

HOWARD

DECEMBER 1974

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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Season's Greetings

On Saturday, November 2, Erv Klaas was the leader of twelve birders exploring Lily Pons and South Mountain. Often at this time of year, South Mountain is a great place for hawk watching. But not this time. The group had a good view of a rough-legged hawk on the way to the mountain but that ended the hawk sightings. Lily Pons was more rewarding with quite a few shore birds. The final count was 46 species on the first of November's beautiful Saturdays.

Jo Solem was the leader Sunday morning, November 17 on a hike along and near the Middle Patuxent River. The group of ten (including two young birders, Zachary Klaas and David Foster, who took the hike in stride) began at Murray Hill Road and ended at Kindler Road. It was a chilly and cloudy morning and birds were quite scarce. A check of Wilde Lake on the way to the hike for ruddy ducks was not successful although six had been there 30 minutes earlier. The group did register 26 species during the morning with one immature yellow-bellied sapsucker and several fox sparrows.

PROGRAM REPORT

The newsletter has not in the past carried reports of programs given and so many have been very good, and worthy of mention. One of those was the November program with Dr. James Mulligan. His talk illustrated with beautiful and informative slides on songs of sparrows was well received. The chapter was fortunate to have this authority on songs of sparrows as a speaker while he was in the area.

Elements

I used to

Like

Fresh air

When it was there

And

Water

I enjoyed it

'Til we distroyed it

Each day

The land's diminished

I think

I'm

Finished

by Henry Gibson

COMING EVENTS

PROGRAM

- DECEMBER 12: The owl is undoubtedly the most popular bird in America. There are many who have little interest in birds--except the owl--and they collect all sorts of items using the owl motif. This program will be of interest to them as well as our regular birders. Dr. Erwin Klaas will speak on the breeding of barn owls in captivity and his research project at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.
- JANUARY 9: What could be more appropriate on a winter night than a look at the beautiful birds of Hawaii? Dave Olson of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of the Interior, will show slides and speak on the birds of the islands. Mr. Olson was at one time the Manager of the National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii.
- FEBRUARY 13: Dr. William J. L. Sladen will discuss Swan Studies from Alaska to Chesapeake Bay. More about Dr. Sladen in the January issue.

FIELD TRIPS

- DECEMBER 14, SATURDAY: The local birding trip will be along the Little Patuxent and will be led by Erv Klaas. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Swansfield Elementary School parking lot. Don't miss this as there is a good possibility that we will see the barred owl who lives in this area. This is a one-half day outing.
- DECEMBER 21, SATURDAY: Call Danny Bystrak (776-4480, ext. 281 or at home evenings, 674-2965 (Odenton)) if you can help out with the annual Christmas Count. He will give you an area and further instructions. This is an important count; help, if you can.
- JANUARY 11, SATURDAY: The first feeder trip of the season. A nice comfortable way to watch birds from the inside looking out! There will be five stops at local feeders and the outing will be concluded about noon with coffee and doughnuts at the Herndons. Meet at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot at 9 a.m. Please note that later hour.
- JANUARY 18, SATURDAY: Kent Island birding--Kent Island has many good areas and expect to see lots of whistling swans and a variety of ducks. Dress warmly and be prepared for a moderate amount of walking. A lunch and thermos of hot coffee for those who wish to spend the day. Larry Hood is the leader (730-9251) and meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Swansfield Elementary School parking lot.

CHRISTMAS SHOP AT MOS BOOKSTORE--AND WE HAVE MORE THAN BOOKS--STATIONERY, TABLE MATS, ETC. NEW: BOOK COVERS FOR GUIDE BOOKS, ESPECIALLY WELL MADE IN BEAUTIFUL COLORS--\$3.75--ALSO, A POCKETED APRON, IDEAL FOR CARRYING BOOKS, FILM, ETC. LEAVING HANDS FREE TO HANDLE BINOCULARS OR CAMERA, \$4.50. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL FRANCES DAWSON--730-8549.

WHEN BIRDERS TRAVEL

When on vacations or during business trips, there is sometimes time for birding but if the birder is not aware of the area, much time can be lost in a hit and miss search for good habitats. There are several things to keep in mind to assist in this situation--contact the local Audubon Society, pick up an official State Roads Commission map which gives locations of State Parks and the Dept. of Interior can furnish a map showing the locations of the National Wildlife Refuges. If there is time, write to the manager of the Wildlife Refuge you plan to visit and ask for a map of the refuge and the official bird list.

In the past few years, a very interesting project of the Tahoma Audubon Society has been helpful to birders on the road. This is Operation Nature Guide which publishes the Nature Guide, updating it each year. The Guide covers the nation and this idea that started with one nature-seeking family has so much information in it now that it is a must for the constant traveler and well worth looking into for the home birder who wants to assist the visitors to his area. The publication lists guides in over forty States with names, addresses, and telephone numbers. These are volunteer guides--birders and nature buffs--who will give the traveler information on the area, spend some time with him or refer him to an "expert" in the field of particular interest. The Guide also lists Nature Centers throughout the United States, Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Wildlife Refuges, and National Parks.

Anyone, regardless of whether or not there is an organization affiliation, can receive the Guide by sending 50 cents to: Ilene Marckx, 34915 4th Ave. S., Federal Way, Wash., 98002. More volunteer guides are needed, especially on the East Coast. If you are interested in helping out in this interesting project (you need not be an "expert"), add that interest in a note to Ms. Marckx (pronounced Marks) when you order a copy of Nature Guide. It's a good thing to do and a fun way to meet great people who share a common interest.

ON RECYCLING

The General Service Administration, a full two years ago expanded the federal government's recycled materials requirements after a thorough "test program", and although this was a step in the right direction, it didn't go far enough and this modest program has not been picked up by the many thousands of companies, other government agencies, manufacturers and suppliers across the U.S. Some Congressmen, in fact, had to buy their own recycled paper from private sources before they could get the regular Capitol Hill supply room to stock it.

Urge the supplier or manufacturer you deal with to use and identify recycled paper. (And don't be confused by terminology. "Recyclable" on a carton means only that it can be recycled; "recycled" means that it already has been.

Write to the National Association of Recycling Industries, 300 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y., 10017, for practical guides on how you can help create a more viable market for recycled paper.

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