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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

HOWARD

TRIADELPHIA CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Twenty-eighth Annual Christmas Bird Count for Triadelphia Reservoir was held on January 1, 1976. The 15 mile diameter circle is centered 3 miles ENE of Brighton Dam so includes parts of Howard and Montgomery County. We don't know whether the success of this count was due to good weather or fine coverage—maybe both—but a new record was set. The previous record was 90 species found in both 1973 and 1974. This year's total reached 97 species. I talked to Chan Robbins the night of the count and have only approximate totals as all birders had not yet turned in their tally. The final results of this and all other Christmas counts in North America will be published in the April 1976 issue of American Birds.

There are always an assortment of waterfowl found on the ponds and reservoirs (both Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge) and this year was no exception. Ten Horned Grebes, 58 Whistling Swans and 800 Canada Geese were all excellent counts. Cooper's Hawk was missed this year but 1 Rough-leg was seen. Bobwhites were rather low at 40 and Ring-necked Pheasants dropped to 3. Three snipe were a good find. Owls are never plentiful but small numbers of Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls were found along with 1 Barn and 1 Saw-whet. Eight Pileated Woodpeckers made the list along with a lone Red-headed and 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Horned Larks were up over 100 this year while Black-capped Chickadees invaded in numbers with a total near 70. The usual Carolina Chickadees ran around 800. Winter Wrens found were 20 while 3 individual parties found single House Wrens! Carolina Wrens were over 300. Two Catbirds and 2 Brown Thrashers were fine additions while 40 Robins are lingering for the winter. Hermit Thrushes were low with only 6 seen and a single Loggerhead Shrike made the list. Five thousand Starlings should make any birder's day...but the 68 Yellow-rumped Warblers were more pleasant to contemplate; interestingly, they almost all occurred in the Middle Patuxent River Valley. There were barely 100 E. Meadowlarks but one party had 59. One Rusty Blackbird was added to about 700 Redwings. Six parties had Evening Grosbeaks for a total of over 100. Purple Finches were at 30, House Finches 135 and 1 lone Pine Siskin showed up. Towhees were down this year with only 22 counted along with 4 Savannah Sparrows. The nearly 50 White-crowned Sparrows contrasted with over 2000 White-throats. Fox Sparrow was missed entirely. Three Phosbes were braving the winter along with 2 Chipping Sparrows.

The editors of this newsletter welcome contributions from the members of the club. The following limericks are from Rosemund Munro who has promised us more in a future issue. The puzzle on the following page was done by Lucille Peters who says there are 40 or more birds hidden in the letters.

There once was a bad-mannered vulcher
Who was pestered by pangs of an ulcher;
Belched the tormented buzzard
"It's the pain in my guzzard
Which provokes me to act without culcher."

A jay with picturesque plumage
Spends an excess of time on his groomage.
He is caught, as he preens,
By the seat of his jeans-----
Ah, would that he'd practiced more zoomage!

C A L E N D A R

P R O G R A M

January 8, Thursday - Jim Ruos - Howard County resident from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center will speak on Birds of Prey. 7:45 P.M.

February 12, Thursday - To Be Announced

F I E L D T R I P S - Meet at Swansfield Elementary School

January 11, Sunday, 7:30 A.M. - Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Joint trip with the Sierra Club. All day trip so bring lunch, coffee, snacks, and warm clothes. Wintering waterfowl in one of the club's favorite places. Leader Bob Herndon 730-0942.

January 17, Saturday - 7:30 P.M. - Owl Explore. We'll be looking for owls in the general vicinity of Columbia. If any questions call Kris Krishnamoorthy 997-5967. In case of rain, drizzle, sleet or snow trip is canceled.

January 24, Saturday - Feeder Trip. Meet at Swansfield Elementary at 8:30 A.M.

February 14, 15, 16 - Saturday, Sunday, Monday - Annual Washington's Birthday Weekend trip. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. This will be a combined birding and photographing trip. Larry Hood will lead the birders and Bob Herndon the photographers. Reservations will be necessary so contact Bob at 730-0942 or Larry 730-9251.

B O A R D M E E T I N G

The January Board meeting will be held at the Dawson's at 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 29, 1976. Frances and Ben live at 5404 Iron Pen Place in Columbia; phone is 730-8549.

Z O N I N G H E A R I N G

January 28, 1976 at 7:30 P.M. in Oakland Mills High School auditorium the Howard County Zoning Board will begin hearings on zoning case #693, the HRD proposal to annex land and change the Preliminary Development Plan. This involves more open space (the Middle Patuxent Valley) west of Hy. 29 and higher density housing and industrial parks east of Hy. 29. You are encouraged to attend the hearings.

How many can you find?

W	W	A	R	B	L	E	R	G	R	O	B	I	N	W	O	M	A	N	D	G
D	P	B	I	E	E	A	B	E	G	R	E	T	R	R	E	O	W	N	K	
B	O	B	O	L	I	N	K	L	D	D	G	G	T	L	I	W	W	I	C	D
C	D	I	B	L	O	D	N	A	S	W	H	E	N	L	O	O	W	A	R	E
D	T	D	W	L	S	P	W	C	T	A	E	G	E	U	L	O	L	I	D	O
E	H	E	H	H	C	O	W	K	A	A	R	V	O	G	E	B	B	M	M	E
F	R	E	I	S	B	O	A	R	R	P	O	V	O	R	E	K	C	L	L	E
N	U	T	T	D	R	P	G	A	T	A	N	A	G	E	R	D	D	C	U	U
I	S	S	E	C	O	W	B	I	R	D	O	R	R	G	O	A	T	A	S	L
O	H	H	O	W	W	B	I	L	L	D	O	E	T	E	R	N	S	R	A	M
M	D	C	K	I	N	G	B	I	R	D	C	D	O	O	T	T	D	D	A	A
D	O	V	C	A	T	B	I	R	D	O	E	E	V	S	E	V	E	I	O	R
M	T	O	M	O	H	I	M	R	R	V	E	Y	E	P	J	I	L	N	T	K
A	D	O	W	R	D	A	N	I	E	R	E	N	R	R	H	H	A	D	I	
L	L	A	W	D	A	G	G	N	D	N	Y	D	H	E	N	O	L	O	N	
L	L	A	D	D	S	S	H	E	D	B	V	V	D	Y		R	C	A	T	G
A	L	A	M	O	H	O	T	O	Y	I	Z	I	T	I	H	N	N	B	A	E
R	B	A	L	D	E	A	G	E	L	R	U	R	U	T	O	E	U	L	M	I
D	E	M	F	G	R	T	T	T	T	D	O	E	W	O	D	D	J	U	E	D
H	I	U	J	K	O	B	A	B	O		B	O	O	B	Y	L	Y	E	B	E
R	O	R	D	W	R	H	B	C	N	B	L	U	E	O	H	A	T	B	E	R
S	E	R	H	O	T	O	H	D	E	L	G	O	E	O	W	R	E	N	E	N
M	A	E	W	U	U	R	Y	R	E	E	D	L	L	I	K	K	G	R	E	E
E	E	N	N	R	E	N	W	Y	A	T	B	A	T	N	W	O	R	B	B	E