

HOWARD

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MARCH - APRIL 1980 VOL. VIII NO. 4

LOCAL LIST SURPRISE! 199 SPECIES SEEN, 201 RECORDED FOR 1979 - David Holmes ^{corrected to 202}

Howard County birding turned out to be a bit richer than expected last year. One of the nicest surprises was the variety of ducks. Between the farm ponds and the Columbia lakes, everything turned up which would normally be expected and then some. Disappointments were mostly shorebirds and terns (there had to be a Pectoral Sandpiper somewhere in the county during the year). Our other odd misses included Great Horned Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Philadelphia Vireo. Single records of Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Blue Grosbeak also suggest that some additional educated ears could be very helpful in keeping lists such as this.

The most exciting county birds for 1979 in check list order were probably the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Rick Blom), Short-eared Owl (Glenn Funkhauser), and the Yellow-headed Blackbird at Alice and Terry Kretz's feeder. Others well worth mentioning were Double-crested Cormorant, Little Blue Heron, Oldsquaw, Rough-legged Hawks, Merlins, Loggerhead Shrike, Summer Tanager, and the Christmas Dickcissel at the Byrnes' feeder. Cathy and Leroy Williamson's Golden Eagle on Thanksgiving Day was the second county record.

Two species were found as freshly dead specimens this past fall: a Sora by David Holmes along River Road near Sykesville, and a Connecticut Warbler at Joanne Moroney's in Columbia Hills. These are perfectly legitimate records but what disappointments for all of us who keep lists on which only live birds count.

So, for 1980, we can work again for a nice round 200 species (or better). Please make written notes to submit for any unusual sightings this year--and don't be afraid to use the telephone. Several of us are very willing to try to confirm unexpected identifications (and also just happen to keep Howard County bird lists).

Thanks to David Holmes, Rosamond Munro, Dave and Elaine Pardoe, Chan Robbins, Steve Simon, Jo Solem, and Mark Wallace for providing complete 1979 lists; thanks as well to the May Counters, and to the persons who passed along individual rarities or several choice species. Enjoy Howard County birding in 1980--it may be better than you thought! If you observed a species not included on the list please call David Holmes, 730-7083, so that he can make the necessary corrections.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Common Loon | 10. Snowy Egret | 19. Green-winged Teal |
| 2. Horned Grebe | 11. Mute Swan | 20. Blue-winged Teal |
| 3. Pied-billed Grebe | 12. Whistling Swan | 21. American Wigeon |
| 4. Double-crested Cormorant | 13. Canada Goose | 22. Northern Shoveler |
| 5. Great Blue Heron | 14. Snow Goose | 23. Wood Duck |
| 6. Green Heron | 15. Mallard | 24. Redhead |
| 7. Little Blue Heron | 16. American Black Duck | 25. Ring-necked Duck |
| 8. Cattle Egret | 17. Gadwall | 26. Canvasback |
| 9. Great Egret | 18. Common Pintail | 27. Lesser Scaup |

28. ✓ Common Goldeneye
29. ✓ Bufflehead
30. ✓ Oldsquaw
31. ✓ Ruddy Duck
32. ✓ Hooded Merganser
33. ✓ Common Merganser
34. ✓ Red-breasted Merganser
35. ✓ Turkey Vulture
36. ✓ Black Vulture
37. ✓ Sharp-shinned Hawk
38. ✓ Cooper's Hawk
39. ✓ Red-tailed Hawk
40. ✓ Red-shouldered Hawk
41. ✓ Broad-winged Hawk
42. ✓ Rough-legged Hawk
43. ✓ Golden Eagle
44. ✓ Northern Harrier
45. ✓ Osprey
46. ✓ Merlin
47. ✓ American Kestrel
48. ✓ Common Bobwhite
49. ✓ Ring-necked Pheasant
50. Sora
51. ✓ American Coot
52. ✓ Greater Yellowlegs
53. ✓ Lesser Yellowlegs
54. ✓ Solitary Sandpiper
55. ✓ Spotted Sandpiper
56. ✓ American Woodcock
57. ✓ Common Snipe
58. ✓ Short-billed Dowitcher
59. ✓ Semipalmated Sandpiper
60. ✓ Least Sandpiper
61. ✓ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
62. ✓ Herring Gull
63. ✓ Ring-billed Gull
64. ✓ Laughing Gull
65. ✓ Rock Dove
66. ✓ Mourning Dove
67. ✓ Yellow-billed Cuckoo
68. ✓ Black-billed Cuckoo
69. ✓ Barn Owl
70. ✓ Common Screech Owl
71. ✓ Barred Owl
72. ✓ Short-eared Owl
73. ✓ Whip-poor-will
74. ✓ Common Nighthawk
75. ✓ Chimney Swift
76. ✓ Ruby-thrted. Hummingbird
77. ✓ Belted Kingfisher
78. ✓ Common Flicker
79. ✓ Pileated Woodpecker
80. ✓ Red-bellied Woodpecker
81. ✓ Red-headed Woodpecker
82. ✓ Yellow-bd. Sapsucker
83. ✓ Hairy Woodpecker
84. ✓ Downy Woodpecker
85. ✓ Eastern Kingbird
86. ✓ Great Crstd. Flycatcher
87. ✓ Eastern Phoebe
88. ✓ Acadian Flycatcher
89. ✓ Willow Flycatcher
90. ✓ Least Flycatcher
91. ✓ Eastern Wood Pewee
92. ✓ Horned Lark
93. ✓ Tree Swallow
94. ✓ Bank Swallow
95. ✓ Rough-winged Swallow
96. ✓ Barn Swallow
97. ✓ Cliff Swallow
98. ✓ Purple Martin
99. ✓ Blue Jay
100. ✓ American Crow
101. ✓ Fish Crow
102. ✓ Carolina Chickadee
103. ✓ Tufted Titmouse
104. ✓ White-brstd. Nuthatch
105. ✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch
106. ✓ Brown Creeper
107. ✓ House Wren
108. ✓ Winter Wren
109. ✓ Carolina Wren
110. ✓ Northern Mockingbird
111. ✓ Gray Catbird
112. ✓ Brown Thrasher
113. ✓ American Robin
114. ✓ Wood Thrush
115. ✓ Hermit Thrush
116. ✓ Swainson's Thrush
117. ✓ Gray-cheeked Thrush
118. ✓ Veery
119. ✓ Eastern Bluebird
120. ✓ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
121. ✓ Golden-crowned Kinglet
122. ✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
123. ✓ Water Pipit
124. ✓ Cedar Waxwing
125. ✓ Loggerhead Shrike
126. ✓ European Starling
127. ✓ White-eyed Vireo
128. ✓ Yellow-throated Vireo
129. ✓ Solitary Vireo
130. ✓ Red-eyed Vireo
131. ✓ Warbling Vireo
132. ✓ Black-and-white Warbler
133. ✓ Prothonotary Warbler
134. ✓ Worm-eating Warbler
135. ✓ Golden-winged Warbler
136. ✓ Blue-winged Warbler
137. ✓ Tennessee Warbler
138. ✓ Nashville Warbler
139. ✓ Northern Parula Warbler
140. ✓ Yellow Warbler
141. ✓ Magnolia Warbler
142. ✓ Cape May Warbler
143. ✓ Black-th. Blue Warbler
144. ✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler
145. ✓ Black-th. Green Warbler
146. ✓ Cerulean Warbler
147. ✓ Blackburnian Warbler
148. ✓ Yellow-th. Warbler
149. ✓ Chestnut-sided Warbler
150. ✓ Bay-breasted Warbler
151. ✓ Blackpoll Warbler
152. ✓ Pine Warbler
153. ✓ Frairie Warbler
154. ✓ Palm Warbler
155. ✓ Ovenbird
156. ✓ Northern Waterthrush
157. ✓ Louisiana Waterthrush
158. ✓ Kentucky Warbler
159. ✓ Connecticut Warbler
160. ✓ Mourning Warbler
161. ✓ Common Yellowthroat
162. ✓ Yellow-breasted Chat
163. ✓ Hooded Warbler
164. ✓ Wilson's Warbler
165. ✓ Canada Warbler
166. ✓ American Redstart
167. ✓ House Sparrow
168. ✓ Bobolink
169. ✓ Eastern Meadowlark
170. ✓ Yellow-headed Blackbird
171. ✓ Red-winged Blackbird
172. ✓ Orchard Oriole
173. ✓ Northern Oriole
174. ✓ Rusty Blackbird
175. ✓ Common Grackle
176. ✓ Brown-headed Cowbird
177. ✓ Scarlet Tanager
178. ✓ Summer Tanager
179. ✓ Northern Cardinal
180. ✓ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
181. ✓ Blue Grosbeak
182. ✓ Indigo Bunting
183. ✓ Dickcissel
184. ✓ Evening Grosbeak
185. ✓ Purple Finch
186. ✓ House Finch
187. ✓ Pine Siskin
188. ✓ American Goldfinch
189. ✓ Rufous-sided Towhee
190. ✓ Savannah Sparrow
191. ✓ Grasshopper Sparrow
192. ✓ Vesper Sparrow
193. ✓ Northern Junco
194. ✓ American Tree Sparrow
195. ✓ Chipping Sparrow
196. ✓ Field Sparrow
197. ✓ White-crowned Sparrow
198. ✓ White-throated Sparrow
199. ✓ Fox Sparrow
200. ✓ Swamp Sparrow
201. ✓ Song Sparrow

WORK WEEK AT IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY SCHEDULED

There will be a Work Week at Irish Grove Sanctuary from Saturday, March 8, 1980 to Sunday, March 16, 1980. Sam Droege, Sanctuary Committee Vice-chairman, will be staying at the house during this period to supervise projects such as trail-clearing, building repairs, landscape work, plumbing and electrical repairs. There will be time for some birding and exploration as well. For further information or to make reservations, contact: Sam Droege, 6710 West Park Drive, Hyattsville, Md. 20782, Tel. 422-2316. (Persons may stay as long or as short a time as they wish.)

SECOND SEED SALE HELPERS

Thanks to the individuals who volunteered to make the second seed sale a success. Max Casper, Eva Sunell, and Mark Wallace hauled seed while help at the sale was provided by Eileen & John Clegg, Frances Ehlers, Alice & Terry Kretz, Linda McDaniel, Jeanne Nicholson, David Pardoe, Pat Shepherd, Bob, Jo & Tim Solem and August Sunell. Eileen Clegg organized the sale and reported sales of two tons of sunflower seed and 300 pounds of thistle (niger).

ALBINO HOUSE FINCH REPORTED IN COUNTY

Pat Shepherd on Ten Oaks Road passed the word in late January that she had an albino bird at her feeder. Mark Wallace checked the bird and concluded that it was a House Finch--a true albino with pink legs and bill and all-white feathers. (Partial albinism is much more frequently seen.) On the twenty-third of February Greg Sarae in the Longfellow area of Columbia reported an albino House Finch. From the description it sounded like the same bird. Feeder watchers should be aware of the possibility of the bird turning up--especially if you live in central Howard County.

SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF HOWARD COUNTY SURVEY SHEETS FOR 1980 NOW READY

Sheets for the second year of the Survey of Spring Wildflowers of Howard County are now ready. Those who participated in last year's tally will automatically receive copies. If you would like to join the counters call Jo Solem to obtain a list, 725-5037. We welcome help from anyone who shares a love for "the flowers that bloom in the spring."

EVA SUNELL TO SERVE AS REFERRAL FOR INJURED BIRDS

As the breeding season approaches members might find it helpful to know that one of our members has agreed to serve as a referral agent for the numerous calls that arise concerning hurt or abandoned birds. Eva knows individuals who have the permits, time and ability to take care of birds. She lives in Allview which is a handy location for much of the county population. If you have questions call her at 995-0029.

NEST OBSERVATIONS DURING THE BREEDING SEASON

Please pass along to Jo Solem, 725-5037, observations you make of nest sites during the coming breeding season. The species of bird, plant in which the nest was located, and the height above the ground are all necessary. Fruits or berries which you observe being eaten by particular birds is also useful. This constitutes a continuing update of material printed in Attracting Birds in the Maryland Piedmont. At this point relatively few nests are needed for the Howard Chapter collection but nests of the more unusual species are always welcome.

BIRD NAMES - WOODPECKERS

Third in a series. For bibliography see VOL. VIII, NO. 2 of HOWARD.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Picidae - from Latin meaning "woodpecker." Ficus, son of Saturn, was turned into woodpecker by Circe, whose love he rejected.

Common Flicker - Colaptes auratus

Colaptes - from Greek "kolaptes" which means "chisel"

auratus - Latin for "golden" which refers to the color of the underside of the flight feathers

Common Flicker - flicker is "one who strikes"; the Common now includes the Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted, and Gilded as sub-species

Other Common Names - High-hole; Yellow-hammer; Wick-up; Heigh-ho; Yawker Bird; Walk-up; Pigeon Woodpecker; Golden-winged Woodpecker

Fileated Woodpecker - Dryocopus pileatus

Dryocopus - Greek for "tree-cleaver"

pileatus - Latin for "capped" (genus name is particularly apt; species name makes reference to its prominent crest)

Other Common Names - Logcock; Great Black Woodpecker; Gock of the Woods; Wood Hen; Wood Gock; Great God Woodpecker; Good God Woodpecker; Wood Kate

Red-bellied Woodpecker - ^{Melanerpes} ~~Centurus~~ carolinus

~~Centurus~~ - "spine-tailed" from the Greek ^{Centurus} (not appropriate for Red-bellied)
carolinus - Latin "of carolina," the type locality

Red-bellied - a name most amateurs find puzzling because the red belly is difficult to observe and appears to be merely a rosy flush. This leads to its being incorrectly called Red-headed by those unfamiliar with both species.

Other Names - Zebra Bird; Chad; Zebra-back; Shamshack; Red-headed

Red-headed Woodpecker - Melanerpes erythrocephalus

Melanerpes - Greek meaning "black creeper"

erythrocephalus - "red-headed" in Greek

Other Common Names - Tricolor; White-shirt; Shirt-tail; Patriotic Bird; Flag Bird

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - Sphyrapicus varius

Sphyrapicus - Greek "sphyra" meaning "hammer" & Latin "picus" for woodpecker

varius - Latin for "variegated" referring to the mixed color of the plumage

Yellow-bellied - yellow underparts

Sapsucker - in reference to the feeding method in which rows of small holes are drilled in a tree trunk out of which sap oozes; the sap & trapped insects are eaten

Other Common Names - Yellow-bellied Woodpecker; Red-throated Sapsucker

Hairy Woodpecker - ^{Picoides} ~~Dendrocopos~~ villosus

~~Dendrocopos~~ - Greek for "tree cleaver" ^{Picoides} - combination of Latin word for woodpecker "picus" and a contraction of two Greek words, "ov" meaning "the" and "eidos" for "like" or "resembles"

villosus - Latin for "hairy"

Hairy - supposedly appears shaggy especially around the head

Other Common Names: Harry

Downy Woodpecker - ^{Picoides} ~~Dendrocopos~~ pubescens

~~Dendrocopos~~ - see Hairy Woodpecker

pubescens - Latin "coming into puberty" (The whole question of the relative hairiness of the two species leaves a lot to the imagination.)

Other Common Names - Tommy Woodpecker; Black and White Driller

CALENDAR

Listed below are programs and field trips for March and April. Meeting place is the Grempler Realty Building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia unless otherwise indicated. From the south entrance of Columbia, the building is located left, beyond Symphony Woods and the Fire House, but before you reach Howard Community College (across from the Wilson Garden Center).

PROGRAMS - PLEASE NOTE DATES CAREFULLY - 7:45 P.M.

- Mar. 20 - Thur. "Spring Wildflowers of Howard County" - Bob & Jo Solem. Find out what you can expect to find if you explore this Piedmont county.
- Apr. 17 - Thur. "The Ecology of the Deciduous Forest" - John Shuke. Mr. Shuke is a past president of the Rockville chapter of the Isaac Walton League, has taught at the Dept. of Agriculture graduate school and the University of Virginia. He will discuss the interrelationship of various trees, flowers, birds, and animals in a deciduous forest.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip chairman is Chuck Dupree, 796-1086. Severe weather conditions may force trip cancellation; if in doubt, contact Chuck or trip leader.

- Mar. 8 - Sat. WESTERN HOWARD COUNTY POND TRIP - 8:00 A. M. Leader: Mark Wallace, 725-6370. Check the waterfowl population of both wintering and migrant species. $\frac{1}{2}$ day.
- Mar. 15 - Sat. SNADY POINT STATE PARK and BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. 7:30 A.M. Leader: Chuck Dupree, 796-1086. Whole Day, bring lunch. Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and waterfowl. Plan to carpool and share trip expenses for gas and tolls.
- Apr. 12 - Sat. THE GEOLOGY OF HOWARD COUNTY. 8:00 A.M. Leader: Nick Short. This is a trip that was rescheduled from last fall's date which was rained out. You can plan to come for $\frac{1}{2}$ day or bring a lunch as some participants may wish to continue longer. Follow the Patapsco River west.
- Apr. 13 - Sun. SPRING HABITAT TRIP TO TROTTER ROAD - 1:00 P.M. Leader: Bill Eckert, 465-6882 (days). Co-sponsored by How. Co. Rec. & Parks. Emphasis on spring wildflowers. Meet at parking lot on Trotter Rd. .8 mile so. Rt.108.
- Apr. 20 - Sun. SUNDAY WALK IN THE PARK. 1:00 P.M. Leader: Bill Eckert, 465-6882 (days). Co-sponsored by Ho. Co. Rec. & Parks. Check the progress of the spring flowers along Benson Branch in the central part of the county. Meet at 12:30 P.M. at Grempler for car-pooling; for those near the area meet at the beginning of the entrance road to the Glenelg Country School on Folly Quarter Rd. at 12:50 P.M. $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile hike along the stream valley.
(pre-viewed this w/ him Tues. 4/15)
- Apr. 26 - Sat. GUNSTON HALL and POTOMAC RIVER. All-day bus trip combining history and birding at a time when flowering trees and plants should be especially attractive and birds will be migrating. Tour colonial mansion and check out both land birds and waterfowl at Pohick Bay and other good birding spots along the Potomac. Leave 8:00 A.M. from the George Howard Building in Ellicott City, back by 5:30 P.M. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Register thru How. Co. Rec. & Parks in person or by mail. Bus fare \$10. Leaders: Bill Eckert, 465-6882 & Chuck Dupree, 796-1086. (Minimum of 30 people needed.)
- May 3 - Sat. MAY COUNT. Dawn to dark. This is your big chance to see dozens of species in a single day and help compile a picture of birds in Maryland.

Experienced birders count this as a high point of the year. If you are new to birding ask to go with a more experienced individual. Some enthusiasts count from dawn to dark; others limit their time to a few hours in a small area. Counters gather at the Rhinelanders any time after about 5:30 P.M. to tally their sightings, share a potluck meal, and exchange birding tales. The field trip chairman is the compiler so call Chuck Dupree, 796-1086, or see him at one of the meetings but DO volunteer. You do not need to attend the tally to participate. Alice Kretz has agreed to be the meal coordinator so if you plan to attend the potluck in the evening call her for directions and food assignment, 997-9597.

BOARD MEETING - There will be a Board meeting on Thursday, March 27 for both old and new members of the Board. It will be held at 9518 Good Lion Rd., Columbia, Village of Oakland Mills. Call Carole Cleland, 730-2946 for directions.

BILL ECKERT WINS MOS SCHOLARSHIP TO SUMMER AUDUBON CAMP

Bill Eckert, Outdoors Coordinator for Howard County Recreation and Parks, has recently been awarded one of the summer scholarships given by the Maryland Ornithological Society. These are tuition grants allowing the recipient to attend the Audubon Camp of his choice. Bill was awarded the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Scholarship provided by the World Nature Association. He is planning to attend the Maine camp from July 27-August 8. These grants are made annually to applicants who have a strong interest in the natural sciences. Those who work with young people and/or are involved in education are usually given preference. If you know someone who would be interested in applying next year, contact Eileen Clegg, 730-4362, for information. Bill is the first individual sponsored by the Howard County Chapter who has received a grant.

Howard County Bird Club
10617 Graeoch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20810

