

# HOWARD

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MAY - JUNE 1981 VOL. 9 NO. 6

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## MAY COUNT ADDS A NEW BIRD TO HOWARD COUNTY LIST

The 34th annual statewide May Count of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held on Saturday, May 2, 1981. Compiler Paul Zucker says that Howard County will not set any records this year (preliminary results the night of the count indicate about 130 species), but Al Geis, George & Carole Cleland, birding from Henryton to Sykesville on the Patapsco River, turned up the first verified sighting of a Turkey in Howard County! The bird came out on the trail approximately 20' ahead of them and then flew into a nearby tree. The chestnut feathers at the tip of the tail were well seen.

At least 40 people turned out to survey the county (we could have used many more--lots of areas weren't covered). Very often the counts near the beginning of May contend with adverse weather patterns bringing winds from the wrong direction (north & west) and, thus, low numbers of migrant species. Our best-ever count was May 7, 1977, when 154 species were seen.

Among the "good" species turned up by enthusiastic counters were Common Loon, Northern Harrier, American Coot, at least 4 species of shorebirds, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Swainson's Thrush, 2 flocks of Cedar Waxwings, numbering about 100 birds each; at least 27 species of warblers; lingering Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins; and Savannah & Grasshopper Sparrows. Other than the Turkey, the 2 Cattle Egrets deserve special mention and may be new to the count. After Paul has compiled all the results, a copy will be mailed to each participant.

For the inexperienced birder who might need special encouragement, it is always a unique experience to participate in a count of this kind. If you missed the opportunity this year, make a note to yourself to save the first Saturday of May next year. Maybe you too will observe an Indigo Bunting in a blossoming dogwood, a Barred Owl in a picture perfect pose, an Osprey circling against a blue sky, or a Scarlet Tanager singing at the top of a tree.

Our thanks to the McClures for hosting the tally potluck. Grazina coordinated the excellent meal, while Mike deserves special thanks for the time he spent doing much of the preliminary contacting for the count.

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## PRESIDENT NAMES COMMITTEE HEADS FOR 1981-82 YEAR

The slate of officers presented in the last newsletter was accepted at the April meeting. President Mike McClure has named the following committee heads: Programs, Nick Short; Publicity, Brenda Bell; Field Trips, Roy Trudel; Bookstore, Brenda Ericsson & Eva Sunell; Newsletter, Jo Solem; Conservation, Marty Chestem; Seed Sale, Eileen Clegg; Waterfowl Committee, Pat Birnie. Mike also thanks all those who served so capably in leadership positions during the 1980-81 year.

## IDENTIFICATION: THE "THRUSH" WARBLERS - Marty Chestem

In early spring it is great to wander along the streams of Howard County's wooded areas looking for the early wildflowers and listening for the sounds which have been silent all winter. Near the end of April one can be pleasantly startled by the LOUD songs of two wood warblers coming right from the stream and an equally loud song arising from the nearby forest floor. These cheery harbingers of spring come from the "walking" warblers--the Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush and Ovenbird. The waterthrushes may present an identification problem and sometimes, if not seen well, the Ovenbird can also add to the confusion in separating these warblers. Both sexes are alike for all three species.

The Louisiana Waterthrush (Seiurus motacilla) nests here and is usually the first to arrive. This bird and its close relative, the Northern Waterthrush, are, of course, not thrushes but are so named because their size (6 in., 15 cm) and markings do resemble some of the true thrushes. The Louisiana moves along the water's edge with teetering body and wagging tail suggestive of a sandpiper. It has a conspicuous pure white stripe above the eye and white (usually unspotted) throat. The back is dark olive brown; below it is white-tinged buffy and heavily streaked. Peterson describes the song as "3 clear slurred whistles, followed by a jumble of twittering notes dropping in pitch." It is a wary bird and more easily heard than seen, so it is important to learn the song and then search the very water's edge looking for that teetering movement.

The Northern Waterthrush (Seiurus noveboracensis) is a migrant through Howard County. One should find it during the last days of April until mid-May. Our list shows the earliest recorded date was in 1975 on April 21. The Northern is similar in markings and stream behavior to the Louisiana. ~~The eye stripe of the Northern is the key--it is buffy to creamy yellow (not white) and underneath yellowish with brown stripes from just beneath the bill to the rump. The song is a loud ching-ching-ching-chee-chee-chee-ch-ch-ch.~~

A loud teacher-teacher-teacher from a low perch or from the ground in the woods is the unmistakable sound of the Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapillus). This warbler is also a bit thrush-like with olive-brown back and streaked white underparts. It has been sometimes referred to as the "golden-crowned thrush" and that is the decisive field mark. The crown stripe is broad and orange; although one does have to get a good view to see this--and that is not always easily accomplished. The search is worth the effort to watch this pert warbler walking about on its pink legs turning over leaves searching for food. The Ovenbird breeds locally.

Patience will pay off in getting good views of these three warblers and you won't strain your neck muscles looking into the treetops.

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## TURKEYS MAY BE SIGHTED HERE

Chan Robbins has alerted the editor to the fact that 66 turkeys were released on Fort Meade (Anne Arundel County) on April 4, 1981. Most, but not all, were banded; some had a few pinions clipped. These were Pennsylvania game farm birds raised from wild stock. Unfortunately, most of these introductions are unsuccessful and all the birds usually disappear within a season or two. The hope is, of course, that they will be able to breed successfully and establish a viable wild population. There is always a slim chance that a few of these birds will wander. Introduced populations to the west of us also provide the possibility for sightings in this county. If you do report a Wild Turkey, be prepared to submit details.

## C A L E N D A R

Meeting place for programs and field trips is the Grempler Realty Building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia unless otherwise indicated. From the south entrance of Columbia, turn left. The building is beyond Symphony Woods and the Fire House, but before you reach Howard Community College, on the east side of the street across from the Wilson Garden Center.

### PROGRAM - 7:45 p.m.

May 14 - Thur. - "Spring Warblers" - David Holmes. David is one of our most knowledgeable members and always is a popular speaker. His slides (many taken in hand at banding stations) are excellent. Warblers will still be coming through Howard County in good numbers so in conjunction with his talk he will be leading a field trip on Sunday. (See May 17 below.)

### FIELD TRIPS

Eva Sunell, 995-0029, is in charge of field trips. Severe weather conditions can result in trip cancellation at the leader's discretion. If in doubt, call first. Carpooling will continue. Riders are expected to share gas & toll costs.

May 17 - Sun. - SPRING WARBLER WALK. Leader: David Holmes. Don't miss this opportunity to be in the field with an outstanding leader who knows field marks and songs. Benson Branch Park,  $\frac{1}{2}$  day. Meet at Grempler Realty at 7:00 a.m. or the entrance to the Glenelg Country School at 7:20 a.m.

May 30, 31 - Sat., Sun. CAREY RUN SANCTUARY. Call Eva Sunell, 995-0029, if you are interested in a weekend in western Maryland at an MOS sanctuary. Mountain habitat with interesting flora and fauna.

June 13 - Sat. - GATHLAND STATE PARK, ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD & a portion of the APPALACHIAN TRAIL. Leaders: Chuck Dupree & Jo Solem. Combine birds, flowers & history in a one day trip. Bus trip thru Dept. of Rec & Parks. See description & application in their brochure. Take lunch. \$6.50 fee. Make checks to Director of Finance of Howard County and send to Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, 3430 Court House Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043 with a note describing the trip or use application in brochure. Leave parking lot of George Howard building in Ellicott City at 7:30 a.m. Return by 6:00 p.m. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Aug. 8 - Sat. - CHIMNEY SWIFTS AT SUNSET. Leader: Chuck Dupree & Bill Eckert. Joint Rec. & Parks trip. Have you ever watched dozens of swirling Chimney Swifts funnel into their evening roost at dusk? Join Bill & Chuck for an entertaining evening. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the parking lot of the George Howard building in Ellicott City.

A summer evening - WHIP-POOR-WILLS ANYONE? Would you like to see this elusive voice of the night? Let Eva know of your interest, 995-0029. If the birds make their usual appearance at a member's home, an evening trip will be scheduled.

NOTE: If you would like to see and/or photograph a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher's nest, call Eva Sunell, 995-0029.

SPRING SIGHTINGS - SPRING SIGHTINGS - SPRING SIGHTINGS - SPRING

Spring migration is the most colorful, exciting, and concentrated period of birding for most of us in the course of the entire year. The following items do not represent all of the interesting or important sightings that were made in the county, but they do provide a hint of the variety and challenge birding holds during this season.

Georgia Eacker reported a Hooded Merganser on their pond on 2/23. Snipe were widely reported and ranged from Russell Chandler's wintering bird on 1/15 to Jane Farrell's high of 10 on the sediment pond on Homespun Lane in Columbia. She reported that that same pond produced 4 Pectoral Sandpipers on 3/28. Fran Nahrgang still had 3 Fox Sparrows at her feeder on 3/30. Nan Rhineland had Tree Swallows over their pond on 3/28 which ties the county record. She also reported that Andy Hauck found a Black Vulture's nest containing 2 eggs during this period. The nest was in an abandoned chicken coop. Anne Llewellyn saw 2 Horned Grebes on Lake Elkhorn on 3/27; Steve Sauer observed them the following day. Jo Solem had a Red-breasted Merganser on Lake Kittamaqundi on 3/17, a Savannah Sparrow 3/26, and a migrating Sharp-shinned Hawk on 3/29. "Kris" Krishnamoorthy established 2 new county records reporting a Pine Warbler on 3/27 and a Greater Yellowlegs on 3/31. The best March sightings were of Broad-winged Hawks which normally don't start appearing until mid-April. Brenda and Michael Bell observed a soaring Broad-wing on Route 40 south of Marriottsville on 3/28 and supplied accurate field marks. On the 31st Marcia & "Kris" also saw one over Symphony Woods in Columbia spiraling during a period of southwesterly winds. According to the Field List of the Birds of Maryland the record early date for the state is April 1. It will be interesting to see if there is a statewide pattern of early arrivals for this species aided by the strong southwesterly flow of air during the latter days of March.

April brought a continuing parade of new arrivals. Jane Farrell had a Brown Thrasher 4/4. Mark Wallace reported a Lesser Yellowlegs, Barn Swallows, and Purple Martins on 4/8 along with an Osprey on 4/11. "Kris," Jo Solem, and those on the nature walk along the Little Patuxent River all saw Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on 4/11 in 3 different parts of the county. Marty Chestem had 3 Palm Warblers near Lake Kittamaqundi on 4/14 and her Solitary Vireo on 4/17 ties the county early arrival date. Mike McClure heard a Whip-poor-will behind his home in the Benson Branch watershed on 4/16 while George Chase observed a White-eyed Vireo along Hammond Branch on 4/18. In addition to a fine assortment of spring blooms the wildflower walk on 4/18 in the Braeburn section of the Middle Patuxent Valley turned up a Black-and-white Warbler, a nest-building titmouse, and a Barred Owl nest with young. Jon K. Boone had a good morning on 4/24 when he found an American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird and Hooded Warbler (the latter a new county record). That same day Marty Chestem & Jo Solem had a Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, & Solitary Sandpipers (6) at the milk plant while Grazina McClure reported the first catbird of the year. Rosemond Munro had a record early House Wren on 4/20. Chuck Dupree tied the county arrival date for the Kentucky Warbler when he located one in Patapsco Park along River Road on 4/26. Helen Miller watched the first Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the season in her yard on 4/26. That same day Mark Wallace had a Red-throated Loon on Triadelphia Reservoir for the third county sighting in the last 25 years.

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## ADDITIONS TO 1980 COUNTY BIRD LIST - David Holmes

The March-April newsletter published the list of species seen in Howard County during 1980. Since then the following birds have been added: Gray-cheeked Thrush (V. Krishnamoorthy), Water Pipit (P. Jung), and Lincoln's Sparrow (V. Krishnamoorthy). That brings the total number of species for 1980 to 206-- a new high! It will take some diligent birding in 1981 to top that figure.

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## RECREATION EXPO AT COLUMBIA MALL ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1981

The Howard Bird Club annually participates in Recreation Expo at the Columbia Mall. It provides a chance to talk to people who might be interested in knowing more about our group. The exhibit is staffed from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Eileen Glegg is in charge of this event and is looking for volunteers who can stay with the display and chat with passers-by. Can you spare an hour to help? If you are hesitant because you think you can't answer the questions (and that's usually not a problem), ask if you can share the time with someone else. Most people stop to admire the specimens and share their "birdy" experiences. If you can help call Eileen at 730-4362.

Eileen reports that last year the following individuals generously volunteered time at the display: Maud Banks, Marty Chestem, Eileen & John Glegg, Brenda Ericsson, Sheila Glanz, Alice Kretz, Mike & Grazina McClure, Linda McDaniel, Nan Rhineland and Elise Seay. Thanks to one and all.

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## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PRESENTED DURING 1980-81

Each year our slide shows, mounted specimens, and nests are used in presentations made to local groups. Any Howard MOS member is eligible to borrow these materials for a similar purpose.

During the 1980-81 year the following individuals presented one or more programs: Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Nan Rhineland, Steve Simon, and Jo Solan. Presentations were made to the following groups: Hammond Elementary School, kindergarten through third grade; Elkridge Elementary School, mini-course; Brownie Troop meeting at Dasher Green Elementary School; Swansfield Elementary School, first grade; Talbott Springs Elementary School, third & fourth grades; Koehler Hall & Department of Recreation & Parks Joint Seniors Program; Phelps Luck Elementary School, POD 3; the Longfellow Garden Club, and the Columbia Montessori School. In addition, some of the specimens and nests will be used in the Recreation Expo exhibit in June. Some are also being used in the Introduction to the Natural History of Howard County adult education course at Howard Community College. Programs were presented to at least 575 people, mostly elementary school age children. If you are interested in helping to present these shows, let President Mike McClure know, 531-6170 evenings.

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## CENTRAL LIBRARY GROUNDS GRADUALLY BEING IMPROVED FOR WILDLIFE

The bird feeder which our chapter donated to the central library was not erected this past winter because the library did not open until the ground was already frozen. It should be in place in time for next fall's feeding. A bird bath will shortly be added to benefit the birds. Members Alice and Cliff Grant donated a bluebird box which has been erected in the field beyond the parking lot.

## SURPRISES ALONG THE PATAPSCO RIVER - Marta Sylvester (& Bill Eckert)

"Group, we are coming up to our first set of rapids," shouted the instructor, "go through them one at a time, and remember to keep your feet forward and push off and away from any of the rocks."

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks was sponsoring another of its many inner tubing trips down the scenic Patapsco River last summer. Each group consists of about fifteen participants.

By 9:30 a.m. the first thrill of the day was behind us. Our group had successfully maneuvered through a section of rock-strewn rapids. As we floated past lush forests, highlighted near the river by hairy Wineberry vines and pumpkin-colored Turk's-cap Lily blossoms, the serenity and peacefulness of our trip slowly began to sink in. Many of us stretched back against our new and effortless means of transportation to capture the warm rays of the morning sun.

Floating lazily down the river, we observed up ahead a snowy white bird stepping daintily along the shallow edge of the river. Moving closer our hearts beat faster as we realized that this bird was a Great Egret. The egret was stoically intent on catching small fish for its lunch. Suddenly, it speared a fish. It lowered its catch to the ground and lightly stepped on the wiggly fish, and then hurriedly gulped it down. As we floated closer the egret saw us, stiffened, and without haste spread its almost five foot wings and flew from our sight.

We continued on our journey for about an hour when we rounded a bend and saw a Green Heron in a Sycamore tree. The heron's burgundy neck shone brightly against the midday sun. Our next stretch of water paralleled an open meadow divided by telephone wires. Small blue dots speckled the wires and a beautiful flute-like tune filled our ears. This rich chorus came from the small, almost iridescent Indigo Buntings. Farther ahead we saw Belted Kingfishers swooping low over the water, a pair of Mallards bobbing their heads for food, and a roost of Turkey Vultures sunning their bright red faces in seventy-five foot trees.

For us the premier bird of the day was observed after floating through a bouncy, rocky stretch of river. As we drifted out of the rapids and approached a huge granite rock hiding a sandy beach, a Great Blue Heron flew up from behind the rock. The heron's steel blue wings, almost six feet in width, flapped quickly to avoid us. Startling the bird enabled us to get a spectacular view of it. We noted the orange beak, the wisp of black crest feathers and the long, lanky, almost stiltlike legs. As the heron flew off over the tree tops, we looked at one another with a sense of amazement and content.

Images of the Patapsco River conjure up many thoughts. Who would have guessed that we had such a splendid variety of birds in our own backyard?

Editor's Note: Marta is the official inner tubing instructor for the Department of Recreation and Parks. Trips are run Saturdays and Sundays from the beginning of June into August, water levels permitting. If you are interested in viewing birds from this interesting perspective, consult the summer Rec & Parks brochure, or call Bill Eckert, 465-6882 or the main office 992-2483 for further information. Many of the trips are already full.

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## HOUSE FINCH AT FARRELL'S FEEDER BANDED IN VIRGINIA

November 15, 1980, Jane Farrell observed a banded female House Finch at her feeder. In addition to the usual aluminum band on its right leg, it wore two plastic color-bands on its left leg. She reported the sighting to the Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel and, in mid-April, received the following information.

The bird had been banded by Dr. Kathryn J. Schneider at the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, on July 7, 1980. At the time it was banded it was a juvenile and its sex was unknown. It pays to watch your feeder birds carefully. You, too, may help to add a piece to the puzzle of bird movement and migration.

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## BEAVERS IN HOWARD COUNTY ALONG PATAPSCO RIVER

In early April Steve Simon reported evidence of beaver in the Daniels section of Patapsco State Park. He found a 8-10" diameter tree that had been chewed through along with a pile of chips at the edge of the river several hundred yards upstream from the parking lot. There have been other verified reports of this mammal at spots along the Patapsco River. Watch for signs of them as you hike the area.

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## ACTIVE NEST RECORDS NEEDED FOR CERTAIN SPECIES

With the breeding season in full swing, active birders should be on the alert for nests of certain species. In the case of the following species we have confirmed their breeding one or more times within the county, but no active nest has been located (nest with eggs, nest with young, or adult incubating): Hooded Merganser, Cooper's Hawk, Virginia Rail, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Fish Crow, Veery, Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Vesper Sparrow. If you do find the nest of one of the listed species, please call Jo Solem, 725-5037.

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## "WILDLIFE IN CITIES AND PARKS" PROGRAM ON SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1981

The Urban Wildlife Research Center, Inc., will sponsor a program entitled "Wildlife in Cities and Parks," at the Howard Community College, Columbia, MD, on Saturday, May 9, 1981. The program will be held in room 220 of the Nursing Building, Little Patuxent Parkway, from 2-4:00 p.m. The public is invited. Admission is FREE.

Speakers will include Edward M. Risse, former Columbia resident and urban planner (and former Howard MOS member), who will discuss "Citizen Efforts to Improve Wildlife Habitat." David M. Manski, of the National Park Service, will present "Squirrels and People in Lafayette Park." Peggy Fleming, also of the National Park Service, will discuss "The Meadows Program of Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C." Mr. Manski and Mrs. Fleming will examine jointly the opportunities for wildlife management for small urban parks and larger natural areas. Philip Kopper, the featured speaker, is a free lance writer, author of The Wild Edge, and is currently writing a book for lay readers on urban wildlife. Mr. Kopper will discuss "Wildlife in Cities Through the Ages."

SELECTED HOWARD COUNTY SPRING DEPARTURE RECORDS

Common Loon.....	5/10/79	Hermit Thrush.....	5/7/77
Red-throated Loon.....	5/7/66	Swainson's Thrush.....	5/30/75
Horned Grebe.....	5/6/78	Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	5/22/78
Pied-billed Grebe.....	4/13/79	Veery.....	6/5/52, 66
Whistling Swan.....	5/4/77	Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	5/7/77
Canada Goose.....	5/8/79	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	5/7/66, 74, 77
Gadwall.....	5/20/78	Water Pipit.....	5/12/68
Common Pintail.....	3/30/67	Cedar Waxwing.....	6/6/73
Green-winged Teal.....	5/20/78	Loggerhead Shrike.....	4/14/79
Blue-winged Teal.....	5/6/72	Solitary Vireo.....	5/7/77
American Wigeon.....	5/6/78	Golden-winged Warbler.....	5/6/72
Northern Shoveler.....	3/22/79, 80	Blue-winged Warbler.....	5/23/70
Redhead.....	5/6/72	Tennessee Warbler.....	5/26/76
Ring-necked Duck.....	4/24/77	Nashville Warbler.....	5/16/76
Canvasback.....	5/2/76	Magnolia Warbler.....	6/7/75
Lesser Scaup.....	5/15/73	Cape May Warbler.....	5/20/77
Common Goldeneye.....	3/25/74	Black-throated Blue Warbler..	6/8/67
Bufflehead.....	6/8/76	Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	5/30/74
Oldsquaw.....	4/3/79	Black-throated Green Warbler.	5/25/70
Hooded Merganser.....	4/8/78, 79	Blackburnian Warbler.....	5/30/73
Common Merganser.....	5/7/77	Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	5/14/75
Red-breasted Merganser.....	5/26/78	Bay-breasted Warbler.....	5/31/77
Rough-legged Hawk.....	4/20/79	Blackpoll Warbler.....	6/4/74
Northern Harrier.....	5/5/79	Palm Warbler.....	5/7/66
American Coot.....	5/7/77	Ovenbird.....	5/30/75
Semipalmated Plover.....	5/27/69	Northern Waterthrush.....	6/3/66
Greater Yellowlegs.....	5/17/79	Mourning Warbler.....	6/3/66
Lesser Yellowlegs.....	5/16/79	Wilson's Warbler.....	5/28/70, 71
Solitary Sandpiper.....	5/25/76	Canada Warbler.....	5/30/73
Spotted Sandpiper.....	5/31/79	American Redstart.....	5/31/79
Common Snipe.....	5/11/75	Bobolink.....	5/27/72, 73
Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	5/31/69	Rusty Blackbird.....	5/7/66
Least Sandpiper.....	5/27/69	Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	5/28/75
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	5/9/76	Evening Grosbeak.....	5/8/64, 76, 79
Bonaparte's Gull.....	5/7/77	Purple Finch.....	5/30/67
Black-billed Cuckoo.....	6/14/75	Pine Siskin.....	5/15/72
Common Nighthawk.....	5/25/68	Red Crossbill.....	5/23/76
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker...	5/14/76	Savannah Sparrow.....	5/23/72, 79
Alder Flycatcher.....	5/29/80	Northern Junco.....	5/19/79
Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	5/26/76	American Tree Sparrow.....	4/18/70
Tree Swallow.....	5/6/72	White-crowned Sparrow.....	5/18/67
White-breasted Nuthatch....	5/2/64	White-throated Sparrow.....	5/18/71
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	5/19/78	Fox Sparrow.....	5/6/78
Brown Creeper.....	5/6/78	Lincoln's Sparrow.....	5/11/78
Winter Wren.....	5/6/78	Swamp Sparrow.....	5/17/73

**SPRING ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES NEEDED FOR MARYLAND BIRDLIFE**

If you do not submit dates directly to Bob Ringler, please call or mail your spring arrival and departure dates to Jo Solem, 725-5037, 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD, 20810 by June 15, 1981. They will be compiled and forwarded.



## BANDIT WITHOUT A MASK - Chuck Dupree

Carolina Chickadees pay no attention whatsoever to the pecking order. Most smaller birds scatter when a larger one comes to a feeder, but not the chickadee. The tiny black-capped bandit perches on a nearby branch waiting for an opportune moment to fly in. When the cardinals or Blue Jays least expect it, the chickadee zooms from its branch, snatches a sunflower seed, and returns to peck away the hull and eat the kernel.

The most flagrant act of piracy by a chickadee that I ever saw, however, was committed against a Red-bellied Woodpecker. An old rotted peach stump in my backyard was the scene of the crime. After pecking away for a few seconds, the woodpecker appeared to have found something tasty because it stopped to eat. A chickadee, which was watching the whole operation from a nearby tree limb, darted down, stole one of the insects, and returned to the limb to enjoy it. This was repeated a number of times. Each time the Red-belly pecked for a new source of food, the chickadee waited patiently, lending encouragement with its merry chick-a-dee-dee-dee. This was the first and only time I ever witnessed this act of symbiosis.

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## HOWARD CHAPTER'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES

The 1981-82 year beginning in September will be celebrated as our tenth anniversary year. The Board hopes to plan a number of special events, programs, publications, and field trips in conjunction with this occasion. If you have ideas or suggestions or would like to be a part of the planning for some of these events, talk to President Mike McClure either at the May meeting or evenings at 531-6170. Be sure to reserve November 12th on your calendar. This will be our special anniversary night and will feature several special items. Chandler Robbins, who was the speaker for the first public meeting of the club, will present the program. As part of this special celebration the Board has authorized a special way in which our chapter can help to save a valuable part of our natural heritage. Watch for a mailing during the summer. The Board is also investigating the possibility of obtaining a booth at the 4-H Fair. We regularly attend mall shows and make friends for the club. Do we have enough enthusiastic people to staff a fair booth? Let Mike know if this is something that interests you.

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## COLUMBIA WATERFOWL REPORTS

The last newsletter mentioned individuals who contributed sightings of waterfowl and other birds seen on local lakes to the Urban Wildlife Research Center. Other Howard Bird Club members who conduct these surveys are Steve Simon on Wilde Lake, Patricia & Jim Rouse, also on Wilde Lake, and Martha Waugh on Lake Elkhorn. If you live near one of the many sediment ponds in the Columbia area and would like to keep track of the bird life talk to Pat Birnie, 730-0178 or call Tom Franklin, 596-3311. Many of these small ponds have a pair of nesting Mallards while low water levels during April brought in varieties of shorebirds.

## NEW GROUP OF BIRD SPECIMENS MOUNTED

The Board has authorized mounting a group of bird skins to add to the Howard Bird Club's collection. If any members are interested in sponsoring a bird through a tax-deductible contribution (most birds are \$4 or \$6), call Jo Solem, 725-5037, for a list of possibilities. The club thanks the following individuals who passed along specimens: Pat Birnie, Joe Byrnes, Frances Dawson, Chuck Dupree, Frances Ehlers, Joy Emerson, Jane Geuder, Sheila Glanz, Alice Grant, Edith Haviland, Sarah Haviland, David Holmes, Pat Jackson, Don Jewell, Mike & Grazina McClure, Joanne Moroney, Jo Solem, Frances Nahrgang, Eva Sunell, Don & Mark Wallace, Anne Willis, Larry Zeleny, Paul Zucker, and Jane Zuke.

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## CITIZENS AGAINST WASTE - "We Shall Return Yet Again"

This year again we regret having to report that the deposit bill (SB 873) introduced by Sen. James Clark and others was not favorably voted out of the Economics Affairs Committee which means it did not come to the Senate floor for a vote.

In conservation matters it is often necessary to take a long term view. This year's effort was an important one and some progress was made. This issue will return in succeeding years. Pressure must continue if the battle will eventually be won.

National Bill S. 709 sponsored by Sen. Hatfield and others has been referred to the Commerce Committee. Hearings should take place later this summer. A national law would, of course, be a better alternative than a state by state fight. Keep track of this piece of legislation and, if you feel strongly about it, make sure your senators are aware of your feelings. ~~Till mandatory laws are passed,~~ do keep recycling as much of your aluminum, bottles, and newspapers as possible.

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Howard County MOS  
10617 Graeloch Rd.  
Laurel, MD 20810

DATE... MAY 2, 1981  
 TIME.....  
 WEATHER.....  
 TOTAL SPECIES... 140  
 OBSERVERS.....

THE FOLLOWING TERMS, LISTED IN ORDER OF DECREASING ABUNDANCE, SHOW THE STATUS OF EACH SPECIES AT ITS PEAK OF ABUNDANCE:  
 A--ABUNDANT, C--COMMON, F--FAIRLY COMMON, U--UNCOMMON, R--RARE,  
 X--CASUAL. FIRST BIRD IN FAMILY IS CAPITALIZED.

COMMON LEON..... F <u>9</u>	KING RAIL..... R	OLIVE-SIDED FLYCAT. R	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARB C
RED-NECKED GREBE... X	VIRGINIA RAIL..... R	HORNED LARK..... F <u>5</u>	BAY-BREASTED WARB.. F
HORNED GREBE..... F	SORA..... F	TREE SWALLOW..... C <u>272</u>	BLACKPOLL WARBLER.. C
PIED-BILLED GREBE.. C	PURPLE GALLINULE.. X	BANK SWALLOW..... F	PINE WARBLER..... F <u>1</u>
DBL-CR. CORMORANT.. X	COMMON GALLINULE.. R	ROUGH-WING SWALLOW. F <u>43</u>	PRAIRIE WARBLER... F <u>19</u>
GREAT BLUE HERON... C <u>3</u>	AMERICAN COOT..... U <u>1</u>	BARN SWALLOW..... C <u>335</u>	PALM WARBLER..... F
GREEN HERON..... C <u>9</u>	SEMPALMATED PLOVER R	CLIFF SWALLOW..... U <u>20</u>	OVENBIRD..... C <u>51</u>
LITTLE BLUE HERON.. F	KILLDEER..... C <u>23</u>	PURPLE MARTIN..... C <u>32</u>	NO. WATERTHRUSH... F <u>3</u>
CATTLE EGRET..... U <u>2</u>	BLACK-BELLY PLOVER. X	BLUE JAY..... C <u>189</u>	LA. WATERTHRUSH... F <u>15</u>
COMMON EGRET..... C	WOODCOCK..... C <u>1</u>	COMMON CROW..... C <u>402</u>	KENTUCKY WARBLER.. F <u>16</u>
SNOWY EGRET..... U	COMMON SNIPE..... F <u>3</u>	FISH CROW..... U <u>5</u>	CONNECTICUT WARBLER U
BLACK-CR. NT. HERON U	UPLAND PLOVER..... R	BLAHCAP CHICKADEE R	MOURNING WARBLER... R
YELLOW-CR-NT. HERON R	SPOTTED SANDPIPER.. C <u>82</u>	CAROLINA CHICKADEE. C <u>202</u>	YELLOWTHROAT..... A <u>141</u>
LEAST BITTERN..... R	SOLITARY SANDPIPER. C <u>60</u>	TUFTED TITMOUSE... C <u>172</u>	YELLOW-BR. CHAT... C <u>12</u>
AMERICAN BITTERN... U	GREATER YELLOWLEGS. F <u>4</u>	WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH. F <u>14</u>	HOODED WARBLER... C <u>24</u>
WOOD IBIS..... X	LESSER YELLOWLEGS.. U <u>14</u>	RED-BREAST NUTHATCH F <u>4</u>	WILSON'S WARBLER... U <u>2</u>
GLOSSY IBIS..... R	PECTORAL SANDPIPER. U	BROWN CREEPER..... F	CANADA WARBLER... C <u>1</u>
WHITE IBIS..... X	WHITE-RUMPED SANDP. X	HOUSE WREN..... C <u>66</u>	AMERICAN REOSTART.. C <u>25</u>
WHISTLING SWAN.... F	LEAST SANDPIPER... U	WINTER WREN..... F	HOUSE SPARROW..... U <u>283</u>
CANADA GOOSE..... C <u>54</u>	DUNLIN..... X	BEWICK'S WREN..... R	BOBOLINK..... F <u>130</u>
SNOW GOOSE..... X	SHORT-BIL DOWITCHER X	CAROLINA WREN..... C <u>46</u>	E. MEADOWLARK..... F <u>38</u>
BLUE GOOSE..... X	SEMPALMATED SANDP. R	LONG-BILL MARSH WRN R	YELLOW-HD BLACKBIRD X
MALLARD..... C <u>179</u>	WESTERN SANDPIPER.. X	SHORT-BIL MARSH WRN R	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD C <u>576</u>
BLACK DUCK..... C <u>4</u>	SANDERLING..... X	MOCKINGBIRD..... F <u>161</u>	ORCHARD ORIOLE.... F <u>2</u>
GADWALL..... U	NORTHERN PHALAROPE. X	CATBIRD..... C <u>190</u>	BALTIMORE ORIOLE... F <u>26</u>
PINTAIL..... F	HERRING GULL..... U	BROWN THRASHER... F <u>28</u>	RUSTY BLACKBIRD... F <u>1</u>
GREEN-WINGED TEAL.. F	RING-BILLED GULL... U	ROBIN..... C <u>355</u>	COMMON GRACKLE... A <u>419</u>
BLUE-WINGED TEAL... C	LAUGHING GULL..... X	WOOD THRUSH..... C <u>99</u>	BROWN-HEAD COWBIRD. C <u>317</u>
AM. WIDGEON..... F	BONAPARTE'S GULL... R	HERMIT THRUSH.... F <u>1</u>	SCARLET Tanager... C <u>23</u>
WYELER..... R <u>1</u>	COMMON TERN..... X	SWAINSON'S THRUSH.. C <u>1</u>	SUMMER Tanager... R <u>5</u>
WOOD DUCK..... C <u>13</u>	LEAST TERN..... X	GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH F	CARDINAL..... C <u>434</u>
WEDHEAD..... U	CASPIAN TERN..... X	VEERY..... F <u>5</u>	ROSE-BR. GROSBEAK.. F <u>7</u>
RING-NECKED DUCK... A	BLACK TERN..... X	E. BLUEBIRD..... C <u>82</u>	BLUE GROSBEAK..... U
CANVASBACK..... U <u>1</u>	MOURNING DOVE..... C <u>320</u>	BLUE-GR GNATCATCHER C <u>112</u>	INDIGO BUNTING... C <u>17</u>
GREATER SCAUP..... R	YELLOW-BILL CUCKOO. C	GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET. C	DICKCISSEL..... X
LESSER SCAUP..... F	BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO F	RUBY-CROWN KINGLET. C <u>12</u>	EVENING GROSBEAK.. U <u>11</u>
COMMON GOLDENEYE.. U	BARN OWL..... U	WATER PIPIT..... F	PURPLE FINCH..... C <u>83</u>
BUFFLEHEAD..... U	SCREECH OWL..... U	CEDAR WAXWING..... C <u>224</u>	HOUSE FINCH..... U <u>66</u>
OLDSQUAW..... R	GREAT HORNED OWL... U <u>2</u>	LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.. R	PINE GROSBEAK..... X
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER X	BARRD OWL..... C <u>7</u>	STARLING..... C <u>728</u>	COMMON REDPOLL... X
RUDDY DUCK..... F	LONG-EARED OWL..... R	WHITE-EYED VIREO... C <u>74</u>	PINE SISKIN..... F <u>10</u>
HOODED Merganser... F	SHORT-EARED OWL... X	YELLOW-THR. VIREO.. F <u>8</u>	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. C <u>589</u>
COMMON Merganser... F <u>13</u>	SAW-WHET OWL..... R	SOLITARY VIREO.... U <u>3</u>	RED CROSSBILL..... R
RED-BR. Merganser.. U	CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. X	RED-EYED VIREO.... A <u>78</u>	WHITE-WING CROSSBIL X
TURKEY VULTURE..... C <u>70</u>	WHIP-POOR-WILL... C <u>5</u>	PHILADELPHIA VIREO. R	RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE C <u>143</u>
BLACK VULTURE..... U <u>13</u>	COMMON Nighthawk... C	WARBLING VIREO..... R <u>2</u>	SAVANNAH SPARROW... F <u>6</u>
GOSHAWK..... X	CHIMNEY SWIFT..... C <u>104</u>	BLK-AND-WHT WARBLER C <u>17</u>	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW F <u>13</u>
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. C <u>3</u>	RUBY-T HUMMINGBIRD C <u>14</u>	PROTHONOTARY WARB.. U	HENSLOW'S SPARROW.. U
COOPER'S HAWK..... C	BELTED KINGFISHER.. F <u>16</u>	WORM-EATING WARBLER U <u>4</u>	VESPER SPARROW.... F
RED-TAILED HAWK... C <u>9</u>	YELLOW-SHAFT FLICKR C <u>55</u>	GOLDEN-WING WARBLER F	LARK SPARROW..... X
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK C <u>36</u>	PILEATED WOODPECKER F <u>4</u>	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER F <u>19</u>	BACHMAN'S SPARROW.. X
BROAD-WINGED HAWK.. C <u>6</u>	RED-BELLIED WOODP'R C <u>125</u>	TENNESSEE WARBLER.. F <u>3</u>	SLATE-COLORED JUNCO A <u>4</u>
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.. R	RED-HEADED WOODP'R. U	ORANGE-CROWNED WARB X	TREE SPARROW..... U
GOLDEN EAGLE..... X	YEL-BELLY SAPSUCKER R	NASHVILLE WARBLER.. U <u>2</u>	CHIPPING SPARROW... C <u>86</u>
BALD EAGLE..... F	HATRY WOODPECKER... F <u>7</u>	PARULA WARBLER.... C <u>52</u>	FIELD SPARROW.... C <u>87</u>
MARSH HAWK..... F <u>4</u>	DOWNY WOODPECKER... C <u>77</u>	YELLOW WARBLER.... F <u>51</u>	HARRIS' SPARROW... X
OSPREY..... F <u>13</u>	E. KINGBIRD..... C <u>23</u>	MAGNOLIA WARBLER... C <u>5</u>	WHITE-CROWN SPARROW U
PEREGRINE FALCON... R	ST CREST FLYCATCHER C <u>6</u>	CAPE MAY WARBLER... F <u>2</u>	WHT-THROAT SPARROW. A <u>348</u>
PIGEON HAWK..... U <u>1</u>	E. PHOEBE..... C <u>18</u>	BLK-THR. BLUE WARB. C <u>1</u>	FOX SPARROW..... C <u>1</u>
PARROW HAWK..... C <u>11</u>	YELLOW-BELLIED FLY. R	MYRTLE WARBLER.... A <u>105</u>	LINCOLN'S SPARROW.. R
WHITE..... C <u>10</u>	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. C <u>3</u>	BLK-THR GREEN WARB. C <u>4</u>	SWAMP SPARROW.... C <u>12</u>
WING-NECK PHEASANT. R <u>25</u>	TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER R	CERULEAN WARBLER... R <u>2</u>	SONG SPARROW..... C <u>217</u>
TURKEY (INTRO. 1959) R <u>1</u>	LEAST FLYCATCHER... U	BLACKBURNIAN WARB.. F <u>1</u>	LAPLAND LONGSPUR... X
	E. WOOD PEWEE..... C <u>3</u>	YELLOW-THRTD. WARB. R <u>7</u>	
	ALDER FLYCATCHER <u>1</u>		
	ROCK DOVE <u>477</u>		

TOTAL: 254 SPECIES

MUTE SWAN 2

4/15/70 CSR

Sent to members June 1951  
also included an envelope  
addressed to the treasurer

# HOWARD

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW A 300-YEAR OLD TREE?



Right here in Maryland--at Nassawango Creek on the Eastern Shore--is the northernmost cypress-gum swamp where 200- and 300-year old bald cypress trees can be found.

Several timber companies have recently become interested in timbering parts of the Nassawango drainage. Our dreams of creating Maryland's finest "tree museum" will be lost unless you join with us and act QUICKLY.

We propose to help the Nature Conservancy raise enough money to finish acquisition and preservation of the Nassawango bald cypress forest.

## CELEBRATE OUR HOWARD COUNTY M.O.S. CHAPTER'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY BY HELPING TO SAVE NASSAWANGO CREEK !

Five hundred dollars will save one acre of Nassawango. That is more money than most of us could give by ourselves. But together--as members and friends of the Howard County Chapter of M.O.S.--we can do it. We will combine our individual tax deductible contributions and present the Nature Conservancy with an anniversary gift from the Howard County M.O.S. to show how much we care about saving our wilderness areas.

There are many special--and some very rare--life forms at Nassawango. We have listed a few so that you may choose a favorite to "sponsor" with your gift. Select one (or more) and send your check. The entire list saves one acre.

- |           |                    |          |                      |
|-----------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| ___ \$200 | Bald Cypress Tree  | ___ \$20 | Cypress Knee         |
| ___ \$100 | Swainson's Warbler | ___ \$20 | Prothonotary Warbler |
| ___ \$50  | Bald Eagle         | ___ \$10 | Carpenter Frog       |
| ___ \$30  | Water Oak          | ___ \$10 | Dwarf Trillium       |
| ___ \$25  | Summer Tanager     | ___ \$5  | Gray Fox             |
| ___ \$25  | Otter              | ___ \$5  | Flying Squirrel      |
| ___       | Other \$ ___       |          |                      |

Checks are to be made payable to "HOWARD COUNTY M.O.S. (Nassawango)." Please respond today--so that we may mark our tenth anniversary celebration by giving to Nature Conservancy for Nassawango Creek--the last great wilderness in Maryland.