



Vol. 13, No. 1
Sept-Oct. 1984

Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1 -- PLEASE MAIL DUES PROMPTLY

Our membership year runs from September 1, 1984-August 31, 1985. Membership fees are now due. Please complete ALL of the attached membership blank and return it to the treasurer: Donald Randle, 6424 Lochridge Rd., Columbia, MD 21044, or bring it with you to the September 13th meeting. Membership entitles you to quarterly issues of the state magazine, the state newsletter, as well as the Howard chapter newsletter. You are also eligible to participate in a full schedule of programs, field trips, workshops, and special events.

LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Through the tireless efforts of our previous club presidents and many dedicated volunteers, our club membership has shown a very significant growth over the past few years until we are now approaching 300 members. The times have changed from when it was difficult to find enough people to take on the necessary jobs of the club to the current challenge of providing enough opportunities to match the eagerness of members who want a share in helping us accomplish our reasons for being.

There are three major areas of the club's activities which have each been the responsibility of a single individual: ~~monthly programs, field trips, and conservation.~~ The chairpersons for each of these activities have indicated a willingness to be assisted by other individuals; therefore, we would like to recruit willing people to work on these committees. The program and field trip committees are responsible for identifying speakers or other types of program ideas for our monthly meetings and planning field trips as well as making arrangements for these events. The demands upon your time should not be tremendous, but your ideas and assistance would help us all.

The conservation concerns facing us at the county, state, and national level are varied and often critical. The Patuxent and Patapsco River watersheds in our county are significant for the life of the Chesapeake Bay. The status of farmland and the nature of development are important to us and the county's future. Obviously, it is unreasonable to expect one person to adequately follow all these issues.

If you would like to participate on these committees, please indicate accordingly on the membership questionnaire. We also need help at each monthly meeting with the refreshments and name tags. If you would be willing to assist or coordinate the activity, please let us know on the questionnaire. We will be reviewing our committee structure this fall, and we may have further opportunities for you as time goes on. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

David Pardoe


DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 15, 1984. NEWSLETTER ITEMS AS WELL AS AUTUMN MIGRATION DATES (DUE DEC. 15) SHOULD BE SENT OR PHONED TO JO SOLEM, 10617 GRAELOCH RD., LAUREL, MD 20707; TEL. 725-5037.

VOLUNTEERS DESERVE THANKS FOR HELP AT RECREATION EXPO AND COUNTY FAIR

The club exhibit at the Columbia Mall during Recreation Expo always attracts a good crowd. Eileen Clegg organized the exhibit. Ralph & Jane Gauder, Don & Jan Randle and Bob & Jo Solem set up and worked at times during the day along with Eileen Smith, Sandy Goolsby, Jon K. Boone, Spud Loomis, Andrea Ludwig, Steve & Linda Harsy, Marty Chestem, Martha Waugh, Linda McDaniel, Jane Farrell, Fran Schoenberger, Marjorie Mountjoy, and Elise Seay. We needed every single person-- and could have used more. Why did so many people this year try to touch specimens despite signs asking them not to? Our "touchable" birds got a workout.

Mike McClure organized the exhibit for the Howard County Fair. Those who worked for several hours included David & Elaine Pardoe, Don & Jan Randle, Mike & Grazina McClure, Martha & Don Waugh, Rod & Monika Botsai, Anne & Ken Hart, Eva Sunell, Roy & Karen Trudel and Bob & Jo Solem. We are delighted to be able to exhibit at the fair and meet people from all parts of the county who share an interest in birds.

SEED SALE COMING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th - WATCH FOR MAILING



Because the price of sunflower seed has been high and may fall when the new crop comes in, the autumn seed sale has been set for November 10th. Watch for a mailing in October. All club members will automatically receive the notice as will all individuals who purchased seed during the past year. Non-members wishing to be added to the mailing list or individuals with questions should call Eileen Clegg 730-4362. The large room at the pickup point (First Presbyterian Church) has been reserved so there should be a fine display of birds to be expected at feeders from our specimen collection along with the club bookstore.

HOWARD CHAPTER BOARD MAKES DONATIONS

At the last board meeting of the 1983-84 year, a total of \$500.00 was disbursed for various projects: the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project, Citizens Against Waste, and Jane Zuke and Eva Sunell who are two local bird rehabilitators.

Suggestions for causes which should be considered during future distributions can be made to President David Pardoe, 531-6452; Anne Hart, 489-7251; or Donald Randle, 531-6296.

STATE MOS PRESIDENT MARTHA CHESTEM DESCRIBES MATCHING GRANT

MOS members have a unique opportunity to help raise funds for the Atlas, Scholarship, and Sanctuary programs. An anonymous donor will give \$2000 to be divided among the three IF contributions from MOS members total \$1500; if the contributions equal \$2000, the donor will give \$2500. This is better than a matching grant which is good news and should be a boon to all of the committees.

The deadline is November 15, 1984. Send your tax-deductible contributions made to the Maryland Ornithological Society to Mary Love, Executive Secretary, 10735 Cordage Walk, Columbia, MD 21044.

Unattributed drawings in this newsletter are courtesy of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

PROGRAMS - 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 for other emergencies.

- Sept. 13 - "Birding in California" Jim Orgain. Vice-President of the Baltimore Chapter
Thur. of MOS and now a Columbia resident. This presentation will include diversified birding in California from the Central Valley north and from the Sierras to the coast including a few whales.
- Oct. 11 - "Monkey-eating Eagle of the Philippines" Dr. Robert Kennedy. Dr. Kennedy
Thur. will use a film to describe the work of the Raptor Information Center and the life history of this endangered species.

FIELD TRIPS- Trips for the coming year are being planned around the areas of natural history identified in our membership questionnaire completed last fall. If you did not complete the questionnaire and have suggestions for field trips or would be interested in leading a field trip, please call Linda Harsy, Field Trip Chairman at 489-5131. As in the past, carpooling is encouraged with riders sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Leaders may cancel the trip due to inclement weather. If in doubt, call the leader (if phone number is listed) or Linda Harsy. Field trips leave from Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flier building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) unless otherwise indicated. Dress for field work with stout, reasonable waterproof footwear and layers of clothing. Trips do not always follow paths. No pets.

- Sept. 15 - BUTTERFLY WALK. Leader: Gerald Einem, 730-0877. A $\frac{1}{2}$ -day walk to search
Sat. for and identify butterflies in the Columbia area. Meet in Grempler lot at 9:30 a.m. If you own a net, bring it.
- Sept. 16 - WILDFLOWER WALK. Leaders: Bob Solem, 725-5037 and Chris Ludwig. Check
Sun. late summer and autumn wildflowers along the Patapsco River (precise area to be decided by leaders). Meet at Grempler at 8:30 a.m. $\frac{1}{2}$ -day.
- ~~Sept. 23 - FALL WARBLERS. Leader: David Holmes, 730-7023. Annual trip to see the
Sun. confusing fall warblers and other migrants in Howard Co. Leave Grempler lot at 7:30 a.m. $\frac{1}{2}$ -day.~~
- { Oct. 13 - HAWK WATCH AT MUDDY RUN RECREATION PARK. Leader: Chuck Dupree, 796-1086.
Sat. All day trip to Lancaster County, PA, to watch the hawk migration. Leave Grempler parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and thermos. Back by 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 21 - AUTUMN HABITAT WALK AT SAVAGE PARK. Leaders: Bill Eckert & Chuck Dupree,
Sun. 796-1086. Co-sponsored by Howard Rec. & Parks. Walks through the seasons this year will be held in this southeastern county park. The park's natural features include meadow, forest, and river bottom areas. The tranquility and beauty of the Little Patuxent River offer an enjoyable visit for the naturalist as well as for the historian. 1 to 2 miles of moderately strenuous hiking; some hills. Meet at the Grempler parking lot at 12:30 p.m. or at the brick building in the park at 1:00 p.m. $\frac{1}{2}$ day.



BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m. at Eileen Clegg's, 9094 Lambskin Lane, Columbia, MD, on
Sept. 20 Thursday, Sept. 20. Call 730-4362 for directions.

AMPLIFYING SYSTEM PURCHASED BY CHAPTER

An amplifying system has been purchased recently by the chapter to enhance presentations at the monthly programs. Thanks to Rod Botsai and Don Randle for investigating the possibilities and making the purchase.

There are wonderful winsome woodpeckers in Howard County. Two species which are often confused are the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, both members of the "pied woodpecker" genus--black, heavily mottled with white, small to medium in size. They work hard for their sustenance, living side by side all year round. They are almost identical in color and pattern, differing mainly in size. The male birds have small patches of red on the back of their heads, a mark lacking in the females. The bluebird-sized Downy is slightly more than half the size of the bulkier Hairy. It is this size differential that permits these "sympatric pairs" of species to live together without competing. The smaller birds exploit the smaller tips and outer branches of our trees, while the larger birds glean the main trunks. Both woodpeckers have the characteristic woodpecker flight, four or five rapid flaps, then a swoop downward, followed again by the flapping. Both visit winter feeding stations, although the relatively tame Downy is much the more frequent guest.

But how to tell the difference? There are four clues.

● The Hairy Woodpecker in this area is about the size of a robin. In Garrett County the bird is the size of a Northern Flicker, a rather startling phenomenon. By contrast, the Downy is a midget.

● The bill of the Hairy is long and large, an ideal chisel; however, that of the Downy is a sturdy toothpick, straight but very small. The difference is (excuse the pun) striking.

● The Downy Woodpecker has small black spots on its white outer tail feathers, while the Hairy's retrices remain unspotted. This is a challenging but very definitive field mark. Look for it.

Otherwise, these birds are identical in outward appearance. The behavior of the Downy Woodpecker is predictable and somewhat sedate. On the other hand, the Hairy is very active and excitable; however, it is much shyer than its cousin, and you are much more likely to find it in deeper woods.

● The call note of the Downy is a solid-sounding "peek-ick," short in duration but direct in tone. On the other hand, the Hairy Woodpecker's call is a high-pitched "peek," almost shrill in its quality. The "series notes" of the two birds are also very different. The Downy gives forth a "rapid whinney of notes, descending in pitch." Its tone is high, yet robust. But if, in the midst of a wooded area, you hear short bursts of the kingfisher's rattle, you undoubtedly have uncovered a Hairy Woodpecker. The sound is rapid, metallic, cicada-like.

Downy Woodpeckers are ubiquitous. Hairy Woodpeckers are much less abundant, but this is a good area for them. They are especially common in the Fort Meade area.

HOWARD COUNTY ATLAS DATA FOR 1984 BREEDING SEASON DUE - Chuck Dupree

For those individuals who had assigned territories, please send your field check-list to your block captain immediately. Block captains should try to get their summary sheets to me by Sept. 15th. Club members who made observations in their yard or neighborhood and recorded them on the sheet included in the March-April 1984 newsletter should report results to the person in charge of their area or mail the material to me at 6002 Hunt Club Rd., Elkridge, MD 21227. All sightings are welcome; be they many or few we're anxious to have your help.





RECYCLING CENTER OPENS IN HOWARD COUNTY - SAVE ITEMS AND RECYCLE THEM

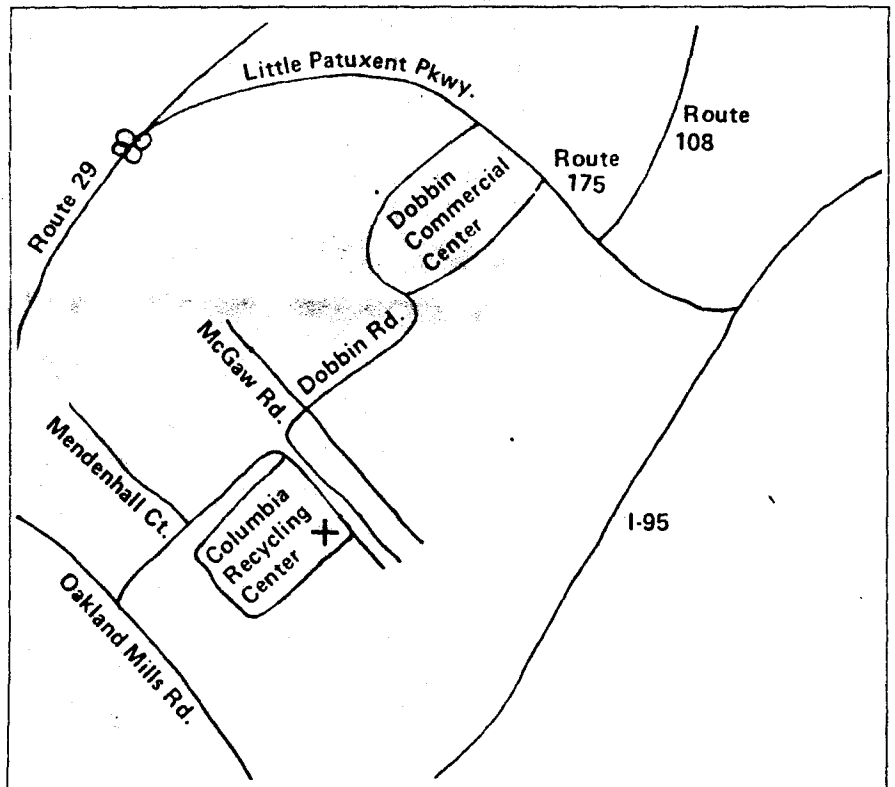
The Columbia Recycling Center has opened recently off Dobbin Road on the east side of Columbia. (See map below for exact location.) The Center is operated by Athelas Institute, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides vocational education and work training programs for mentally retarded adults.

Aluminum can be recycled for cash. Other items accepted include newsprint (no magazines), glass, and bimetal. Items other than aluminum will be credited to any group or club that has registered with Athelas Institute. WE HAVE REGISTERED! Mention either the Howard Bird Club or Howard Chapter MOS as the group to which you want your items credited. Checks will be sent to groups on a quarterly basis. Currently, newsprint is credited at the rate of \$15.00 per ton and glass at \$10.00 per ton. Aluminum has been fluctuating between .25 and .30 per pound. Hours are Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. If you have questions call 992-4234. Most of our members are aware of the advantages of recycling. Now that a center again exists in Howard County, do take advantage of it. If you take items somewhere else for recycling, by all means continue, but help save raw materials, precious landfill space and reduce unsightly litter. **RECYCLE!** (The Center does not accept plastic or metal other than aluminum and bimetal.) Thanks to Monika Botsai for taking care of the registration and letting us know about the Center.

Columbia Recycling Center

Mon. - Sat.

10 AM - 2 PM



ATTRACTING BIRDS COURSE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

A three-session course concerning attracting birds will be taught by Jo Solem sponsored by Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks. Two sessions will be indoors; the third will be a field trip to visit feeders and/or yards to observe plantings for wildlife. Recreation & parks brochures which are sent to all households will contain registration information.



MEMBERSHIP FORM - HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ AGE (Student) _____

Husband & Wife (Couple).....	12.50
Adult (individual).....	9.00
Student (up to age 18).....	1.50
Student (over age 18).....	5.00
Sustaining.....	15.00
Life.....	200.00
Senior Couple (age 65 or over)	8.50
Senior Adult (age 65 or over)	6.00
Howard Co. Chapter dues (if a member of another MOS chap.)	4.00
____ Renewal	
____ New Membership	

MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - AUGUST 31

Checks should be made payable to Howard County Chapter-MOS and mailed to the following address:

Donald Randle, Treasurer Tel. 531-6296
6424 Lochridge Road
Columbia, MD 21044

QUESTIONNAIRE (Please complete and mail along with your dues) NAME _____
TELEPHONE _____

- I would like to serve on the
- _____ Monthly Program Committee
 - _____ Conservation Committee
 - _____ Hospitality Committee
 - _____ Coordinate
 - _____ Help Periodically
 - _____ Help One Month

_____ I would like to be notified of "rare birds" in the area. The best time of the day to contact me is _____.

HOWARD COUNTY NATIVE CAVITY NESTER SURVEY - 1984



Complete for species you observed using natural cavities or nesting boxes during 1984.

Broods* No. Fledged**		Broods* No. Fledged**	
_____	Wood Duck	_____	Great Crested Flyc.
_____	American Kestrel	_____	Purple Martin
_____	Common Barn-Owl	_____	Tree Swallow
_____	Eastern Screech-Owl	_____	Carolina Chickadee
_____	Barred Owl	_____	Tufted Titmouse
_____	Red-bellied Woodpecker	_____	White-br. Nuthatch
_____	Downy Woodpecker	_____	Carolina Wren
_____	Hairy Woodpecker	_____	House Wren
_____	Northern Flicker	_____	Eastern Bluebird
_____	Pileated Woodpecker		

*Brood - group of birds hatched from a clutch of eggs
**Fledged - young birds which have left the nesting cavity under their own power.

Observations need not be on your property. Include boxes or natural cavities in your neighborhood or elsewhere in the county if you know no one else will be reporting them. Do not include boxes located in county parks or which are part of an organized trail unless you are the operator of that trail or have permission from the operator to tally certain boxes separately. If you know a cavity or box was occupied, but do not know the number of young fledged put a question mark in the appropriate blank. If young were lost from boxes due to predators, vandals, weather, etc., list reasons for losses in descending order of importance _____

For trail operators: Number of boxes on trail _____

Do not tally European Starlings & House Sparrows. They are not protected by law. Make every effort to prevent their nesting in your boxes, buildings, or natural cavities.

CLUB BOOKSTORE TO BE HANDLED BY STEVE & LINDA HARSY - THANKS TO JAN & DON RANDLE

Jan & Don Randle, who have so capably operated the club bookstore for the past several years, have resigned their duties in order to open The Nature Nook, a shop in Tiber Place in Ellicott City, to meet the specialized needs of nature enthusiasts. The expansion of stock and Jan's enthusiasm for the needs of individual club members made the bookstore a vital aspect of club membership. Steve and Linda Harsy have volunteered to take over the operation of the bookstore so it will remain in highly capable hands. They will continue to bring stock to each meeting, the seed sales, and special events. You may also contact them evenings at 489-7251 or write to 16236 Compromise Court, Mt. Airy, MD 21771. Attractive prices and a good stock will continue to fulfill your needs.

NATURE CONSERVANCY BIRDATHON COUNTERS FIND 194 SPECIES

Those Howard members who attended the April meeting recall that Chandler Robbins described a birdathon planned for early May to raise funds for the Maryland Natural Areas Campaign of the Nature Conservancy. A 24-hour count on May 10th by Chandler Robbins, Hal Wierenga and Byron Swift tallied 194 species in central Maryland and coastal Virginia. Areas along the C & O Canal, Hughes Hollow, the fish hatchery at Lilypons, New Design Road, and Sugarloaf Mountain were visited in central Maryland. A donated plane ride to Wallops Island and birding on Chincoteague NWR and along Elliott Island road completed the day. The Birdathon was organized by Bob Whitcomb, 10610 Belfast Pl., Potomac, MD 20854, who would be delighted to receive any pledge sheets and checks not yet turned in.

Howard County Chapter MOS
10617 Graefloch Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707

