

HOWARD

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MAY - JUNE 1979 VOL VII NO. 5

MARTHA CHESTEM NOMINATED STATE MOS VICE-PRESIDENT

At the May convention Martha Chestem, one of our most active members, will be named a Vice-president of the state organization. Her position includes the responsibility for planning next year's convention at Ocean City. Congratulations, Marty!

OFFICERS FOR 1979-80

Newly elected officers for the Howard Chapter are listed below along with their telephone numbers. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to call them. Planning for next year's programs and field trips will take place on May 24 so if you have ideas that you'd like to pass along, please do so within the next few weeks.

President - Eileen Clegg, 730-4362
Vice-president - Chuck Dupree, 796-1086
Secretary - Linda McDaniel, 992-7124
Treasurer - Sheila Glanz, 730-4396
State Trustee - John Clegg, 730-4362

Committee chairmen are appointed by the incoming President. Among those already named are Publicity, Alice Kretz; Bookstore, Brenda Ericsson; Newsletter, Jo Solem; Field Trips, Chuck Dupree; Program, Nan Rhinelanders.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB NOW HAS HANDSOME BROCHURE

Production of a simple brochure has been discussed for several years. Now, thanks to Nan Rhinelanders' initiative, we finally have a handout. The double-fold, single sheet features an eye-catching American Goldfinch (the Howard County bird) along with a low-key but comprehensive description of club activities, tips for participation in field trips, and an application for membership. Several hundred were recently distributed at the mall exhibit. If you haven't had a chance to see it, check Nan's fine job at the next meeting.

MAY FIFTH BIRD COUNT YIELDS LOW TOTAL

Preliminary tabulation of May Count in Howard County indicates one of the lowest totals in recent years. The day of hard rain in 1976 yielded 125 species. This year under blue skies with brisk northwesterly winds it appears that even that sum won't be reached. Mail lists to Linda McDaniel immediately, please.

HAWKS AND OWLS

Birds of prey are always of special interest. Members have found two Red-shouldered Hawk nests in Columbia. If you are interested in observing either of them call John Clegg, 730-4362 or Steve Simon, 730-4619 for directions. The Barn Owl on Rt. 32 is once again sitting on a nest (the barn is still standing) so we anticipate being able to band them again this year. If you are interested in being notified when the banding is going to take place, call Jo Solem, 725-5037. It is usually mid-May; the time is 5-6:00 P.M.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PRESENTED DURING 1978-79

Each year the Howard County Bird Club is asked to fulfill a variety of speaking engagements. If we speak before a group that pays its speakers we set a fee, but yearly we speak to hundreds of school children, scout troops, hospital groups, etc. on an entirely volunteer basis. We have a collection of around 40 mounted birds, two sets of nests, several slide shows (with accompanying script), and a collection of easily made feeders. As a member you are eligible to borrow these materials to use in speaking to groups to which you belong or in which your children are involved. Any members who would like to become involved in speaking to community groups should contact Eileen Clegg. Special thanks to the following people who formed the core of our speaking crew this year and spoke to over 1100 people since September: Eileen Clegg, Brenda Ericsson, Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Sybil McKennon, Joanne Moroney, and Jo Solem. We might note that John Moroney, one of our younger birders, borrowed the hawks and owls for a talk he gave to his 4-H group so speaking is not always limited to adults. Among the groups to whom presentations were made were the following: Perkins Hospital; Northfield Elementary School (Joanne Moroney was there on four separate occasions); TOPS; Oakland Mills Sr. High School, advanced biology class (twice); Worthington Elementary School, fifth grade; Longfellow Cub Scout Troop; Glen-mar Methodist Girl Scout Troop; Howard County Office on Aging Program for the Frail Elderly (twice); Swansfield Elementary School, first and second grade after school program; Taylor Manor Hospital; Hammond Elementary School (most of the school in four presentations); and the Ft. Meade Garden Club. In addition we will be teaching a four session mini-course for the seventh grade at Harper's Choice Middle School during the month of May. By the end of June mounted birds and some nests will have been used in two mall exhibits, the HCC adult course, "An Introduction to the Natural History of Howard County," and the St. John's R.C. Church Sixth Annual Plant Sale. If you have presented a program during 1978-79 that is not mentioned above, contact John Clegg, 730-4362, so he can include it in his annual report. He needs to know the name of the group, subject, and number in attendance.

SPRING WILDFLOWER PROJECT

Spring wildflowers are forming carpets in some areas. With field guides, magnifying glasses, and check lists members are keying species and recording blooming dates. Among the cooperators this year are Jean Carr, Marty Chestem, Eileen Clegg, Chuck Dupree, Brenda Ericsson, Sarah Haviland, Pat Jackson, "Kris" & Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Mike & Grazina McClure, Rosamond Munro, Nan Rhineland, Ed & Louise Risse, Steve Simon, Jo Solem, & Eva Sunell. If you have been keeping track of some dates but as yet have not requested a check list, call Jo Solem, 725-5037, and she will mail you one.

COLUMBIA MALL EXHIBIT - APRIL 23-28, 1979

The Resource Conservation Week exhibit was most successful helped by the generous help of so many volunteers. Eileen Clegg capably arranged the 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. schedule. Many thanks to the following members who "manned" the exhibit for varying periods of time: John Bascietto, John & Brenda Bell, Marty Chestem, John & Eileen Clegg, George & Carole Cleland, Frances Ehlers, Brenda Ericsson, Jonathan and Sheila Glanz, Mary Hall, Pat Jackson, Alice Kretz, Marcia & Anú Krishnamoorthy, Joan Lee, Jerry & Clio Leonard, Anne Llewellyn, Linda McDaniel, Sybil McKennon, Joanne Moroney, Marjorie Mountjoy, Jeanne Nicholson, Verna Parker, Nan Rhineland, Elise Seay, Jo Solem, Eva Sunell, Joan Varga, & Cathy Williamson. We hope you enjoyed talking to the many people who stopped to chat about birds. This exhibit was geared to conservation and the role of birds in the environment. On the 15, 16, 17 of June there will be an exhibit in the mall involving all clubs in the county. This time we will be able to emphasize our interesting programs, variety of field trips, workshops, etc. A different set of birds will be used including some of our larger and more colorful specimens. Call Eileen, 730-4362, if you have ideas for things we should emphasize, if you wish to help plan the display, or if you would like to volunteer some time at the exhibit.

ATLAS REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Additional copies of the March 1978 issue of Maryland Birdlife containing the article on the Breeding Bird Atlas of Montgomery and Howard Counties, Maryland are available from Jo Solem at 50¢ each (plus postage if you want them mailed). Some of our members may not have received copies because they were not members of record on that date. If you are a birder who frequently travels to other parts of the country take a copy or two with you. The authors are anxious to disseminate this idea so that other areas can utilize the techniques. It might be useful to mention to our newer members that unfortunately Maryland Birdlife is not current in its publication dates (June 1978 was just published). If you joined in September 1978 you are still waiting for your first issue (no, they haven't lost your name). Be patient, please.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL JUNIOR NATURE CAMP, JUNE 1 TO JUNE 3, 1979

The Baltimore Chapter of MGS has announced that their annual Junior Nature Camp will be held at Hashawha, Carroll County Environmental Appreciation Area, Union Mills, Md. This camp is designed for those students who have completed the fourth grade and who have not yet entered the ninth. The activities are designed for those young people who have a serious interest in birds, insects, reptiles, plants, amphibians, etc. It's a dawn to after dark learning experience in small groups led by knowledgeable leaders. The cost for the weekend is \$20.00. They are able to offer this low rate because each leader pays his or her own way. If you have questions call Sybil McKennon, 730-2806, from our chapter who is going to assist with banding, or request an application from Mrs. Joy Wheeler, 531 Hampton Lane, Towson, Md. 21204. Her telephone number is 825-1204. Space is limited to 50 campers and applications must be submitted no later than May 20, 1979.

NUISANCE BIRDS AND THE HOWARD COUNTY CENTRAL LIBRARY DESIGN

Ground-breaking for the new Howard County Central Library is scheduled for Sunday, May 6, 1979. Two of our members, Joanne Moroney and Eileen Clegg, are working on an advisory committee which is helping to recommend plantings that will be conducive to wildlife. Dr. Aelred Geis, an urban wildlife specialist, (he led the woodcock walk for us in April) submitted his comments on the design of the library building reviewing it for its potential to harbor the urban pest birds: Rock Doves, European Starlings, and House Sparrows. He reported that the building contained no obvious design features conducive to large populations of pigeons. He warned that roof vents, cavities beneath gutters, roof drain positions, and roof tile types all merited close attention to prevent possible nest site use by House Sparrows in particular. Quality of construction is as important as design so, if care is taken in construction, there is hope that this building will not become a breeding or loafing place for nuisance species.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBREAK IN HOWARD COUNTY??????????

A bird whose description seems to fit that of a young male Black-headed Grosbeak was frequenting feeders on the west side of Columbia in early spring. Unfortunately, it seems destined to remain on the hypothetical list. (That doesn't mean it's a hypothetical bird, but that the sighting was unverified either by birders experienced with the species in that particular plumage or by an acceptable photograph). If you have reason to believe that you have something unusual notify Steve Simon, 730-4619 who will try to photograph it and call any of the following for identification: David Holmes, 730-7083, Marty Chestem, 730-1527, Chuck Dupree, 796-1086, or Jo Solem, 725-5037. If you can't contact any of them call one of the club's officers, but please let people know or the sighting will not be accepted. There are a few scattered cases in which a bird returns a second year to an out-of-range area but that is at best a slim hope.

CONSERVATION YEARBOOK AVAILABLE

Recently Bob Doyle passed along the information that Conservation Yearbook No. 12, 1978/79 called LIVING With Our Environment is now available. It is a 9 x 12", 120 page softcover volume in full color. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$3.75 per copy. Or call or write the office of your Congressman or a Senator and request that they send you a copy. There will be no charge.

SEVENTEEN-YEAR CICADA DUE TO EMERGE IN PARTS OF CENTRAL MARYLAND SOON

The May 1979 issue of Natural History magazine contains an article on the Periodical (Seventeen-year) Cicada, one brood of which will emerge in parts of central Maryland in May. The author requests information for a continuing study she is conducting. Whether or not you are able to contribute any data you will find their life history fascinating.

CALENDAR

All field trips leave from Swansfield Elementary School on Cedar Lane in Columbia unless otherwise specified.

- MAY 10 - THU. - "Helping the Eastern Bluebird" Dr. Lawrence Zeleny. 7:45 P.M. Swansfield Elementary School. A founder of The North American Bluebird Society and author of a book about bluebirds. Find out how you too can help this beautiful native bird.
- MAY 11 - FRI. - DISCOVERY WALK, DISCOVERY PARK, COLUMBIA. Meet at mailbox on May Wind Court off Green Mountain Circle. 9:30 A.M. Sheila Glanz, 730-4396 & Bill Eckert, 992-2484.
- MAY 11-13 - MOS CONVENTION, OCEAN CITY, MD. Birds, birds, birds from morning till night. Information was included with last mailing of Maryland Birdlife. If you need additional information contact President Eileen Glegg, 730-4362.
- MAY 12 - SAT. - O & O CANAL. If you're not going to the convention the next best place to be is on the canal at what should be the peak of warbler migration. 7:00 A.M. "Kris" Krishnamoorthy, 997-5967.
- MAY 14 - MON. - DISCOVERY WALK, WILDE LAKE, COLUMBIA. Meet at Boat Dock; parents with children in strollers are welcome. 9:30 A.M. Cathy Williamson, 730-0338 & Bill Eckert, 992-2484.
- MAY 20 - SUN. - FIELD WORKSHOP WITH DAVID HOLMES. Field marks and songs, migrants and residents. Familiarity with bird songs of some of the common species will be helpful. If you have questions call him at 730-7083. Fee is \$2.50. To register contact Eileen Glegg, 730-4362.
- MAY 26 - SAT. - BLUEBIRD WALK, GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER. A walk along a bluebird trail with a possible demonstration of bluebird fledgling banding. A tour of the Space Center exhibit is also possible. 7:30 A.M. Sybil McKennon, 730-2806 & Chuck Dupree, 796-1086.
- JUNE 10 - SUN. - A CHANGING HABITAT, DAVID FORCE COUNTY PARK. The last trip in our series to observe a changing habitat. Emphasis on nesting birds this time. 7:30 A.M. Linda McDaniel, 992-7124, Alice Kretz, 730-7694, & Bill Eckert, 992-2484.

PLANNING MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR

- MAY 24 - THU. - FIELD TRIP & PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR. Any member welcome. Meet at home of Sheila Glanz, 10261 Windstream Dr. 7:30 P.M. (Park at Cove Apts.) Tel. 730-4396.