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Cover: Outgoing *Maryland Birdlife* Editor, Chandler S. Robbins, conducting a bird survey at Patuxent Research Refuge, August 1986. (Photographed by Barbara Dowell)

EDITOR'S NOTE

I welcome Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) members to my first issue serving as Editor of *Maryland Birdlife*. I thank **Chandler S. Robbins** for creating this journal and serving as its Editor since the 1940s. It is my sincere wish that Associate Editor Mark Johnson and I can do justice to Chan's legacy. Our cover article, written by MOS Historian Don Messersmith, gives a brief history of Chan Robbins, "Maryland's Birding Treasure."

My plan for *Maryland Birdlife* is to publish two issues per year, spring and fall. The journal will publish articles and notes on bird studies in the Mid-Atlantic region. It will also publish results from the various statewide surveys: Christmas Bird Counts, Midwinter Count, May Count, Fall Count, and various hawk watches. [*Currently, there is no compiler for the Midwinter Count. If you would be interested in volunteering in this capacity, please contact me and I will put you in contact with the Seasonal Counts Coordinator.*]

Mark and I are always interested in hearing from potential authors. If you have an idea for a possible article or note, please contact me at ejscarp@comcast.net.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND DEDICATION

I acknowledge my Towson State College ornithology professor, the late **Compton N. Crook** (pen name Stephen Tall to science fiction aficionados). Compton was the consummate field birder who instilled in me an interest in the study of ornithology. I acknowledge the late **C. Douglas Hackman**, who guided my bird banding project in The Glen and gave me my first opportunity to observe the wonder of birds in the hand. I acknowledge former Towson State University ornithology professor, **Dr. Philip D. Creighton**, for continuing to nourish my interest in birds.

I dedicate this issue to the late **Eirik A. T. Blom**, internationally renowned author and editor of numerous ornithological publications, member of the adjunct faculty at The Johns Hopkins University, and close personal friend, who first introduced me to the opportunity of bird studies at Hart-Miller Island and who infected me with "laridaphilia" and a lifelong passion for gull watching.

Eugene J. Scarpulla
Editor