

HOWARD



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Maryland
Ornithological
Society

BIRDING '76

Mark Saturday, March 6 on your calendar for that is the date of the third annual Howard County MOS and Patuxent Bird Club workshop, Birding '76, to be held at the Glenelg Country School on Folly Quarter Road.

Birds of Prey will be featured in the identification presentations. Larry Hood and Bill Clark will discuss the Hawks of Eastern North America and Larry has promised to have some skins available for comparison purposes. Jay Sheppard will describe the Owls of North America (by sight and sound). In both cases there will be discussions of habitats, range and tips that the books may not give.

If identification is not your special interest there will be two sessions on photography, one particularly emphasizing bird photography and the other for the individual who is just getting interested in natural history subjects. Jay Sheppard will also present a session on the use of the tape recorder. Recorders can be a valuable tool or they can disturb the birds. Find out how to use them to advantage.

One of the finest sanctuaries owned by the Maryland Ornithological Society is Irish Grove. Paul Bystrak has spent numerous weekends there and will present a slide talk describing the various habitats and bird species. He promises to have some examples of the vegetation for examination and will give us an idea of what species can be expected in which habitat--information which can be applied to the Eastern Shore.

Every year more people discover the joy of feeding and attracting birds to the area in which they live. Joseph Ondrejko is a landscape architect who approaches the ideal of attracting the maximum number of species to your yard, lot, farm, etc. as a unified whole. This year he plans to talk about some of the major factors to be considered when planning for the birds--next year he hopes to talk about specific recommendations for plantings.

There will be four sessions each about an hour in length and each topic will be repeated at least twice. Come for the whole afternoon or just drop in for an hour or two. Registration begins at 1:00 P.M. and sessions start at 1:15 P.M. We finish by 5:15 P.M. and there is no charge for registration. Bring your friends. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult or teenager responsible for them.

If you have questions or need directions give Jo Solem a call 725-5037.

HOWARD NEWSLETTER ARTIST

For over a year the Howard Newsletter has been enlivened by original drawings by Charlotte Dunting Floyd. Although the ditto reproduction rarely does justice to her work she has cheerfully continued to provide us with pertinent subjects. She has been interested in art as long as she can remember and graduated from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. with a B.S. in Art Education. Watercolors and drawings (particularly portraits) are her specialties. She was formerly associated with the Bowery Gallery, N.Y. and, in addition, to providing us with bird sketches has been interviewed to do some drawings for Dr. Sladen for his swan newsletter (if he can ever get the funding to get it going again). At the moment she claims she makes a living in bookkeeping to support her interest in art. Her husband teaches graphic arts at Maryland Institute, Baltimore and has absolutely no interest in birds she claims. She is quick to credit her parents for her enthusiasm for the birds; they are currently active in an Audubon bird group in New Jersey. A resident of Columbia for over a year she makes a regular and much-appreciated contribution to the Howard Club.

BOOK REVIEW

The Wind Birds. Peter Matthiessen. The Viking Press, N.Y. 2. 1973. \$9.95.

The Wind Birds is, in author Peter Matthiessen's own words, not only "an essay on the shorebirds of North America, but also a general introduction--using the shorebirds as illustration--to the study of comparative behaviour."

The result is a fascinating potpourri of information and speculation, written with skill and an obvious delight in the subject. Observations are frequently translated into arresting phrases and images: the male woodcock has a "beggish voice," and "like a love-struck leaf, flutters to earth for the benefit of its intended."

Chapters on mating and nesting are treated with merry humor; those on migration with near reverence which, however, does not preclude speculation and questioning.

A detailed index is helpful in referring to the scattered allusions to the myriad of subjects covered.

Black and white illustrations by Robert Gillmor are beautiful.

Rosemund Munro

SIGHTINGS

In January a Merlin hit Pat Jackson's breezeway door on Trotter Rd. R. Munro had a Merlin chase a Cardinal into her trumpet vine in February where it temporarily entangled itself. She also had 2 Fox Sparrows the same day and has heard Woodcock regularly along with a pair of Barred Owls. Kris also has heard the pair of owls near his home "chatting" at night & had 8 Fox Sparrows on Feb. 22. A Loggerhead Shrike was a surprise at the Haviland's feeder in early February where it carried off a sparrow. Feb. 25 the Dawsons had a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at their suet; they continue to enjoy visits from 30 Evening Grosbeaks, House & Purple Finches, Tree Sparrows & Black-capped Chickadees. Tom Moyer observed a Sharpshin west of Wilds Lake Feb. 24 while Larry Hood reports 3 flocks of Canada Geese going north Feb. 26. Lucile Peters has had 1 Pine Siskin at her feeder during part of February and near the beginning of February Anita Conron watched a Downy & a Hairy Woodpecker sharing her bag of suet at the same time.

CALENDAR

PROGRAM

- Swansfield Elementary School, Columbia

March 11, Thursday - Slide Show by Club Members - 7:45 P.M. Bring some of your best slides to share as we repeat a popular night from last year. Slides need not be just birds but may include other natural history subjects.

FIELD TRIPS

All trips leave from the parking lot at Swansfield Elementary unless otherwise listed. March 14, Sunday - Dyke Marsh, Belle Haven, Roaches Run - 7:30 A.M. An area south of Washington, D.C. on the way to Mt. Vernon normally has interesting birds no matter what the season. This area is along the Potomac River. Leader Larry Hood. This is Larry's swan song as a leader --try not to miss it.

April 25 - Sunday - Outdoor Workshop. Keep this date in mind with more information to come but if the weather is nice we plan an all day family outing to sample various fields of natural history.

ANNUAL WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

One of the biggest field events of the year for the Howard Club is the February weekend which includes the Washington's birthday holiday. This year Larry Hood led the group on the Eastern Shore which tallied a new high of 112 species for the annual weekend. The group of 17 people birded Mill Creek Sanctuary, Blackwater and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuges and Ocean City. Among the many species were noted Common Redpoll, La. Herons, 1 American Bittern, a huge flock of Canvasbacks, 4 Bald Eagles, many Clapper Rails, 1 Va. Rail, 2 Whimbrel, many Savannah Sparrows at least 2 of which were the new "lumped" Ipswich variation, 1 immature White-crowned Sparrow, 4 Red-throated Loons, all 3 species of Sooters, 1 female Yellowthroat, Tree Swallows, 2 Glossy Ibis, 3 Rough-legged Hawks, 3 Catbirds, and Purple Sandpipers.

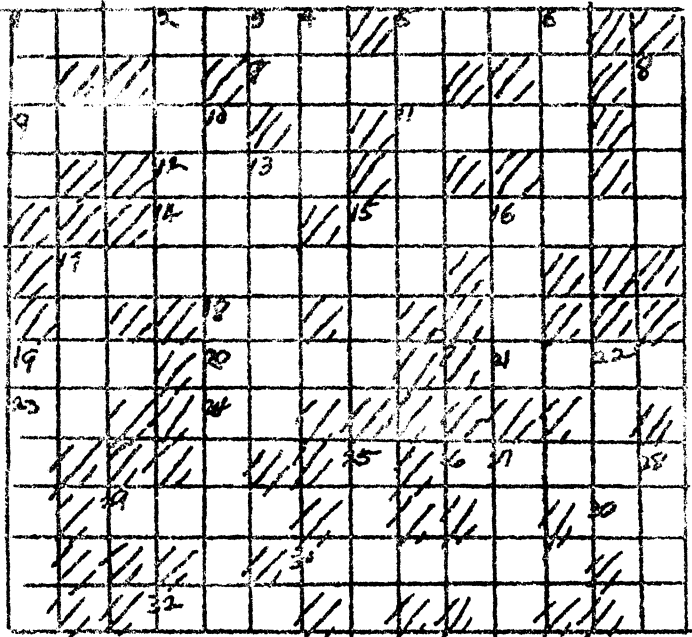
PUZZLE

The crossword puzzle on the following page was submitted by Marcia Krishnamoorthy. The answers are provided on this page--see how many you can fill in without peeking. If you enjoy working it try your hand at making a quiz or puzzle and let us use it in the newletter.

1	W	A	R	B	L	E	R	2	P	E	E	P	3		
4	I		A		T	A	P	E	5					6	
7	L	O	O	N	S	8	V		9	T	R	I	P	10	U
11	L			12	O	Y	E	R	13					14	L
15				16	O	N	E	17	K	E	S	T	R	E	L
18			19	K	I	N	G	R	A	I	L	20	A		
21				22	N			23	S	D	T				
24	F	O	X	25				26	P	I	N	E	27	L	A
28	A	T		29				30	A	N					U
31	L			32				33	R			34	S	W	I
35	C			36	S	O	R	A	37	U			38	R	F
39	O			40				41	O	S	C	O	T	E	R
42	N			43				44	O	W	L	45	K		N
46				47				48							L

Across

- 1. Fall headache
- 5. Least Sandpiper is the smallest one
- 7. This comes in handy to get the oaks
- 9. Gaviidae
- 11. Field _____
- 12. Rock _____
- 14. No. of species found during Xmas Count at 40 F. in Cambridge Bay, Can
- 15. Smallest Falcon
- 17. Chicken-like bird of fresh water marshes
- 19. _____ Sparrow
- 20. Brown-headed Nuthatch's habitat
- 21. Sparrow or Meadow
- 23. C_ _ bird
- 24. Article
- 26. Jonathan or Chimney
- 29. Smaller relative of 17 across
- 30. Santa __, good birding area
- 31. Common, Whitewing or Surf?
- 32. It goes bump in the night



Down:

- 1. Whip-poor- _____
- 2. A _____. Some birds will do this to a nest that has been disturbed
- 3. _____ n, corvus corax
- 3. Mergansers, Mallards, Gadwalls ____ al.
- 5. Small oceanic bird
- 6. Sand or pied?
- 8. White? It could be the Ivory.
- 10. This little songster pumps his tail as he flies.
- 13. Yellow-headed relative of chickadees from the desert
- 15. Everglade _____
- 16. Palm warblers and Pipits love to wag theirs
- 17. Short-billed Sandpiper; granny _____
- 19. Prairie or Aplomado
- 22. Fall visitor from Eurasia, associates with Yellowlegs
- 25. Puddle or diving
- 27. House or Marsh
- 28. Small 25 down with green speculum