



Vol 11, No 9
May-June 1983

Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



ADDITIONS TO 1982 HOWARD COUNTY SPECIES LIST - David Holmes

Chandler Robbins reported that he had seen a Bald Eagle in the fall of 1982 in Howard County which changes our Eagle, sp. to a definite species. Completely new as county birds were the four Lesser Black-backed Gulls Bob Ringler saw and photographed on Dec. 20, 1982 (one on the 24th). This brings the 1982 list to 213 species.

POSSIBLE OWL OR HAWK BANDING

Eileen and John Olegg have a pair of nesting Barred Owls near their home in Long Reach. When the young reach an appropriate age (probably early to mid-May) Woody Martin of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center plans to band them. He may also be banding the young of a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest (not necessarily on the same date). These bandings take place after Woody finishes work (usually between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m.) If you are interested in observing any of the bandings and would like to be advised when they will occur, please call Bea Newkirk, 498-1902, and leave your name and telephone number.

VOLUNTEER EXHIBIT SITTERS NEEDED FOR TWO DIFFERENT EVENTS

Individuals who are willing to watch the bird specimens, talk to interested people, and pass out literature are needed for Recreation Expe at the Columbia Mall on Saturday, June 4. An hour or two of your time between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. would be most appreciated. Call Eileen Olegg at 730-4362.

The Howard County Fair (August 14-20) is a second opportunity to spread the birding word. A block of 3-4 hours (an afternoon or an evening) is most practical. Entry fee is paid. Mike McClure, 531-2780, is the coordinator for the Fair exhibit.

Like to chat with people but don't feel able to answer questions? Both Eileen and Mike will be happy to team you with people who are more experienced. Much fun!

If you would like to volunteer on a more regular basis for a bird-related activity, Call Mary Janetatos, 384-2798, to help at the North American Bluebird Society headquarters.

ATLAS BREEDING BIRD PROJECT WELL UNDERWAY - Chuck Dupree

If you have not volunteered to participate in the atlas project but find nests or young that you'd like to report, call the nearest quadrangle captain or contact me at 796-1086 (evenings). Quad captains are as follows: Woodbine: Janet McKeeg, 258-7308 (days) or 854-6156 (home) & Mark Wallace, 725-6370; Sykesville: Jon E. Boone, 9505 Good Lion Rd., Columbia, MD 21045; Ellicott City: Chuck Dupree; Clarksville: Marty Chestem, 730-1527; & Savage: Jo Solem, 725-5037. Volunteers are always welcome.

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? CONTACT JAN RANDLE, 531-6296, TO OBTAIN NATURAL HISTORY GUIDES FOR OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY OR THE WORLD. DON'T DELAY; SPECIALIZED TITLES MUST BE ORDERED. FREQUENTLY REQUESTED WARBLER SONG RECORDS NOW IN STOCK.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PRESENTED DURING 1982-1983

Each year the bird club presents slide shows and demonstrations to various groups using specimens and nests. The following programs were presented between April 28, 1982 and April 20, 1983.

Individuals making one or more presentations included the following: Martha Chestem, Eileen Clegg, Bill Eckert, Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Joanne Moroney, Rosmond Munro, Jo Solem, Eva Sunell, and Paul Zucker. Frank Griffin and Jonathan Glanz borrowed specimens for personal study.

Programs were presented to Scout troop #1301, Montessori School of Columbia, 4-H Camp at Deep Creek Lake, "Care of the Earth," 4th & 5th grade LMD class at Hammond Elementary, Howard Co. Hospital Women's Auxiliary, Daycare Center Training Course at Howard Community College, Child Development Center in Columbia, Evergreen Garden Club, Senior Men's Group of Howard County, Armchair Travelers at Mahler Hall, Middle Patuxent Nursery School, Boy Scouts meeting at Swansfield Elementary, Cannon Road Elementary first grade, mini-course at Oakland Mills Middle School, 3rd & 4th grade pod at Talcott Springs Elementary, Howard Co. Red & Parks Feeder Workshop, Second Wednesday Senior's Group, 3rd & 4th grades at Phelps Luck Elementary, Women's Civic League of Howard Co., 3rd grade at Running Brook Elementary, Cattail Creek Garden Club, Beaufort Park Interest Group, 3rd grade at Abholton Elementary. Specimens were also displayed at bird club meetings, two seed sales, Recreation Expo, the Howard County Fair and the Birding Workshop at the library. Presentations were made to over 600 people. In addition several thousand saw bird specimens during one or more of the special events. If you would like to borrow slides, specimens or nests for personal study or for presenting a program, contact Jo Solem, 725-5037.

ADDITIONS TO CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP SINCE MARCH 1, 1983

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Gould
Kevin, Rebecca
6505 Carlinda Ave.
Columbia, MD 21046

Patricia Hunt
5923 Gales Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

Debbie Dudar, 2917 Pinewick Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043

Eileen Landry
3028A Oak Green Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sandra Goolsby
Kirk
10997 Swansfield Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044

Mr. & Mrs. Sterling Solomon
P.O. Box 117
Clarksville, MD 21029

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert DiPietro
Anthony
5122 Beaverbrook Rd.
Columbia, MD 21044

BIRD BEAT - Grazina McClure

This spring has been one of the earlier ones on record, but it has also been lengthy. For example, the daffodils started to bloom early, but there are still some in bloom now. Last year they seemed to flower all at once.

Frances Ehlers saw phoebes in her outbuildings on 3/19. While walking around Lake Elkhorn on 4/4 Jon K. Boone saw a Horned Grebe, a Pied-billed Grebe, 2 or 3 Barn Swallows and several Golden-crowned Kinglets.

The McClures saw 35 Whistling Swans fly over on 3/11, a banded Song Sparrow on 4/3, Chipping Sparrows on 4/17 and an Osprey on 4/18. A male Blackburnian Warbler was in their yard on 4/29. Helen Clark has had a crippled White-breasted Nuthatch coming to her feeders this spring and she has seen other nuthatches feeding it occasionally (courtship?) On 4/5 she saw a male towhee and a Red-breasted Nuthatch; on 4/23 an American Redstart.

Mike Leumas saw an American Coot on 4/14 and 2 Blue-winged Teal on 4/21 on the AFL pond. The Halls have seen a Pileated Woodpecker regularly near their home. On 3/19 they observed a Carolina Wren nest in their garage. The 5 eggs hatched on 4/15. Rosmond Munro had Whip-poor-wills on 4/28; the Rhinelanders heard one in the pre-dawn hours of 4/29. Eric & Mary Schwartz saw 3 bluebirds on 3/12 in the Guilford Industrial Park; a kestrel also frequents that area they noted. Alice Grant reported a Mallard nest at the Central Library. The Boones related the bluebirds there hatched their first clutch on April 30th.

CALENDAR

PROGRAM - 7:45 p.m. Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia, MD.

Note: Meeting is canceled if schools officially close because of inclement weather or other emergencies. "Galapagos Islands" Anneke Davis

May 12 - ~~"Monitoring Natural Habitats from Space"~~ Dr. Nicholas Short. NASA's slides
Thur. from space satellites will provide better than a "bird's-eye" view.

FIELD TRIPS - Field trips leave from the Grempler Realty Building parking lot (across from the Flier building) on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia unless otherwise indicated. Eva Sunell, 995-0029, heads this committee. Severe weather conditions may result in trip cancellation at the leader's discretion. If in doubt, call. Carpooling continues with riders sharing gas and toll costs. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear. Trips do not always follow marked paths.

May 14 - **WARBLER WALK**. Leader: David Holmes, 730-7083. If you can't attend the convention, next best treat is birding with David. Columbia area. Meet at Grempler Sat. at 7:00 a.m.; back by 10:00 a.m.

May 22 - **BLUEBIRD BANDING**. Leader: Mark Wallace. Meet at Grempler at 9:00 a.m. This Sun. trip is limited to 10 people. Call Eva Sunell 995-0029 for reservations.

May 22 - **ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG** (rescheduled after it was rained out).. Leader: Lee Preston. Sun. Meet at Grempler at 12:00 noon. Approximately 3 hours.

June 4-5 - **CAMPING & CANOEING AT NASSAWANGO CREEK**. Leader: David Fardoe, 531-6451. Over- Sat. & nite to Nature Conservancy preserve on E. Shore. Must have own canoe. Possible Sun. to arrange for just 1 day. Definite canoeing Sat; possibly 1/2 day Sunday.

June 11 - **ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND**. All day. Meet at Grempler at 8:15 a.m.; return by Sat. 4:00 p.m. Participants must be club members. Reservations necessary because we will be birding in secure areas. Social security numbers of members attending needed. Call Jane Farrell, 596-6350, for reservations. We will carpool. Bring lunch & thermos. Heron rookery, nesting Prothonotary Warblers, wide variety of nesting species, possible beaver.

July 17 - **ROCKBURN PARK HABITAT WALK**. Leaders: Eva Sunell, 995-0029 & Bill Eckert. Co- Sun. sponsored by Howard Co. Rec & Parks. Meet at 12:30 p.m. at Grempler or at 1:00 p.m. at the building in the park. Nesting birds & summer flowers.

Aug. 14 - **MIDDLE PATUXENT RIVER SLOSH** - Leader: Bill Eckert. Co-sponsored with Howard Co. Sun. Rec & Parks. Meet at Highs in Simpsonville on Old Columbia Pike (northeast of junction of Rts. 29 & 32) at 11:00 a.m. Lasts 3-4 hours. No fee but registration necessary; call Rec & Parks, 992-2483. Bring lunch in waterproof bag (all refuse must be carried along). Do NOT bring binoculars unless willing to risk dunking. Wear old sneakers (footgear required), denim jeans or cutoffs & an old shirt. Minimum age 12; under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

BOARD MEETING - A joint Board Meeting of all outgoing and incoming Board members will be held on Thursday, May 19, at Jane Farrell's, 6324 Sandchain Rd., Columbia, MD. Call 596-6350 for directions. All elected officers & appointed committee chairmen should attend.

POTLUCK SUCCESSFUL AT RHINELANDERS

The snowed-out "February" potluck was held on March 26. The house was full, the food delicious and the slides outstanding--but we could have used more. Where have all the photographers gone? Our thanks to Nan and Fred Rhinelanders for graciously hosting this event and to Monika Botsai for coordinating the meal.

WOODPECKER TIP SHEET AVAILABLE

If you are bothered by woodpeckers during the breeding season, call Jo Solan, 725-5037, and request that the woodpecker tip sheet be sent to you. Eva Sunell has kindly made this information available to club members.

A DAY AT SANDY POINT STATE PARK - Russell E. Chandler, Jr., Age 12

It was a bright, sunny day March 5, 1983, when my mother, my best friend Jon Boone and I went birding at Sandy Point State Park. After seeing the Canvasback ducks, the Greater Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls at the docks, we decided to go to the beach.

Along the north side of the beach, I saw a dead bird of prey in the water, face down. When Jon turned the head over we both cried out in amazement, "A Peregrine Falcon." We ran to my mother to tell her about our find; she let us have a plastic bag to put it in. As we were putting it in the bag, we both felt sorry that such a beautiful bird had died.

Because there was no band on the bird we knew how important our find was. Most Peregrines in the East have been released from Cernell's Laboratory of Ornithology and all are banded.

Editor's Note: The bird was taken to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center where it was necropsied by Chris Franson and Hank Patee. Although chemical tests are still taking place, it was determined that the bird had been shot. Thanks to Barbara Dowell of the Center for making this information available to us.

CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN MORONEY


John Moroney, a senior at Centennial High School and a bird club member, has been active in 4-H for many years. Last year his record book was voted first in the state in conservation (wildlife conservation was his special field) so he was sent to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago in late November. There he was chosen as an alternate for a national scholarship because his record book ranked ninth nationally.

John plans to major in biology when he enters college this coming autumn.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE DESERVES SPECIAL THANKS

The Hospitality Committee has been busy at the meetings this year providing light refreshment and taking care of name tags helping us identify visitors as well as members. Thelma Feldman, Marjorie Mountjoy and Elise Seay have chaired these activities and have received valuable help from Lois Carleton, Frances Ehlers, and Alice Marks. Thanks also to Fran Nahrgang who has helped to collate and mail several issues of the newsletter, and to Martha Waugh who kept the feeder at the Central Library filled during the winter.

FOR HELP WITH NESTLINGS, FLEDGLING OR INJURED BIRDS CALL EVA SUNELL, 995-0029, WHO HAS THE NECESSARY PERMITS TO CARE FOR THEM.



Howard County MOS
10617 Grae Loch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20707

HOWARD COUNTY 1983 TOTALS

Maryland Ornithological Society

State-Wide May Count, May 7, 1983.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Loon, Common <u>28</u> | Plover, Blk-ball. _____ | Martin, Purple <u>92</u> | Ovenbird <u>93</u> |
| Grebe, Horned _____ | Yellowlegs, Greater _____ | Jay, Blue <u>874</u> | Waterthrush, North. <u>4</u> |
| Pied-billed _____ | Lesser <u>10</u> | Raven, Northern _____ | Louisiana <u>18</u> |
| Cormorant, D'ble-c. _____ | Sandpiper, Solitary <u>16</u> | Crow, American <u>316</u> | Warbler, Kentucky <u>35</u> |
| Heron, Gr. Blue <u>4</u> | Spotted <u>44</u> | Fish <u>12</u> | Yellowthroat, Com. <u>194</u> |
| Green <u>10</u> | Turnstone, Ruddy _____ | Chickadee, Bl.-cap. _____ | Chat, Yellow-br'd <u>46</u> |
| Little Blue _____ | Woodcock, American <u>2</u> | Carolina <u>181</u> | Warbler, Hooded <u>26</u> |
| Egret, Cattle _____ | Snipe, Common _____ | Titmouse, Tufted <u>176</u> | Wilson's <u>2</u> |
| Common _____ | Dowitcher, S.-bill. _____ | Nuthatch, White-br. <u>12</u> | Canada <u>1</u> |
| Snowy _____ | Sanderling _____ | Red-breasted _____ | Redstart, American <u>82</u> |
| Heron, Black-cr. Nt <u>1</u> | Sandpiper, Semipalm. <u>2</u> | Brown-headed _____ | Sparrow, House <u>190</u> |
| Yellow-cr. Night _____ | Least <u>1</u> | Creeper, Brown _____ | Bobolink <u>618</u> |
| Bittern, Least _____ | Pectoral _____ | Wren, House <u>113</u> | Meadowlark, Eastern <u>56</u> |
| American _____ | Dunlin _____ | Carolina <u>51</u> | Blackbird, Redwing. <u>492</u> |
| Ibis, Glossy <u>1</u> | Gull, Gr. Bl.-back. _____ | Marsh (L.-b.) _____ | Oriole, Orchard <u>7</u> |
| Swan, Mute _____ | Herring _____ | Mockingbird <u>179</u> | Baltimore <u>52</u> |
| Whistling _____ | Ring-billed _____ | Catbird <u>399</u> | Blackbird, Rusty _____ |
| Goose, Canada <u>76</u> | Laughing _____ | Thrasher, Brown <u>44</u> | Grackle, Common <u>604</u> |
| Mallard <u>191</u> | Bonaparte's _____ | Robin <u>542</u> | Cowbird, Brown-h'd <u>232</u> |
| Duck, Am. Black <u>1</u> | Tern, Forster's _____ | Thrush, Wood <u>172</u> | Tanager, Scarlet <u>68</u> |
| Gadwall _____ | Common _____ | Hermit <u>1</u> | Summer _____ |
| Pintail, Common _____ | Least _____ | Swainson's <u>15</u> | Cardinal <u>438</u> |
| Teal, Green-winged _____ | Caspian _____ | Veery <u>50</u> | Grosbeak, Rose-br. <u>36</u> |
| Blue-winged _____ | Dove, Rock <u>491</u> | Bluebird, Eastern <u>93</u> | Blue <u>2</u> |
| Duck, Wood <u>10</u> | Mourning <u>273</u> | Gnatcatcher, Bl.-gr. <u>164</u> | Bunting, Indigo <u>91</u> |
| Ring-necked _____ | Cuckoo, Yel.-billed <u>3</u> | Kinglet, Ruby-cr. <u>3</u> | Grosbeak, Evening _____ |
| Canvasback _____ | Black-billed <u>2</u> | Pipit, Water _____ | Finch, Purple <u>31</u> |
| Scaup, Lesser <u>1</u> | Owl, Barn _____ | Waxwing, Cedar <u>35</u> | House <u>51</u> |
| Bufflehead _____ | Screech _____ | Starling <u>925</u> | Siskin, Pine _____ |
| Duck, Ruddy _____ | Great Horned _____ | Vireo, White-eyed <u>159</u> | Goldfinch, Am. <u>470</u> |
| Merganser, Hooded _____ | Barred <u>10</u> | Yellow-throated <u>26</u> | Towhee, Rufous-s'd <u>216</u> |
| Common _____ | Chuck-will's-widow _____ | Solitary <u>1</u> | Sparrow, Savannah <u>2</u> |
| Red-breasted <u>1</u> | Whip-poor-will _____ | Red-eyed <u>132</u> | Grasshopper <u>26</u> |
| Vulture, Turkey <u>99</u> | Nighthawk, Common _____ | Warbling _____ | Vesper <u>3</u> |
| Black <u>41</u> | Swift, Chimney <u>33</u> | Warbler, Black-&Wh. <u>24</u> | Junco, Northern _____ |
| Hawk, Sharp-shin. <u>3</u> | Hummingbird, R.-th. <u>21</u> | Prothonotary _____ | Sparrow, Chipping <u>67</u> |
| Cooper's <u>1</u> | Kingfisher, Belted <u>12</u> | Worm-eating <u>8</u> | Field <u>55</u> |
| Red-tailed <u>11</u> | Flicker, Common <u>61</u> | Golden-winged _____ | White-crowned <u>1</u> |
| Red-shouldered <u>35</u> | Sapsucker, Yel.-bel. _____ | Blue-winged <u>16</u> | White-throated <u>122</u> |
| Broad-winged <u>6</u> | Woodpecker, Pil. _____ | Tennessee <u>3</u> | Swamp <u>6</u> |
| Eagle, Bald _____ | Red-bellied <u>111</u> | Nashville <u>3</u> | Song <u>139</u> |
| Hawk, Marsh _____ | Red-headed <u>1</u> | Parula <u>82</u> | |
| Osprey <u>2</u> | Hairy <u>3</u> | Yellow <u>71</u> | |
| Hawk, Sparrow <u>9</u> | Downy <u>75</u> | Magnolia <u>5</u> | |
| Grouse, Ruffed _____ | Kingbird, Eastern <u>68</u> | Cape May <u>9</u> | |
| Bobwhite <u>19</u> | Flycatcher, Gr. C'd <u>15</u> | Black-th'd Blue <u>12</u> | |
| Pheasant, R.-neck. <u>30</u> | Phoebe, Eastern <u>37</u> | Myrtle <u>258</u> | |
| Turkey _____ | Flycatcher, Acadian <u>49</u> | Black-th'd Green <u>6</u> | |
| Rail, King _____ | Least _____ | Cerulean <u>5</u> | |
| Clapper _____ | Pewee, Eastern <u>26</u> | Blackburnian <u>3</u> | |
| Virginia _____ | Lark, Horned <u>1</u> | Yellow-throated <u>1</u> | |
| Jora _____ | Swallow, Tree <u>49</u> | Chestnut-sided <u>7</u> | |
| Gallinule, Common _____ | Bank <u>2</u> | Bay-breasted <u>1</u> | |
| Coot, Am. _____ | Rough-winged <u>25</u> | Blackpoll <u>17</u> | |
| Plover, Semipalm. _____ | Barn <u>219</u> | Pine <u>1</u> | |
| Killdeer <u>10</u> | Cliff <u>16</u> | Prairie <u>44</u> | |
| | | Palm <u>2</u> | |

Total species 138
Total individuals 12,316

May 12, 1983

Dear Jim Stasz,

Here are the results of the 1983 Howard County May Count. The count was conducted from 3:30 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. There were 52 participants in 22 parties who logged a total of 133 party-hours on foot, 21 party-hours by car, 105 party-miles by foot and 290 party-miles by car. The weather was cool in the morning (about 45°F) and sunny. It warmed to near 80° F later in the day with some breeze and slight overcast in the afternoon.

Fourteen unusual species for the count were seen. These are listed with the name of the party leader: Black-crowned Night Heron (C. Ludwig), Glossy Ibis (P. Zucker), Am. Black Duck (P. Zucker), Lesser Scaup (E. Strain), Red-breasted Merganser (M. Wallace), Cooper's Hawk (C. Dupree), Semipalmated Sandpiper (J. Boone), Least Sandpiper (J. Boone), Black-billed Cuckoo (C. Robbins, J. Randle), Red-headed Woodpecker (A. Hart), Bay-breasted Warbler (C. Ludwig), Wilson's Warbler (C. Ludwig), Canada Warbler (J. Boone), and Blue Grosbeak (C. Ludwig, C. Dupree). The Glossy Ibis has not been seen on a Howard County May Count for at least ten years.

Twenty-five species had higher counts this year than in any of the past ten years: Common Loon, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Vulture, Rock Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, House Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

A total of 138 species and approximately 12,300 individual birds were identified. The tally list is enclosed. Seen in each of the past nine counts but not on this one was the Whip-poor-will. Frequently seen, but not on this count, were Evening Grosbeak and Northern Junco.

Thanks go to all the participants who made this a very successful count: Bob Bogdan, Jon E. & Jon K. Boone, Marty Chestem, John Olegg, Carole & George Cleland, Florence Donahoe, Bob Doyle, Chuck Dupree, Jane Farrell, Aelred Geis, Anne & Ken Hart, David Holmes, Mary Janetatos, Alice & Terry Kretz, Mike Leumas, Clarence Loomis, Chris Ludwig, Pat McAleary, Grazina & Mike McClure, Linda McDaniel, Pat Morris, Frances Nahrgang, Elaine & Dave Pardoe, Glenda Pollack, Jan & Don Randle, Dorothy Rauth, Nan & Fred Rhineland, Eleanor & Chandler Robbins, Irv Robinson, Jo Solem, Linda & Chuck Stirrat, Earl Strain, Eva Sannell, Mark Wallace, Martha & Don Waugh, Cathy, Leroy, Alexandra & Thea Williamson, David & Paul Zucker.

Paul Zucker

PLEASE NOTE CALENDAR ADDITION: The following field trip was inadvertently omitted from the May-June newsletter.

June 12 - Sun. NESTING BIRDS IN THE SAVAGE AREA OF HOWARD COUNTY. Leader: Paul Leifer. Meet at Grempler at 7:15 a.m. or at Bollman Truss Bridge off Gorman Rd. at the river in Savage at 7:30 a.m. 1/2 day. Wear knee-high waterproof boots or old shoes which you don't mind getting wet. (Only county record of nesting C. Gallinule came from this area a few years ago.)

Howard County MOS
10617 Graeloch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20707

MAY COUNT RESULTS

