



Vol 13, No. 3
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Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



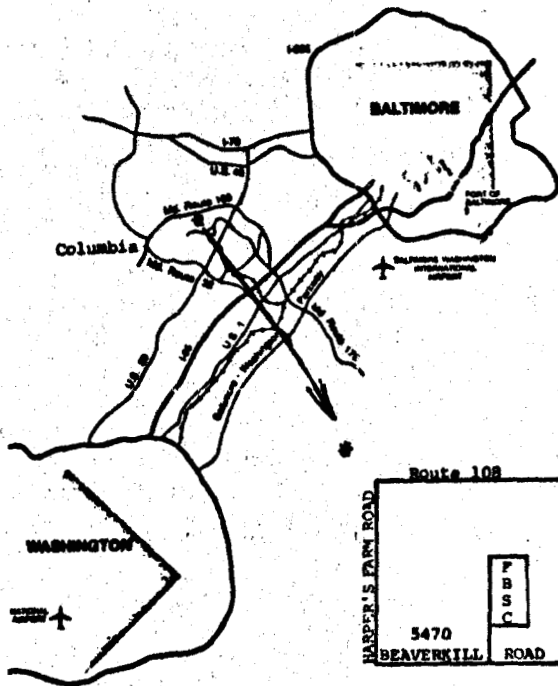
ANNUAL POTLUCK - SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1985 FEATURES FUN, SLIDES AND GOOD FOOD

Mark your new calendars so that you don't miss the annual bird club potluck held at the Florence Bain Senior Center, Joseph Square in Columbia.

This traditional event was held at the attractive Senior Center last year and those attending found it a successful location. The club furnishes the eating utensils, beverages, social hour snacks, rolls and condiments; members bring a salad, vegetable, main dish or dessert. IT IS NECESSARY TO RESERVE SPACE so adequate arrangements can be made and a balance of food choices planned. Call Monika Botsai, 465-5758, by Tuesday March 5th to let her know the number of people in your party and the type of food you will bring. Children, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. Can't cook? Don't have the time or the space? Monika can make adjustments.

Do you have some nature-related slides that you'd like to share? Bring the number you can show in a maximum of 15 minutes and be part of the program.

A number of door prizes have been donated including several bags of seed courtesy of the club seed sale, a record from the club bookstore: "Birds of the African Rain Forest," several original watercolors of wildflowers to name a few. (Donations are welcome.) Social hour is at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Be sure any dishes and the serving implements which should accompany them are marked with your name.



DIRECTIONS TO FLORENCE BAIN SENIOR CENTER 5470 Beaverkill Road, Columbia, Md. 21044 (301) 730-7697

FROM WASHINGTON BELTWAY 495, take U. S. 29 North to 108, turn left, travel 4 miles to Harpers Farm Rd., turn left, travel one mile to Beaverkill Rd., turn left, Center is second large building on left. Parking lot is in back of building. In addition to the Center lot, there is a large school lot and two more public lots available for parking.

IF COMING FROM WASHINGTON OR BALTIMORE BELTWAY AND USING I-95, U. S. 1, OR BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PARKWAY, take 175 west to 29 north to 108 and follow above directions.

FROM BALTIMORE BELTWAY 695, take I-70 or U. S. 40 west to Rt. 29 Columbia to 108, turn right and follow above directions.

FROM CENTRAL OR WESTERN MARYLAND, use I-70 to Rt. 29 Columbia to 108, turn right and follow above directions.

DEADLINE FOR MARCH-APRIL NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 15, 1985. SEND ITEMS TO 10617 GRAELOCH RD., LAUREL, MD 20707 OR CALL JO SOLEM, 725-5037.

The White-throated Sparrow is the sentinel of winter's forest floor. At the first sign of disturbance, it pops up to a bush top checking out the cause-- first one, then six, finally approaching a dozen or more birds, each announcing its presence with a lispig "seep" call note. It is the first bird in pre-dawn to reach the millet feeding station scattered on the ground beneath the conifer, and is the last bird to leave at late twilight. It stays within its own flock, often near the banks of small streams. It is frequently joined by juncos, an occasional Fox Sparrow, and very unpredictably, its cousin, the White-crowned Sparrow.

The White-throat is aptly named and one of the most beautiful of the "brown" sparrows. It is, of course, sparrow-sized with a dark bill and a brilliant blaze of yellow between its bill and eye (the lores), with a large white stripe through the eye topped by a black brow. The center of the crown is striped white. In the fall, juveniles often have tan coloration instead of white throughout the crown. The back is brown, striped with black. There are two thin, light wingbars. Its breast is very light grey. Its throat is visibly white, often framed with lines of black. The classic, quavering "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody" song may erupt, at least in part, at any time during the winter. By February, along with the Song Sparrow's melody, the plaintive, tremulous series of whistles of the White-throat is a portent of spring.

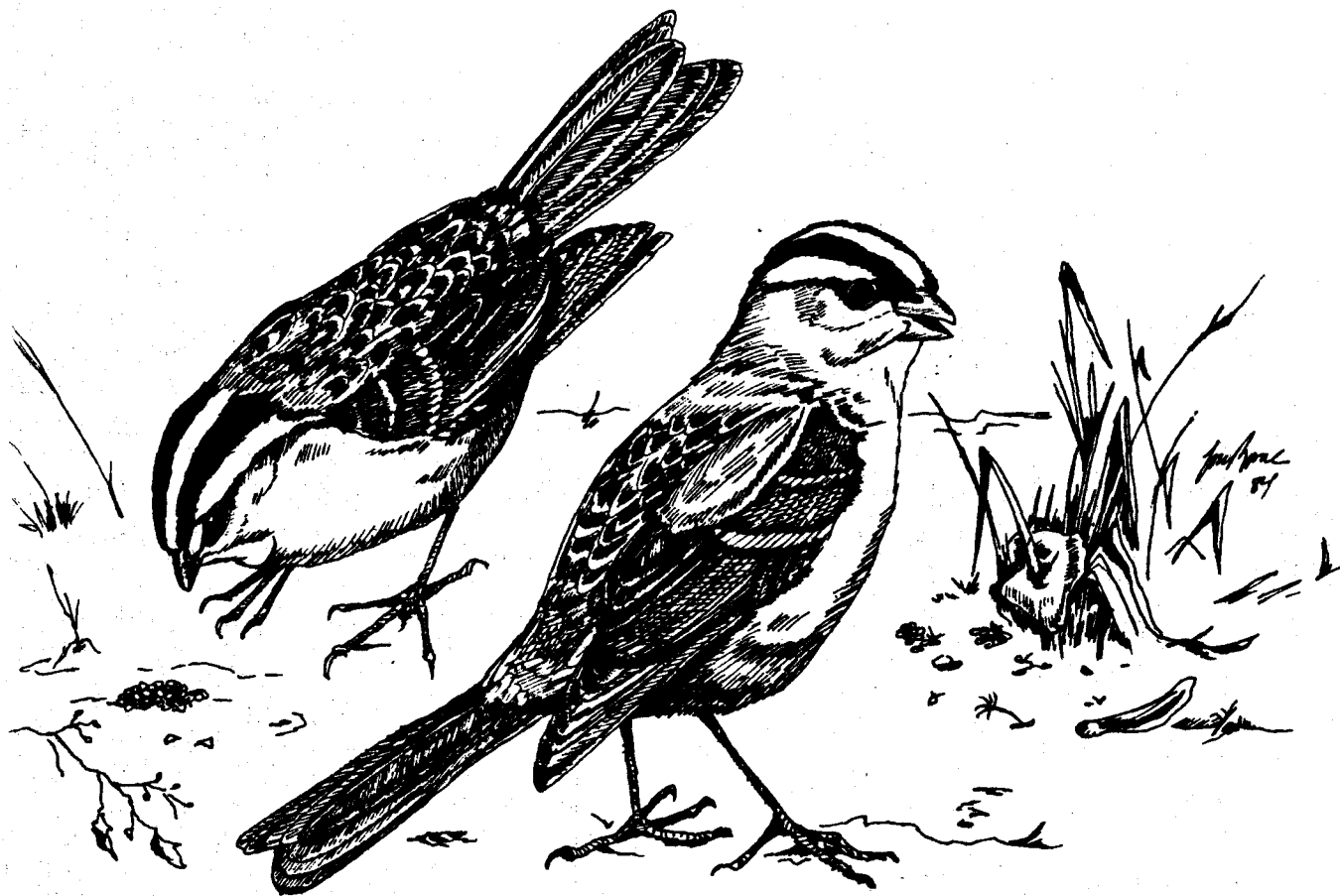
By contrast to the abundant numbers of the White-throat, the White-crowned Sparrow is a surprise when it is seen. It is somewhat more solitary and less inclined to inhabit deep woods. White-crowns are often seen in brushy meadows. A solid, husky "chink" is its call note. In this area it is rare for the full song to emerge, although clear whistled sounds, very similar to the White-throat, are often heard.

The White-crowned Sparrow is a slim, almost elegant looking bird characteristically appearing more erect than the White-throat. The black and white crown stripes are very distinctive with the black eyebrow extended beyond the eye to the bill. Look for the light pink (sometimes yellowish) bill; it is diagnostic. There is a whitish throat, but it is not clearly outlined. Otherwise the birds are similar in appearance. Look for how this bird erects its crown feathers when you "spish" it.

Both sparrows come readily to feeding stations, but prefer to scratch for food on the ground. The next time you see a flock of White-throats, check them over. By careful examination you may just see one with a pink bill which stands just a bit taller than the rest. A little more detective work should reveal a White-crowned Sparrow.

PAID PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE AT HEADQUARTERS OF NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

A part-time position involving typing, filing, and general office skills is available at NABS headquarters which is off Briggs Chaney Road south of Burtonsville in Montgomery County. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. three days a week (days are flexible) for a total of 12 hours a week. Send resume to Mary Janetatos, Executive Director NABS, 2 Countryside Court, Silver Spring, MD 20904, by January 15, 1985.



HURRAH FOR RECYCLERS!

Since the Columbia Recycling Center on Dobbin Road opened during the spring of 1984, a number of members and friends have made it a habit to recycle their aluminum and bimetal cans, newspapers, and glass. Among the last names which appeared on their records during 1984 were the following: Strikwerda, Fielding, Baldau, Chestem, Burgett, Botsai, Carleton, Randle, Solem, Clegg, Leumas, Hunt Edwards, Janetatos, and Ehlers plus five women and one man at various times who did not leave their names. There are others in the club who recycle for other groups or at other locations. We commend you all. Efforts to save natural resources and reduce landfills are important. Make a New Year's resolution to start saving and recycling!

If you visit the Columbia Center between 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat. during the cold weather, you will find the doors closed and you may wonder whether they are still in business. Knock on the smaller door and someone will respond. The center is one mile south of Rt. 175 on Dobbin Rd. on your left in the building just beyond #6625. The third large doorway on the left side of the building is the Center's. Be sure to tell them to apply whatever portion you wish to the bird club.

PURPLE FINCH MALE NEEDED: The specimen of this species in the club's collection was accidentally destroyed. If, during the winter season, you find a dead male please put it in a plastic bag wrapping it tightly. Freeze it and contact Jo Solem 725-5037.

C A L E N D A R

Cancelled but rescheduled
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.

Jan. 10 - "Medicinal Plants" - Eileen Clegg. Eileen will show and discuss some of
Thur. the familiar wildflowers of the area and describe some of the ways they have been used medicinally.

Feb. 14 - "Feathers and Petals" - Hal Wierenga. Hal will combine lovely bird and
Thur. flower slides in his program.

FIELD TRIPS - Field trips leave from Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flier building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) unless otherwise indicated. As in the past, carpooling is encouraged with riders sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear and layers of clothing. Trips do not always follow paths. No pets. Leaders may cancel the trip due to inclement weather. If in doubt, contact the leader whose phone number is listed.

Cancelled
Jan. 20 - WINTER HABITAT WALK, SAVAGE PARK. Co-sponsored with Howard Co. Rec & Parks.
Sun. Leaders: Bill Eckert and Chuck Dupree, 796-1086. Meet at the Grempler Parking lot at 12:30 p.m. or at the brick building in the park at 1:00 p.m. ½ day. The park is located on the Fall Line in the southeastern part of the county.

Feb. 17 - WINTER BIRDING IN COLUMBIA. Leader: Marty Chestem, 730-1527. Meet at
Sun. Grempler at 1:00 p.m. Probably at least one lake will be visited as well as other areas of the leader's choice.

NOTE: Linda Hary has found it necessary to resign from the position of Field Trip Chairman. Field trips provide a means for attracting new members, teaching new birders, and providing all members with the opportunity for seasonal hikes. If you are interested in serving the club in this position, please call President David Pardoe, 531-6452, evenings.

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m. at Jo Solem's, 10617 Graeloch Rd. (Hammond Village). Call
Jan. 17 - Thur. 725-5037 for directions.

THANKS TO CLIF GRANT! Clif has been building bluebird boxes for the club for more than a year. They are now found in many parts of the county (many in the central part of the county on Jon Boone's trail). They are beautifully crafted and are available through the club bookstore--winter is the time to put out new boxes. Clif has been generously donating the profits to the club.

Skimmer - Rosamond Munro

A young skimmer who spoke with a stutter
Had a mother who always would mutter,
"Do clean up your plate!"
Then he'd say, "Mom, I ate,
But I s-s-seem to have s-s-skimmed with a s-s-splutter."

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR URBAN WILDLIFE LISTS TWO PUBLICATIONS: The National Institute for Urban Wildlife (formerly the Urban Wildlife Research Center) announces the publication of two items: A Guide to Urban Wildlife Management by Daniel L. Leedy and Lowell W. Adams with illustrations by Bob Hines (41 pp. 3.00 plus 5% tax) and Urban Wetlands for Stormwater Control and Wildlife Enhancement by Lowell W. Adams and Louis E. Dove (15 pp. 2.00 plus 5% tax). Both items are postpaid and can be ordered from the Institute at 10921 Trotting Ridge Way, Columbia, MD 21044.

HOWARD BIRD CLUB WINTER SEED SALE PICKUP DATE IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1985

Seed Sale Coordinator Eileen Glegg has announced the date of the second and last Howard Bird Club seed sale for the 1984-85 year. Prices are listed on the blank below. Maryland state sales tax is included in the prices.

Pickup is at the First Presbyterian Church on Route 108, one-half mile east of Route 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 26, 1985. IF YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO PICK UP YOUR SEED AT THE ANNOUNCED TIME, YOU MUST CONTACT EILEEN IN ADVANCE AT 730-4362 TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. Because the club has no storage facilities, failure to pick up seed without prior notification of the chairwoman means your seed will be sold! You will receive a refund minus a \$5.00 handling fee. If, on the sale pickup date, you should desire additional seed or wish to purchase seed without having ordered, check at the church between 12:30-1:00 p.m. All unclaimed seed will be sold at that time on a first-come, first-served basis. Supplies will be limited.

Volunteers are needed to work at the desk inside or to load outside. Call Eileen (730-4362) or indicate your willingness to help in the appropriate space on the order blank below. Those individuals helping to load receive their choice of a 20 lb. bag of sunflower seed, a 25 lb. bag of millet, or a 5 lb. bag of thistle.

Tell your friends, co-workers, and neighbors about our sale. Eileen will be happy to mail seed sale announcements to names you supply. If you should happen to receive a duplicate mailing, please pass the extra along to a friend. This is the only notification bird club members will receive. Remember that seed supplies are used most quickly during the latter part of the winter. March is an especially difficult month for birds because natural food supplies are nearly exhausted and the weather often brings snow, sleet, and freezing rain which may cover what little food remains. Be sure you do not run out before mid-April!

We will again be located in the large fellowship hall on the lower level. Steve and Linda Harsy, bookstore managers, will have an ample supply of items at discounted prices. Some bird specimens will be on display.

➔ **ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID AND RECEIVED BY SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1985** ←

ORDER TODAY. BE SURE TO MARK THE JANUARY 26TH PICKUP DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WINTER SEED SALE



	No. of Bags	Total
50 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower.....@14.00	_____
20 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower.....@ 7.00	_____
50 lbs. White Proso Millet.....@ 9.00	_____
25 lbs. White Proso Millet.....@ 6.00	_____
50 lbs. Hulled Sunflower Chips.....@25.00	_____
5 lbs. Niger Thistle Seed.....@ 6.25	_____

Prices INCLUDE 5% Maryland state sales tax. Do not add. Total Order _____
Make checks payable to Howard County Chapter-MOS.

Mail to Howard Co. Bird Club Seed Sale
9094 Lambkin Lane
Columbia, MD 21045

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

YES! I would like to volunteer to help with the sale. Please contact me.
 This is my first order. Please add my name to your mailing list.

AUTUMN SEED SALE SETS NEW HIGH OF 32,770 POUNDS - Eileen Glegg

The autumn seed sale was the most successful yet with delivery of 7,000 pounds more than the previous high. We are grateful to the many members and friends who support these sales for they help to keep our membership fees stable, enable us to support certain conservation causes, and underwrite special projects.

The success of the sales depends on the generous help of numerous volunteers. People who load the seed, work at the desk, help in the bookstore or with mailing and planning are all essential. Our gratitude is great to the following volunteers who worked on November 10th: Jim Blanchard, Robert Bogdan, Rod Botsai, John & Eileen Glegg, Barbara Doarnberger, Jane Farrell, Barbara & Jim Gastinger, Steve & Linda Harsy, Anne & Ken Hart, Richard Kennedy, Betty Lages, Mike McClure, Marjorie Mountjoy, Colin Munro, Don Nahrgang, David & Richard Pardoe, Don Randle, Carolyn Ray, Marjorie Ricker, Julie Rizzello, Sue Schmugge, Zelda Simon, Bob & Jo Solem, Tom Strikwerda, Roy & Karen Trudel, Mark Wallace, Bob Wardell, and Don & Martha Waugh. The enthusiasm and spirit of the volunteers makes the day fun!

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IF YOU HAVE AN ENTHUSIASM FOR THE NATURAL WORLD, JOIN THE HOWARD BIRD CLUB. THERE IS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND ENJOY THROUGH PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, COUNTS, WORKSHOPS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS. WE WELCOME ALL--FROM BEGINNERS TO THE EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS. THERE ARE ALWAYS MEMBERS WILLING TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE. FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CONTACT TREASURER DON RANDLE, EVENINGS AT 531-6296.

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



WINTER SEED SALE, JANUARY 26, 1985

ORDER TODAY!