



# HOWARD

NEWSLETTER OF HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER -- MOS

OCTOBER 1973

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## COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 20, SATURDAY--A one day trip to Hawk Mountain near Kempton, Pa. Please refer to the article on Hawk Mt. in last month's newsletter. Last year on October 20, ten different species were seen on a clear day including Goshawks, Coopers, Red-tailed, Osprey, and Golden Eagle. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Swansfield Elementary School parking lot in Columbia. Bring lunch. Bob Herndon, leader (730-0942).

NOVEMBER 11, SUNDAY--A one day trip to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. This is one of MOS's favorite spots all seasons of the year but November is special as it is the fall peak of migrant Canada geese, snow geese, and a variety of ducks. Bring lunch and the camera. Irvin Klaas, leader (730-7821).

PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 17 or 18. BRIGANTINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. CALL BOB HERNDON - 730-0942 FOR EXACT DATE AND DETAILS.

## JUNIOR PROGRAM

The Junior program is getting underway with a most interesting project. It will be an attempt to locate all nesting Barn Owls in Howard County. The first meeting to organize the adventure will be Saturday morning, October 27 at 10 a.m. at the Irvin Klaas residence, 10305 Crimson Tree Ct., Columbia (730-7821). Highschool age boys and girls will find this project interesting, fun and useful as well.

## FRIENDS OF ASSATEAGUE

Conservationists are pushing for amendments to the Assateague Island National Seashore Act (Public Law 89-195) which was passed in 1965. The Maryland Legislature has voted that the state should work actively to have the Seashore Act amended. The Department of Interior also advocates amendments to the Act.

Friends of Assateague urge those interested to write to their Congressman (House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senator (United States Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510). The following amendments are suggested: 1. Omit Section 7 - setting aside 600 acres for overnight and public accommodations; 2. Omit Section 9 - calling for the Secretary of the Interior to construct and maintain a road between the Maryland and Virginia bridges; 3. Substitute public transportation, with frequent trips and numerous stops; 4. Eliminate all commercial development and place it on the mainland at both ends of the Island; 5. Protect the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge as it is one of the Island's greatest attractions and resources, and insure the well-being of nesting and migratory wildfowl in all parts of the Island. Include a wilderness area; 6. Protect the beauty and character of Assateague, as the last remaining, accessible, large East Coast barrier island which can be preserved in a natural state.

The above was taken from a letter distributed by the Committee to Preserve Assateague.

# C H E C K   T H A T   L I F E   L I S T   A G A I N

Have you heard the story that the Baltimore Oriole is now to be called the Northern Oriole because there aren't enough Orioles in the Baltimore area to warrant the name any longer? That has been said but don't you believe it!

In April, 1973, the Commission on Classification and Nomenclature, American Ornithologists' Union, published the 32nd Supplement to "Check-List of North American Birds" (1957, 5th Ed.). Three new species are now recognized and 33 species have been combined with others. The changes have come about because of the mating habits that have been observed determining that a species should either rightfully be combined or split.

## The "split" species:

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Herring Gull	Herring Gull Thayer's Gull
Traill's Flycatcher	Willow Flycatcher Alder Flycatcher
Boat-tailed Grackle	Great-tailed Grackle Boat-tailed Grackle

## Species which have been lumped together:

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>	<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Great White Heron )	Great Blue Heron	House Finch	} House Finch
Great Blue Heron )		McGregor's Finch	
Snow Goose )	Snow Goose	Guadalupe House Finch	
Blue Goose )		Ipswich Sparrow )	Savannah Sparrow
Common Teal )	Green-winged Teal	Savannah Sparrow )	Sparrow
Green-winged Teal )		Seaside Sparrow )	} Seaside Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk )	Red-tailed Hawk	Dusky Seaside	
Harlan's Hawk )		Cape Sable Sparrow	
Yellow-shafted flicker )	Common flicker	White-winged Junco )	} Dark-eyed Junco
Red-shafted flicker )		Slate-colored Junco )	
Gilded flicker )		Oregon Junco )	
		Guadalupe Junco )	
Robin )	American Robin	Mexican Junco )	} Yellow-eyed Junco
San Lucas Robin )		Baird's Junco )	
Myrtle Warbler )	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Olive-backed Warbler )	} Tropical Warbler
Audubon Warbler )		Socorro Warbler )	
Baltimore Oriole )	Northern Oriole		
Bullock's Oriole )			

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Name Changes:

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>	<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Fulmar	Northern Fulmar	Wood Ibis	Wood Stork
Pale-footed Shearwater	Flesh-footed Shearwater	Shoveler	Northern Shoveler
Slender-billed Shearwater	Short-tailed Shearwater	Common Scoter	Black Scoter
White-faced Petrel	White-faced Storm Petrel	Gray Sea Eagle	White-tailed Eagle
Fork-tailed Petrel	Fork-tailed Storm Petrel	Pigeon Hawk	Merlin
Leach's Petrel	Leach's Storm Petrel	Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel
Ashy Petrel	Ashy Storm Petrel	Harlequin Quail	Montezuma Quail
Guadalupe Petrel	Guadalupe Storm Petrel	Upland Plover	Upland Sandpiper
Harcourt's Petrel	Harcourt's Storm Petrel	Knot	Red Knot
Black Petrel	Black Storm Petrel	Catbird	Gray Catbird
Least Petrel	Least Storm Petrel	Bahama Honeycreeper	Bananaquit
Wilson's Petrel	Wilson's Storm Petrel	Parula Warbler	Northern Parula warbler
Black-bellied Petrel	Black-bellied Storm Petrel	Yellowthroat	Common Yellowthroat
		Common Egret	Great Egret

S I G H T I N G S

On Sunday morning, Sept. 16 about 10 a.m., between 400-500 migrating broad-winged hawks were seen flying over the Patuxent River at Mink Hollow Road. This is the area mentioned in last month's newsletter. The hawks were flying quite low and very visible for more than 40 minutes. One lone hawk flew to the top of a tree near the bridge, apparently giving up the flight or maybe just waiting for the next kettle. The day was clear and bright--the wrong day to go birding without a camera.

The Ben Dawsons have a Franklina tree in their yard which bloomed in August and over a period of two weeks was visited by a blue-winged warbler. Frances discovered he was feeding on Japanese beetles.

A birding trip of less than two hours early in the morning on Sept. 23 in the wooded area at the northwest end of Wilde Lake produced 23 species and one big surprise--a rose-breasted grosbeak. Perched on a dead branch in the open there could be no mistake in the identification. Also seen there were cardinals and bluejays in unusually large numbers.