitchell, Paul Newton, Fred Pittenger, Lana Pittenger, Dennis Shaw, Janet Shields, Allen Swope, Cheryl Swope, Herb Taylor, Ken Tyson, Frank Warfield, **Dave Weesner**, Bill Wells, Betty Wolf.

Wicomico (WD): Ellen Lawler, Betty Pitney. *Compiled by Charles Vaughn.*

Worcester (WO): Allen Deward, Mary Humphreys, Margie King, Betty Pitney. *Compiled by Charles Vaughn.*



WINTER: DECEMBER 1, 1998–FEBRUARY 28, 1999

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

While not as warm as last winter, this season was still relatively mild. However, there were a few ice storms, and during early January there was a significant cold spell. It is obvious that many Maryland birders have been putting in long hours studying gulls, as several nice identifications were made this winter.

Observers: George Armistead, Henry Armistead, Rick Blom, David Bridge, Carol & Don Broderick, Ray Carter, Barry Cooper, Patty Craig (reporting for St. Mary's County), Marty Cribb, Dave Czaplak, Eric Decker, Allen Deward, Sam Dyke, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Fred Fallon, Gary Felton, Kurt Gaskill, Jim & Trish Gruber, Mark Hoffman, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Ray Kiddy, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Don Meritt, Greg Miller, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Tri-County Bird Club), Sue Purcell, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Norm & Fran Saunders, Eugene Scarpulla (reporting for Hart-Miller Island), Stephen Simon, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre.

Abbreviations: CBC – Christmas Bird Count, 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 North (Anne Arundel), SP – State Park, UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard), WMA – Wildlife Management Area, WS – Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Bethel WMA (Cecil), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Browns Station Landfill (Prince George's), Courthouse Point WMA (Cecil), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Fairmount WMA (Somerset), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Irish Grove WS (Somerset), Jug Bay WS (Anne Arundel), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), New Germany SP (Garrett), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Point Lookout SP (St. Mary's), Poplar Island (Talbot), Swallow Falls SP (Garrett), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Terrapin Point Park (Queen Anne's), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard), Washington Monument SP (Washington).

Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants: The only inland **Red-throated Loon** reported was one at Triadelphia Reservoir on Jan. 24 (Ecker, Olson). There were 120 **Com-**

mon Loons at Point Lookout SP on Dec. 16 (Cribb), and inland sightings included one at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 11 (W. Jurgen Schrenk), one there on Feb. 20 (Stasz), and another at Lake Elkhorn on Feb. 21 (Ecker). Steve Simon and Debbie Terry turned in the high for **Pied-billed Grebes** with 82 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29, and the high for **Horned Grebes** was 145 at Pt. Lookout SP on Dec. 12 (Gaskill, Carter). A Horned Grebe was near Cumberland on Jan. 23 (Paulus). A **Red-necked Grebe** was reported at Ocean City on Jan. 30 (Dyke), and on Feb. 28 (Felton). Marty Cribb tallied 475 **Northern Gannets** at Pt. Lookout on Dec. 2, and Susan Heath reported 2 at Hooper Island on Feb. 20. **Brown Pelicans** included 27 at Pt. Lookout on Dec. 2 and 6 there on Dec. 15 (Cribb), and 1 at Cambridge on Dec. 30 (Pisano). Unusual January sightings were of 1 at Cambridge on Jan. 9 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Smith Island on Jan. 16-17 (Iloff, Stasz), and 1 at Pt. Lookout on Jan. 17 (Joe & Betty Gagliano). **Great Cormorants** began with 11 near Sharps Island Light and Poplar Island on Dec. 10 (Reese, Meritt), and 4 at Pt. Lookout on Dec. 15 (Cribb). Jim Stasz reported 6 at Sandy Point SP on Jan. 3rd, 3 at Ocean Pines on Jan. 10, and 5 near Sharp's Island Light on Feb. 6. The two inland **Double-crested Cormorants** at Loch Raven on Dec. 20 (Simon, Jenkins) were late for that location, and the highs were 175 along the Potomac River, Charles County on Jan. 24 and 41 at Elliott Island on Feb. 7 (Stasz).

Herons, Ibis, Vultures: Harry and George Armistead counted 151 **Great Blue Heron** nests at Conowingo Dam on Feb. 12. Interesting **Great Egrets** included 1 at Scotland on Jan. 10 (Cribb) and Jan. 17 (Lisa & Doug Lister), 5 at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 23 (Bridge, Decker), 8 at Elliott Island on Feb. 6 (H. Armistead), and 3 at Ocean City on Feb. 15 (Ringler). Two **Snowy Egrets** were at Smith Island on Jan. 17 (Iloff, Stasz), and **Little Blue Herons** included 2 at Ocean City on Jan. 4 and 2 at Smith Island on Jan. 16 (Iloff, Stasz). Three **Tricolored Herons** visited Smith Island on Jan. 17 (Iloff, Stasz), 9 were at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 23 (Bridge, Decker), and 6 were at Ocean City on Feb. 15 (Ringler). Iliff, Jett and Stasz had a nice tally of 50 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Deal Island on Jan. 10. Quite a few **Glossy Ibis** wintered at Deal Island WMA, with 20 there on Jan. 23 (Bridge, Decker) and 17 there on Feb. 27 (Ringler). Dave Weesner tallied 32 **Black Vultures** at Grindstone Road, Frederick County on Jan. 24.

Swans, Geese: Interesting reports of **Trumpeter Swans** included 1 at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 29 (Keith Willis) and up to 4 at Conowingo on Jan. 23 (Blom+). Unfortunately, it appears the Romancoke population of **Mute Swans** is expanding steadily with 45 counted there on Jan. 16 (Ringler). A depressing 864 Mute Swans were tallied during the St. Michaels CBC on Dec. 20 (Les Roslund), and 39 were at Gunpowder River SP, Baltimore County on Feb. 14 (Stasz). There were far more than the normal numbers of **Greater White-fronted Geese** this season, including 4 at West Ocean City, Dec. 5-12 (Glen Lovelace), 1 at Ocean Pines on Dec. 31 (Watson-Whitmyre), 1 at Tanyard on Jan. 16 (Iloff, Stasz), 1 at Routes 309 and 404 in Queen Anne's County on Jan. 16 (Ringler, Steve Sanford), 6 at Easton the same day (Dave Mozurkewich), 2 at Unity on Jan. 25 (Czaplak), and 1 at Scotland on Feb. 25 (Craig). Mark Hoffman discovered a **Ross's Goose** at Ironshire on Dec. 29, another was at George Island Landing on Dec. 30 (Mike O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis), and one was at Hurlock on Jan. 16 (Iloff, Stasz). Bethel WMA in Cecil County was an unusual location for the **Brant** located there on Feb. 21 (Watson-Whitmyre). Also unusual were the two immature, and perhaps partial albino, **Canada Geese** Jim Stasz found at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 8-16. Patty Craig noted a flyover small race Canada Goose near Pt. Lookout on Jan. 17. Another small race bird was noted at Ocean Pines on Jan. 4 (Iloff). About 20,000 Canada Geese were at Langford on Feb. 7 (Jim & Trish Gruber). *Dabbling Ducks:* Harry Armistead counted 170 **Green-winged Teal** at Elliott Island on Feb. 6, and Sam Dyke tallied 750 at Deal Island on

Feb. 25 where he also discovered one “**Eurasian**” **Green-winged Teal**. Jim Stasz estimated about 900 **American Black Ducks** at Eastern Neck NWR on Dec. 6, Bob Ringler checked off 220 inland at Piney Run Park on Feb. 6, and Harry Armistead counted off 235 at Elliott Island on Feb. 6. Allen Deward found two very young **Mallard** ducklings at West Ocean City on Dec. 1. Single **Black Duck X Mallard** hybrids were reported at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 2 (Stasz), and at Clopper Lake, Montgomery County on Jan. 6 (Howard Youth). Highs for **Northern Pintails** were 3400 at Eastern Neck NWR on Dec. 6 and 700 at Courthouse Point WMA on Feb. 15 (Stasz). Interesting **Blue-winged Teal** were 4 at Showell on Jan. 4 (Iliff), 2 at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 31 (Dyke), and 22 at Elliott Island on Feb. 6 (H. Armistead). Many observers reported the pair of **Cinnamon Teal** at Eastern Neck from Dec. 4 (Jett+) through Dec. 15 (Lydia Schindler+). Kurt Gaskill reported 400 **Northern Shovelers** and 250 **Gadwalls** at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 17. Stasz counted 746 Gadwalls at Eastern Neck on Dec. 6. Solo **Eurasian Wigeons** were noted at Assateague on Dec. 29 (Iliff, Stasz), at Ocean Pines on Jan. 1 (Wayne Bell), at Ocean City on Jan. 10 (Iliff+), at Gunpowder SP, Baltimore County on Feb. 6 (Bob Rineer, Debbie Terry+), and at Grasonville on Feb. 28 (Larry Lynch, Sherrie Siers). About 650 **American Wigeons** were congregated at Eastern Neck on Dec. 6 (Stasz).

Diving Ducks: What appeared to be a partial albino **Canvasback** was seen at Cambridge from Jan. 22 (Bridge) through Feb. 5 (H. Armistead). Around 2275 Canvasbacks were tallied in the Elliott Island vicinity on Feb. 6 (H. Armistead). Highs for **Redheads** were up this season, particularly for some inland sites, with 100 at Smith Island on Jan. 17 (Iliff, Stasz), 185 at Sycamore Landing on the same day (Paul Woodward), 440 at Seneca on Jan. 24 (Czaplak), 195 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Jan. 30 (Webb, Purcell), and 104 at Loch Raven on Feb. 28 (Simon, Terry). Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** included 1000 at Piscataway Creek on Dec. 17 (Gaskill), over 600 at Loch Raven on Dec. 20 (Simon, Jenkins), about 2000 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 6 (Howard Youth), 459 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Jan. 30 (Webb, Purcell), and 220 at Maryland Rock, St. Mary’s County on Feb. 10 (Craig). Large concentrations of **Greater Scaup** were 4500 at Chesapeake Beach on Jan. 12 (Iliff), 3000 at Morgantown on Jan. 24 (Stasz), and 1000 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Jan. 30 (Webb, Purcell). Iliff tallied 900 **Lesser Scaup** at Chesapeake Beach on Jan. 12, Webb and Purcell counted 6703 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Jan. 30, and the Grubers listed 1200 at Piney Neck, Kent County on Feb. 21. A **Common Eider** was spotted at Pt. Lookout on Jan. 10 (Miller), and reliable Ocean City hosted 7 on Jan. 17 (John Bjerke, Byron Swift). An immature male **King Eider** visited PRNAS on Dec. 3 (D. Lister, Craig). **Harlequin Ducks** are seen each winter at Ocean City, but the 15 notched on Dec. 29 were a new high for the Ocean City CBC (Sheppard+). Highs for **Long-tailed Ducks** were 1830 near Sharps and Poplar Islands on Dec. 10 (Reese, Meritt), 1000 at Pt. Lookout on Dec. 12 Gaskill, Carter), and 3200 at Bellevue on Feb. 27 (H. Armistead). Two **Surf Scoters** were found far inland at Piney Run on Dec. 5 (Ringler), and high counts were 2430 near Sharps and Poplar Islands on Dec. 10 (Reese, Meritt), and 600 around Smith Island on Jan. 16 (Iliff, Stasz). Reese and Meritt checked off 105 **White-winged Scoters** near Sharps and Poplar Islands on Dec. 10, and 2 were found far inland at Cumberland on Jan. 10 (Kiddy). An adult male **Barrow’s Goldeneye** discovered at PRNAS on Feb. 27 (Listers) was seen by many observers into March. An adult male Barrow’s, probably the same one, was there during the winters of 1996 and 1997. Bob Ringler had a nice count of 160 **Hooded Mergansers** at Piney Run on Jan. 1, and Jim Stasz checked off 220 **Red-breasted Mergansers** along the Potomac River, Charles County on Jan. 24. Reese and Meritt estimated 15,000 **Ruddy Ducks** at Lecompte Bay, Dorchester County on Dec. 10, and Stasz listed about 10,000 along the Potomac River, Charles County on Jan. 24 and 3000 on the Miles River, Talbot County on Feb. 6.

Diurnal Raptors: Quite a few solo **Ospreys** were spotted this winter: at Salisbury on Dec. 5 (Dyke), in DC on Dec. 30 (Dave Fallow), at Seneca on Jan. 2 (Jack Schultz), near Belmont Dam, Montgomery County on Jan. 4 (Tom Templeton), and at Scotland, Jan. 17-19 (Listers, Cribb+). The Osprey at Trout Run WWTP in Garrett County on Feb. 8 (Skipper) was extraordinary; the one noted by Stasz at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 22 was most likely a spring migrant. **Bald Eagles** continue to be numerous; the farthest inland was one near the C&O Canal at Route 81 in Washington County on Jan. 24 (Josephine Cox, Glen Johnston). Large counts of **Northern Harriers** were made, including 29 at Allens Fresh on Jan. 24 (Stasz), and 21 at Elliott Island on Feb. 6 (H. Armistead). Patty Craig notched a **Northern Goshawk** at Dameron on Dec. 19, and an immature was seen by many birders at The Mall in DC from Dec. 28 (Sherman Suter+) through Jan. 10 (Dan Smith+). Solo adults were also reported at Olney on Jan. 30 (Mary Gustafson), and at Grantsville the same day (Iliff, Miller, Stasz). Among the **Rough-legged Hawks** was a light-morph at Turner Road, Calvert County on Jan. 3 (Tom Harten, Andy Brown), an immature off Indian Head Highway, Prince George's County on Jan. 13 (Jett), and one at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Feb. 15 (Richard Orr). Stasz found an immature **Golden Eagle** following a cold front on Dec. 23 at Upper Marlboro, and reported another near Choptank on Jan. 9. An adult and a first-winter bird were observed at Dans Rock, Allegany County on Jan. 31 (Iliff, Miller, Stasz), and the one at Town Hill on Feb. 4 was most likely an early migrant (Paulus, Kiddy). Lou Shomette reported 5 perched **Merlins** at Hains Point on Jan. 2.

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots: Bob Ringler and party found a **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Langford, Kent County on Dec. 6. Dave Weesner saw a **Ruffed Grouse** at Washington Monument SP on Feb. 10, Eric Hynes reported 33 **Wild Turkeys** at Blackwater NWR on Feb. 2, and 24 turkeys were counted at Hugg-Thomas WMA, Howard County on Feb. 6 (Bill Kulp, Jr., Dave Harvey). Iliff and Stasz tallied 36 **Clapper Rails** at Smith Island on Jan. 17. The **Common Moorhen** at Elliott Island on Feb. 6-7 was a very late winter find (H. Armistead). Highs for **American Coots** included 3700 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon, Terry), and 2000 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 27 (Ringler).

Shorebirds: Many shorebirds were found during the relatively mild conditions, including many **Killdeer**, but the 75 noted by Craig at Scotland on Feb. 25 represented one of the first migrant flocks. Some of the numerous **Greater Yellowlegs** were 44 at Fairmount WMA on Dec. 28 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 at Bosley Conservancy, Harford County on Jan. 1 (Blom, Brian Monk), 26 at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 13 (Deward), 29 at Crisfield on Jan. 18 (Iliff, Stasz), 28 at Elliott Island on Feb. 6 (H. Armistead), and 1 at PWRC/N on Feb. 12 (Stan Arnold). **Lesser Yellowlegs** included 1 at Tanyard on Jan. 3 (Engle), 2 at Irish Grove WS on Jan. 10 (Iliff+), 5 at George Island Landing on the same day (Stasz+), 1 at Blackwater NWR on Jan. 17 (W. Jurgen Schrenk), and a flock of 62 at Elliott Island on Feb. 7 (Stasz). A **Willet** was at Ocean City on Jan. 23 (Burggraf, Czaplak), and Reese and Meritt found a late **Spotted Sandpiper** at Horn Point, Dorchester County on Dec. 10. Interesting locations for **Sanderlings** were PRNAS with 70 on Jan. 16 (Lister), and Smith Island with 25 on Jan. 17 (Iliff, Stasz). Nine **Least Sandpipers** were noted at Vienna on Jan. 9, and 2 were at Pocomoco City WWTP on Jan. 10 (Iliff+). Others included 6 at Berlin on Jan. 27 (Dyke), and 3 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 15 (Ringler). A little surprising were 28 **Purple Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on Dec. 10 (Reese, Meritt), and 23 at Smith Island on Jan. 17 (Iliff, Stasz). **Long-billed Dowitchers** included 15 at Jenkins Creek, Crisfield on Jan. 18 (Iliff, Stasz) and 3 at Elliott Island on Feb. 6 (H. Armistead). Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper found 20 **Common Snipe** at PWRC on Jan. 13, and others included 6 at UMCF on Feb. 28 (Ott+), and 25 at PRNAS on Feb. 23 (Rambo).

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers. Bob Abrams noted an early migrant **Laughing Gull** at Scotland on Feb. 28, and a **Franklin's Gull** visited Sandy Point SP on Dec. 6 (N. & F. Saunders). Sam Dyke identified two **Little Gulls** at Ocean City on Dec. 16. A few **Black-headed Gulls** were sorted out this season with 1 at Hains Point on Dec. 19 (Day, Abrams+), 2 at Ocean City on Dec. 26 (Dyke), singles there on Jan. 19 (Deward) and Feb. 27 (Lynch, Siers), an adult at Conowingo on Jan. 9 (Blom), and a first-winter bird at PRNAS on Jan. 13 (Rambo, Iliff). The 4 **Bonaparte's Gulls** found at Unity on Dec. 8 (Dave Powell) were pretty far inland, as were the 22 Bob Ringler discovered at Piney Run on Jan. 1 and the 2 at Cumberland on Jan. 23 (Paulus). Blom, Scarpulla and others estimated that over 20,000 **Ring-billed Gulls** wintered at Conowingo, where many observers viewed a third-winter **California Gull** from Feb. 7 (Janni+) through Feb. 13 (Ringler+). A second-winter California Gull was also spied there periodically from Feb. 8 (Iliff, Wierenga+) through at least Feb. 21 (Scarpulla+). Janni reported an adult California Gull at Georgetown, DC on Jan. 23, and Stasz found a first-winter bird at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 22. Conowingo Dam also hosted a first-winter **Thayer's Gull** from Feb. 8 (Iliff+) through Feb. 21 (Scarpulla+), as well as a probable second-winter bird from Jan. 26 (Brian Monk+) onward. Jim Stasz reported a first-winter Thayer's at Browns Station on Feb. 10. An adult and a first-winter **Iceland Gull** were identified on Dec. 26 at PWRC (Mackiernan, Cooper), where Czaplak reported a first-winter bird on Jan. 23. Single Iceland Gulls were reported at Bowie on Dec. 27 (Martin, Fallon), at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 28 (Watson-Whitmyre), at Greenbelt on Dec. 31 (Phil Davis), and at Browns Station on Jan. 5 (Iliff); 2 to 3 were at Conowingo from Jan. 9 (Blom+) through the period, and 1 was at Upper Marlboro, Jan. 11-13 (Stasz+). Once again, many birders reported **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, including an adult at the Somerset County landfill on Dec. 28 (Brodericks); a second-winter bird at Cambridge and an adult at Tanyard on Jan. 11 (Iliff); 7 adults, a third-winter bird, and a second-winter bird at Conowingo on Jan. 11 (Blom, Scarpulla); and 4 in DC on Jan. 16 (Janni).

Patty Craig noted a very interesting gull at Sandgates, St. Mary's County in 1998, that she and others found again this December and early January. With help from many birders, particularly Janni and Hilton, the bird was tentatively identified as an adult **Kelp Gull**, the first in the region, and only the second away from the Gulf Coast. This bird was fairly regularly seen behind the *Sea Breeze Restaurant* throughout the period, where, thanks to the gracious hospitality of the folks at the *Sea Breeze*, scores of birders saw it, and, as I did, enjoyed a nice seafood meal as well. See Jane Kostenko's accounts in *Maryland Birdlife* 55:3-6, 83-91. An adult **Slaty-backed Gull** was tentatively identified at Conowingo on Feb. 7 (Czaplak, Todd, Blom). This much-discussed gull was studied by many birders over the next two weeks (Scarpulla+). **Glaucous Gulls** were also very evident this season including 3 at PWRC on Jan. 2 (Fallon+), 1 at Browns Station on Jan. 5 (Iliff) and Jan. 17 (Sue Ricciardi), 1 at Conowingo on Jan. 11 (Blom, Scarpulla), and 1 at the Charles County landfill on Feb. 6 (Jett). Wintering **Great Black-backed Gulls** remain numerous and widespread with the high of 900 at Conowingo on Feb. 27 (Scarpulla). Paul DuMont reported a **Caspian Tern** at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 8, and many **Forster's Terns** lingered this season, including 2 at Wetipquin, Wicomico County on Jan. 17 (Dyke), 1 at Pt. Lookout on Feb. 8 (Cribb), and 4 at Scotland on the same day (Craig). Sam Dyke spied a **Black Skimmer** at Ocean City on Jan. 30.

Owls, Hummingbirds: Two **Long-eared Owls** were checked off during the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 29 (Sheppard+). Bob Ringler listed 4 **Short-eared Owls** at Taneytown on Jan. 3rd, 7 were noted at reliable Deal Island WMA on Jan. 10 (Iliff, Stasz, Jett), and 3 were at Middle Neck Road, Cecil County on Feb. 15 (Stasz). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** included 3 at Lamb's Knoll, Washington County on Dec. 12 (Steve Huy), and 1 at the Aberdeen Proving

Ground on Jan. 30 (Webb, Purcell). Andi and Chris Pupke reported a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** near Carmichael Road, Queen Anne's County on Dec. 5, and a *Selasphorus* sp. individual was noted at Point of Rocks, Frederick County on Nov. 18 and Nov. 29 (David Busey).

Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows. Thirty-nine **Belted Kingfishers** were notched during the Jug Bay CBC on Dec. 19 (Droege+), and 8 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at PWRC/N on Dec. 27 (Fallon). **Eastern Phoebes** were numerous and widespread, and highs for **Horned Larks** were at least 300 at Lewiston on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 300+ at Ironshire on Jan. 24 (Day, Gaskill+), and 250 at Pleasant Valley, Garrett County on Jan. 30 (Iliff, Miller, Stasz). It is not unusual to find flocks of **Tree Swallows** at Deal Island WMA in the winter; 150 were there on Jan. 10 (Iliff+), and over 200 were there on Feb. 25 (Dyke).

Vireos, Crows, Nuthatches, Wrens: Glen Lovelace reported a **White-eyed Vireo** near Berlin on Dec. 12. Bob Ringler turned in the high for **Fish Crows**, with about 7200 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 27. Rousby Hall Road, Calvert County was an unusual location for 2 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** on Feb. 11 (Iliff+), and a **House Wren** was at Newark and 3 were at Berlin on Jan. 10 (Iliff, Stasz, Jett). Leslie Fisher found a **Marsh Wren** at Bethel WMA on Jan. 28, 2 were at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Jan. 30 (Webb, Purcell), and 16 were at Elliott Island, Feb. 7 (Stasz).

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits: **Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, and American Robins** were very evident this winter. An upland **Gray Catbird** was found near Old Livestock Road, Howard County on Feb. 6 (Dave & Maureen Harvey), and another was discovered at Piney Run on Feb. 21 (Ringler). Elizabeth Pitney observed a **Brown Thrasher** in her yard at Parsonsburg on Dec. 24 and Jan. 2. There were 120 **American Pipits** at Cordova on Jan. 9 (Iliff, Stasz), 350 at Worton on Jan. 22 (J. Gruber), and 150 at Ridgely on Jan. 26 (Reese).

Warblers: Cliff Fairweather found an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Roosevelt Island, DC on Jan. 17th, 2 were at LBJ Grove, DC most of the period beginning Dec. 25 (Gaskill, Hilton, Pisano+), and another was at PRNAS on Feb. 7 (Lister). Ringler and party listed a **Nashville Warbler** at Eastern Neck NWR on Dec. 6. Lingering **Cape May Warblers** were also around with single birds near Bellevue on Dec. 20 (H. Armistead) and at Glenn Dale, Jan. 5-8 and Feb. 19 (Lynn Kenny+). A western race **Palm Warbler** was on Elliott Island on Feb. 7 (Stasz), and a yellow race Palm was checked off at Olney on Jan. 24 and Jan. 30 (Rick Sussman). Another Palm Warbler was reported at Pt. Lookout on Jan. 28 (Craig). Bill Snyder noted an **Ovenbird** at Chino Farms, Queen Anne's County on Dec. 20. Kurt Gaskill reported 4 **Pine Warblers** at LBJ Grove, DC on Jan. 2nd; 3 were there on Feb. 7 (Ward). Allen Deward reported 2 **Common Yellowthroats** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 17, and Jim Stasz found another at Elliott Island on Feb. 7.

Sparrows: Jim and Trish Gruber counted 24 **American Tree Sparrows** at Chesapeake Farms, Kent County on Feb. 14, and Sam Dyke tallied over 60 **Chipping Sparrows** at Wetipquin, Wicomico County on Jan. 17. Mike O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis discovered a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 30, and another, seen by many birders, was near Berlin from Dec. 30 (Hoffman) through Feb. 14 (Dyke+). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were notched at Vessey's Orchard, Somerset County on Jan. 10 (Iliff, Jett, Stasz). Bonnie Ott found a flock of 75 **Savannah Sparrows** at UMCF on Feb. 27, and Gene Scarpulla discovered an *Ipswich* race bird at Hart-Miller on Dec. 14. Marshall Iliff and Jim Stasz identified a

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Fairmount WMA on Dec. 28 and 3 at Smith Island on Jan. 17, where they tallied 16 **Seaside Sparrows** on Jan. 17. Mark Hoffman found a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Newark on Dec. 29, still present on Jan. 18 (Iliff, Stasz), and he also discovered one at Berlin on Dec. 30, still present on Jan. 16 (Dyke).

Longspurs, Snow Bunting: **Lapland Longspurs** included 18 at Ironshire on Dec. 29 (Hoffman), 5 at Canning House Road, Harford County on Feb. 6 (Blom), and two flocks totaling over 100 birds at PRNAS on Feb. 23 (Rambo). Some good counts for **Snow Buntings** were 24 at Poplar Island on Dec. 10 (Reese, Meritt), 45 at PRNAS on Jan. 2 (Rambo), over 100 at Dans Mountain, Allegany County on Jan. 10 (Sires), 100 at Bradenbaugh Flats, Harford County on Jan. 16 (Dennis Kirkwood), and 75 near Lilypons on Jan. 17 (Chuck Welbourn).

Icterids, Common Redpoll: A **Baltimore Oriole** visited PRNAS on Jan. 13 (Iliff), and Laurel hosted another one on Feb. 8 (Barry Kessler). Rick Blom and Brian Monk started the new year off right with an immature male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Bradenbaugh on Jan. 1. About 105 **Boat-tailed Grackles** were assembled at Nanticoke on Jan. 9, and 400 were congregated at Smith Island on Jan. 16 (Iliff, Stasz). Mackiernan and Cooper checked off 30 **Rusty Blackbirds** at PWRC on Jan. 13. A single **Common Redpoll** visited a feeder at Glen Burnie around Dec. 19 (Stan Arnold).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

SPRING MIGRATION: MARCH 1–MAY 31, 1999

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

Unlike the west coast, which was colder and windier than normal due to *La Niña*, no single, major weather pattern dominated the east coast this spring. Some ducks lingered, while many shorebirds, terns, swallows, and other birds arrived early. There were also some surprise western birds and rare seabirds.

Observers: George Armistead, Henry Armistead, Stan Arnold, Fred Atwood, Tyler Bell, Rick Blom, Don & Carol Broderick, Danny Bystrak, John Churchill, Barry Cooper, Patty Craig, Dave Czaplak, Todd Day, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Andy Farnsworth, Kevin Fehskens, Leslie Fisher, Jean & Larry Fry, Kurt Gaskill, Inez Glime, Jim Green, Matt Hafner, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Ray Kiddy, Jane Kostenko, Russ Kovach, Dave Larkin, Ellen Lawler, Ryan Lesh, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Greg Miller, Brian Monk, Carol Newman, Mike O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Daryl Olson, Bonnie Ott, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Paul Pisano, Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Les Roslund, Jack Saba, Steve Sanford, Norm & Fran Saunders, Eugene Scarpulla (reporting for Hart-Miller Island), Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Debby Terrie, Mary Ann Todd, Charles & Gail Vaughn, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Helen Zeichner. Banding was conducted at Chino Farms by Jim Gruber.

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 North Tract (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), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Bethel WMA (Cecil), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Broadford Reservoir (Garrett), Browns Bridge (Howard), Browns Station Landfill (Prince George’s), Chino Farms (Queen Anne’s), Courthouse Point WMA (Cecil), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Fairmount WMA (Somerset), Fort Smallwood (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Herrington Manor SP (Garrett), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Horsehead Wetlands Center (Queen Anne’s), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove WS (Somerset), Jug Bay WS (Anne Arundel), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), New Germany SP (Garrett), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Poplar Island (Talbot), Riverside (Harford), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Spesutie Island (Harford), Swallow Falls SP (Garrett), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Terrapin Point Park (Queen Anne’s), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard, unless noted otherwise), Truitt’s Landing (Worcester), Turkey Point (Cecil), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington), Wilde Lake (Howard).

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Gannets. The high for **Common Loons** was over 250 at Ft. Smallwood Park on April 16 (Ricciardi). A late **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at Rocky Gap SP on May 26 (Iliff, Farnsworth), and **Horned Grebes** were seen well into May with highs of 100 at Morgantown on March 26 (Jett), 200 at Point Lookout SP on April 6 (Craig), and 400 at North Beach on April 10 (Stasz). Two **Eared Grebes** were notched this spring with one at North Beach on March 25 (Stasz), and another off Hoadley Road, Harford County on March 31 (Blom, Monk). Marshall Iliff spotted a **Sooty Shearwater** off Ocean City on May 22, and **Northern Gannets** included 28 at Calvert Cliffs on April 6 (Craig).

Pelicans, Cormorants, Anhingas. A nice **American White Pelican** passed over Ft. Smallwood on May 25 (N. & F. Saunders+). The **Brown Pelican** noted by Hafner and Larkin at Pt. Lookout on April 2 was early. The many **Double-crested Cormorants** included 4 extremely early, inland birds at Ellicott City on March 12 (Ott), 365 flying over Riverside on April 17 (Blom), 4 at Loch Raven on April 18 (Simon), 40 at Broadford Reservoir the same day (Pope), 81 far inland on the Piney Dam Reservoir in Garrett County and another 65 flying over there on April 24 (Stasz), and 1,200 at Conowingo on May 8 (Blom, Monk). **Anhingas** once again visited the Region with a few in nearby Virginia and one at Havre de Grace on April 18 (Hafner, Fehskens+), another circling a house in Bowie on April 24 (Jane Fallon), and one at Hollywood on May 8 (Rambo, Miller+).

Hérons, Ibis, Vultures. Quite a few **American Bitterns** were listed this spring, including 3 at Harford Glen on April 21 (Kovach), and 1 at Mt. Lake Park, Garrett County on April 22 (Pope). Four **Least Bitterns** were heard migrating at night over Annapolis on May 23 (Iliff). Over 100 **Great Blue Herons** were tallied at Federalsburg on March 22 (Glime), and 365 were at Conowingo on May 8 (Blom, Monk). Chris Barnard reported 20 Great Blue Herons with nests in 2 sycamore trees at Watkins Island, Montgomery County on March 13, Dave Mozurkewich noted 40 herons and 25 nests at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on March 20, and Franz Hespensheide counted 8 adult Great Blues on 6 nests at Lake Whetstone,

Montgomery County on March 26. A **Great Egret** flying north over Ellicott City on March 13 (Ott) was early. Another Great was seen inland at Broadford Reservoir on April 18 (Pope). The only upland **Snowy Egret** was at Lake Elkhorn on May 5-8 (Solem+). A **Little Blue Heron** was at Elkton on April 18 (Fisher), an adult and an immature were at Hughes Hollow on April 24 (Barton Bland), an adult and an immature were at Kenilworth Gardens, DC on April 24-25 (Janni, Hilton), and an adult was there on May 2 (Dobbins). **Cattle Egrets** began with one near Ironshire on March 31 (Iliff, Jett), and another at Perryman on the same day (Blom, Monk). Jim Green found both an early **Green Heron** at Hughes Hollow on April 4, and an early adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Sycamore Landing on March 24. Jean and Larry Fry found a Green Heron at Lake Mitten, Harford County on April 15. Maryland's first **White-faced Ibis** was discovered at Truitt's Landing on May 2 (Iliff, Stasz, Pisano). This bird was well-documented and seen through May 14 by many others. Sue Ricciardi reported a new single day high for **Black Vultures** tallied at Ft. Smallwood with 65 migrants on March 20, and Day and Gaskill counted 75 the same day at Scotland. Jan Reese found a Black Vulture incubating an egg in a nest at Stevensville on April 14. On March 17th, 330 migrant **Turkey Vultures** were checked off at Ft. Smallwood (Ricciardi).

Swans, Geese, Dabbling Ducks. A huge flight of **Tundra Swans**, totaling about 3130, was over Bellevue on March 20 (Harry, Mary & Alice Armistead), and the single Tundra Swan at Pt. Tobacco on May 15 (Jett) was late. Unfortunately, reflecting the recent trend, many **Mute Swans** were noted in Upper Bay areas. A **Black Swan** was identified at Upper Marlboro on May 3 (Stasz), and a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Scotland on March 1-3 (Lisa & Doug Lister, Craig). About 150 **Brant** were at reliable Ocean City on March 7 (Sanford), and highs for **Canada Geese** included over 15,000 at Chestertown on March 2, over 8,000 at Chino Farms on March 17 (Gruber), and 12,300 over Ellicott City on March 3 (Ott). A small race *hutchins* Canada Goose was noted at Sandgates, St. Mary's County, and then flew into Calvert County on March 6 (Stasz+). A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal (Common Teal)** was seen at Blackwater NWR by many observers from March 30 (Iliff) through April 3, and another was checked off at E. A. Vaughn WMA on May 2 (Stasz). Leslie Fisher tallied over 300 **Northern Pintails** at Courthouse Point WMA on March 20, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** frequented Deal Island WMA from March 7 through March 26 (Dyke). The **American Wigeon** at Little Meadows Lake, Garrett County on May 26 (Iliff, Farnsworth) was running late. A drake American Wigeon was at Tydings Island on May 18-29 (Webb).

Diving Ducks. Reese had a nice count of over 100 **Redheads** at Horsehead Wetlands Center on March 6, and Steve Simon tallied 36 at Loch Raven on March 17. Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 300+ at Maryland Rock, St. Mary's County on March 3 (Craig), and 126 at PWRC/N on March 5 (Arnold). The male Ring-neck found by Jack Saba at Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County on May 9 was a very late bird that stayed well into the summer until at least July 7. A **Lesser Scaup** visited Jug Bay WS from May 31 to June 3 (Bystrak). Sanford had a nice count of 22 **Common Eiders**, including 4 adult males at Ocean City on March 7, and 2 were there late on April 3 (Czaplak, Todd). Ocean City hosted 11 **Harlequin Ducks** on March 31 (Iliff, Jett), and a late Harlequin was there on May 2 (Pisano). The clear high for **Long-tailed Ducks** was the 2,400 tallied at Bellevue on March 20 (Armisteads). The lone Long-tail found by Jett at Benedict on May 15 was late, as was the single discovered by Craig at Pt. Lookout on May 27. Highs for **Surf Scoters** were 2,300 at Bellevue on March 20 (Armisteads), and 3,000 at North Beach on March 23 (Stasz). The drake **Common Goldeneye** at Jug Bay on May 22 (Saba) was very late. A drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** was reported at PRNAS from March 1 (Jim Swift) through March 6 (N. & F. Saunders, Rambo+). Over 500 **Buffleheads** were congregated at Horsehead Wetlands Center on March 6 (Reese), and about

800 were massed at North Beach on April 10 (Stasz), where a lone, late Bufflehead was seen on May 28 (Linda Baker). Also late was the single **Hooded Merganser** noted by Ringler at Piney Run on May 21, as well as the 3 at Chino Farms on May 25 (Harry Sears). Bob Ringler also discovered a late **Red-breasted Merganser** at Savage River Reservoir, Garrett County on May 29, and the **Common Merganser** at Prettyboy Reservoir, Baltimore County on May 23 (Stasz) was very late. Not to be left out, **Ruddy Ducks** were also late with 1 at Scotland on May 24 (Craig), and 3 at Hurlock on May 26 (Iliff, Farnsworth). Highs for Ruddies included 4,500 at Back River on April 2 (Stasz), and 300 at Broadford Reservoir on April 19 (Pope).

Diurnal Raptors. March 6 was pretty early for the **Osprey** that was spotted inland at Hughes Hollow (Barton Bland). It was a good spring for **Mississippi Kites** with one reported in Harford County near Fallston and Riverside on April 17 (Barb Meserve, Blom), another during the St. Mary's County May Count near California on May 8 (Bell, Kostenko+), and one at Carderock, Montgomery County on May 26 (Czaplak). At Ft. Smallwood, a Mississippi Kite was noted on May 23 and 3 were checked off on May 25 (Ricciardi+). Mark Hoffman observed a **Northern Harrier** flush from a nest with 3 eggs at Truitt's Landing on May 3, the first nest discovered for Worcester County. The two harriers over Ft. Smallwood on May 20 (Ricciardi+) were late migrants. Ft. Smallwood was also the site for the high count of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** this season with 469 recorded on April 22 (Ricciardi+). Norm and Fran Saunders listed 2 late sharpies there on May 25. A few solo **Northern Goshawks** were reported this spring: an adult off Route 197 and the BW Parkway in Prince George's County on March 17 (Stasz), an adult at Hughes Hollow on March 26 (Green), and singles at Ft. Smallwood on March 31 and April 19, where a very early **Broad-winged Hawk** was checked off on March 30 (Ricciardi+). The high for Broad-wings was also at Ft. Smallwood with 1,897 on April 16, and Rick Blom counted 265 at Riverside on April 17. Matt Hafner and Dave Larkin reported 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** at Perryman on March 7, and Fran Pope discovered 1 on a power line along Herrington Manor Road, Garrett County on March 15. A late adult **Golden Eagle** was noted at PWRC/N by Robert and Judy Cosgriff on April 25. The high for **American Kestrels** was 242 at Ft. Smallwood on April 4 (Ricciardi+), and Jim Stasz noted some late **Merlins** with one at Prettyboy Reservoir, Baltimore County on May 23, and one at Frostburg on May 30.

Gallinaceous Birds. Bonnie Ferguson found a **Chukar**, escaped from somewhere, at Rockville on April 15. There were only three reports of single **Ring-necked Pheasants** for the entire spring, but there were a few high counts of **Wild Turkeys**; David Bridge counted over 30 at Andrews Road and over 70 off Route 335 in Dorchester County on March 13. Kim Shedd found 2 exotic **Common Peafowls** at Darnestown on May 17. Numbers were not too bad for **Northern Bobwhites** compared to recent years. The westernmost bobwhites were in Washington County, with 1 at Blair's Valley WMA on March 19 (Stasz), 1 on Manor Church Road, Washington County on May 5 (Weesner), and 3 on May 28, and 2 on May 31 at Casper Road (Stasz).

Rails, Coots, Cranes. Mike and Paul O'Brien and party heard a nice **Black Rail** flying overhead near Lilypons on May 7. Only a few have ever been noted in Maryland away from the Coastal Plain. Two **King Rails** were found at Bethel WMA on April 22 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre). Two other King Rails were listed at Beltsville on May 8 (Hatfield, Knedler). Dave Webb checked off 2 **Virginia Rails** at Spesutie Island on April 21, and another was at Font Hill, Howard County on May 12 (Ott). The single **Soras** at Bethel WMA on May 15 (Hafner, Larkin), and at Route 667, Somerset County on May 30 (N. & F. Saunders) were late, and the **Common Moorhen** at Tanyard on April 11 (Stasz) was early. A probable migrant Moorhen

HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK, SPRING 1999

Compiled by Sue Ricciardi

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	2/15	5/23	268	65 on 3/20, 30 on 4/17
Turkey Vulture	2/12	6/15	3664	330 on 3/17, 253 on 3/18
Osprey	3/13	6/14	824	97 on 4/16, 69 on 4/22
Mississippi Kite	5/23	5/25	4	3 on 5/25
Bald Eagle	3/12	6/23	43	8 on 5/23
Northern Harrier	3/5	5/20	184	29 on 4/16, 27 on 4/4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/5	5/29	3348	469 on 4/22, 367 on 4/16
Cooper's Hawk	3 2	5/25	590	60 on 4/16, 39 on 4/24
Northern Goshawk	4/23	4/19	2	1 on 4/3, 1 on 4/19
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/15	6/23	212	55 on 3/31, 47 on 3/17
Broad-winged Hawk	3/30	6/2	4596	1897 on 4/16, 814 on 4/17
Red-tailed Hawk	2/15	5/25	269	63 on 3/17
American Kestrel	3/5	5/9	898	242 on 4/4, 106 on 4/10
Merlin	3/29	5/20	74	11 on 4/14, 10 on 4/16
Peregrine Falcon	5/1	5/17	6	2 on 5/4
Unidentified Raptor			30	
TOTAL	2/12	6/23	15,012	2630 on 4/16, 1412 on 4/17

was in DC on May 21 (Greg Gough). Leslie Fisher turned in the high for **American Coots** with over 420 at Bethel WMA on March 20. Danny Bystrak reported a solitary **Sandhill Crane** at Jug Bay on May 28, and one flew over Ft. Smallwood on May 29 (Ricciardi+).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, and Avocets. **Black-bellied Plovers** included 120 near Pocomoke City on March 10 (Vaughns), 1 at Riverside on April 17 (Blom), 14 at Worton on May 2 (Roslund), about 1,000 at Bayside Road, Worcester County on May 8 (Allen Deward), and 11 at Cecilton on May 22 (Ringler). Single **American Golden-Plovers**, tough to find in spring, were checked off at Tanyard on April 11 (Stasz) and at Truitt's Landing on May 17 (P. O'Brien). Dave Webb tallied 61 **Semipalmated Plovers** at Tydings Island on May 21, and, on May 23, Bob Ringler checked off 11 at Piney Run and another 45 at Liberty Reservoir in Carroll County, very high counts for this species that far inland. Charles and Gail Vaughn notched over 200 **Killdeer** near Pocomoke City on March 10, and Jim Stasz tallied 80 at UMCf on March 28. Ringler and Terry found 2 **American Oystercatchers** at Hoopers Island on April 3. **Black-necked Stilts** were early with 2 at Tanyard on April 17 (Reese). The seven at Elliott Island on April 21 (Radko, Green) were very interesting, as was the 1 at Deal Island WMA on April 29 (Lawler). Another was at Allens Fresh on May 15-16 (Jett+). An **American Avocet** was at Jug Bay on April 25 (M. Davenport).

Sandpipers. **Greater Yellowlegs** were numerous, including 32 at Blackwater on March 30 (Atwood), and 35 at Allens Fresh on April 6 (Craig). Stasz listed 38 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at North Beach on April 22 where he spotted an early **Solitary Sandpiper** on April 2. Jo and Bob Solem also found an early Solitary at Lake Elkhorn on April 7. Others included 19 at PWRC/N April 24 (Arnold), and 42 at UMCF on April 25 (Magnusson, Ott+). The **Willet** in Ocean City on March 31 (Iliff, Jett, Miller) was early, and one was reported at a somewhat unusual location, Octararo Creek, Cecil County, on May 8 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre). Two western race Willets were identified at E. A. Vaughn WMA on May 2 (Stasz), and another western was at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Scarpulla+). **Upland Sandpipers** were a very early one near Blackwater on March 30 (Atwood), 1 at UMCF on April 10 (Ott+), 3 at Coulby Road, Talbot County on April 11 (Stasz), and 1 at Beltsville on May 8 (Hatfield, Knedler). Always nice-to-find **Whimbrels** included 13 at Truitt's Landing on May 2 (Iliff, Stasz), 80 at Ocean City on May 22 (Iliff), and 2 at Tydings Island on May 23 (Webb). Farnsworth and Iliff found nice counts of 80 Whimbrels off Mosser Road, Garrett County on May 26, and 200 at Deal Island WMA the same day. North Beach hosted a **Red Knot** on May 19 (Stasz, Lesh), where an early **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was found on April 22 (Bystrak). High counts for Semipalms were 506 at Hart-Miller on May 22 (Scarpulla+), and 200 at North Beach on May 25-27 (Stasz). Todd Day found 3 **Western Sandpipers** at North Beach on May 23, and Hoffman notched 20 early **Least Sandpipers** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on March 24. About 52 Least Sandpipers were at North Beach on April 22 (Stasz), and 184 were at Lakeside, Harford County on May 8 (Blom, Monk). **White-rumped Sandpipers** were extremely early with singles at E. A. Vaughn WMA on April 18 (Dyke) and at North Branch on April 25 (Stasz). Others included 2 at Lakeside, Harford County May 11-14 (Blom), 3 at Piney Run May 23-25 (Ringle), and 2 at North Beach on May 25 (Stasz). **Pectoral Sandpipers** also joined the parade of early arrivals with 2 at Scotland on March 6 (Howard Youth, Gemma Radko+). A late Pectoral was noted at Mt. Lake Park, Garrett County on May 8 (Pope). There were only a few reports for **Stilt Sandpiper** including 1 at Lakeside on May 8 and May 11 (Blom, Monk). **Short-billed Dowitchers** included single early birds at Cornfield Harbor Road, St. Mary's County on April 21 (Craig) and at North Beach on April 22 (Bystrak). A Short-billed was at Pleasant Valley, Garrett County on May 3 (Pope). Iliff tallied about 360 Short-billeds, in flocks of 160 and 200, at Ocean City on May 22, and also found 2 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Elliott Island on May 2. Kyle Rambo totaled up over 120 **Common Snipe** at PRNAS on March 6, and other highs included 100 at Allens Fresh on March 26 (Jett), and 142 at UMCF on March 27 (Ott, Mary Jo Betts).

Jaegers, Gulls. Marshall Iliff spotted a **Parasitic Jaeger** and another unidentified jaeger off Ocean City headed northbound on May 22. Sam Dyke found an early **Laughing Gull** in Wicomico County on March 8. A first-summer **Franklin's Gull** was photographed at Burkittsville on May 8 (David Smith+) for a first Frederick County record, and a Franklin's was identified at Hains Point on May 23 (Janni, Hilton, Shannon). Five **Little Gulls**, 2 two adult-winters and a first-winter bird, were a nice surprise at Hart-Miller Island on March 28 (Scarpulla+). An adult-winter and a first-winter were there on April 24. A Little Gull was found at Back River, March 29-30 (Mackiernan, Cooper, Iliff), and an adult-winter was at North Beach on April 10 (Stasz). Scarpulla and party came up with a new species for Hart-Miller when they found a first-winter **Black-headed Gull** there on May 1. The high for **Bonaparte's Gulls** was 1,300 at Back River on March 25 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and the 140 at Wilde Lake on April 5 (Zeichner+) was the inland high. Five Bonaparte's were inland at Greenbrier SP on April 7 (Weesner), and about 150 were tallied at Flatland Road, Kent County on May 1 (Gruber, Lesh), and running a bit late were the solo birds spotted at Rocky Gap on May 26 (Iliff, Farnsworth), and at North Beach on May 28 (Saba). Gene Scarpulla tallied

about 10,000 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Conowingo Dam on March 13, and Bob Ringler noted 2 late, inland Ring-bills at Cumberland on May 31. Scarpulla sorted out a **California Gull** at Conowingo on March 13, and Blom identified another at Havre de Grace on May 28. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 2 at the Charles County landfill on March 13 (Ringler), 1 at Jug Bay WS on March 26 (Bystrak), 2 at Havre de Grace on May 8 (Blom, Monk), and 5 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). The **Kelp Gull** seen regularly this past winter at Sandgates, St. Mary's County, was extremely cooperative this spring as well. In large part due to the gracious hospitality of the owners of the *Seabreeze Restaurant*, many birders were able to observe this bird off-and-on into early May. A first- or second-winter **Glaucous Gull** frequented Hart-Miller, April 10 through May 31.

Terns. **Caspian Terns** were in evidence early on, with single sightings at Hoadley Road, Harford County on March 31 (Blom, Monk), at Bellevue on April 2 (H. & M. Armistead), and at Pt. Lookout on the same day (Hafner, Larkin). Eleven were noted at Blackwater on April 3 (Ringler, Terry, Stasz). Highs for Caspians were 400 at Havre de Grace on April 18 (Hafner, Fehskens, Stasz), and 272 at Hart-Miller on April 24 (Scarpulla+). **Royal Terns** were also early this spring with 1 at Morgantown on March 26 (Jett) and 2 at Ocean City on March 31 (Iliff, Jett, Miller). Iliff reported 3 **Sandwich Terns** at Ocean City on May 22, and 1 there on May 25. Three **Roseate Terns** were identified at Ocean City on May 7 (Pisano, Janni, O'Briens), and 1 was there on May 26 (Iliff, Farnsworth). Jonathan Smith noted an early **Common Tern** at Sandgates on March 20, and Kye Jenkins found a Common Tern inland at Loch Raven on April 16. Very surprising was the occurrence of **Arctic Terns** this spring. Dave Czaplak and Paul O'Brien reported an Arctic Tern at Violettes Lock on May 18, Scarpulla and party listed another at Hart-Miller on May 22, and Blom identified another at Havre de Grace (possibly the same from Hart-Miller) on May 23. Patty Craig found an early **Forster's Tern** at Leonardtown Wharf on March 3. Les Roslund reported a record-early **Least Tern** at Leeds Creek, Talbot County on April 1, and the only **Black Tern** was at Centennial Park on May 18 (J.M. Snyder).

Cuckoos, Owls, Chuck-will's-widows, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. Janni found a **Black-billed Cuckoo** in DC on the early date of April 29, and Dobbins found an early **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in DC on April 27. Mike Milton and Judy Schaefer turned in the high for Yellow-billeds with 20 at Crystal Spring Farm, Anne Arundel County on May 23. Scarpulla and party enjoyed 4 **Short-eared Owls** at Hart-Miller on March 28. George and Harry Armistead discovered a **Chuck-will's-widow** nest with 2 eggs at Bellevue on May 9. April 8 was pretty early for the **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** found by Bystrak at Jug Bay, and May 30 was very late for the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Dyke noted on the lower eastern shore in Wicomico County. Reese located a pair of **Hairy Woodpeckers** feeding at least 2 young in a tree cavity at Bayside Marina, Kent County on May 25, and Ott had a nice count of 30 flyover **Northern Flickers** at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on April 4.

Flycatchers, Swallows. Once again, a few solo hard-to-find **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found at Violettes Lock on May 12 (Lucy, Green), at the Gunpowder River near Bunker Hill on May 14 (Jenkins), and at Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore County on May 23 (N. & F. Saunders). Hafner reported a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Susquehanna SP, Harford County on May 11, and Norm and Fran Saunders noted one at Pt. Lookout SP on May 15. Another was at PRNAS May 15-16 (Listers, Walker, Weigant), and one was checked off at Wooten Mill Park, Montgomery County on May 21 (Bob Augustine). **Alder Flycatchers** included one calling at Broadford Reservoir on May 7 (Pope), 3 at Mt. Nebo WMA on May 14 (Skipper), a migrant singing at Aberdeen on May 27 (Webb), one at Browns Bridge on May 21

(Solem), one in DC on May 23 (Janni), one at Finksburg the same day (Ringler), and one singing at Colbourne Mill Road, Worcester County on May 25 (Iliff). In Howard County, Bonnie Ott tallied a nice count of 11 **Willow Flycatchers** at Meadowbrook on May 25, and Olson found an early **Least Flycatcher** at Schooley Mill Park on April 25. The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** was also early on the lower eastern shore in Wicomico County on April 17 (Dyke). On May 1, Iliff and Stasz tallied a total of 81 Great Cresteds throughout Worcester County. Jim Stasz reported a flyover **Western Kingbird** at Indian Creek WMA, Charles County on May 15. The **Tree Swallow** at Little Falls, Montgomery County on March 4 (Czaplak) was early for that far inland, and highs for Tree Swallows included over 200 at Bethel WMA on March 20 and 2,000 there on April 11 (Fisher). Very early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** arrived at 2 Charles County locations on March 20 (Jett); 1 at Allens Fresh and 1 at Cobb Island. **Bank Swallows** were also early with 12 at Chestertown on April 6 (Gruber), and 1 at Jennings Chapel Road, Howard County on April 8 (Wallace). Not to be left off the early express, a **Cliff Swallow** was noted at Scotland on April 4 (Craig, Bishop), and 2 were at Rocky Gap SP on April 11 (Kiddy). A **Barn Swallow** showed up at Pt. Lookout on the very early date of March 19 (Craig).

Vireos, Nuthatches, Creepers. **White-eyed Vireos** began early with 1 at Jug Bay on April 8 (Bystrak), 1 at Harford Glen on April 10 (Hafner, Larkin), 1 at Idylewyld WMA, Caroline County on April 11 (Stasz), and 2 at PWRC/N the same day (Arnold). Connie Skipper found a **Blue-headed Vireo** near Oakland on April 11, and Mackiernan and Cooper listed over 20 at Rock Creek Park on April 28. Tyler Bell checked off an early **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County on April 16. Fisher identified a **Philadelphia Vireo** on April 27 at Turkey Point, and Pope listed one at Broadford Reservoir on May 6. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** found by Iliff at Swallow Falls SP on May 24 was probably nesting. Fran Pope tallied 8 **Brown Creepers**, with several singing, at Herrington Manor SP on April 30.

Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. The first **House Wrens** were one at PWRC/N on March 5 (Arnold), at Berlin on March 24 (Hoffman), and an early migrant at Harford Glen on April 5 (Hafner, Fehskens). It was a fairly good spring for the hard-to-find **Sedge Wren**, with 2 at Cornfield Harbor on April 8 (Craig), 1 at Pt. Lookout on April 14 (Rambo), and 1 at Rockburn Branch Park, Howard County on April 24 (Ott). From one to four Sedge Wrens were notched at Truitt's Landing from May 2 (Iliff, Stasz) through May 29 (N. & F. Saunders). John Churchill found a **Marsh Wren** out west at Oldtown on May 8. Highs for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were 45 at Rock Creek Park on April 22 (Cooper) and 45 at Chino Farms the same day (Gruber). The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Fresh Pond Neck Road, St. Mary's County on March 20 (Day, Gaskill), and 150 were checked off at Ft. Smallwood on April 21 (Ricciardi).

Thrushes, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings. Probable **Bicknell's Thrushes** were reported with 1 at Lake Roland on May 11 (Kirschbaum), and another during a night flight on May 23 at Crystal Spring Farm, Anne Arundel County on May 23 where over 105 **Swainson's Thrushes** were tallied the same night (Iliff). Highs for **American Pipits** were about 200 at Scotland on March 10 (Craig), over 200 the same day southeast of Pocomoke City (Vaughns), 150+ near Russell and Michaels Roads, Garrett County on March 20 (Stasz), and 400 at Chino Farms on April 19 (Gruber). Three late American Pipits were located at Cecilton on May 15 (Hafner, Larkin). High counts for **Cedar Waxwings** were 400 at Chestertown on March 8 (Jim & Trish Gruber), and 500 at Neavitt on April 11 (Roslund). Jim Stasz found a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Casper Road, Washington County on May 28. Jan Reese noted a fledgling **European Starling** on the ground at Kent Point being fed by an adult on May 22.

Warblers. John Churchill found a **Blue-winged Warbler** at the Youghiogheny Reservoir in Garrett County on May 1, and single hybrid **Brewster's Warblers** were reported at Rock Creek Park on May 6 and May 20 (Mackiernan, Cooper), at Herrington Manor, Garrett County on May 9 (Ellen Paul), and at Indian Springs WMA, Washington County on May 19 (William Leigh). The solo **Tennessee Warblers** found at Harford Glen on April 22 (Hafner, Fehskens), and at Rock Creek Park on April 27 (Dobbins) were early. Single **Orange-crowned Warblers**, perhaps from winter, were reported at PRNAS on March 5 (Rambo), at LBJ Grove, DC on March 12 (David Bridge), at Wilde Lake on April 17 (Zeichner), and near California on May 8 (Bell, Kostenko). **Northern Parulas** began early with 1 at Kensington Heights Park, Montgomery County on March 27 (Ralph Whaley), and 2 at Harford Glen on April 4 (Monk). The **Chestnut-sided Warbler** visiting Chino Farms on April 22 (Gruber), the **Magnolia Warbler** along Herrington Manor Road, Garrett County on April 24 (Pope), the **Cape May Warbler** at Rock Creek Park on April 27 (Dobbins), and the **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Hollywood on April 23 (Rambo) were all early. Bonnie Ott tallied 51 Black-throated Blues at Rockburn Branch Park, Howard County, on May 8. Highs for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 250 at Scotland on March 10 (Craig), 250 at Chino Farms on April 26 (Gruber), and 400 at Rock Creek Park on May 6, and 300 at Violettes Lock and Hughes Hollow on May 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Solo Yellow-rumps banded at Chino Farms on May 25 and noted at Oakland on May 26 (Iliff+) were running late, and the one at New Germany SP on May 29 (Ringle) may have been nesting. Single early **Black-throated Green Warblers** were at Broadford Reservoir on April 10 (Pope) and at Wilde Lake on April 18 (Carol Newman). Over 20 were listed at Rock Creek Park on April 28 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and a late one was banded at Chino Farms on May 28 (Gruber). **Blackburnian Warblers** began early with 1 at Violettes Lock on April 24 (Dan Eberly), 2 at Rocky Gap SP on April 25 (Kiddy), and a singing male at Herrington Manor SP on April 30 (Pope). Fran Pope noted a male **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Broadford Reservoir on April 16 and April 18, and Iliff and Stasz tallied a total of 72 Yellow-throated Warblers at several stops in Worcester County on May 1 and a late one at Youghiogheny Reservoir in Garrett County on May 30. **Prairie Warblers** were also early with single birds at Indian Head, Charles County on April 16 (Bart Hutchinson), and near the Salisbury Airport on April 17 (Brodericks). The first **Palm Warblers** were 1 at Cambridge on March 2 (Reese), and 4 at Elk Neck SF, Cecil County on March 23 (Fisher). About 30 of the yellow race were tallied at Ft. Smallwood on April 4 (Eberly), single birds identified as westerns were checked off at Pt. Lookout on March 6 and April 8 (Youth, Craig+), banded at Chino Farms on April 3, at Cool Spring, Harford County on April 8 (Fehskens+), at Laytonsville on April 10 (Stasz), and at Broadford Reservoir on May 11 (Pope). An early **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 29 (Stasz), and an early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Lake Elkhorn on April 8 (Jane Coskren). Mackiernan and Cooper totaled up over 25 Black-and-whites at Rock Creek Park on April 28. **American Redstarts** got started with a male at Nassawango Creek on April 13 (Allen Deward), and the first **Ovenbird** was at Fleming Mill Pond, Worcester County on April 4 (Stasz). The **Northern Waterthrush** near Hughes Hollow on April 22 (Mackiernan, Cooper) was early, as was the **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Tanyard on March 24 (Engle), and the two at Nassawango Creek the same day (Dyke). Continuing the early-bird trend were single **Kentucky Warblers** at Lake Frank, Montgomery County on April 16 (Ben Schweinhart), and at St. Michaels on April 21 (Norm Haddaway); a **Hooded Warbler** in Wicomico County on April 12 (Dyke); a **Wilson's Warbler** at Lake Roland, Baltimore County on April 24 (Peter Lev); a **Canada Warbler** at Harford Glen on April 4 (Monk); and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** in Wicomico County on April 13 (Dyke).

Tanagers, Sparrows. Ben Schweinhart found a nice-to-find male **Scarlet Tanager** at Lake Frank, Montgomery County on April 16, and Jim Stasz found another up north at Lakeside, Harford County on May 22. Churchill checked off 16 **American Tree Sparrows** at North Branch on March 20, and the first **Chipping Sparrow** was at Hughes Hollow on March 6 (Barton Bland). Bob Ringler and George Gaffney observed a Chipping Sparrow feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird at Eldersburg on May 26. Jim Stasz reported 8 **Vesper Sparrows** at Idylwild WMA, Caroline County on April 4. Highs for **Savannah Sparrows** included about 100 at UMCF on April 8 (Ott+) and over 30 at Easton on April 25 (Reese). **Grasshopper Sparrows** began with solo birds at Pickering Creek on April 16 (Roslund), and at Blanco Road, Queen Anne's County on April 17 (Stasz). **LeConte's Sparrows** are rare in Maryland, particularly in spring, and the one found at E. A. Vaughn WMA, May 2-4 (Stasz, Iloff) was only the second record for spring and the seventh overall for the State. The other spring record LeConte's Sparrow for Maryland (April 4, 1992) was found less than 2 miles away from this spring's sighting. Patty Craig identified 2 **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** at Pt. Lookout on April 22, and a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** there on the same day. Patty and her birding party found another Nelson's at Pt. Lookout on May 8 as well, and she counted over 30 **Seaside Sparrows** at Scotland on April 22, and over 50 at Pt. Lookout the same day. Dave Mozurkewich tallied 145 **Song Sparrows** at Beltsville on March 20, and **Lincoln's Sparrows** included singles at Cornfield Harbor on April 8 (Craig), PRNAS on April 16 (Rambo), and Rockburn Branch Park on April 24 (Ott). Highs for **White-throated Sparrows** included over 500 southeast of Pocomoke City on March 10 (Vaughns), and about 300 at Rock Creek Park on April 22 (Cooper). Jim Gruber banded a **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** at Chino Farms on March 5, that was recaptured there on April 25. Mark Wallace found a very late **Dark-eyed Junco** at Howard and Linthicum Roads in Howard County on May 23.

Longspurs, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Dickcissels. **Lapland Longspurs** included 60 at PRNAS on March 1 (Jim Swift); 40 there on March 6, 25 there on March 9, and one there on March 19 (Rambo); 6 at Union Church Road, Wicomico County on March 10 (Brodericks); and one at Russell and Michael's Roads, Garrett County on March 20 (Stasz). A few **Snow Buntings** lingered with 4 found at PRNAS on March 1 (Jim Swift) and March 9 (Rambo), 1 at Sandy Point SP on March 13 (Mark Eanes), and 24 at Chino Farms on March 20 (Gruber). Karan and Bill Blum noted a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Roxbury Road, Howard County on April 16. **Blue Grosbeaks** included early singles at Denton on April 4 (L. T. Short), at Leeds Creek, Talbot County on April 10 (Roslund), and at Chino Farms on April 19 (Gruber). Pope found a male Blue Grosbeak at a feeder in Garrett County on May 8. The first **Indigo Buntings** were singles at Bozman on April 21 (Jim Baynard) and at Dunkirk the same day (Arlene Ripley). Dave Webb and Russ Kovach discovered a **Dickcissel** at Aberdeen Proving Ground on May 8, and Mark Wallace found 2 the same day at Cissel Farm, Howard County.

Icterids, House Finches. Pisano and Janni and party tallied over 800 **Bobolinks** at 2 Frederick County sites, near Mt. Ephraim Road and near Greenfield Road, on May 7. Gary Griffith found a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at North East on March 8, and Marcia Simonson located another at the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on May 9. Matt O'Donnell estimated about 100 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert County on April 25. **Baltimore Orioles** began with solo sightings at Tanyard on April 18 (Engle), and at Harford Glen on April 21 (Kovach). Fran Pope observed a pair of **House Finches** feeding 3 fledged young at Mt. Lake Park, Garrett County on May 23.

BREEDING SEASON: JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1999

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH & ROBERT F. RINGLER

Very low water levels in streams reflected the extremely dry summer suffered by most of the east coast. Dry conditions also prevailed in much of Pennsylvania, New York, and the New England region, providing the kind of widespread, suboptimal breeding conditions that may have led to greater avian dispersal. Many bird species, usually associated with more northerly and elevated altitudes, were noted in Maryland this summer in higher than normal numbers.

Observers: George, Harry and Liz Armistead, Stan Arnold, Rick Blom, Dave Brinker, Carol & Don Broderick, Danny Bystrak, Martha Chestem, Joe Chronowski, Jane Coskren, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, David Czaplak, Todd Day, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Gail Frantz, Matt Hafner, Wilbur Hershberger, Mark Hoffman, Marshall Iliff, George Jett, Bill Kulp Jr., Peter Lev, Greg Miller, Dave Mozurkewich, Dave Perry, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Bob Ringler, Les Roslund, Fran & Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Steve Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Paul Spitzer, Jim Stasz, Debbie Terry, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Mike Welch, John Weske, Paul Woodward, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SP - State Park, WMA - Wildlife Management Area

Locations: Anacostia River Park (DC), Assateague Island (Worcester), Bodkin Island (Queen Anne's), Centennial Park (Howard), Conowingo Dam (Harford), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Flag Ponds Park (Calvert), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lakeside Business Park (Harford), Leeds Creek (Talbot), Liberty Lake (Carroll), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (Prince George's), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Pone Island (Dorchester), Poplar Island (Talbot), PRNAS (Saint Mary's), PWRC (Prince George's), PWRC-North Tract (Anne Arundel), Rigby's Folly (Talbot), South Marsh Island (Somerset), Spring Island (Dorchester), Tilghman Island (Talbot), Truitt's Landing (Worcester). All other locations can be found in the index of the state highway map.

Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses, Gannet. A single **Common Loon** was at Scotland on June 17 (Craig), 4 were off Rigby's Folly on June 21 (H. Armistead), and another at Loch Raven on July 27 (Simon, Lev). Successful nesting of **Pied-billed Grebes** was recorded at E. A. Vaughn WMA where 3 flightless juveniles were seen on July 1 (Stasz, Hafner) and Myrtle Grove WMA where an adult with 2 downy young were seen on July 5 (Jett). An early migrant Pied-billed Grebe was at Loch Raven on July 27 (Simon, Lev). A June 19 pelagic trip recorded the following species in Maryland waters: 1 **Sooty Shearwater**, 9 **Cory's Shearwaters**, 23 **Greater Shearwaters**, and 200 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. The latter species was also noted in Chesapeake Bay between Point Lookout and Smith Island by Cribb, who saw 1 near Point Lookout on June 19 and 2 on July 15, and counted 27 on June 24 near Buoy #70 in Somerset County and 5 in Somerset County waters on July 15. An immature **Northern Gannet** was seen from the Smith Island ferry on June 26 (Jett, Stasz, Miller).

Pelicans, Cormorants, Aningas. The nesting colony of **Brown Pelicans** on Spring Island increased dramatically this year with 120 nests counted and 407 birds present on June 13 (H. Armistead, Spitzer). Contents of the nests were 9 with one egg, 50 with two eggs, 49 with three eggs, 2 with one young and two eggs, 2 with two young and one egg, 3 with two young, 1 with three young, and 4 empty but looking fresh. Other Brown Pelicans were seen in Wicomico County with 9 on the lower Nanticoke River on July 8 (C. & D. Broderick), and across the bay 29 were at Cedar Point, PRNAS on July 11 (Craig, Rambo). **Double-crested Cormorants** are increasing as breeders. The Poplar Island colony contained 675 pairs, Spring Island had 68 nests, and nesting was also noted at Bodkin Island, a new site (Brinker, H. Armistead+). Armistead and Spitzer estimated 235 cormorants at Pone Island and 520 at Spring Island on June 13, and the nest count at the latter site was 6 with one egg, 12 with two eggs, 9 with three eggs, 7 with four eggs, 1 with one egg and one young, 1 with three young, 1 with two young, and 31 other nests not inspected. This colony is probably responsible for the midsummer sightings across the bay, including 65 at Saint Clements Island in Saint Mary's County on July 11 (Craig). Late migrant cormorants included 1 at Piney Run on June 4 (Ringler), while possible early fall migrants were 1 at Liberty Lake on July 10 (Ringler), 1 at Centennial on July 18 (Coskren), and 7 at Eastern Neck July 25 (Ringler, Terry). Kyle Rambo and Tommy Wright reported 2 **Aningas** at PRNAS on June 15.

Herons and Ibis. An **American Bittern** was seen on July 21 at Hollywood, not near any known breeding site (Rambo). Blom counted 61 **Great Blue Herons** at Havre de Grace on June 12. Two Great Blue Herons flying slowly, low over Cherry Creek in Pleasant Valley, Garrett County on June 13 before landing (Pope) may have been local breeders. The Great Blue Herons nesting in the colony at Vantage Point in Columbia had 10 active nests. Zeichner counted 17 young in the nests on June 27, Chestem noted 22-25 on July 19, and 3 full-grown young were still in one nest on August 3-4. An early dispersing **Great Egret** was at Liberty Lake on June 28 (Ringler) and a count of 26 at Wootton's Landing, Anne Arundel County on July 28 (Bystrak) was the high for the season. Jett found a Great Egret and 2 adult **Little Blue Herons** at Mattawoman Natural Environment Area, Charles County on July 5. The 11 Little Blue Herons at Elkton on June 4 (Watson-Whitmyre) were probably foraging from a colony



Double-crested Cormorant nest at Spring Island, Dorchester County, June 19, 1999. Photo by George Armistead



*Young Brown Pelicans, Spring Island,
June 19, 1999. Photo by George Armistead*

in Delaware. Stasz counted 51 **Cattle Egrets** near Starr on July 24. An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Frederick on July 18 (Hershberger, Welch) was unusual. About 70 **Glossy Ibis** were at Truitt's Landing on July 1 (Stasz, Hafner), Bystrak saw 1 at Jug Bay on July 13, Blom found 2 at Lakeside on July 17, and 2 were at Elkton on July 27 (Hafner, Chronowski).

Waterfowl. A sign of the times: 640 **Canada Geese** at Blackwater on June 13 (H. Armistead), 82 including young at Deal Island WMA on July 11 (H. Armistead), 625 including young of the year at Liberty Lake on July 24 (Ringler), and 126 at Lilypons on the latter date (Woodward). There were 245 **Mute Swans** at Pone Island on June 13 (H. Armistead, Spitzer) and 280 at Eastern Neck on July 25 (Ringler, Terry). Also on the latter date 120 Mute Swans were at Rigby's Folly, including a pair with 8 downy young (H. Armistead). A **Tundra Swan** appeared at Lake Elkhorn on June 10 (Chestem, Sue Neri) and remained at least through July 18. Another Tundra Swan was at Carmichael from July 1 through the end of the period (Poet) and one at Hurlock the same day with an adult Snow Goose (Stasz, Hafner), both also seen into September. Four female **Wood Ducks** with a total of 25 young were seen at the north end of Loch Raven on June 6 (Kye Jenkins). A female **Gadwall** flushed from a nest with 7 eggs at Deal Island WMA on July 11 (H. Armistead). An **American Wigeon** was at Havre de Grace on June 12 (Blom) and another at Ridgely on July 31 (Ringler+). An **American Black Duck** at Liberty Lake, July 3-10 (Ringler), was unusual in summer. A drake **Blue-winged Teal** was unexpected at Hart-Miller on June 19-26 (Scarpulla+). A drake **Northern Shoveler** was also at Hart-Miller on June 26 (Scarpulla). Single male **Northern Pintails** were at Elkton on June 4 (Watson-Whitmyre), Hart-Miller on June 19 (Scarpulla+), and Conowingo Dam on July 11-22 (Blom). Churchill found 2 **Green-winged Teal** at Deal Island WMA on June 4 and a drake was at Hart-Miller on June 26 (Scarpulla). Non-breeding diving ducks summering were a drake **Canvasback** at Smallwood SP, Charles County on June 12 (Craig), **Ring-necked Ducks** at 2 Harford County locations, a male at Havre de Grace on June 12 (Blom) and another drake at Lakeside from mid June through July 29 (Blom+), a drake **Greater Scaup** at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Scarpulla), and a female at Allen's Fresh on July 25 (Jett), a **Lesser Scaup** at Hurlock on July 1 (Stasz, Hafner), a **Surf Scoter** in the Choptank River mouth on June 19 and July 3 (H. and L. Armistead) and 1 in Fishing Bay off Elliott on July 27 (Hafner, Chronowski), a **Black Scoter** at Pone Island on June 19 (H. & G. Armistead, Ringler) and 3

immatures at Assateague on July 11 (Miller), 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** at the east end of the Bay Bridge, Queen Anne's County on June 5 (Jett, Miller), and a **Red-breasted Merganser** at Pone Island on June 13 (H. Armistead, Spitzer). A female **Hooded Merganser** was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on July 2 (Stasz, Hafner). **Ruddy Duck** non-breeders included 3 on Leeds Creek into June with 1 male on June 12 (Roslund), 2 at Scotland from June 17 through July 7 (Craig), 1 on Piscataway Creek, Prince George's County on June 26 (Jett, Miller), a drake at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Scarpulla), 8 at Hurlock on July 17 (Iliff, Day, Miller), and 3 at Chestertown on July 25 (Ringler, Terry). Breeding of Ruddy Ducks was confirmed at Deal Island WMA for the first time when an adult with 5 young was seen on July 11 (Mozurkewich).

Diurnal Raptors, Gallinaceous Birds, Rails. The only inland report of **Osprey** was one at Riley's Lock, Montgomery County on June 12 (Woodward). Rambo counted 56 Ospreys at PRNAS on July 7. Two **Bald Eagles** at Liberty Lake on July 5 (Ringler, Terry, Frantz) included an adult and a young of the year but it is not known where the young bird originated. An immature (at least 2 years old) Bald Eagle was at the Youghiogheny River Reservoir near Friendsville in Garrett County on July 31 (J. B. Churchill). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Rigby's Folly on June 22 (H. & L. Armistead) was unusual in summer. A juvenile **Cooper's Hawk** at Valley Lee on July 31 (Craig) was indicative of local breeding. Likewise, a **Broad-winged Hawk** carrying food while being chased by blackbirds at Dameron on July 11 (Craig). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** nested on the Thomas Johnson Bridge at Solomons and fledged at least 1 young bird (Bell, Kostenko+). Pope flushed 9 large young **Ruffed Grouse** in woods behind Herrington Manor SP, Garrett County on July 11. Stasz saw a male **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Ridgely on July 24. Skipper saw 3 female **Wild Turkeys** with 33 young near Bittinger on July 8. Lynn and Linda Holley saw 2 adult turkeys with 8 young near Woodstock on July 23, and the same day Powell saw a female with 7 small young at Susquehanna SP, Harford County. A **Black Rail** was heard at Parker's Creek, Calvert County, June 23-26 (Leslie Starr), and 3 were at Truitt's Landing on July 2 (Stasz, Hafner) where the Brodericks found 2 on July 5. A group led by Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson heard 8 Black Rails at Elliott on July 11. Blom heard a **King Rail** calling at James Run, Harford County on June 16, and an adult with a downy young was at Truitt's Landing on July 1 (Stasz, Hafner). An adult **Common Moorhen** was near Langford on July 25 (Ringler, Terry). An **American Coot** was at Piney Run on June 4 (Ringler) and another was at Deal Island WMA on July 17 (Day, Miller, Iliff).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. A **Black-bellied Plover** at Blackwater on June 13 (H. Armistead) was late for spring and one at Elliott on July 10 (Hal Wierenga+) was early for the fall. Also late for spring was a **Semipalmated Plover** at Cecilton on June 13 (Stasz). High counts of breeders or for this early part of the fall migration were 26 **Piping Plovers** on Assateague on July 11 (Miller), 47 **Killdeer** at PRNAS on July 13 (Rambo), 200 at Ridgely on July 17 (Ringler, Kulp), 170 at Liberty Lake on July 18 (Ringler, Terry), and 92 at Central Sod Farms, Queen Anne's County on July 30 (Poet); also 26 **American Oystercatchers** on Smith Island on July 11 (Iliff, Stasz). Hoffman found a pair of **Black-necked Stilts** with 2 downy young in the Elliott marshes on July 8, where 12 birds were seen on the 10th (H. Armistead+). Early fall migrants included an **American Avocet** at Hart-Miller, July 3 and 23 (Scarpulla+), and 3 avocets at Ridgely on July 22 (Hoffman).

Sandpipers. A **Greater Yellowlegs** at Liberty Lake on June 12 (Ringler) was probably a late spring bird, but a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Hart-Miller on June 19 (Scarpulla+) was possibly early in the fall. The 350 Lessers at Ridgely on July 30 (Ringler+) were high for the season. Single **Solitary Sandpipers** at Hurlock and Truitt's Landing on July 1 (Stasz, Hafner) and one at Liberty Lake on July 3 (Ringler) were early. Breeding **Willetts** included a downy young

at Smith Island on June 26 (Stasz+) and 3 young at Elliott on July 10 (H. Armistead). An adult **Spotted Sandpiper** with a large downy young was at Westminster on July 10 (Ringler), a single downy bird was at Lake Allen on PWRC-North Tract on July 17 (Arnold), and 2 downy young were at Frederick on July 18 (Hershberger, Welch). High counts of Spotted Sandpipers were 39 at Hart-Miller on July 10 (Scarpulla), 23 at Liberty Lake on July 18 (Ringler, Terry), and 25 at Hurlock on July 27 (Hafner, Chronowski). An **Upland Sandpiper** at PRNAS on July 7 (Rambo) was early, while highs for the season were 12 at Salisbury Airport on July 11 (Dyke) and 17 at PRNAS on July 27 (Rambo). A **Whimbrel** was at Flag Ponds on July 7 (Perry) and a **Marbled Godwit** was flying down Assateague on July 11 (Miller). Hart-Miller hosted 137 late **Semipalmated Sandpipers** on June 5 (Scarpulla+) and an early fall bird was there on June 26 (Scarpulla), increasing to 1,173 on July 31. The high for **Western Sandpipers** was 234 at Hart-Miller on July 31 (Scarpulla). A late **Least Sandpiper** was at Hart-Miller on June 12 (Scarpulla), and 4 there on June 19 (Scarpulla+) could be going either way, while 2 at Liberty Lake on June 27 (Ringler, Terry) were certainly southbound. Highs for Least were 910 at Hart-Miller on July 17 (Scarpulla, Don Burggraf), 70 at Liberty Lake on July 18 (Ringler, Terry), 139 at Ridgely on July 20 (Iliff), and 125 at Havre de Grace on July 29 (Blom, Webb). Late spring migrants were a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Remington Farms on July 3 (Rob Hilton) and 2 at Truitt's Landing on July 5 (C. & D. Broderick). There were 42 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Ridgely on July 27 (Hafner, Chronowski), a **Stilt Sandpiper** at Ridgely on July 17 (Ringler, Kulp), and 24 there on July 30 (Ringler+). A male **Ruff** was at Easton, July 17-25 (Jett+), another near Starr on July 18-20 (Iliff+), and one more at Tanyard on July 19 (Stasz). Among the birds which might be classed as late spring migrants were 5 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Havre de Grace on June 1 (Webb), while one at Hart-Miller on June 26 (Scarpulla), one at Scotland on July 7 (Craig), and another at Westminster on July 10 (Ringler) were early fall birds and 21 (2 *griseus* and 19 *hendersoni*) were at Ridgely on July 20 (Iliff). A breeding plumaged **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at Easton on July 24-27 (Stasz+) and a **Wilson's Phalarope** at Hart-Miller on June 19 (Scarpulla+).

Gulls. Brinker reports that at least 200 pairs of **Laughing Gulls** were nesting on the south end of Spring Island, perhaps the only nesting of this species in Maryland this year. There were about 800 Laughing Gulls at Tanyard on July 30 (Ringler+). An adult **Bonaparte's Gull** was unexpected at Havre de Grace on July 29 (Blom, Webb). Two sub-adult **Ring-billed Gulls** at Rigby's Folly on July 3 (H. & L. Armistead), a juvenile at Havre de Grace on July 8 (Webb), and 3 adults at Liberty Lake on July 10 (Ringler) may have been early returnees from northern breeding areas. Harry Armistead's surveys of **Herring Gull** colonies yielded the following results: on Spring Island on June 13 were 6 nests with one egg, 3 nests with two eggs, 2 nests with three eggs, 1 nest with three young, 1 nest with one young, and many more nests unrecorded; at South Marsh Island on June 19 were 1 fresh nest with no eggs, 1 nest with one egg and one young, and 1 nest with three eggs plus other nests probably present. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** again summered at Hart-Miller with a high of 9 (5 first-summer, 3 second-summer, and 1 third-summer) on June 5 (Scarpulla+). All were noted as less than three years old. Another first-summer Lesser Black-back was at Havre de Grace on July 29 (Blom, Webb). A second-summer **Glaucous Gull** was at Hart-Miller from June 12 through July 17 (Scarpulla+) while another was at Chesapeake Beach July 13-23 (Bystrak, Iliff). The high for **Great Black-backed Gulls** was reliable Hart-Miller with 1,027 there on July 24 (Scarpulla). The **Kelp Gull** at Sandgates continued through the season (Jane Kostenko, Tyler Bell).

Terns. Two **Gull-billed Terns**, adult and juvenile, were seen over the Potomac River in Prince George's County opposite Fort Washington on July 24 (Czaplak). The only other report was of one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on July 2 (Stasz, Hafner). Engle noted two **Caspian**



Common Tern at its nest, South Marsh Island, Somerset County.

Photo by George Armistead

Terns at Tanyard on June 4 and single birds there on July 25-26. At Lake Elkhorn 2 Caspians were seen on July 20 (Coskren). Three **Royal Terns** at Benoni Point, Talbot County on June 21 (H. Armistead) were unusual, while 28 at Morgantown on July 3 (Jett) and 34 at Deal Island WMA on July 11 (H. Armistead) were more expected. Brinker and Weske banded 490 young Royal Terns in the colony at Ocean City on July 14. **Sandwich Terns** were seen at Ocean City through the summer, including 2 on July 1 (Stasz, Hafner) and 4, 3 adults and 1 juvenile, on July 27 (Dyke), but none were known to have nested there. Single Sandwich Terns were seen at Point Lookout and Smith Island on July 30 (N. & F. Saunders). Craig estimated 80 **Common Terns** at Point Lookout on July 9. Interesting sightings of **Least Terns** were 2 at Greenbelt through early July (Mozurkewich) and 1 at Anacostia River Park on July 20 (Greg Gough). A **Black Tern** was seen over Chesapeake Bay off Smith Island on June 26 (Stasz, Miller, Jett), and Bystrak saw another over Jug Bay on June 29. A **Black Skimmer** was at Point Lookout on July 7 (Craig) and 1 at Chesapeake Beach on July 23 (Iliff).

Parrot, Cuckoo, Owls, Hummingbirds.. Definitely in the category of escaped bird was a yellow Budgerigar at the Polo Fields in DC on June 29 (Chris French). The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** reported from the Eastern Shore was at Golts on June 13 (Stasz), and another was at PRNAS on June 20 (Nicole Michels). A **Barn Owl** nest with 2 young was seen at Jug Bay on July 18 (Bystrak). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nest at Queenstown had young in it from July 4 through July 12 (Poet), and a nest at Choptank contained 2 young on July 31 that fledged on Aug. 5 (D. Ford).

Flycatchers, Swallows. Early fall migrants were a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Liberty Watershed, Carroll County on July 25 (Stasz) and a **Least Flycatcher** banded at Hughes Hollow on July 27 (Woodward). A summering Least Flycatcher was at Merkle on June 24 (Steve Sanford, Pete Webb). Coastal Plain reports of **Willow Flycatchers** included 1 at Oxon Hill Children's Farm on June 2 (Gough), 3 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on June 7 with 1 remaining on June 28 (Gough), and 2 in Kent County at Millington WMA on June 13 (Stasz). An immature **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was reported on Assateague on July 8-9 (*vide* Scarpulla). A **Purple Martin** was incubating 3 eggs at Queenstown on June 23 (Reese). On July 30 Engle estimated at least 170 martins had gathered at Tanyard before migrating. One **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Rigby's Folly on June 22 (H. Armistead) was probably an early fall migrant, and Woodward counted 234 at Hughes Hollow on July 31. A **Bank Swallow** at Easton on June 20 (Ringler) had probably dispersed from a breeding colony. About 100 Bank Swallows were at Ridgely on July 27 (Hafner, Chronowski). In late June Don and Martha Waugh no-

ticed a leucistic young **Barn Swallow** among the fledglings at Lake Elkhorn. It was seen through June 28 (Coskren). Craig estimated 300 Barn Swallows at Valley Lee on July 31.

Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrush. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** seen in southern Garrett County near the Mettiki Coal Company on June 26 (Pope) was probably a local breeder as was perhaps another at Warrior Mountain WMA, Allegany County in late June (Bystrak), but one at Jug Bay on July 3 (Bystrak) and July 6 (N. McAllister) was extraordinary. Reese found 2 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** at Bennett Point, Queen Anne's County on July 19. Young could be heard in a mossy nest on a limestone cliff along Canyon Trail near Muddy Creek Falls, Garrett County where a pair of adult **Winter Wrens** was observed carrying food and removing fecal sacs on July 24-28 (Pope). The only **Sedge Wrens** reported were at Deal Island WMA on July 2 (Stasz, Hafner) and Cherry Creek Glades, Garrett County on July 17 (Iliff, Day, Miller). Harry Armistead counted 80 **Marsh Wrens** during his circumnavigation of the Deal Island WMA dikes on July 11. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Hughes Hollow on June 14 (Woodward) provided a record-late spring date.

Warblers, Sparrows. A singing male **Magnolia Warbler** at Bowie on July 3 (Fred Fallon) was remarkable for the season. A male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was observed collecting caterpillars as if to feed young birds on Maple Glade Road in Garrett State Forest on July 23 (Pope). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Point Lookout on June 14-15 (Cribb) and a **Northern Waterthrush** at Denton on June 6 (Mariana Nuttle) were probably spring stragglers. Dyke found a singing male **Swainson's Warbler** along the Pocomoke River in Worcester County on June 22. An **Ovenbird** nest with 4 young was at PRNAS on June 23 and a juvenile **Louisiana Waterthrush** was banded there on June 11 (Craig). Up to 4 male **Dickcissels** found in southern Frederick County this year (many observers) were not unexpected, but 1 near Monie on June 5 (Stan Arnold) was outstanding. Four **Savannah Sparrows** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on July 1 showed no signs of breeding (Stasz, Hafner). A **Henslow's Sparrow** was singing at Aberdeen Proving Ground from June 27 through July 29 (Deidre DeRoia+), the only one reported away from the mountains. Iliff estimated 35 singing Henslow's Sparrows on a reclaimed strip mine in southeastern Garrett County near Westernport. Harry Armistead counted only 4 **Salt-marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** at Deal Island WMA on July 11 but 115 **Seaside Sparrows**. Two singing **White-throated Sparrows** at Elkton on June 5 (Watson-Whitmyre) were late while one heard singing at Lake Roland on July 15 (Lev), one at Harford Glen July 26 (Hafner), and one at Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County on Aug. 1 (Jack Saba) had lingered beyond migration. Similarly a **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Webster Village near Havre de Grace on July 18-27 (Webb).

Grosbeaks, Buntings, Icterids. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at an Ellicott City feeder for about a week and a half up to June 30 (*vide* Bonnie Ott) was unexpected. An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared in Washington County at Washington Monument SP on July 29 (Weesner). Craig found a female **Indigo Bunting** collecting nesting material on the late date of July 10 at Dameron. A female and 3 male **Bobolinks** were seen at Keysville on June 5 (Ringler+) and a singing male at Aberdeen Proving Ground on June 25-30 (Blom, Webb) was unusual for the Coastal Plain. The first migrant Bobolink was reported at Easton on July 1 (Stasz, Hafner), and by July 30 about 200 had arrived there (Ringler+). In Cecil County, a **Rusty Blackbird** vocalizing at Bethel WMA on June 4 (Watson-Whitmyre) was a record-late spring bird. Reese estimated 1,800 **Common Grackles** at Easton on July 31. Two **Boat-tailed Grackles** at PRNAS on July 17 (Rambo) may have nested locally or dispersed from across the bay. Reese found 8 **Baltimore Orioles** at Centreville on June 24.

FALL MIGRATION: AUGUST 1-NOVEMBER 30, 1999

ROBERT F. RINGLER

The major weather phenomena of the season were Hurricane Dennis in early September and Hurricane Floyd in mid September, which brought some tropical rarities to Ocean City and the lower part of Chesapeake Bay.

Observers: Harry Armistead, Tyler Bell, Mary-Jo Betts, Brian Blazie, Rick Blom, Mike Bowen, Carol & Don Broderick, Don Burggraf, Rod Burley, Danny Bystrak, Mike Callahan, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Dennis & Jane Coskren, Scott Crabtree, Patty Craig (reporting for St. Mary's County), Dave Czaplak, Curtis & Tina Dew, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Fred Fallon, Kevin Fehskens, Leslie Fisher, Greg Futral, Greg Gough, Kevin Graff, Jim Gruber, Matt Hafner, Richard Hagenston, Sue Hamilton, Wilbur Hershberger, Rob Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Ottavio Janni, Ray Kiddy, Elliot & Nancy Kirschbaum, Jane Kostenko, Ryan Lesh, Gail Mackiernan, Sean McCandless, Greg Miller, Brian Monk, Charlie Muise, Bonnie Ott, Helen Patton, Jim Paulus, Dave Perry, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Andy Rabin, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Les Roslund, Fran & Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler, Lisa Shannon, Steve Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Paul Spitzer, Jim Stasz, Sigrid Stiles, Roger Stone, Rick Sussman, Debbie Terry, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Jordan Wilkerson, Paul Woodward, Howard Youth, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: DC – District of Columbia, NEA – Natural Environment Area, NRMA – Natural Resources Management Area, NWR – National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SP – State Park, UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, WMA – Wildlife Management Area.

Locations not on the index of the Maryland State Highway Map: American Chestnut Land Trust (Calvert), Bethel WMA (Cecil), Blackwalnut Point (Talbot), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Bloodsworth Island (Dorchester), Bosley Conservancy (Harford), Browns Bridge (Howard), Brown's Station (Prince George's), Chino Farms (Queen Anne's), Conowingo Dam and Lake (Cecil/Harford), Cromwell Valley Park (Baltimore), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Four Mile Run (DC), Fran Uhler Natural Area (Prince George's), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Horsehead Sanctuary (Queen Anne's), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Indian Creek NRMA (Charles), Jug Bay (Anne Arundel), Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (DC), Kingman Lake (DC), Lake Artemesia (Prince George's), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Roland (Baltimore), Lakeside (Harford), Layhill Park (Montgomery), Liberty Lake (Carroll), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Mattawoman NEA (Charles), Merkle Sanctuary (Prince George's), Mt. Nebo WMA (Garrett), Piney Dam (Garrett), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Point Lookout SP (Saint Mary's), Poplar Island (Talbot), PWRC-North Tract (Anne Arundel), Roaring Point (Wicomico), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sideling Hill (Washington), Table Rock (Garrett), Town Hill (Allegany), Turkey Point (Cecil), UMCF (Howard), Violettes Lock (Montgomery).

Loons, Grebes. The first **Red-throated Loon** of the season was reported at Point Lookout on Oct. 15 (Stiles). On Nov. 28 Stasz found the following Red-throated Loons: 2 at

Romancoke, 4 at Nanticoke, and 8 at Roaring Point. One of the highlights of the season was the first documented **Pacific Loon** for the state at Conowingo Lake, Nov. 12-28 (Burggraf+). High numbers of **Common Loons** were 159 in the Bloodsworth Island area on Oct. 30 (Armistead); and on the Patuxent River in Calvert County on Nov. 6 there were 78 off Jefferson Patterson Park and 118 off Kitt Point (Ringler). The high for **Pied-billed Grebe** was 69 at Loch Raven on Nov. 20 (Terry) and for **Horned Grebe**, 99 off Elm's Beach on Nov. 14 (Craig). Unusual in fall were 1 **Red-necked Grebe** at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 27-30 (Czaplak+) and 3 on Conowingo Lake on Oct. 28 with 1 remaining to Nov. 13 (Blom+). The only **Eared Grebe** of the season was at PRNAS, Oct. 11-19 (Walt Graham+). Even rarer, a **Western Grebe** was seen off Assateague, Nov. 1-6 (Patsy Decker+).

Storm-Petrels, Pelicans, Cormorants. Two **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were seen flying out of the inlet at Ocean City on Sept. 16 (C. & D. Broderick). Jim Goehring saw about 20 Northern Gannets over the Potomac River from Pope's Creek on Nov. 27 and Stasz saw two over the Nanticoke River at Roaring Point the next day. An **American White Pelican** was reported at Great Falls on the Potomac on Aug. 10 (*vide* Fran Saunders). Probably the same bird visited the Potomac River in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, and Virginia from Aug. 17 through Sept. 21 (Hilton+). Another was seen flying over Horsehead Sanctuary on Nov. 10 (Patton). Interesting late sightings of **Brown Pelicans** included 2 at Waterview on Nov. 17 (C. & D. Broderick) and 1 seen on Nov. 26 at North Beach by Mackiernan and Cooper and at Chesapeake Beach by Bystrak. Craig counted 472 **Double-crested Cormorants** at Scotland on Sept. 27, and Blom and Monk estimated 500 at Conowingo Dam on Oct. 20.

Hérons, Ibises, Storks. Rarely seen in summer, 2 **American Bitterns** were at Bethel WMA on Aug. 21 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre) and 1 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Aug. 29 (Dobbins). Stasz counted 29 **Great Blue Herons**, 163 **Great Egrets**, and 70 **Snowy Egrets** on Assateague on Oct. 9. The high count of **Cattle Egrets** this season was 32 at Starr on Aug. 1 (Poet). Rambo saw 4 **White Ibis** at Hooper Island on Sept. 1, and the last report of **Glossy Ibis** was of 9 on Assateague on Nov. 2 (C. & D. Broderick). An immature Wood Stork was discovered at Walkersville on Aug. 2 (*vide* Hershberger).

Swans, Geese. The first migrant **Snow Geese** were 3 at Ridgely on Sept. 20 (Stasz, Hafner). The first blue phase Snow Goose was reported at Forest Hill on Sept. 30 (Brian Blazie). Rare in Garrett County, 2 Snow Geese were at Broadford Lake from Oct. 30 through the end of the period (Pope, Skipper). Two **Ross's Geese** were seen at Snow Hill on Nov. 26-27 (Stasz+). Pre-migration concentrations of **Canada Geese** included 320 at Brown's Bridge on Aug. 22 (D. & J. Coskren). Single small race Canadas were identified at Dameron on Oct. 6-12 (Craig), flying over Eldersburg on Oct. 11 (Ringler), and at Daniels on Nov. 1 (Solem). Reports of **Brant** away from the coast were of 50 flying over the Turkey Point hawkwatch on Oct. 24 (Fisher, Crabtree), 117 flying downriver at Conowingo Dam the same day (Blom), and 1 at Fox Ferry Point in DC on Nov. 1 (Gough). During a helicopter survey of the Bloodsworth Island area on Sept. 1 Rambo estimated 780 **Mute Swans**, and the 16 on the Gunpowder River, Harford County on Nov. 11 (Blom, Webb) indicated the continued spread of this species. Unusually early for a migrant was a **Tundra Swan** at Piney Dam on Sept. 17 and Oct. 17 (Churchill). The first flock of Tundra Swans reported was 20 at Fran Uhler Natural Area on Oct. 2 (Fallon). An exotic from Australia, a **Black Swan** was at Upper Marlboro from Aug. 2 through Oct. 25 (Stasz).

Ducks. High counts of **Wood Ducks** were 60 near Indian Head on Oct. 3 (Gheblian), 71 at Wye Island, Queen Anne's County on Oct. 10 (Poet), and 100 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 31

(Woodward). An early **Gadwall** was at Piney Run on Sept. 26 (Ringler) and the high for the season was 250 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 (Stasz). Single male **Eurasian Wigeon** were seen at Deal Island WMA, Sept. 25 through Nov. 7 (Dyke+), and West Ocean City, Oct. 30 through Nov. 7 (Emily Joyce+). Stasz also estimated 4,000 **American Wigeon** at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7. Late downy young **Mallards** were seen at Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County, 3 on Aug. 8 (Jack Saba), and at Hart-Miller, 4 on Aug. 14 (Scarpulla). Pisano found 850 Mallards at Four Mile Run on Oct. 15 and Ringler totaled 360 at Piney Run on Nov. 14. Armistead counted 642 **Northern Pintails** in the Bloodsworth Island area on Oct. 30. A late female **Blue-winged Teal** was at Lilypons on Nov. 19 (Youth, Rabin+). Early **Northern Shovelers** were 1 at Ridgely on Aug. 26 (Hilton) and 4 at Easton the next day (Roslund). The first report of **Green-winged Teal** was 12 at Bethel WMA on Aug. 21 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre). Summering **Ring-necked Ducks** were single drakes at Lake Artemesia from Aug. 1 through Oct. 16 (Jack Saba+) and Lakeside through Aug. 28 (Blom+). Single Ring-necks at Hurlock on Sept. 18 (Stasz) and Ocean Pines the next day (Ringler) may have been early migrants. Blom and Webb estimated 25,000 **Lesser Scaup** on the Gunpowder River, Harford County on Nov. 11. A summering male **Greater Scaup** at Hart-Miller remained through Oct. 9 (Scarpulla+). A female **King Eider** was reported at Ocean City on Sept. 5 (Stasz, Lesh). Up to four male **Harlequin Ducks** were seen at Ocean City from Nov. 15 (Burggraf+). The high count of **Surf Scoters** was 1,400 in the Bloodsworth Island area on Oct. 30 (Armistead) while the only inland reports were of 3 females at Broadford Lake on Oct. 5 (Pope) and a male at Rocky Gap on Nov. 26 (Kiddy). Inland **Black Scoters** were a female at Violettes Lock on Nov. 4 (Rabin, Stone), a female at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 13-16 (Perry, Burley+), and 2 at Great Falls, Montgomery County on Nov. 13 (David Strother). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** at Greenbrier SP, Washington County on Nov. 26 (Weesner) made the best inland report. A female **Bufflehead** near Burkittsville on Oct. 8 (Hershberger) was early. A **Common Merganser** at Susquehanna SP, Harford County on Sept. 18 (Hafner) was extraordinary. While summering **Ruddy Ducks** continued at Centennial, Aug. 18-21 (J. Coskren), Hurlock through Sept. 18 (many observers), and Chestertown through Sept. 6 (Stasz, Lesh), possible early migrants were 1 at Rileys Lock, Montgomery County on Sept. 12 (Linda Friedland), 2 at Ridgely on Sept. 24 (Harvey Mudd), and 4 at Centreville on Sept. 25 (Ringler). Impressive numbers of Ruddies built up to 3,300 at Horsehead Sanctuary on Nov. 21 (Reese+) and 5,000 in Four Mile Run on Nov. 25 (Pisano).

Diurnal Raptors. A Bald Eagle at Greenbrier SP, Washington County on Sept. 18 (Weesner) was notable. Early migrant **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were single birds at Wilde Lake, Columbia on Aug. 11 (Zeichner) and Friendship, Anne Arundel County on Aug. 13 (Stasz). The high count of Sharp-shins for the season was 188 at Turkey Point on Sept. 26 (Watson-Whitmyre). For **Cooper's Hawk** the high was 32 at Baltimore on Oct. 3 (Graff). **Northern Goshawks** away from regular hawkwatches were 1 at Chino Farms on Oct. 17 (Stasz), 2 at Table Rock on Oct. 23 (Gary Felton), 1 at Clear Spring on Oct. 24 (Darius Ecker), 1 at Sawhill Creek, Glen Burnie on Oct. 28 (Jay Sheppard), 1 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 31 (Dyke), 1 at Nicholas Ridge, Allegany County on Nov. 15 (Paulus), and 1 at Edgewood on Nov. 16 (Blom, Blazie). High counts of **Red-shouldered Hawks** were 28 at Turkey Point on both Oct. 19 (Fisher+) and Nov. 7 (Griffith+) and 30 at Baltimore on the latter date (Graff). Early migrant **Broad-winged Hawks** were single birds seen on Aug. 5 at Baltimore (Graff) and Chingville (C. & T. Dew). Big days for Broad-wings were Sept. 18 with 1,231 at Rockburn (Ott, Carol Garza) and 7,002 at Baltimore (Graff), Sept. 19 with 1,558 at Phoenix (Kye Jenkins), and Sept. 26 with 1,495 at Turkey Point (Watson-Whitmyre). The high count of **Red-tailed Hawks** was 184 at Hooper Island on Nov. 7 (Armistead, Levin Willey). A light **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Hart-Miller on Oct. 9 (Scarpulla+). Interesting sightings of **Golden Eagles** were 3 at Table Rock on Nov. 13 (Stasz, Churchill), an adult at Wye Island on Nov. 15 (Poet), and 1 near

Trappe on Nov. 16 (Burggraf). The highs for **Merlins** were 8 at Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 26 (Stasz) and 10 at Baltimore on Oct. 3 (Graff). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was at Mt. Nebo WMA on Oct. 15 (Pope, Skipper).

Chukar, Pheasant, Turkey, Rallids, Crane. Woodward reported that the 7 **Chukars** at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 31 were leftovers from field trials there. Stasz saw a male **Ring-necked Pheasant** in Garrett County on Piney Run Road on Nov. 13. The best **Wild Turkey** sighting was of 55 at the Beckman's Peninsula area of Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 29 (Skipper). A **Clapper Rail** at Horsehead Sanctuary on Aug. 15 (Stasz) was the farthest north that this species was reported in the bay. Stasz also found a **Sora** at Kent Narrows, Queen Anne's County on Aug. 15 and another at Benedict on Oct. 2. An immature **Common Moorhen** was at Centennial, Sept. 17-22 (Holdridge+). Another moorhen was at Clopper Lake in Seneca Creek SP, Montgomery County on Oct. 19 (Rabin). Simon and Terry reported at least 2,000 **American Coots** at Loch Raven on Nov. 14-20. A **Sandhill Crane** was near Trappe from Oct. 25 through the end of the season (Levin Willey+).

Plovers, Oystercatches, Stilts, Avocets. An early **Black-bellied Plover** was at Havre de Grace on Aug. 12 (Fisher) and another at Ridgely on Aug. 15 (Stasz). In Caroline County an early **American Golden-Plover** was at Ridgely on Aug. 9 (Gail Frantz, Dot Gustafson), and

MIGRANT VULTURES AND DIURNAL RAPTORS AT GARDENVILLE, BALTIMORE CITY, FALL 1999

All observations by Kevin Graff

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	8/22	11/15	36	14 on 11/8
Turkey Vulture	8/3	12/24	595	45 on 11/7, 39 on 11/3, 37 on 10/15
Osprey	8/18	10/16	84	26 on 10/3
Bald Eagle	8/19	11/8	32	4 on 10/3
Northern Harrier	8/19	11/11	37	7 on 10/3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/21	12/24	385	30 on 9/30, 28 on 10/3, 21 on 10/19
Cooper's Hawk	8/10	12/21	230	32 on 10/3, 20 on 10/5, 18 on 10/2
Northern Goshawk	10/26	11/15	4	
Red-shouldered Hawk	8/26	11/17	194	30 on 11/7, 20 on 11/8
Broad-winged Hawk	8/5	11/1	12,113	7002 on 9/18, 2477 on 9/17
Red-tailed Hawk	8/5	12/22	892	192 on 11/7, 122 on 11/8, 80 on 11/6
Rough-legged Hawk	11/3	11/7	5	2 on 11/4
Golden Eagle	11/4		1	
American Kestrel	8/4	11/6	136	48 on 10/3, 12 on 9/22
Merlin	8/19	11/3	36	10 on 10/3, 5 on 10/2
Peregrine Falcon	9/30	11/1	5	
Unidentified accipiter			2	
Unidentified buteo			8	
Unidentified falcon			2	
Unidentified raptor			2	
TOTAL	8/3	12/24	14,799	7027 on 9/18, 2489 on 9/17

an impressive tally of 151 was made at Four Corners on Sept. 26 (Stasz). High counts of **Killdeer** were 129 at Kingman Lake, DC on Aug. 5 (Gough), 110 at the Aldino Sod Farm, Harford County on Aug. 28 (Blom, Monk), 135 at Matthews on Sept. 13 (Iliff), and 155 at Blackwater on Nov. 7 (Churchill, Luther Goldman). The only **American Oystercatcher** away from the coast was at Smith Island on Sept. 18 (F. & N. Saunders). The last **Black-necked Stilts** of the year were 5 at Elliott on Aug. 7 (Powell) and a remarkable 2 in St. Jerome Creek, St. Mary's County on Sept. 1 (Rambo). The only **American Avocets** of the season were 4 at Scotland on Aug. 5 (Craig) and 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 28 (Scarpulla, Futral).

Sandpipers. A high of 30 **Solitary Sandpipers** was at Ridgely on Aug. 20 (Hafner). Eight **Willetts** were at PRNAS on Aug. 11, one remaining on Sept. 30 (Rambo). Stasz identified 2 western subspecies Willetts at Scotland on Aug. 5-6 and 2 more at North Beach on Aug. 20-21. Single eastern subspecies Willetts were identified at Smith Island on Aug. 21 (Stasz+), Hart-Miller on Aug. 28 (Scarpulla, Futral), and Assateague on Sept. 17 (Stasz, Lesh). A late **Spotted Sandpiper** was at Browns Bridge on Nov. 18 (Wilkerson). Nine **Upland Sandpipers** were at the Central Sod Farms on Aug. 7 (Powell), 3 at Andrews Air Force Base, Prince George's County on Aug. 13 (Ripley), 4 at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 15 (F. & N. Saunders), and the last of the flock at PRNAS on Sept. 14 (Rambo). Nine **Hudsonian Godwits** appeared at Ridgely on Aug. 25-26 (Lesh+). A **Marbled Godwit** remained in the Ocean City/Assateague area, Sept. 5-17 (Stasz, Lesh+). At Havre de Grace a **Ruddy Turnstone** was present on Aug. 1-2 and a **Red Knot** on Aug. 18 (Blom). At Ridgely a **Sanderling** was unusual, Aug. 4-15 (Hilton+). Don Meritt counted 72 Sanderlings at Poplar Island on Oct. 28. There were 200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Easton on Aug. 3 (Roslund) and 150 at Liberty Lake on Aug. 7 (Ringler). Notable **Western Sandpipers** were 2 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 2 (Blom), 10 at Easton on Aug. 3 (Roslund), and 6 at Ridgely on Aug. 15 (Stasz). Highs for **Least Sandpiper** included 57 at Liberty Lake on Aug. 22 (Ringler), 44 at Flag Ponds on Aug. 24 (Ripley), and 48 at Mason Dixon Farm on Aug. 28 (Stasz). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Scotland on Aug. 7 (Miller) was a little early. Other White-rumps included 18 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 5 (Hershberger), 7 at Ridgely on Sept. 20 (Stasz, Hafner), and 7 at Four Corners, Caroline County on Sept. 26 (Stasz). Reports of **Baird's Sandpipers** included 1 at Salisbury on Aug. 14-16 (Dyke+), 2 at Aldino Sod Farm on Aug. 28 (Spike Updegrove+), 1 at Piney Dam on Aug. 29 (Ringler, Churchill), 3 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 3 (Miller), 1 at Four Corners, Caroline County on Sept. 26 (Stasz), and a late 1 at North Beach on Oct. 8 (Stasz). Stasz counted 161 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Ridgely on Aug. 15. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Kingman Lake on Aug. 5 (Gough), 2 at Scotland the same day (Craig), 25 at Ridgely on Aug. 6 (Pisano), 5 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 5 (Hershberger), and 2 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 12 (Stasz). It was a good year for **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**. It began at Central Sod Farms where 1 was present from Aug. 19 through Sept. 11 (Gary Dodge+) with 2 there on Sept. 3 (Reese). Stasz saw one flying down Chesapeake Bay off Smith Island on Aug. 21. Buff-breasts peaked at 4 at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 1 (Jett), 14 at PRNAS on Sept. 9 (Rambo), and 5 at Matthews on Sept. 13 (Iliff). The latest bird was at PRNAS on Oct. 5 (Rambo). Stasz found 12 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Ridgely on Aug. 15 and 8 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Assateague on Oct. 9. An early **Common Snipe** was in DC on Aug. 19 (Gough). A **Red-necked Phalarope** stayed at Point Lookout, Aug. 5-9 (Stasz+); 1 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 11 (Scarpulla+), and following Hurricane Floyd on Sept. 16 1 at Rum Pointe Seaside Golf Links, Worcester County (Dyke) and 7 at PRNAS (Rambo).

Jaegers, Gulls. A **Pomarine Jaeger** was seen at Point Lookout on Sept. 8 (Miller, Stasz). Leftovers from Hurricane Floyd were single **Parasitic Jaegers** on Sept. 16 at Chesapeake Beach (Tom Harten) and PRNAS (Rambo) and Sept. 17 at Cobb Island (Jett, Eric Gofreed).

Another Parasitic Jaeger was at Point Lookout on Oct. 2 (Miller, Jett). A **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen on a Sept. 19 pelagic trip (Brian Patteson). On Aug. 29 Stasz noted inland **Laughing Gulls** with 7 at Brighton Dam, Howard County, 18 near Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery County, and 35 at Laytonsville, most flying high headed southwest. Also in Howard County, 25 Laughing Gulls were seen at Rockburn on Sept. 12 (Ott, Betts) and 20 at Centennial on Oct. 2 (Solem). The largest concentrations of Laughing Gulls reported were 9,000 at the Brown's Station Landfill on Oct. 16 (Jett) and 6,000 at the Nanticoke River marshes of Wicomico County on Nov. 7 (Stasz). Twelve Laughers on Conowingo Lake on Nov. 26 (Blom, Monk) were late for that Piedmont location. There were 2 reports of **Franklin's Gull**, 1 at Hains Point, Sept. 7-18 (Janni+), and 2 at Brown's Station Landfill on Oct. 16-30 (Jett+). Unusual for the season were single juvenile **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Seneca on Aug. 11 and on the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Prince George's County on Aug. 14 (Czaplak). Blom reported 500 Bonaparte's Gulls at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 13. On Nov. 1 Jim Paulus and Ray Norris saw 8 **Herring Gulls** flying over Town Hill. A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was at Linkwood on Nov. 27 (Churchill, Callahan). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** of note were an adult at Chesapeake Beach on Aug. 6 (Stasz) and a first-summer bird at Havre de Grace on Aug. 13 (Blom). The **Kelp Gull** continued through the season at Sandgates (Bell, Kostenko+).

Terns, Murre. The only report of **Gull-billed Tern** was of 2 at Bridge Creek Marsh, Wicomico County on Aug. 10 (C. & D. Broderick). The peak **Caspian Tern** count at Hart-Miller was 453 on Aug. 28 (Scarpulla, Futral), and a single late bird was at Blackwater on Oct. 31 (Armistead+). Rare in the northern part of the bay were a **Royal Tern** at Havre de Grace on Sept. 2 (Hagenston) and 2 at Turkey Point on Sept. 26 (Jett+). Also rare was one off Gravelly Point, DC on Sept. 13 (Sherm Suter). The high count of Royals was 500 at Bivalve on Sept. 3 (Ringler+). An adult **Sandwich Tern** at Havre de Grace on Aug. 10 (Blom, Hagenston) was a great find. Following Hurricane Floyd 4 Sandwich Terns were seen at PRNAS on Sept. 16 and a late one was there on Sept. 30 (Rambo). **Common Terns** peaked at 1,000 at Point Lookout on Sept. 10 (Craig); late birds were 3 in the Bloodsworth Island area on Oct. 30 (Armistead), 1 at Point Lookout on Nov. 4 (Craig), and 1 at Havre de Grace the next day (Blom, Monk). The high count of **Forster's Terns** was 600 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 28 (Blom, Monk, Hagenston). A late Forster's Tern was at Harmony Hall, Prince George's County on Nov. 29 (Fallon). A **Bridled Tern** was first noted at Point Lookout on Sept. 2 and 2 were there on the 7th (Craig+), the last day seen. Following Hurricane Floyd on Sept. 16 at least 1 Bridled Tern was seen in the Ocean City area (Stasz, Lesh, C. & D. Broderick) and another was at PRNAS (Rambo). Also on Sept. 16, an immature **Sooty Tern** and possibly 2 adults were seen at Ocean City (C. & D. Broderick), and 2 were at PRNAS (Rambo). High numbers of **Black Terns** were 19 at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 24 (Stasz) and 14 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 28 (Blom, Monk, Hagenston). Another Black Tern was at Herrington Manor SP, Garrett County on Aug. 24 (Skipper) and 1 off Kent Point, Queen Anne's County on Aug. 27 (Weesner). Stasz watched a **Thick-billed Murre** fly past the inlet at Ocean City on Nov. 6.

Dove, Parrots, Owls, Nightjars, Swifts, Hummingbirds. Danny Poet found a late **Mourning Dove** nest with eggs at Queenstown on Aug. 29. A blue **Budgerigar** was at Centennial on Sept. 25 (J. Coskren) and a **Monk Parakeet** was in the median strip of I95 in Howard County on Sept. 17 (Darius Ecker). Stasz, Hafner, and Fehskens found 12 **Short-eared Owls** at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 27. Iliff flushed a **Chuck-will's-widow** on Assateague on Sept. 13 and Arnold reported 16 **Whip-poor-wills** at PWRC-North Tract on Sept. 3. High counts of roosting **Chimney Swifts** were 2,128 at Ellicott City on Sept. 17 (Kurt Schwarz) and 1,500 at PRNAS on Sept. 20 (Rambo). A late swift was at Annapolis on Nov. 20 (C. & D. Broderick). George Jett and Lee Duer observed an apparent albino **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at an

Allen's Fresh feeder on Aug. 1. Turkey Point turned in the high count of migrating Rubythroats with 20 on Sept. 12 (Fisher, McCandless); a late one, a male, was at a Towson feeder through Oct. 25 (Jim Murphy). An immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** was seen at a feeder south of Grantsville on Sept. 4-7 (Pope+). An adult female Rufous Hummingbird appeared at a Carroll County feeder on Sept. 25 and was later banded by Mary Gustafson. Another adult female appeared at the feeder of Paul Dowell in Brandywine and was also banded. Both remained through the end of the period.

Flycatchers, Shrikes, Vireos. Few **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported this season; single birds were at Ellicott City on Aug. 7 (Ott), Rock Creek Park on Aug. 19 (Mackiernan), Browns Bridge on Aug. 29 (Stasz), and Hughes Hollow on Sept. 4 (Rabin). A late **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at Rigby's Folly on Oct. 17 (Armistead+). Stasz found three **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** at Ferry Landing, Calvert County on Aug. 31 including 2 that were calling. A late **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Point Lookout on Oct. 2 (Miller, Jett). The only **Alder Flycatcher** reported was heard only at Turkey Point on Sept. 12 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre, McCandless). The high for **Eastern Kingbirds** was 35 at Turkey Point on Aug. 29 (Fisher). Late kingbirds were 2 at Big Pool on Sept. 26 (Graff) and 1 at Point Lookout on Sept. 27 (Craig). Stasz photographed a **Northern Shrike** at Blair's Valley Lake, Washington County on Nov. 14. The only **Loggerhead Shrikes** were single birds at Reisterstown on Oct. 27 (Frantz), near the National Institutes of Health Farm, Montgomery County on Nov. 24 (Schindler), and at Lilypons on Nov. 28 and later (Hershberger+). A late **White-eyed Vireo** was at Shad Landing, Worcester County on Nov. 11 (C. & T. Dew) while a very early **Blue-headed Vireo** was at Turkey Point on Aug. 29 (Fisher). Also very late was a **Warbling Vireo** at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 21 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and early were 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** at Ocean City on Aug. 31 (Hoffman) and another the same day at Lake Roland (E. & N. Kirschbaum).

Corvids, Swallows. About 1,000 **Blue Jays** were seen at Turkey Point on Sept. 27 (Muise) and Sept. 28 (Fisher). Other counts of Blue Jays were 1,500 at Swan Harbor Park, Harford County on Sept. 30 (Blom) and 963 at Gardenville, Baltimore City on Oct. 3 (Graff). An apparent albino **American Crow** was reported on Jarrettsville Pike in Baltimore County on Aug. 16 (Anne Brooks). Stasz estimated 200 **Fish Crows** at Terrapin Nature Area, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 6 and another 200 at Ironshire on Nov. 7. Notable numbers of **Common Ravens** were 11 at Town Hill on Oct. 16 (Churchill, Kiddy) and 4 at Sideling Hill on Nov. 14 (Stasz). High counts of **Purple Martins** were 300 at Allens Fresh on Aug. 7 (Jett) and 1,000 at Havre de Grace on Aug. 17 (Les Eastman). A late martin on Sept. 19 was at Chino Farms (Stasz). The high for **Tree Swallows** was 5,000 at Perryman on Oct. 6 (Blom, Monk). A late **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at Point Lookout on Nov. 3 (Muise). Estimates of 1,000 **Bank Swallows** at Ridgely were made on Aug. 6 (Pisano) and Aug. 20 (Hafner). Two late Bank Swallows were at Perryman on Oct. 11 (Ringler). At Liberty Lake on Aug. 22 there were 5 **Cliff Swallow** nests with young (Ringler). Three late Cliff Swallows were at Hooper Island on Sept. 18 (Armistead, Spitzer).

Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. The first of a wave of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was at Brandywine on Aug. 20 (Stasz). Peak numbers were 50 at Turkey Point on Sept. 12 (Fisher, Watson-Whitmyre, McCandless) and 20 at Taylors Island on Sept. 25 (Stasz). The high for **Brown Creeper** was 7 at Flag Ponds on Oct. 13 (Ripley). A late **Carolina Wren** nest with eggs was at Queenstown on Aug. 29 (Poet); another Carolina Wren was carrying a fecal sac at Dameron on Aug. 25 (Craig). The high for migrating **House Wrens** was 20 at Point Lookout on Sept. 26 (Bob Boxwell+). Interesting reports of **Sedge Wrens** were 1 at Mattawoman NEA on Aug. 12 (Craig), 5 at Easton on Aug. 22 (Reese), and 2 at Indian Creek Natural Resources Management Area, Charles County on Oct. 2-3 (Stasz, Jett). Nancy

Magnusson and Jo Solem found 3 migrant **Marsh Wrens** at the UMCF on Oct. 9. An exceptionally early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Wilde Lake, Columbia on Aug. 28 (Zeichner), and the high count was 100 at Centennial on Oct. 21 (J. Coskren). An incredible 150 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** had accumulated at Turkey Point on Aug. 29 (Fisher).

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings. Estimates of migrant **Eastern Bluebirds** were 100 at Layhill Park, on Oct. 26 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and 300 at Turkey Point on Nov. 9 (Fisher). There were 3 reports of **Bicknell's Thrush** beginning with 1 recorded as it flew over the Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, Frederick County on Sept. 14 (Hershberger). The others were 1 at Harford Glen on Oct. 3 (Stasz, Hafner) and 1 banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 6 (Gruber). Extremely late **Swainson's Thrushes** were 1 at Turkey Point on Nov. 3 (Fisher), 3 at Laurel on Nov. 5 (Churchill), and 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 10 (Patton). A very late **Wood Thrush** was at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Ward Ebert). Reese's counts of **American Robins** roosting at Easton grew from 500 on Aug. 16 to 6,200 on Aug. 29, to 7,015 on Sept. 11, to 15,180 on Oct. 1, to 23,300 on Oct. 16, and 28,900 on Oct. 28 before declining to 13,200 on Nov. 9, and 1,115 on Nov. 19. The high count for **Gray Catbirds** was 42 at Layhill Park on Sept. 25 (Youth). A **Northern Mockingbird** at Youghiogheny River Reservoir on Sept. 25 (Churchill) was the only one reported from Garrett County this season. The high for **Brown Thrashers** was 28 at Point Lookout on Sept. 23 (Craig). Highs for **American Pipits** were 80 at UMCF on Oct. 12 (Ott, Solem), 120 near Lilypons on Oct. 16 (Weesner), and 300 at Merkle on Nov. 9 (Muise+). **Cedar Waxwings** still had young in the nest at Mt. Nebo WMA on Sept. 19 (Pope, Skipper). Reese found 250 Cedar Waxwings at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Oct. 16, and Armistead tallied 475 in 22 flocks migrating at Rigby's Folly on Nov. 6.

Warblers. A very late **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 23 (Janni, Hilton, Shannon). Single hybrid "Brewster's" Warblers were reported at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper), American Chestnut Land Trust on Sept. 2 (Hamilton), and Salisbury on Sept. 13 (C. & D. Broderick). An early **Tennessee Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 19 (Mackiernan) and the latest was 1 at Layhill Park on Oct. 26 (Mackiernan, Cooper). An early **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 10 (Dobbins). Jim Gruber banded an Orange-crown at Chino Farms on Nov. 14. An early **Nashville Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 10 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and a late bird was at Hayfield Airport, Howard County on Oct. 31 (Zeichner, Ott). A late **Northern Parula** was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 26 (Gruber). The first **Chestnut-sided Warblers** of the migration were two at Rock Creek park on Aug. 10 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and the peak was 30 at Turkey Point on Sept. 12 along with 50 **Magnolia Warblers** (Fisher+). The high for **Cape May Warblers** was 25 on Green Ridge on Sept. 12 (Stasz) and the latest was 1 at North Beach on Nov. 1 (Muise). Late bandings of **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were 1 at Chino Farms on Oct. 27 (Gruber) and a male at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 30 (Pope, Skipper). Very early **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 1 in DC on Aug. 27 (Gough) and 2 at the Rocky Gorge Watershed, Montgomery County on Sept. 4 (Sussman). Early **Black-throated Green Warblers** were 1 at Wilde Lake, Columbia on Aug. 3 (Zeichner) and 1 in DC on Aug. 17 (Gough) with a peak of 30 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 1 (Pisano). Zeichner also found an early **Blackburnian Warbler** at Wilde Lake on Aug. 3. A very late **Prairie Warbler** was at Cromwell Valley Park on Nov. 8 (Georgia McDonald). The first **Palm Warbler** of the season was a western at Hart-Miller on Sept. 4 (Scarpulla+). Early **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen on Aug. 30, 1 at Colesville (Mackiernan, Cooper) and 3 at Timonium (Terry). Late Blackpolls were 2 at North Beach on Nov. 1 (Muise), 1 banded at Chino Farms on Nov. 5 (Gruber), and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 7 (Stasz). A late **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County on Nov. 20 (Patton). A late **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 4 (Rabin). An early **Connecticut Warbler** was at Rockville on Sept. 2 (Nancy MacClintock). An early

Wilson's Warbler was at Bosley Conservancy on Aug. 25 (Blom, Monk). An early **Canada Warbler** was banded at Chino Farms on Aug. 2 (Gruber).

Emberizids, Cardinalid Finches. The high counts for **Chipping Sparrows** were 50 at Broadford Lake on Oct. 6 (Pope) and 70 at Layhill Park on Oct. 26 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Single **Clay-colored Sparrows** were an immature at Chicawicomico Creek, Dorchester Co. on Sept. 25 (Stasz), at Assateague on Oct. 9-24 (Stasz+), and at Point Lookout on Nov. 1 (Craig). A **Lark Sparrow** was at Friendship, Anne Arundel County on Aug. 19 (Stasz) and an immature was on Assateague, Sept. 13-25 (Iliff+). An early migrant **Savannah Sparrow** was at Ridgely on Aug. 26 (Stasz) and 200 were at UMCF on Oct. 12 (Ott, Solem). At Chino Farms 2 very young **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in a nest on Sept. 6 (Lesh, Stasz). Reports of **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were 1 at Scotland on Sept. 27 and Oct. 21 (Miller, Craig), 1 at UMCF on Oct. 22-23 (Ott+), and 1 at Point Lookout on Nov. 14 (Craig). An impressive 25 **Fox Sparrows** were at Layhill Park on Nov. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Highs for **Lincoln's Sparrows** were in Howard County with 7 at Mount Pleasant on Oct. 3 and 6 at UMCF on Oct. 16 (Ott+). A late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Vessey's Orchard, Somerset County on Nov. 20 (Gail Vaughn, Patsy Decker). Highs for **Swamp Sparrows** were 140 at Mount Pleasant, Howard County on Oct. 15 (Ott+) and 150 at Lilypons on Oct. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Single **White-throated Sparrows** on Sept. 18 at Tunis Mills (Roslund) and Liberty Watershed, Carroll County (Ringler) were early. A record-early immature **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Finksburg on Sept. 18 (Ringler). An adult Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 3 (Gruber). A **Harris's Sparrow** appeared at the feeder of Dave and Maureen Harvey in Sykesville on Nov. 18 and remained through the end of the period. An early **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Martinak SP, Caroline County on Sept. 19 (Ringler, Terry). Stasz estimated 200 juncos at Assateague on Nov. 7. The only report of **Lapland Longspurs** was of 6 in southern Frederick County on Nov. 21 (Hershberger). The first **Snow Bunting** of the season was noted at Allen's Fresh on Oct. 30 (Jett, Miller). Dyke found 30 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at Assateague on Sept. 23 and Jett found 50 **Indigo Buntings** at Indian Creek NRMA on Oct. 3. Reports of single **Dickcissels** were an immature at Easton on Aug. 10 (Roslund), at Jug Bay on Sept. 11 (Bystrak, Muise), on Assateague, Sept. 19 through Oct. 1 (Dyke), at John Juriga's feeder in Hebron on Nov. 3, and banded at Chino Farms on Nov. 12 (Gruber).

Icterids, Fringillids. **Bobolinks** peaked at 500 at Easton on Aug. 22 (Reese). At Assateague on Nov. 7 Stasz watched 200 **Red-winged Blackbirds** flying in from over the ocean. The only **Yellow-headed Blackbird** of the season was an adult male at Hooper Island on Sept. 18 (Armistead, Spitzer). A very early female **Rusty Blackbird** was at Turkey Point on Oct. 5 (Fisher), and the high count was 145 at Lilypons on Oct. 31 (Hershberger, Welch). The high for **Boat-tailed Grackles** was 220 at Assateague on Oct. 9 (Stasz). Single immature male **Baltimore Orioles** were at Salisbury on Nov. 15-16 (C. & D. Broderick) and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC on Nov. 20 (Dobbins). Early **Purple Finches** appeared on Sept. 12 with 1 at Eylers Valley Church, Frederick County (Stasz) and 3 at Turkey Point (Fisher+). Steve Huy heard a **Red Crossbill** on South Mountain, Frederick County on Oct. 20. A male **White-winged Crossbill** came to a feeder in Stockton on Nov. 12-13 (Frank Hirst). A single **Common Redpoll** was on Assateague, Nov. 13 (Arnold), and 1 was banded at Chino Farms on Nov. 20 (Gruber). Significant numbers of **Pine Siskins** moved into the state this fall including 30 at a feeder in West Baltimore on Nov. 2 (Crabtree). The highs for **American Goldfinches** were 200 at Turkey Point on Oct. 31 (Fisher) and 500 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 7 (Reese). Few **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen this fall, with a high of 12 at Bray Hill, Garrett County on Nov. 7 (Skipper).

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTERS

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

The Anne Arundel Chapter of MOS held nine club meetings to hear environmental lectures on birds and related environmental themes at the DNR Building in Annapolis on the first Friday of each month from October through May. An average of 60 members attended.

We sponsored a Christmas bird count, a May count, a bird seed sale at Quiet Waters Park, and held our annual Wildlife Lecture in April.

The club went on 23 field trips, which were attended by an average of seven members for an approximate total of 168 attendees overall.

Lawrence G. Zoller, President

CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

During the Carroll County Bird Club's 1999-2000 season, we held eight monthly meetings at Carroll Community College with an average attendance of 15 members and guests. The featured speakers covered many topics of interest: Hart-Miller Island (Gene Scarpulla), Birding's Top 10 Myths (Rick Blom), Bird Feeding: Facts & Fallacies (Dr. Al Geis), the MD/DC Records Committee (Paul O'Brien), Breeding Surveys of Canada Geese in Arctic Canada (Bill Harvey), Eastern Australia & Papua New Guinea (Dave Harvey), Soldier's Delight (Jennifer Cline), and the Maryland Yellow Book (Bob Ringler).

Members Mark Hoffman, Dave Harvey, Bill Kulp, Jr., Bob Ringler, and Jerry Tarbell led field trips to Carroll County hotspots and beyond. More distant trips were taken to view fall migration at Cape May, NJ, exotic birds and mammals at the National Zoo, and eagles at Conowingo Dam. Some members celebrated both New Year's and President's Day Weekends at the Eastern Shore. A trip is also planned for Memorial Day weekend to Carey Run. Many members participated in the annual fall, winter, and May bird counts. Once again, Kathy Harden, Dave & Maureen Harvey, and Laura & Jerry Tarbell hosted the tally rallies.

Several members continued their volunteer efforts. Of note this year was Maureen Harvey's participation and representation of the Club's and MOS's interests at Teaming With Wildlife meetings, rallies, and lobbying activities. We hope to see positive legislation and results from her diligent efforts.

Our Club is relatively small, with 33 members, but we are seeing new and welcome faces at our meetings and field trips, and we look forward to the upcoming year.

Amy Hoffman, President

CECIL COUNTY CHAPTER

As always for the Cecil Bird Club, field trips to county hot spots of Turkey Point, Elk Neck Forest and "The Seasons at Fair Hill" remained the focal point of our schedule. Field Trip chair Parke John continues to provide us with a diverse schedule, 24 trips in the last year,

including counts. Trips conducted in conjunction with other chapters/clubs have been particularly enjoyable, and our Conowingo Eagle Watch is always well attended. Trying to branch out, a new location was added this past year, to the Avalon Sea Watch in New Jersey, and this will most likely become an annual event. Attendance has been good at in-county field trips for the past year; a spring walk at Fair Hill brought out 17 birders, who always enjoy spotting nesting Bobolinks. However, out of county trips are still sparsely attended. Regarding counts, the club participated in the Elkton Christmas Count, December Rock Run Count, Mid-winter count, and May Count. Park John, computer whiz and number cruncher extraordinaire, has also been invaluable in compiling club count data.

The Turkey Point Hawk Watch continues to provide much excitement every fall, from September 1 through Thanksgiving, and was visited by many out of county and state birders this year. Our season, the best ever since the inception of the watch in 1994, ended with over 7,000 raptors. Only 10 count days were missed all season, an outstanding effort by volunteer counters. My sincere thanks go to the regulars at "the point" who put in many dedicated hours, and especially to Marcia Watson-Whitmyre for her continuing efforts with our club website, making count data available to all. A real focal point at the Hawk Watch has been the MOS-funded interpretive sign designed and constructed by Ron Kelczewski; the sign was dedicated in a ceremony replete with local politicians, park management, the press and none other than MOS president Norm Saunders, accompanied by Fran. The event came off beautifully and was all we could have hoped for. A steady stream of interested passers-by stopped at the hawk watch this season, their interest piqued by the sign. Hopefully they left with an increased awareness of birdlife and opportunities to explore the natural world. Thanks to MOS for making these chapter activities possible.

Many good sightings in the county came from Turkey Point, including Connecticut Warbler among the usual crowd of migrant warblers along the peninsula, Royal Tern, Northern Goshawk, Brant, Alder Flycatcher, Brewer's Blackbird, Golden Eagle, and many Bald Eagles. Of course the highlight of the season was the mind boggling (for us) 1,495 Broad-winged Hawks, that passed by on September 26th. Marcia Whitmyre, noting the former breaking out of the woods in increasing numbers as she drove south along the peninsula to Turkey Point to conduct the count that morning, broke all speed records to get there!!! Elsewhere, one documented sighting of Evening Grosbeaks was reported from Elkton in November. Interesting winter sightings included Lapland Longspur, Great Cormorant and Greater Scaup. Notable spring migrants included Glossy Ibis and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Meetings continue to be held the last Wednesday of odd months at Elkton library, but alternating with Gilpin Manor School when the library is not available. The club seeks a permanent meeting place! Attendance has improved over the past year, 20-30 per meeting, on occasion over 30. Club recognition awards were presented at the September 1999 meeting to Marcia Watson-Whitmyre for excellence of the club website, Ron Kelczewski for the Turkey Point interpretive sign, Ken Drier for his three-year tenure in producing a quality newsletter, and Scott Powers for his able work as outgoing Field Trip Chair. The efforts of all mentioned have been greatly appreciated.

Speakers gave presentations on a variety of diverse topics including Philippine Eagle Foundation, Maryland Coastal Bays Program, Backyard Habitat for Wildlife, and the Fair Hill Ecosystem Management Plan. Donations from the club were given to the two former organizations. Rick Lee volunteered (bless him) to take over as our Program Chair, and I did not argue!

At the May 2000 meeting, nomination of officers was conducted, including me for a third year as President. Changes included newly nominated officers of Van Vogel for Treasurer and Rick Lee as Vice President. I am sure I will continue to look to Marcia, outgoing VP, for input along the way. Outgoing and longtime treasurer Jonah Goodwin provided excellent service to the club, working diligently to computerize club records and provide accurate accounts during her tenure. Vans' job will be much the easier for her efforts. Ken Drier elected to step down as our longtime newsletter editor, leaving behind a tradition of excellence, to be continued by Candi Lee. The club looks forward to her experiments with color printing and inclusion of photographs in the newsletter. Rick and Candi, fairly recent members, have jumped in with both feet, and are to be commended for their efforts.

Also on the artistic front, member Mikki Senn created a quilt square for a Community Quilt Project to represent the club among 249 other community organizations. Organized by the Delaware Art Museum, the quilt was displayed at the museum and then on to the Mellon Bank Building in Wilmington, DE through January 2000. The square, featuring a 3D owl, was a real winner, and we are proud of the representation that Mikki provided us. The most positive aspect of our past year, aside from a growing and increasingly active membership, has been the willingness of individuals to take on club duties. All in all, it was a satisfying year. I look forward to another busy year of club activities and working with new club officers.

Leslie Fisher, President

FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

Our Chapter enjoyed nine wonderful and informative membership meetings this past year. We were treated to Greg Miller's recounting of his "1998 Big Year." Bob Johnsson presented his long-awaited talk, "The Potomac Valley—A Botanical Crossroads." We missed this talk last year owing to weather. Our illustrious president, Norm Saunders, helped us fill in the gaps in our knowledge of the state organization and its history and current programs and directions. Thanks, Norm. At our annual Christmas dinner, Gene Scarpulla brought Hart-Miller Island's history and current status to light. Most of our Chapter had never visited the island; now we're eager to go. Wilbur Hershberger led the Chapter through the sights and sounds of Ferd's Bog. This small wonder in the Adirondacks of New York is a real treasure. Birding in Ecuador and Costa Rica was wonderful as Beth Zang and Linda Keller relived their adventures there. We were spellbound by Janet Millenson's presentation about old bird books. She shared some of her special finds with us and gave us a greater appreciation of the variability in the information contained in the earlier texts. Once again the Stauffer Millers shared slides and stories of their travels all over the globe. Finally, Mike Welch gave us a very informative critical review of the last 35 years of May Counts in Frederick County. There were some very alarming downward trends. I think that this data would make a great article for *Maryland Birdlife*.

The Chapter went on 16 field trips from scouring the county for waterfowl to a wonderful birding and botany exploration of Soldiers Delight with Bob Johnsson. Among other highlights (too numerous to mention all of them) were Mike Welch's President's Day weekend trip to Southern Maryland, Wilbur Hershberger's American Woodcock Watch at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, Dave Smith's C&O Canal walk from Point of Rocks to Lander, and Doug and Nancy Parker's tour of Frederick County covered bridges and their birds. The Chapter participated in the fall migration count, two Christmas Counts, the mid-winter count, and May Count.

New officers were elected in May with Doug Parker taking over the President's perch from the four-year term of Wilbur Hershberger. Dave Smith will be our Vice-President, Lois Kauffman the Treasurer, and Marcia Balestri will continue as Chapter Secretary. We all look forward to their leadership in the coming year.

I must conclude by saying that it has been wonderful serving as President for the Frederick County Chapter. The past four years seem to have flown by. The dedication, enthusiasm, and talent embodied in the members of this Chapter will always be an inspiration to me. I look forward to many more years of association with these fine birders. To the Chapter, thank you for your continued support and encouragement during my years as President. There was never a time that we couldn't find a volunteer when one was needed. Your Chapter leadership greatly appreciates you.

Wilbur Hershberger, President

HARFORD BIRD CLUB

The Harford Chapter was very active this year in promoting new memberships and educational programs. Two new "standing committees" were formed, the first the Public Relations/Marketing Committee, chaired by Carol Flora, with the objective to promote the Harford Bird Club's presence in the community through public events and networking with other service groups. The second new standing committee is the Education Committee, chaired by Jean Fry, to promote environmental education and increase our awareness of our stewardship in the county through public lectures, workshops, and displays in public and private schools, service clubs, and colleges.

The summer of 1999 highlighted Dr. Bill Seegar, who presented a fantastic program on satellite tracking of Peregrine Falcons. A social hour followed the presentation at the Anita Leight Estuary Center and 52 members were in attendance. The annual picnic was held in early October at Capa Field at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Tom Congersky, along with his crew, did a splendid job of preparing the food. Everyone appreciated the fine effort.

The highlight of the year was the Harford Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Everyone made a special effort to attend the gala, which numbered 122 in attendance. Special games and refreshments were served during the social mixer followed by a delicious dinner. Special guests and past presidents were recognized. Wonderful displays of memorabilia were enjoyed by all the guests. The guest speaker was Chan Robbins, who delighted the crowd by taking us down memory lane and highlighting the achievements by our local members in promoting the formation of the club. Many of our older members contributed to the success of the MOS and were leaders in environmental education.

Susan B. Hesselton of the Harford County Executive Council awarded a Proclamation to the Harford Chapter in recognition of our club's achievements and benefits to the citizens of Harford County. The local paper publicized and extended good coverage of the event by front-page photos and comments. A special thanks to the Anniversary Committee for a job well done.

The rest of the year included our regularly scheduled dinner meetings. The following are highlights of the guest speakers and topics: the January meeting featured Researcher Ralph Mancke from the Philippine Eagle Foundation, who discussed the lifestyles and habits of the

Philippine Eagles, forest biodiversity, and conservation efforts of the Eagle Foundation. The March meeting featured an accomplished professional photographer, Middleton Evans. Mr. Evans is noted for his books focusing on the natural history of Maryland. He presented an overview of his third book, *Maryland's Great Outdoors*, a collection of images featuring our State's natural heritage. The May meeting featured Eric Cromwell, a science teacher from Aberdeen High School, who presented the results of an Eastern Bluebird nest box study, which his students performed during the school year.

The 1999 Christmas Bird Count reported 14 groups participating and a total of 109 species. Among the notables were three Peregrine Falcons at Conowingo Dam, Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and an Orange-crowned Warbler, all at Swan Harbor Farms. A special thanks to Loran and John Wortman, our gracious hosts for the tally event, where food and refreshments were provided.

On a sad note, Thelma Payne of Havre de Grace, a member of the club from 1981-1993, died on January 27 at Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Home. Another member, Dr. Mildred Gebhard, member from 1968 to 1999, passed away on October 4 at the Harford Memorial Hospital. She served as chairperson of the MOS scholarship program for many years. A donation to the MOS Sanctuary Fund was made in her memory. Colonel Leland DeVore, Jr. passed away on June 28 in Charlotte Hall. He was a member of the Harford Bird Club since 1970 and served as a nature correspondent, whose weekly "Outdoor Journal" appeared in *The Record* from 1973 to 1988. He also wrote several books and many nature articles in various publications. A donation was made to the MOS Sanctuary Fund in his memory, as well.

New undertakings consisted of a Barn Owl Restoration Project. Marsha Webb spearheaded this project to construct and place Barn Owl nest boxes in strategic locations to promote the restoration of this species in the County. Plans for a "lending library" headed by David Seitz are now underway. A donation to the Harford County Envirothon of \$150 was also made. Many new contacts were made, thanks to the efforts of our volunteers who spoke to over 65 people at Earth Day, held at Swan Harbor Farms. Special thanks to Jean and Larry Fry for their educational programs at Ring Factory Elementary School and to Carol Flora for overseeing our presence at the Havre de Grace Duck Decoy Festival, where hundreds of people were introduced to our bird club.

A changing of the guard took place as Debbie Delevan-Saylor replaced Larry Fry as club President. New appointees were Debbie Steward as Recording Secretary and Russ Kovach as Field Trip Coordinator. A very special thank you is due to Les Eastman who has served as the editor for our newsletter *Wrenderings* for the past 12 years. Les is still active as he monitors our website. Replacing Les is Rick Cheicante, our new newsletter editor, who is doing a splendid job and keeping us all connected.

Debbie Saylor, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The speakers for this year included: The Tri-State Bird Rescue, Al Geis, Chan Robbins, and Dr. Wayne Bell. In the winter months, feeder watches were held at members' homes. Throughout the year, field trips went to places such as Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Horsehead, Chesapeake Farms, Blackwater NWR, and a winter trip to the Millington-Golts areas to find Snow Buntings.

In October, our Chapter participated in the Chestertown Wildlife Exhibit and Show. We held an early morning bird trip to the Kent County sewage lagoon and provided scopes and leaders to help new birdwatchers identify the birds seen there. At our exhibit, we provided handouts to Exhibit attendees that included blueprints of bluebird boxes to build, children's activity sheets, club schedules, and county maps showing the good birding spots in Kent County. We also had bird videos playing on a portable television; a bulletin board with pictures; and a model bluebird box.

The Kent Chapter always holds a potluck dinner for those who help us with the Christmas Count in December. An Annual Dinner was held in April and a closing picnic in June.

Gail Regester, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Programs, field trips, special events, and workshops continued to be the strengths of the Montgomery County Chapter; the planning and work of dozens of members make this possible. Our major undertaking, a Guide to Birding in Montgomery County, continued to move forward with a sampling of site accounts appearing in each bi-monthly newsletter. In conjunction with the guide, we are updating the 1995 Montgomery County Checklist and expect it to be printed shortly. The Chapter began laying the foundation this year for re-establishing the "Adventure" banding station in Potomac.

September began in the traditional way with the Presidents' Day Walk, a tribute to the Chapter's past presidents. This year, five former presidents served as honorary leaders on a trip to the C & O Canal. On the heels of this delightful foray and picnic, members gathered for the first chapter meeting to hear member Paul O'Brien get us up to date on the works of the MD/DC Records Committee. Robert Fleisher then gave us a vivid account of Hawaii's "Birds of Paradise Lost." During the early fall months we sought migrants at Rock Creek Park, Little Bennett, and Layhill Parks. Dave Winer led us on a Potomac River bird paddle for a close look at riverine species. At the October meeting, Lisa Petit gave us a fascinating talk on "A Year in the Life of a Migratory Songbird."

November was bake sale time, and Chapter birder/bakers contributed enough delectable goodies to raise over \$100. At the same time we offered for sale chapter coffee mugs with anatomically correct Pileated Woodpeckers gracing the side. Member and birder/photographer Bob Mumford was the speaker that night, thrilling us with his slides and tales of Churchill, Manitoba. On November 6th, one of our Chapter's most respected and beloved members, Luther Goldman, naturalist and wildlife photographer, turned 90. The chapter celebrated by hosting a party at Brookside Gardens; MOS president Norm Saunders presented a handsome plaque to Luther on behalf of the Society.

By December we were gearing up for the Christmas counts, especially our own Seneca Count; still, we managed to fit in trips to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the National Arboretum and Black Hill Park. At the Thursday meeting that month, George Jett whetted our appetites for the upcoming gull workshop with a 15 minute gull I.D.; member Bill Young, recently returned from a trip to Australia, followed with a remarkable video on the owls of Australia.

Year 2000 started apace. Mike Bowen and Paul Pisano spent a Saturday morning demystifying gulls to a group of 30 participants at Patuxent Visitor Center. Trip leaders Frank

Witebsky and Jim Green led the long weekend trip to the Outer Banks. At the monthly meeting, naturalist, hawk-bander and *Living on the Wind* author Scott Weidensaul proved to the huge crowd that had assembled (books in hand for autographs) that he was as articulate and witty a speaker as writer.

February was a time for field trips to Conowingo Dam and various Wilmington dumps to implement recently acquired gull I.D. skills. Owls were on the agenda too; participants in Gary Nelson's owl prowling got to see a saw-whet tangle with a tape recorder.

March was the time for seeking woodcock with Jim Green and checking out lingering waterfowl at Black Hill with Rob Gibbs. At the annual Social, 80 members gathered for an evening of good food, members' slides, and a chance to honor Bill Kulp for his many years of work on behalf of our chapter.

In April, Howard Youth, who leaves for Madrid this fall, gave us a wonderful farewell with his account of the development of birding field guides: "Turning the Page: from Firearms to Field Guides." For the second year, our Chapter presented awards to outstanding entrants in the Montgomery Area Science Fair. Participants in eight field trips during the month enjoyed the splendor of migration.

The flurry of trips to the local birding hotspots continued through May, pausing only for an evening of enjoying Texas birds with Luther Goldman. Our year came to an exciting close in June. At the second annual Shorebird Workshop, a panel of Chapter shorebird aficionados guided us gently through a morning of learning to differentiate those small brown jobs on the beach.

Linda Friedland, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

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

Topics at our meetings included: "Wings of the Americas: The Nature Conservancy's International Conservation Program," presented by Marcus Koenen and Polly Morrison; Tapes of Birding Tours; "Nuisance Wildlife in Maryland: Current Challenges," by Rich Dolesh; "Down Under: A Naturalist Tours Australia," by Gregg Kearns; "Birding Africa Coast to Coast," by Daphne Gemmill; "The Imperial Eagle," by Juan Blanco; "Spring Warblers," by Peter Webb; and the Members' Night slide and video presentations.

The annual bird walk and picnic was held in June, 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 South American neotropical studies and preservation efforts, and donations by the chapter to help support local South American conservation groups. Our Conservation Committee, chaired by Eleanor Robbins, continues to carry out an active advocacy role on conservation issues.

Elections for the 2000–2001 year were held at the March meeting. Officers for the coming year are: President - Tom Loomis, Vice-President - David Mozurkewich, Treasurer - Harriette

Phelps, Secretary - Eleanor Robbins, and State Trustee - Chandler Robbins. Directors include Marty Barron, Fred Fallon, and Elwood Martin newly elected for two-year terms, with Helen Meleney, and Leonard Lutwack serving the second year of their terms.

Tom Loomis, President

TRI-COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Memberships in the Tri-County Bird Club totaled 60 in 1999-2000, 3 fewer than the prior year.

Eight monthly meetings were held from September through May. Programs included Birding in Costa Rica, California Birding, Birds of Assateague Island, Maryland Records Committee Documentation of Rarities, Raptor Rehabilitation, Hart-Miller Island, and Community-based Conservation on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Twelve field trips took club members and guests north to Bombay Hook Refuge, south to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands, west to Jug Bay, and east to the Atlantic seashores of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Samuel H. Dyke, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

The Washington County Chapter held its monthly meetings at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. During the summer months our meetings are replaced by monthly picnics.

The following speakers provided some very interesting entertainment during our monthly meetings: Birding in South Africa by Gail MacKiernan; Birding Churchill by Bill Oberman; Birding the Adirondacks by Wilbur Hershberger; Night Sounds by Kevin Dodge; and Costa Rica by Linda Keller and Beth Zang.

During the past year our members participated in many local field trips in Washington County. Members also participated in the Washington County Christmas Count, two Christmas Counts in Frederick County, the midwinter bird survey in Frederick County, the Flower and Garden Show at Hagerstown Community College, May Count, and the Carey Run Sanctuary workday.

Our biggest challenge and greatest achievement of the year was co-hosting (with the Frederick County Chapter) the annual MOS conference. The 2000 MOS Conference Committee's hard work and long hours were rewarded with the many compliments that we received at the conference.

I am sad to report that Ann Mitchell's husband, Scott, has died during the past year. Ann has been a very active member of our chapter and the MOS for many years. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her.

David Weesner, President

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

I am providing here two items for your consideration: (1) I wish to resign my position as Audit Chair (just as you have all positions filled!!); and (2) I am submitting a very abbreviated Audit Report for 1999-2000.

First, my intent to withdraw from the Board is based on my feeling that a new set of eyes is needed for the audit. I further recommend that the new Auditor be designated as an *ex officio* member or observer attending the other financial committee meetings such as budget, investment, other (?).

Secondly, I have given the Treasurer's final 1999 document a cursory examination and believe all is satisfactory with the MOS financial statement for 1999. Since I have been faced with several personal trials over the past nine months I have not had the time to attend to the detail that is necessary for the complete formal audit. I certainly will be glad to help the new auditor when this person is appointed.

Gerald Cotton, Chairman

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget Committee met in February to put together a budget for approval by the board of directors at their March meeting. Several changes were made this year in order to continue the process of simplifying the budget. We are also striving to make the budget reflect a complete picture of the financial activities of the MOS. These changes included the introduction of a new category called MOS Sales. This category covers the books, checklists, clothing, and other miscellaneous items that the MOS produces and sells. It also includes a growing number of promotional items such as pens and keychains. Other changes in the structure of the budget were the explicit treatment of income and expenses for the World Series of Birding, the Environmental Fund for Maryland, and our annual convention. Previously, income from these activities was just added to the operating fund. Now, the WSB and EFM earnings will be separately allocated in response to proposals received by the gifts committee. Two categories were deleted. Promotional items are now part of the MOS Sales, and the Speaker's Bureau is now included with the Webpage.

The operating fund budget for the MOS for the fiscal year starting May 1, 2000 is 39.5 thousand dollars plus 7.5 thousand dollars of special expenses discussed below. The anticipated operating fund income is 34.5 thousand dollars. Since the budgeted amount is never fully spent (containing some upper limits that are not normally reached), this five thousand dollar difference was deemed acceptable and advisable. The special expenses will come out of surpluses that have accrued from previous years. Apart from the operating fund are the particular funds for atlas, conference, education, research, sanctuary, and scholarship activities. For the last four of these, the budget for the coming year is equal to the earnings of the endowments from the preceding year.

Several special expenditures were added to this year's budget. These included \$500 for the xeroxing of nest record cards, \$2000 for the publication of a sanctuary guide, and \$5000

for the surveying and appraisal of all our sanctuaries. Additionally, there are two special expenditures in the sanctuary budget in excess of the endowment earnings. Erosion control is needed for Carey Run Sanctuary (\$1000), and a floodgate needs to be installed at Irish Grove Sanctuary (\$2000).

The budget was approved by the board of directors at the March 2000 meeting.

Paul A. Zucker, Chairman

COUNTY LISTS

The year of 1999 marks the fourteenth time the MOS has compiled state and locality list totals submitted by its members. This year, 84 observers submitted list totals. Here are the highlights:

- **Maryland Lifetime List.** Paul O'Brien (Montgomery County) still holds the top position in Maryland with 379 species, followed by Mark Hoffman (Carroll) with 376.
- Ottavio Janni (Italy) moved to the top of the **DC Lifetime List** this year with 259 species.
- Harry Armistead (PA) remains the **Maryland Lifetime Yard List** leader with a total of 258 seen at his weekend home in Talbot County.
- In the annual **Maryland Year Yard List** category, Harry Armistead found 162 species for the year.
- In the "**All County**" category (species seen in all 23 Maryland counties), Jim Stasz (Calvert) added eight new species to his list to raise his total to an incredible 152.

Phil Davis, Compiler

MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE

The 2000 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was held on February 26, 2000 at the home of Phil Davis in Davidsonville, MD. Members present included Harvey Mudd (Chair), Phil Davis (Secretary), Patty Craig, Mark Hoffman, Gail Mackiernan, Michael O'Brien, Paul Pisano, Sue Ricciardi, and Sherman Suter. Absent were Sam Dyke and Mary Ann Todd. Also attending were MOS President, Norm Saunders; MOS Vice-President, Karen Morley; and MD/DCRC Outreach Subcommittee Chair, Paul O'Brien.

The complete minutes of this meeting are available in the Records Committee pages on the MOS web site at: <http://www.mdbirds.org/>. Highlights include:

- There are currently 1235 data records in the committee's database.
- The cumulative decision acceptance rate is 76%.
- The committee exchanged correspondence with 29 out-of-state individuals on queries, questions and issues dealing with committee business.

- The committee database has been re-indexed to comply with the revised taxonomy of the American Ornithologists' Union's 7th edition *Check-list of North American Birds*.
- The committee has researched and added to its database all reports of "reviewable" species found in Stewart and Robbins' *The Bird of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, 1958.
- There are now 415 species on the Committee's *Official List of the Birds of Maryland*.
- There are now 312 species on the Committee's *Official List of the Birds of the District of Columbia*.
- A new DC "Review List" has been prepared, separate from the Maryland list.
- Changes were made to the committee's review list:
 - Northern Shrike has been removed from the list.
 - Minor changes made to conditions of review for Franklin's Gull and Roseate Tern.
- The committee is actively preparing for the review of Maryland reports of Kelp Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, and for the reopened review of the 1984 Black-tailed Gull.
- The three-year terms of voting members Paul Pisano, Sue Ricciardi, and Mary Ann Todd expired in 2000. The committee thanked them for all their support over the past three years. The new members of the committee are: Rick Blom, Marshall Iliff, and Fran Pope. Harvey Mudd was reelected to another term as Committee Chair.

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

In the past year there were four workdays at our sanctuaries: two at Irish Grove, one at Carey Run, and one at Pelot. Much work was done to maintain the trails and buildings on these workdays. Once again, MOS owes a depth of gratitude to the many participants who come out and do the work.

The MOS Board approved having inspections made of the buildings at Carey Run and Irish Grove to determine what maintenance work will be required within the next ten years. Mike Knott was contracted to do these inspections, and his report was presented to the MOS Board in March 2000. In April and May the Sanctuary Chairman met with the local committee for each sanctuary to go over the report, prioritize the items, and make tentative schedules.

The MOS Board also approved having management plans made for the larger sanctuaries by Partners in Flight, headed by Fred Fallon and Wanda Cole. These plans are in the process of being formed by visits to the sanctuaries and should be ready sometime in late 2000.

The revision of the *Guide to MOS Sanctuaries* is being prepared for printing. There is still a need for maps of some of our sanctuaries.

Dorothy M. Mumford, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Audubon Naturalist Society continues to administer the funds for the Orville Crowder scholarship, which amounted to \$850 this year. The World Series of Birding provided \$850 for one scholarship. The remaining money came from investments in the MOS scholarship fund. Owing to the low number of applicants this year, the Gibson-Mendinhall scholarship, which is funded by the Kent County chapter, was not awarded. Starting this year, at least one

scholarship will be titled Doris Oakley. An endowment was left in her name in the early 1990s. In 2001 an additional scholarship titled Covington-Wedge will be available. The ranking procedure has been refined. Because the number of applicants was low this year, it was an easier task than previously. A list of criteria to consider has also helped the committee members.

Individual chapters are encouraged to appoint a scholarship representative to assist in recruiting potential candidates from around the state and to help them with the application process. Extra effort should be exerted to this end in the coming year to bring the number of applicants back up to previous years. MOS has the potential to award ten scholarships each year, but that end cannot be achieved unless good candidates are recruited.

The state committee members are: Michael Callahan, Charlotte Folk, Elayne Metter, Elizabeth Taylor, Marilyn Taylor, and Marcia Watson-Whitmyre. Marilyn Taylor has asked to be replaced after this year. Considering the geographic makeup of the committee, a replacement from somewhere on the Eastern Shore or Anne Arundel County would be preferable.

The scholarship program is one major area where MOS has the potential to expand its influence to others concerning knowledge about birds and preservation of habitat. A scholarship to an Audubon camp is truly a "gift that keeps on giving," because each person who is selected to attend must be in a position to pass on information gained from the experience. The scholarship committee would like to encourage MOS members and chapters to establish trusts or endowments or give gifts to this fund. "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; we will understand only what we are taught." — *Baba Dioum*. MOS scholarships provide the opportunity for motivated individuals to learn more and pass it on.

This year there were eight applicants for Audubon workshops and six scholarships were awarded. The total value was \$4,590.

David Farner of Ellicott City, Park Ranger, Kinder Farm Park, Millersville, won the Orville Crowder Scholarship and will attend the Maine Coast Ornithology Camp.

Celeste Bunting, First Grade Teacher, Worcester Country School, won the Chandler Robbins Scholarship and will attend the Maine Coast Ornithology Camp.

Eric Cromwell, Teacher and Department Chairperson, Environmental Science, Aberdeen High School, won the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship and will attend the Wyoming Ecology Camp.

Karen Romanelli, Teacher, Biology and Environmental Science at Bel Air High School, won the World Series of Birding Scholarship and will attend the Wyoming Ecology Camp.

Laura Taylor, Environmental Education Instructor, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, Charles County Public Schools, won the Doris Oakley Scholarship and will attend the Connecticut Ecology Camp.

Brian Campbell, Park Ranger, Kinder Farm Park, Millersville, won the Helen Miller Scholarship and will attend the Connecticut Ecology Camp.

Jean Fry, Chairperson

ANNUAL REPORT MOS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Secretary maintains the MOS stationery and other supplies. MOS has leased a temperature-controlled storage locker in the Columbia area where supplies and other documents are stored.

The Executive Secretary also handles the copying and distribution of the agenda, minutes, and other documents for the MOS Board. The Board meets four times per year at various locations across the state. These meetings are hosted by the local chapters.

The MOS voice mail line (800-823-0050) continues to be very active and is used by members and non-members alike. Since January 1, 1999, at least 135 calls have been received and processed. The calls range from membership information and calls about MOS activities to “What is the bird that....” or “What kind of bird....”

Several requests for service have also been received through the MOS website.

Any member or chapter needing MOS supplies or information should contact the Executive Secretary at the voice mail number or at 410-452-8539.

Larry Fry, MOS Executive Secretary

GOOD-BYE OLDSQUAW

The July 2000 issue of *The Auk*, 117(3):847-858, in the 42nd Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Checklist of North American Birds*, announces a change in the English name of a familiar Maryland bird, our Oldsquaw. This species has been declining in Alaska, and “conservation management plans require the help and cooperation of Native Americans.” Because some consider the word “squaw” to be offensive, and because the species is called Long-tailed Duck by English-speaking people in other parts of the world, the official name in North America will henceforth be Long-tailed Duck.—*Ed.*

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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CONTENTS, MARCH-DECEMBER 2000

First Maryland Nest of Long-eared Owl (<i>Asio otus</i>) since 1950... <i>Marshall J. Iliff, Matt Hafner and George L. Armistead</i>	3
May Count 1999	<i>Wanda Diane Cole</i> 11
The Season:	
Winter, Dec. 1, 1998-Feb. 28, 1999	<i>Daniel R. Southworth</i> 27
Spring Migration, March 1-May 31, 1999	<i>Daniel R. Southworth</i> 33
Breeding Season, June 1 - July 31, 1999	<i>D.R. Southworth & R.F. Ringler</i> 43
Fall Migration, Aug. 1-Nov. 30, 1999	<i>Robert F. Ringler</i> 50
Annual Reports of Chapters	<i>Chapter Presidents</i> 59
Annual Reports of Committees	<i>Committee Chairs</i> 67
Annual Report, MOS Executive Secretary	<i>Larry Fry</i> 71
Goodbye Oldsquaw	<i>Editor</i> 71



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Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Cyburn Mansion
 4915 Greenspring Avenue
 Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4698



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Hagerstown, MD
 Permit No. 184