

HOWARD

NEWSLETTER OF HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1975

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W O R K S H O P

BIRDING '75 is a joint venture of the Patuxent Bird Club and Howard County MOS and will be promoted through a workshop to be held SATURDAY, MARCH 1 (1:15-5:15 p.m.) at the Glenelg Country Day School. It is an opportunity for new birders as well as those who have worn out several guide

Bunting

books to increase their skills, investigate seldom discussed aspects of birding and/or to learn more about those specialized areas that interest relatively few birders. The sessions will be one hour each with a choice of about five topics each hour and attendees may attend as many or as few of the sessions as desired. Most of the subjects will be presented twice during the afternoon.

The subjects and discussion leaders are:

Patterns in Bird Song - Dr. L. Murphy
Botany for Birders - Paul Bystrak
Shorebird Identification - Rich Rowlett
Beginning Bird Photography - F. Rhineland
Tern Identification - R. Rowlett
Worldwide Field Guides for Globe-trotting Birders - Jay Sheppard

Planning a Birding Vacation - Jay Sheppard
Advanced Bird Photography - Dr. R Herndon
Habitat Birding - Kathy Klimkiewicz
Gull Identification - R. Rowlett
Land Management to Attract Birds - Dr. Geis
Locating Breeding Birds, Nest Identification and Nest Cards - Bishop, Solem, Boone

Remember that you need not be a member of either club to attend this workshop at the GLENELG COUNTRY SCHOOL and children accompanied by an adult or teenager responsible for them are also welcome. Direction map on Page 2 of the newsletter.

P R O G R A M N E W S

FEBRUARY 13, THURSDAY, 7:45 p.m.: Dr. William J. L. Sladen of Johns Hopkins University will be the speaker. His subject will concern his long-term study of the whistling swan. (See the January newsletter).

MARCH 13, THURSDAY, 7:45 p.m.: Dr. Mark Simpson will speak on Birds of the Appalachian Mountains. More specifically, Dr. Simpson's emphasis will be on the Mountain areas of North Carolina. He is a physician at Johns Hopkins University and has been an active birder for many years.

The Spring monthly programs will feature a slide show on the whooping cranes and a talk on a Cooper's hawk study. More details in future newsletters.

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The drawing of the monk parakeet above was done by Charlotte Bunting Floyd. We hope to feature her work again in future newsletters.

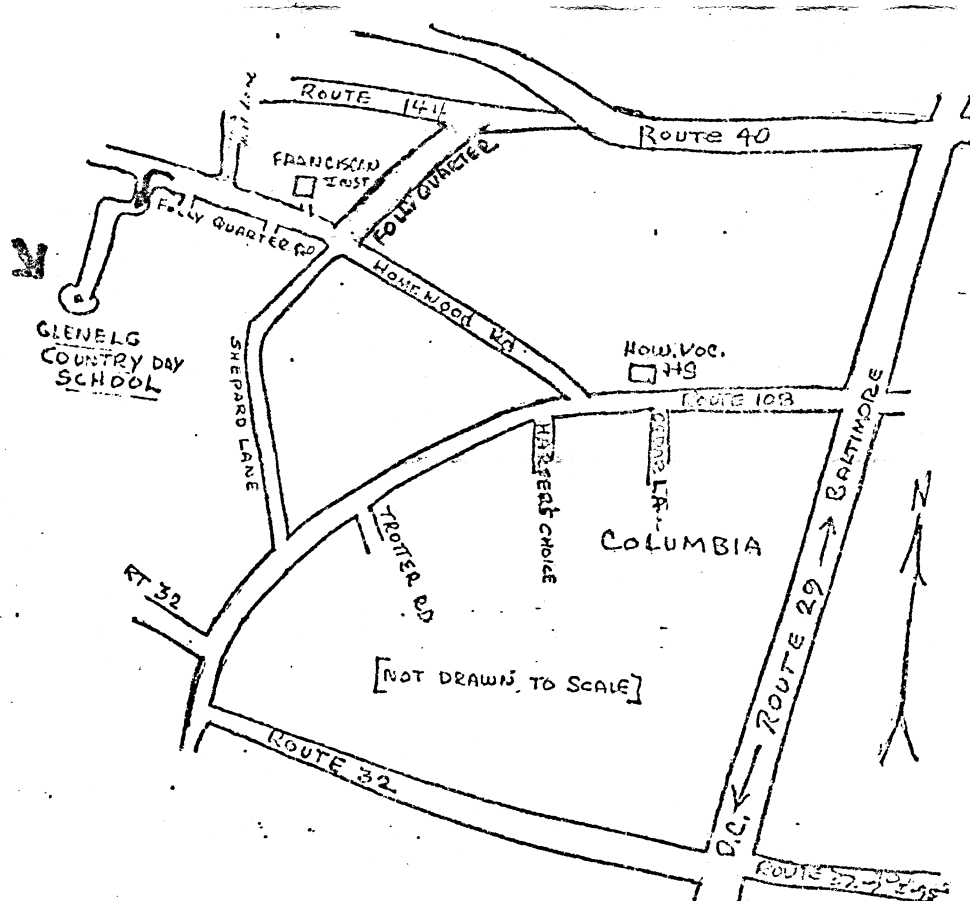
FIELD TRIPS

FEBRUARY 15-16-17: Plans are almost completed for the 3-day trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina but if you wish to join, call Larry Hood (730-9251) for information as to availability and arrangements.

FEBRUARY 23, SUNDAY: Nan Rhinelander (286-2427) will lead the second bird feeder trip of the season. There will be a banding demonstration as well as visits to several feeders. This is a good trip for those who cannot make the early Sunday trips--meet at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot at 1:30 p.m. for car pooling.

MARCH 15, SATURDAY: Local birding trip with leader to be announced. This outing will demonstrate the importance of guarding the open spaces in Columbia. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Swansfield Elementary School parking lot. The trip will be concluded by 11:30 a.m.

MARCH 22, SATURDAY: An all day trip to one of the club's favorite areas--Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Bring lunch and plan to be home about 5 p.m. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Swansfield Elementary School parking lot for car pooling. Leader to be announced in the March newsletter.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

There were 32 birders, according to our people counter Timmy Solem, on the first bird feeder trip of the winter. Reports from members with feeders had not been exciting so far in the season and Saturday, January 11, was no exception. Goldfinches, a purple finch, white-throated sparrows, blue jays, and juncos were about all that were seen at the feeders.

The most interesting sighting was the monk parakeet seen on Eliot's Oak Rd. between the backyards of the Kenneth Jennings and Robert Cawleys. Becky and Kathleen Cawley were along on the trip and the parakeet was well known to them as he has been in this immediate area for some time. But for most of the viewers this was a life bird which always makes a field trip a "good one".

Lake Kittamaquundi produced hooded mergansers, ring-neck duck, buffleheads, canvasbacks and mallards. The sun was not out during the visit to the lake which hindered getting good views of the beautiful colorings of these birds.

The earlier part of the day was rainy with some fog and not the best weather to have 32 people crowd into one's kitchen and dining room to peer into the backyard to "feeder watch". We owe a special "thank you" to Cynthia and Duncan MacDonald, Frances and Ben Dawson, and to Bob and Kathy Herndon. Doughnuts and coffee were especially welcome at the Herndons.

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Larry Hood claims he has a talent for choosing "bad weather" days to lead field trips and he convinced 15 birders on the Kent Island trip that he is right! There was a cold rain most of the morning but in spite of this, many whistling swans, Canada geese, bufflehead, goldeneye, old squaw, and one lone ruddy duck were seen. Actually, there was a very respectable count for the day with 45 species entered into the trip book. Probably the most exciting find, other than the sheer numbers of geese and swans, was a flock of snow bunting at Sandy Point State Park.

MORE PARROT TALK

We did a story in May, 1973, on the monk parakeet but at that time, we did not have a positive sighting in Howard County. On seeing this beautiful import from Argentina, one is saddened by the fact that this is a dangerous bird that must be controlled. No one knows when or how they first became established in this country. One way may be that pet owners turned them loose because they are so noisy and difficult to live with (the one found in Columbia is very vocal). But however they became established, they are holding their own, with colonies reported in several states. It is the first wild parrot to do so since the Carolina became extinct many years ago.

In Argentina the bird substantially damages corn, sorghum, and sunflower crops as well as citrus and other fruits. There, nest burning has been tried, as well as shooting, snaring, netting, poisoning and repellents--none have been successful. Bounties were offered and were paid on 427,206 pairs of feet in one province alone.