



HOWARD

NEWSLETTER OF HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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NINETY NINE RED-TAILED AND ONE GOLDEN EAGLE

A few but enthusiastic hawk watchers from Howard County ventured to Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 20. It was a beautiful October day, ideal for such an outing. A day that would not have been a total loss if there had been no Hawks but fortunately that was not the case. In fact, there was a bonus or two.

On the way to the sanctuary and during the climb to the top, the usual birds were listed: house sparrow, starling, rock dove, blue jay, mocking bird, grackle, meadow lark, flicker, redwing, cowbird, junco. It was not easy to find a smooth spot on the rocks large enough to accommodate even our small group; so perfect a day had brought out hundreds of birders--and quite a few non-birders. However, Hawk Mountain is so ideally located for a lookout over the vast countryside that crowds do not greatly hinder one.

The species with the largest number was the Red-tailed and our count for the day was 99. To see this hawk soar so gracefully by against a bright blue October sky showing a brilliant red tail in the bright sunshine is a sight that stays in ones memory. Other hawks seen were Cooper's (6), Red-shouldered (12), Sharp-shinned (76), Broad-winged (11), Marsh hawk (7) Merlin (4), Kestrel (7). There were also 15 turkey vultures. Rather large flocks of robins were seen throughout the day and over 200 crows were counted. Several large skeins of Canada geese added up to 529 birds migrating southward.

The climax of the day came at about 3:30 p.m. when a magnificent Golden Eagle flew by in clear view of all. This super star of the day made a brief but totally spectacular appearance. Of interest on checking statistics afterwards was that on October 20, 1972, 4 Golden Eagles were seen but on the previous day (October 19) a record 9 were spotted.

For those who wish to visit Hawk Mountain, there are still many good days left. It is not a difficult drive and can be reached by Interstate highways for most of the way or more leisurely on side roads through the beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch country. The Sanctuary is on Blue Mountain a few miles North of Hamburg (Highway 61). It is advisable to take a lunch and a thermos of coffee. There is also a museum and a variety of books are for sale. Adult admission to Hawk Mountain is \$.55 for non-members.

Not to be overlooked as a good Hawk Lookout is Maryland's Monument Knob in Washington Monument State Park on South Mountain. Hawks are spotted from a stone tower and all species seen on Hawk Mountain can be seen here. The Park is easily reached by taking Route 70N to Alternate Route 40. The Park is located between Middletown and Boonsboro.

COMING EVENTS

FIELD TRIPS

NOVEMBER 11, SUNDAY: Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and Little Creek Wildlife Area on Delaware Bay. One of the truly spectacular places on the East Coast for wintering waterfowl. Thousands of Canada geese will be in plus various species of ducks. A bald eagle was seen on last fall's trip. Meet at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot at 7:30 a.m. or at Refuge Headquarters. The Refuge is approximately nine miles southeast of Smyrna, Delaware. There are signs along route 9 to aid the traveler. Bring lunch. This is a good trip for picture taking. It is also an easy trip requiring little walking. Telescopes will be available. Erv Klaas is the leader (730-7821).

NOVEMBER 17-18: Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey. This will be a two-part trip: photography and informal birding. Nan Rhineland will lead the birding party and Bob Herndon will be the leader for the photographers. If you are interested in photography call Bob Herndon before the trip so that specific arrangements can be made, 730-0942. Meet at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 1, SATURDAY: Little Patuxent River area. This will be a local trip with Erv Klaas as leader (730-7821). Meet at Swansfield Elementary School Parking lot 7:30 a.m.

JANUARY 12, SATURDAY: Local feeder trip. One of the most popular trips last year will be repeated this season. More information on this in the next newsletter.

PROGRAM

DECEMBER 13: Earl Baysinger, Assistant Chief of the Office of Endangered Species, will show a film and speak on the activities of the office.

NEW BOOKS

There are some excellent new books out this year that would be good additions to ones library and ought to be remembered when making up the Christmas gift list. A new Peterson Field Guide is always new and the most recent one has been praised highly for both text and art work. The book is A Field Guide to Mexican Birds by Roger Tory Peterson and Edward L. Chalif.

The story of the bald eagle from 1782 to its present status as an endangered species is covered in the book Autumn of the Eagle by George Laycock. It is illustrated with photographs, bibliography, and reference notes and sells for \$6.95. A vivid portrait of a popular bird is the subject of a new book by James C. Lewis. The book The World of the Wild Turkey describes the six surviving species and how they live, their social systems and courting and nesting behavior. Adventures in Birding by Jean Piatt (\$7.95) is the story of a couple of enthusiastic birders and their adventures in birding from Alaska to the Edwards Plateau in Texas searching for the common and the rare species. The book is illustrated with drawings by Mathew Kalmenoff. A Sierra Club Book is Field Book of Nature Photography edited by Patricia Maye with personal commentaries by famous Sierra Club photographers including Ansel Adams and Patricia Caulfield. This paperback sells for \$6.95 and considered excellent for the novice or experienced bird photographer.

RE M I N D E R F O R D U E S

Membership dues must be paid by December 1, 1973 for the current year (Sept. '73-Sept. '74) or names will be dropped from the roll and newsletters will not be available for non-members.

We want to encourage members to renew and welcome new members. Howard County is fortunate in having many species of birds. All are represented--song, garden, water prey, and game! We are also located in one of the fastest developing areas in the country and natural habitats for all wildlife in the county are quickly changing and we stand to lose much that contributes to the joy of living in Howard County. In order to carry on our efforts to promote the knowledge and conservation of wildlife, natural habitats, and natural resources and to foster an appreciation of our natural environment, we need the assistance of adults and young people through their membership and their active participation in Chapter activities.

If you are a member, please check to see that your dues are paid and pass your newsletter on to a friend who may be interested. Why not bring a neighbor to the next program meeting or field trip?

Membership dues are payable to Howard County-MOS and should be mailed to: Ben Dawson, 5404 Iron Pen Place, Columbia, Maryland, 21044. The dues are as follows

Husband and wife -----	\$ 8.50
Adult (individual) -----	6.00
Student (up to 18) -----	1.50
Student (over 18) -----	4.00
Sustaining -----	11.00
Life -----	100.00
Senior adult -----	4.00
Senior Husband and Wife -----	5.00

B I R D N O T E S

Frances and Ben Dawson continue to have interesting visitors to their home in Columbia. During the past month, they have seen a Cape May Warbler, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellowthroat, and Scarlet Tanager.

Wilde Lake has been visited briefly by an American Widgeon, Ruddy Duck and Bufflehead this early fall season. Also seen in that area very early one recent Sunday morning--a red fox!

The two Mute Swans on Wilde Lake have been placed there by Dr. William J. L. Sladen of Johns Hopkins University. The collars marked AA-50 and AA-51 are similar to the collars placed on Whistling Swans which are under study by a team of ecologists at the University. This program was covered in a story in the April, 1973 issue of the newsletter. The Mutes on the lake are permanent guests and Dr. Sladen hopes they will nest in the Spring. During the beautiful October days, the swans were the subjects for many photographers and they cooperate with the camera buffs as if they fully realize how beautiful they are.

PRACTICE GOOD CONSERVATION