



Vol 13, No 6  
May-June 1985

# Howard

A Chapter of the  
Maryland Ornithological Society



1984 -- A NEAR-RECORD YEAR! - David Holmes

Howard Countians have tallied our birds for 6 years now, and this year we did it impressively. The total of 209 (+ 1 hybrid) was bested only by the 1982 total of 212. Our 6 year cumulative total is now 246 and that includes some truly fascinating birds. Curious, too, is the consistency of our numbers. The difference between high and low year totals (212 and 201) is only  $\pm 5\%$ . Even more interesting to me is the large proportion of our list which is absolutely regular; 181 species have been reported in all 6 years while Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Red-breasted Merganser, Pectoral Sandpiper, Barn and Great Horned Owls have been missed only once. This leaves 26 species from which to select the truly greats. Can you stand the suspense?

The birds seen this year for only the second time in Howard County were Red-necked Grebe and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, both of which were fairly cooperative. The one and only addition to our cumulative list was the group of Caspian Terns which stayed around the Columbia lakes for 8 days in April. Of note, also, was the single Caspian Tern which was spotted by Chan Robbins in August for the second county record. Again, our habitat limitations provide interesting listing. Caspian Terns are extremely common in migration all around the Bay and all through the mid-section of the U.S. in suitable spots.

Other highly irregular visitors included Least Bittern, White Ibis, White-winged Scoter, Virginia Rail, and the hybrid, Brewster's Warbler. "Truly greats?" None this year. Notice that all of this year's "good" species depend on water or wetlands. Do you suppose we could convince the Rec. and Park's people to build a marsh, or better yet, a scrape??

Could we break our record? Well--with luck! High water levels in Triadelphia Reservoir kept shorebirds to a minimum. The only other birds we missed which almost certainly passed through were Little Blue Heron, Yellow-bellied & Alder Flycatchers, and Merlin. Identifying the flycatchers in the field is a task beyond most of us and spotting a Merlin is a matter of purest chance. The sorry state of our gull list simply suggests that no one got around to checking the landfill. FOR SHAME!

Another unsolicited thought is that the year's lists as currently set up artificially produce inflated totals. Think a minute. When we get winter visitors such as the Black-capped Chickadees of 1983-84 or the Snow Bunting flock the year before that, they automatically get on 2 years' lists from a single visit. For irregularly irruptive species such as Pine Siskins or Evening Grosbeaks, we get 2 separate seasons to look for them so that no single year's list will reflect a winter as sparse as the one just past. A truer picture of seasonal birding would be given by having our year run from 1 July to 30 June. Or, perhaps we could have 2 6-month reporting periods which we could then combine to prove whatever we want. Dedicated list builders may chirp in alarm, but the projected list total loss is only  $\pm 4$  species and that hardly seems serious.

**FLASHBACK: 1983 LIST** - A Peregrine Falcon was seen and adequately reported by John Clegg in 1983 so that year's list now stands at 206.

**CREDITS:** For submitting their Howard County year's lists: Jon E. and Jon K. Boone, Marty Chestem, Jane Farrell, David Pardoe, Jo Solem, and Mark Wallace. People

Mrs. Edward Dietrich, Steve Harsy, David Holmes, Rosamond Munro, Jim Orgain, Chan Robbins, Bob Solem, and an anonymous May Counter. The quality of documentation of rare species is improving although we are not yet perfect. A job such as this list is made much easier when you have careful notes to submit. Thank you!

1985? Get busy! We've got a truly dull winter to overcome. See you on the May Count--and HAPPY ATLASING!! If you observed species during 1984 which are not shown on the following list, please contact me at 730-7083.

- |                                |                                    |                                   |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Common Loon                 | 54. Virginia Rail                  | 107. Blue Jay                     | 160. Cerulean Warbler        |
| 2. Pied-billed Grebe           | 55. American Coot                  | 108. American Crow                | 161. Black-and-white Warbler |
| 3. Horned Grebe                | 56. Black-bellied Plover           | 109. Fish Crow                    | 162. American Redstart       |
| 4. Red-necked Grebe            | 57. Semipalmated Plover            | 110. Black-capped Chickadee       | 163. Prothonotary Warbler    |
| 5. Double-crested Cormorant    | 58. Killdeer                       | 111. Carolina Chickadee           | 164. Worm-eating Warbler     |
| 6. American Bittern            | 59. Greater Yellowlegs             | 112. Tufted Titmouse              | 165. Ovenbird                |
| 7. Least Bittern               | 60. Lesser Yellowlegs              | 113. Red-breasted Nuthatch        | 166. Northern Waterthrush    |
| 8. Great Blue Heron            | 61. Solitary Sandpiper             | 114. White-breasted Nuthatch      | 167. Louisiana Waterthrush   |
| 9. Great Egret                 | 62. Spotted Sandpiper              | 115. Brown Creeper                | 168. Kentucky Warbler        |
| 10. Snowy Egret                | 63. Semipalmated Sandpiper         | 116. Carolina Wren                | 169. Connecticut Warbler     |
| 11. Cattle Egret               | 64. Least Sandpiper                | 117. House Wren                   | 170. Mourning Warbler        |
| 12. Green-backed Heron         | 65. Pectoral Sandpiper             | 118. Winter Wren                  | 171. Common Yellowthroat     |
| 13. Black-crowned Night-Heron  | 66. Common Snipe                   | 119. Golden-crowned Kinglet       | 172. Hooded Warbler          |
| 14. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | 67. American Woodcock              | 120. Ruby-crowned Kinglet         | 173. Wilson's Warbler        |
| 15. White Ibis                 | 68. Laughing Gull                  | 121. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher        | 174. Canada Warbler          |
| 16. Tundra Swan                | 69. Ring-billed Gull               | 122. Eastern Bluebird             | 175. Yellow-breasted Chat    |
| 17. Snow Goose                 | 70. Herring Gull                   | 123. Veery                        | 176. Summer Tanager          |
| 18. Canada Goose               | 71. Caspian Tern                   | 124. Gray-cheeked Thrush          | 177. Scarlet Tanager         |
| 19. Wood Duck                  | 72. Rock Dove                      | 125. Swainson's Thrush            | 178. Northern Cardinal       |
| 20. Green-winged Teal          | 73. Mourning Dove                  | 126. Hermit Thrush                | 179. Rose-breasted Grosbeak  |
| 21. American Black Duck        | 74. Black-billed Cuckoo            | 127. Wood Thrush                  | 180. Blue Grosbeak           |
| 22. Mallard                    | 75. Yellow-billed Cuckoo           | 128. American Robin               | 181. Indigo Bunting          |
| 23. Northern Pintail           | 76. Common Barn-Owl                | 129. Gray Catbird                 | 182. Rufous-sided Towhee     |
| 24. Blue-winged Teal           | 77. Eastern Screech-Owl            | 130. Northern Mockingbird         | 183. American Tree Sparrow   |
| 25. Northern Shoveler          | 78. Great Horned Owl               | 131. Brown Thrasher               | 184. Chipping Sparrow        |
| 26. Gadwall                    | 79. Barred Owl                     | 132. Water Pipit                  | 185. Field Sparrow           |
| 27. American Wigeon            | 80. Common Nighthawk               | 133. Cedar Waxwing                | 186. Vesper Sparrow          |
| 28. Canvasback                 | 81. Whip-poor-will                 | 134. European Starling            | 187. Savannah Sparrow        |
| 29. Redhead                    | 82. Chimney Swift                  | 135. White-eyed Vireo             | 188. Grasshopper Sparrow     |
| 30. Ring-necked Duck           | 83. Ruby-throated Hummingbird      | 136. Solitary Vireo               | 189. Fox Sparrow             |
| 31. Lesser Scaup               | 84. Belted Kingfisher              | 137. Yellow-throated Vireo        | 190. Song Sparrow            |
| 32. Oldsquaw                   | 85. Red-headed Woodpecker          | 138. Warbling Vireo               | 191. Lincoln's Sparrow       |
| 33. White-winged Scoter        | 86. Red-bellied Woodpecker         | 139. Philadelphia Vireo           | 192. Swamp Sparrow           |
| 34. Common Goldeneye           | 87. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker       | 140. Red-eyed Vireo               | 193. White-throated Sparrow  |
| 35. Rufflehead                 | 88. Downy Woodpecker               | 141. Blue-winged Warbler          | 194. White-crowned Sparrow   |
| 36. Hooded Merganser           | 89. Hairy Woodpecker               | 142. Golden-winged Warbler        | 195. Dark-eyed Junco         |
| 37. Common Merganser           | 90. Northern Flicker               | 143. Tennessee Warbler            | 196. Bobolink                |
| 38. Red-breasted Merganser     | 91. Pileated Woodpecker            | 144. Nashville Warbler            | 197. Red-winged Blackbird    |
| 39. Ruddy Duck                 | 92. Olive-sided Flycatcher         | 145. Northern Parula              | 198. Eastern Meadowlark      |
| 40. Black Vulture              | 93. Eastern Wood-Pewee             | 146. Yellow Warbler               | 199. Rusty Blackbird         |
| 41. Turkey Vulture             | 94. Acadian Flycatcher             | 147. Chestnut-sided Warbler       | 200. Common Grackle          |
| 42. Osprey                     | 95. Willow Flycatcher              | 148. Magnolia Warbler             | 201. Brown-headed Cowbird    |
| 43. Bald Eagle                 | 96. Least Flycatcher               | 149. Cape May Warbler             | 202. Orchard Oriole          |
| 44. Northern Harrier           | 97. Eastern Phoebe                 | 150. Black-throated Blue Warbler  | 203. Northern (Balt.) Oriole |
| 45. Sharp-shinned Hawk         | 98. Great Crested Flycatcher       | 151. Yellow-rumped Warbler        | 204. Purple Finch            |
| 46. Cooper's Hawk              | 99. Eastern Kingbird               | 152. Black-throated Green Warbler | 205. House Finch             |
| 47. Red-shouldered Hawk        | 100. Horned Lark                   | 153. Blackburnian Warbler         | 206. Pine Siskin             |
| 48. Broad-winged Hawk          | 101. Purple Martin                 | 154. Yellow-throated Warbler      | 207. American Goldfinch      |
| 49. Red-tailed Hawk            | 102. Tree Swallow                  | 155. Pine Warbler                 | 208. Evening Grosbeak        |
| 50. Rough-legged Hawk          | 103. Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 156. Prairie Warbler              | 209. House Sparrow           |
| 51. American Kestrel           | 104. Bank Swallow                  | 157. Palm Warbler                 |                              |
| 52. Ring-necked Pheasant       | 105. Cliff Swallow                 | 158. Bay-breasted Warbler         |                              |
| 53. Northern Bobwhite          | 106. Barn Swallow                  | 159. Blackpoll Warbler            | Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)  |

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#### LIBRARY SEMINAR: AN OUTSTANDING DAY - Anne Hart

This year's Birding Seminar was held at the Central Library in Columbia on March 2, 1985. The day was an outstanding success primarily due to excellent presentations by Jo Solem, Mike McClure, David Holmes, Dave Pardoe, and Marty Chestem. Steve and Linda Harsy had the bookstore set up throughout the day and Steve held informal discussions with those interested in learning about differences in bird identification guides. Jane Farrell ended the day with a well-attended bird walk to Lake Kittamaqundi to see Ring-necked and Canvasback ducks as well as other interesting birds. Sincere thanks go to those people as well as Eileen Glegg, Linda McDaniel, Helen Zeichner, Bob Solem, Jan & Don Kandle, Ken Hart, and any others whose name we inadvertently missed. We look forward to continuing enthusiasm and support for next year's seminar.

**MARYLAND HAS A WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STAMP TO BENEFIT ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES**

In 1984 the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill #738 establishing a special fund to support the 31 endangered and threatened species of wildlife in Maryland along with hundreds of nongame species. The law empowers the Dept. of Natural Resources to sell stamps to raise funds for this program. The first stamp is now available depicting the Northern (Balt.) Oriole from a painting donated by John W. Taylor. The stamp is available for \$5.00 and may be purchased from the club bookstore at any meeting or by mail. A limited edition print will be issued. This chapter's Martha Chestem (State MOS President) played an instrumental role in obtaining passage of this stamp. When it became obvious that a line for a check-off would not be added to the Maryland income tax form, she suggested to and worked closely with one of the bill's sponsors the idea for a stamp using Texas as a model. Our debt is great for her extensive background work and committee testimony. It is a conservation triumph in which the MOS played a major role. Give wildlife stamps as gifts--and be sure to buy at least one yourself! Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Steve Harsy, 16236 Compromise Ct., Mt. Airy, MD 21771. Checks to Howard County MOS Bookstore.

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**BIRD SPECIMENS USED IN NUMEROUS PRESENTATIONS FROM APRIL 20, 1984-APRIL 20, 1985**

The Howard MOS' collection of mounted specimens and slides have been in frequent use the past year. Presentations were made to the following groups: Centennial H.S. biology classes & ecology club, Sr. Citizens of W. Friendship, 1st grade at Longfellow E., Mid. Fatuxent Nurs. 4 yr. olds, Girl Scout Troop 1294 & Jr. 224, Brownie Troops 1283, 553 & 1260, SLE classes at Oakland Mills M., Trail Blazers at W. Friendship E., 4th grade at Woodbridge E., Metzler's Nursery seminar, Cross-Country Garden Club, Cub Scouts at Howard E., Kindergartens at Hammond E., Talbott Springs 4th grade, Owen Brown Mid. 7th gr. science, Sr. Citizens at Harmony Hall, Fieldstone Garden Club, Team 3 of Phelps Luck El., Lorien Nursing Home residents, Woodlawn Garden Club, Glenelg C.S. Sum. Sess., Friends' Meeting & S.S. Grp., Fed. Garden Cl. flower show in Frederick, How. Rec. & Parks, Intro. to Ornithology class, P.G. Co. Outdoor Environmental prog. at Camp Schmidt, Dist. II Fed. Garden Cl. display. Some specimens were displayed at most bird club meetings, at Recreation Expo, two seed sales, the Howard Co. Fair, the Library Workshop.

Individuals who borrowed specimens for presentations or for individual study included Jim Hill, Frank Griffin, Jane Geuder, Jo Solem, Eva Sunell, Eileen Clegg, Ralph Geuder, Barbara Uglow, Bill Eckert, Sarah Haviland and Harry Banks. A minimum of 4500 people benefited. If you would like to borrow specimens or slide shows for presentations or for personal study, contact Jo Solem 725-5037.

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**ANNUAL POTLUCK HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL - Monka Botsai**

The March 9th potluck was again held at the Florence Brain Sr. Center. Food was excellent and the slides entertaining (we'll anticipate the growth of the Harsy's "forest" at future get-together). There were plenty of door prizes (thanks to the generosity of the many who donated) and Don Randle's efforts as auctioneer were super in auctioning The Audubon Soc. Encyclopedia of N. Am. Birds kindly donated by Anne & Ken Hart. Lois Carleton was the high bidder with the money probably going to the State MOS' Sanctuary Fund for land purchase.

I would like to thank everybody who helped me with the many chores the evening entailed. I could never have done it without the generous help of so many people. Special thanks to Fran and Bernie Schoenberger for their help and to Jane Farrell & Jo Solem who forced the forsythia branches decorating the tables.

If anyone is interested in chairing the potluck next year, let me know, please. I will definitely be available for advice and help. Call 465-5758.

BY-LAWS DISCUSSION March 7, 1985

This documents the consensus which was reached in the March discussion of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws. These points will be used by the By-Laws Committee, along with points from future meetings, to amend the proposal.

ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1: Unchanged.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

Section 1: Unchanged.

Section 2: Unchanged.

ARTICLE III - Annual Meeting, Membership and Dues

Section 1: Unchanged.

Section 2: Revise Regular Membership to include the following categories: Singles, Couples (instead of Family) and Sustaining. This allows the club to charge dues for children.

Correct typographical error under Student Membership by inserting the word "persons" before the phrase "18 years of age...."

Section 3: Unchanged.

Section 4: Change "1 January" to "1 February."

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors

Section 1: Change the number of elected Directors to four (4) and the number of elected officers to four.

Add language which shows that the chapter's State Directors (separately elected officials) are also voting members of the chapter's Board of Directors.

Add language which makes the Standing Committee Chairpersons voting members of the chapter's Board of Directors. Specifically list the eight Standing Committees in the by-laws: Publicity, Bookstore, Seed Sale, Newsletter, Programs, Conservation, Field Trips, Membership (a new committee which takes the place of the proposed Second Vice-President's position).

Add language which assures that the Board of Directors is composed of a majority of members who were elected by the full membership (rather than appointed by the President or the Board members). Total Board membership would equal 16 plus the State Directors (currently 3).

Section 2: Change the three year rotating terms of office to two year rotating terms. Adjust other language as needed.

The remaining sections of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws will be discussed at a special meeting of the membership Thursday, May 16 at 8:00 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary.

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1985-1986 OFFICERS NAMED

The Nominating Committee at the April meeting proposed the following individuals for chapter offices for 1985-86: President: John Clegg; Vice-President: Linda Harsy; Secretary: Maud Banks; Treasurer: Don Randle; Trustees: Jane Farrell, Eva Sunell, and Paul Zucker. The slate was elected at that meeting. Thanks to the Nominating Committee which consisted of Carole Cleland, Rod Botsai, and Chuck Dupree for a fine job.

CALENDAR

**PROGRAMS** - 7:45 p.m. Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia, MD. Meeting is canceled if schools close for emergencies or weather.

May 9 - "Birds of Australia" - Robert Trevor. Birds of Paradise to penguins, from the Thur. Great Barrier Reef through mountains and floodplains.

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

May 4 - **MAY COUNT**: Call Paul Zucker, compiler 681-9005; Jan Randle, tally 531-6296.  
May 11 - **PATUXENT DISCOVERY DAY** - Howard Co. Rec & Parks with MOS-sponsored activities.  
Sat. 8:30 a.m. **WILDFLOWER/BIRD WALK** in Savage Park. Leaders: Bob & Jo Solem.



About 2-3 hours. Leave Grempler 8:00 a.m. or meet at brick building in park at 8:30 a.m. **WOODCOCK WALK** - 7:30 p.m. Leader: Al Geis. Meet at the small parking lot on east side of Trotter Rd. .8 mile so. of Rt. 108. Long pants, dark shirts advised; no children under 10. This day involves activities the length of the river and is sponsored by the Dept. of State Planning. In Howard Co. activities will include an archaeology walk & a Save Our Streams-spon. walk led by MOS-member Sally Ann Cooper. For info call Bill Eckert 465-6882. If you wish to register (no fee) for Howard Co. activities, call Rec & Parks 992-2483. (The a.m. walk is a substitute for the habitat walk.)

May 11 - **NASSAWANGO CREEK CANOE TRIP**. Leader: Dave Pardoe, 531-6452. 10:00 a.m. to Sat. mid-afternoon. If you plan to go, you must contact Dave for directions, canoe rental options, and campsites if you wish to spend the weekend.

May 13 - **PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS BEGINS**. Contact Zelda Simon, 730-8328, for info.

May 16 - **BY-LAWS MEETING**. 8:00 p.m. **LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**. A CONTINUATION OF THUR. THE DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION.

June 7-9 - **STATE MOS CONVENTION AT SALISBURY STATE COLLEGE ON THE EASTERN SHORE**. Fri-Sun. Members received brochure in the mail. For additional info, call Marty Chestem, 730-1527. Fun, friends, and BIRDS for beginners & experienced.

June 15 - **INTERNATIONAL ATLAS DAY** - Birding and a Tally Potluck/Swim Party. See article in this newsletter. For info, contact Chuck Dupree, 796-1086.

**BOARD MEETING** - The annual joint Board meeting including both outgoing and incoming  
Thur. Board members will be held May 23rd at 7:30 p.m. Call 730-4362, directions.  
May 23 Meet at Glegg's: 9094 Lambskin Lane (in Long Reach), Columbia, MD.

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**WILLIAM W. WARNER TO APPEAR IN HOWARD COUNTY ON APRIL 28TH**

Bay lovers will appreciate the April 28th HoCoPolitSo speaker William W. Warner. Warner, who won a Pulitzer Prize for Beautiful Swimmers: Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay, will appear at the Central Library in Columbia on Sunday, April 28th from 4-6 p.m. speaking on "Fact and Fancy in Non-fiction Writing." Admission is free. Mention of the library brings to mind the fact that Martha Waugh faithfully filled the feeder there during the winter months. Many thanks!

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**RECREATION EXPO AND THE HOWARD COUNTY FAIR NEED VOLUNTEERS. REC. EXPO JUNE 8TH. CALL DAVE PARDOE 531-6452. FAIR VOLUNTEERS FOR AUGUST FAIR WEEK, CALL JOHN OLEGG 730-4362.**

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Mark Wallace added White-fronted Goose to the Howard County bird list when he spotted 6 birds with a flock of Canadas at a pond on Lime Kiln Rd. on Feb. 16, 17, 19, 1985. Marty Chestem was the only other birder we know who saw them; she had a glimpse.

JANE GEUDER WINS A HELEN MILLER SCHOLARSHIP TO AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMP

Howard Chapter MOS member, Jane Geuder, a biology teacher at Centennial High School was recently awarded one of the State MOS scholarships given annually to attend one of the Audubon summer ecology camps. Jane has not yet decided which of the two week camps she will choose, but readers can look forward to a description of her experiences in a future newsletter. Congratulations, Jane! (Howard Chapter's only previous winner was Bill Eckert, Outdoors Coordinator for How. Co. Rec & Parks.)

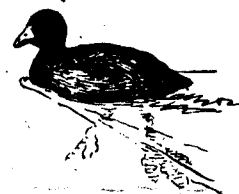
If you work with young people in some capacity either as a part of your job or as a volunteer, you may be eligible to win a scholarship. For more information, contact President Dave Pardoe 531-6452 (evenings).

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RARE BIRD ALERT CALLERS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL - Bea Newkirk

Most recently the Rare Bird Alert in Howard County let individuals know that two Cattle Egrets had appeared and a flock of more than 100 Water Pipits had been seen. Harvey Mudd from the Montgomery Chapter MOS found both species. Individuals who have helped make the calls this year are Jean Adamson, Barbara Doarnberger, Marjorie Mountjoy, Jeanne Nicholson, Elise Seay, Linda Stirrat, Joan Varga, and Peggy Willson. In late April or early May there is always the possibility of watching a hawk or owl banding by Woody Martin of the Patuxent Research Center. Let me know if you are interested in being contacted to watch such an event (which takes place about 5:30-6:30 p.m.) Call me at 498-1902.

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PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF HOWARD COUNTY

Records for the checklist on the following page were compiled from data appearing in Maryland Birdlife, Birds of MD - Stewart & Robbins, Triadelphia Christmas Counts (applicable portions), Howard MOS newsletters, the Howard Breeding Bird Atlas (1972-75), and personal records provided by R. Blom, M. Chestem, T. Franklin, A. Geis, I. Hampe, D. Holmes, V. Krishnamoorthy, R. Munro, D. Rauth, R. Ringler, C.S. Robbins, J. Ruos, S. Simon, J. Solem, M. Wallace, and P. Zucker. Numerous single records were checked with individuals by phone or mail. Chandler Robbins was especially helpful; our thanks also to Danny Bystrak for his assistance.

This preliminary listing is intended as a reference and a base from which improvements, refinements, and a more accurate final list can be produced. The State Rare Birds Committee is considering a number of our records; their decisions may alter items shown on this list. Comments are welcome. Telephone numbers of compilers are as follows: Jo Solem 725-5037; David Holmes 730-7083; Marty Chestem 730-1527.

Because Howard County bird observations prior to about 1970 were made by a relatively few individuals who could not possibly cover the county completely, a large proportion of the total list consists of hypothetical or accidental species. Continued observations countywide by an increasing number of experienced observers over the next few years should remove a number of species from those categories.

Any species observed which is listed as either H (Hypothetical) or AV (Accidental Visitor) should be supported by carefully written documentation, sketches, or photos if possible. Hypothetical species can be removed from that category with a specimen or a recognizable photograph.

Species which can be confused with similar species or those seen out of season should be accompanied by notes. If at all possible in the case of the more uncommon species, call other birders so corroboration can be obtained and, if the bird(s) is cooperative, the sighting may be shared via the Rare Bird Alert (Bea Newkirk 498-1902).

PRELIMINARY CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF HOWARD COUNTY 1956-1984

O - Evidence of breeding,  
no active nest found  
● - Eggs or young in nest  
or adult on nest  
PR - Permanent Resident  
WV - Winter Visitor  
M - Migrant  
SR - Summer Resident  
CH - Casual Migrant  
SpV - Spring Visitor

V - Visitor  
IPR - Introduced Permanent Resident  
AM - Autumn Migrant  
WR - Winter Resident  
H - Hypothetical - fewer than 3 records without a  
photograph or specimen.  
AV - Accidental Visitor - 1-5 modern records with  
photo or specimen or 3-5 records without.  
( ) - Number of years recorded in Howard County in  
the last 29 years.

( 4 ) AV - Red-throated Loon  
 (26) M, WV - Common Loon  
 (23) M, WV - Pied-billed Grebe  
 (18) M - Horned Grebe  
 ( 2 ) AV - Red-necked Grebe  
 ( 1 ) H - Western Grebe  
 ( 9 ) M - Double-crested Cormorant  
 ( 6 ) M - American Bittern  
 ( 3 ) AV - Least Bittern  
 ● (29) SR, WV - Great Blue Heron  
 O (15) M, SV - Great Egret  
 ( 6 ) M, SV - Snowy Egret  
 ( 9 ) M, SV - Little Blue Heron  
 (11) M - Cattle Egret  
 ● (29) SR - Green-backed Heron  
 ( 8 ) M - Black-crowned Night-Heron  
 ( 2 ) AV - Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
 ( 3 ) AV - White Ibis  
 ( 3 ) AV - Glossy Ibis  
 (25) M, WV - Tundra Swan  
 ● (11) IPR - Mute Swan  
 ( 1 ) H - Greater White-fronted Goose  
 (10) M - Snow Goose  
 ● (28) PR, M - Canada Goose  
 ● (28) SR, WV, M - Wood Duck  
 (11) M - Green-winged Teal  
 ● (23) SV, M - American Black Duck  
 ● (24) PR, M - Mallard  
 (13) M - Northern Pintail  
 (18) M - Blue-winged Teal  
 ( 7 ) M, WV - Northern Shoveler  
 ● (13) SV, M - Gadwall  
 (21) M, WV - American Wigeon  
 (20) M, WV - Canvasback  
 (14) M - Redhead  
 (23) M, WV - Ring-necked Duck  
 ( 3 ) AV - Greater Scaup  
 (19) M, WV - Lesser Scaup  
 (12) M - Oldsquaw  
 ( 1 ) H - Surf Scoter  
 ( 2 ) H - White-winged Scoter  
 (14) M, WV - Common Goldeneye  
 (22) M, WV - Bufflehead  
 O (22) M, WV - Hooded Merganser  
 (24) M, WV - Common Merganser  
 ( 9 ) M - Red-breasted Merganser  
 (15) M, WV - Ruddy Duck  
 ● (24) PR - Black Vulture  
 ● (28) PR - Turkey Vulture  
 (27) M - Osprey  
 (13) M, V - Bald Eagle  
 (21) M - Northern Harrier  
 (25) WR, SV, M - Sharp-shinned Hawk  
 O (21) WV, SV, M - Cooper's Hawk  
 ( 6 ) M, WV - Northern Goshawk  
 ● (27) PR - Red-shouldered Hawk  
 ● (29) SR, M - Broad-winged Hawk  
 ● (25) PR - Red-tailed Hawk  
 ( 6 ) WV - Rough-legged Hawk  
 ( 2 ) H - Golden Eagle  
 ● (28) PR, WR - American Kestrel  
 (13) M - Merlin  
 ( 7 ) M, V - Peregrine Falcon  
 ● (24) IPR - Ring-necked Pheasant  
 ( 3 ) AV - Ruffed Grouse (3 in 55 years)  
 ( 1 ) H - Wild Turkey  
 ● (29) PR - Northern Bobwhite  
 ( 1 ) H - King Rail

O ( 3 ) AV - Virginia Rail  
 ( 3 ) AV - Sora  
 ● ( 6 ) SV, M - Common Moorhen  
 (17) M, WV - American Coot  
 ( 5 ) M - Black-bellied Plover (5 in 33 yrs)  
 ( 1 ) H - Wilson's Plover  
 (10) M - Semipalmated Plover  
 ● (29) PR, M - Killdeer  
 (22) M - Greater Yellowlegs  
 (19) M - Lesser Yellowlegs  
 (28) M - Solitary Sandpiper  
 O (29) M, SV - Spotted Sandpiper  
 ( 6 ) M - Upland Sandpiper  
 ( 2 ) H - Sanderling  
 (13) M - Semipalmated Sandpiper  
 (16) M - Least Sandpiper  
 ( 1 ) AV - Baird's Sandpiper  
 (16) M - Pectoral Sandpiper  
 ( 5 ) AV - Dunlin  
 ( 1 ) H - Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
 ( 5 ) AV - Short-billed Dowitcher  
 ( 2 ) H - Long-billed Dowitcher (2 in 33 yrs)  
 (20) M, WV - Common Snipe  
 ● (29) SR, WV - American Woodcock  
 ( 2 ) H - Wilson's Phalarope (2 in 37 yrs)  
 ( 1 ) AV - Red Phalarope  
 ( 5 ) AV - Laughing Gull  
 ( 3 ) AV - Bonaparte's Gull  
 (25) WR, M - Ring-billed Gull  
 (15) WV, CM - Herring Gull  
 ( 1 ) AV - Thayer's Gull  
 ( 2 ) AV - Iceland Gull  
 ( 2 ) AV - Lesser Black-backed Gull  
 ( 2 ) AV - Glaucous Gull  
 ( 3 ) AV - Great Black-backed Gull  
 ( 1 ) AV - Caspian Tern  
 ( 1 ) H - Common Tern  
 ( 2 ) H - Forster's Tern  
 ( 2 ) H - Black Tern  
 ● (17) IPR - Rock Dove  
 ● (29) PR - Mourning Dove  
 (29) M - Black-billed Cuckoo  
 ● (29) SR - Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
 ● (12) PR - Common Barn-Owl  
 O (27) PR - Eastern Screech-Owl  
 ● (16) PR - Great Horned Owl  
 ( 3 ) AV - Snowy Owl (3 in 38 yrs)  
 ● (29) PR - Barred Owl  
 (21) H - Long-eared Owl  
 ( 3 ) AV - Short-eared Owl  
 ( 3 ) AV - Northern Saw-whet Owl  
 (29) M - Common Nighthawk  
 ( 6 ) SpV - Chuck-will's-widow  
 O (29) SR, M - Whip-poor-will  
 ● (29) SR - Chimney Swift  
 ● (29) SR - Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 ● (29) SR, WV - Belted Kingfisher  
 O (22) M, SV - Red-headed Woodpecker  
 ● (29) PR - Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 (28) M, WV - Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
 ● (29) PR - Downy Woodpecker  
 ● (29) PR - Hairy Woodpecker  
 ● (29) PR, M - Northern Flicker  
 ● (23) PR - Pileated Woodpecker  
 (10) M - Olive-sided Flycatcher  
 ● (29) SR - Eastern Wood-Pewee  
 ( 6 ) M - Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
 ● (29) SR - Acadian Flycatcher  
 ( 4 ) AV - Alder Flycatcher (4 in 31 yrs)

--- ● (17) SR - Willow Flycatcher  
 --- ○ (22) SV, M - Least Flycatcher  
 --- ● (29) SR, WV - Eastern Phoebe  
 --- ● (29) SR - Great Crested Flycatcher  
 --- ( 1) H - Western Kingbird  
 --- ● (29) SR - Eastern Kingbird  
 --- ● (28) PR - Horned Lark  
 --- ● (28) SR - Purple Martin  
 --- ● (29) SR, M - Tree Swallow  
 --- ● (29) SR - Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
 --- ○ (21) SV, M - Bank Swallow  
 --- ● (28) SR - Cliff Swallow  
 --- ● (29) SR - Barn Swallow  
 --- ● (29) PR, M - Blue Jay  
 --- ● (29) PR - American Crow  
 --- ○ (29) PR - Fish Crow  
 --- ( 3) AV - Common Raven  
 --- (16) WV - Black-capped Chickadee  
 --- ● (29) PR - Carolina Chickadee  
 --- ● (29) PR - Tufted Titmouse  
 --- (29) WV, M - Red-breasted Nuthatch  
 --- ● (29) PR - White-breasted Nuthatch  
 --- (29) WR - Brown Creeper  
 --- ● (29) PR - Carolina Wren  
 --- ● ( 3) AV - Bewick's Wren (1 nesting record in  
 1949; 3 sightings in 35 years)  
 --- ● (29) SR - House Wren  
 --- (28) M, WV - Winter Wren  
 --- ( 2) H - Sedge Wren (2 in 31 yrs)  
 --- ( 2) H - Marsh Wren  
 --- (29) M, WR - Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 --- (29) M, WV - Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 --- ● (29) SR - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
 --- ● (29) PR - Eastern Bluebird  
 --- ○ (28) SR, M - Veery  
 --- (24) M - Gray-cheeked Thrush  
 --- (27) M - Swainson's Thrush  
 --- (23) M, WV - Hermit Thrush  
 --- ● (29) SR - Wood Thrush  
 --- ● (29) SR, WV - American Robin  
 --- ( 1) AV - Varied Thrush  
 --- ● (29) SR, WV - Gray Catbird  
 --- ● (29) PR - Northern Mockingbird  
 --- ● (29) SR, WV - Brown Thrasher  
 --- (20) M, WV - Water Pipit  
 --- ● (29) SV, WR, M - Cedar Waxwing  
 --- (10) WV, M - Loggerhead Shrike  
 --- ● (29) IPR - European Starling  
 --- ● (29) SR - White-eyed Vireo  
 --- (25) M - Solitary Vireo  
 --- ○ (29) SR - Yellow-throated Vireo  
 --- ● (22) SR - Warbling Vireo  
 --- ( 8) M - Philadelphia Vireo  
 --- ● (29) SR - Red-eyed Vireo  
 --- ○ (23) SR, M - Blue-winged Warbler  
 --- (17) M - Golden-winged Warbler  
 --- (26) M - Tennessee Warbler  
 --- ( 3) AV - Orange-crowned Warbler(3 in 31)  
 --- (27) M - Nashville Warbler  
 --- ● (29) SR - Northern Parula  
 --- ● (29) SR - Yellow Warbler  
 --- (29) M - Cheatnut-sided Warbler  
 --- (28) M - Magnolia Warbler  
 --- (27) M - Cape May Warbler  
 --- (29) M - Black-throated Blue Warbler  
 --- (29) M, WV - Yellow-rumped Warbler  
 --- (28) M - Black-throated Green Warbler  
 --- (29) M - Blackburnian Warbler  
 --- ○ (12) SR - Yellow-throated Warbler  
 --- ○ (19) M, SV - Pine Warbler  
 --- ● (29) SR - Prairie Warbler  
 --- (24) M - Palm Warbler  
 --- (25) M - Bay-breasted Warbler  
 --- (29) M - Blackpoll Warbler  
 --- ● (25) SR - Cerulean Warbler  
 --- ○ (29) SR, M - Black-and-white Warbler  
 --- ● (29) SR, M - American Redstart  
 --- (11) M - Prothonotary Warbler  
 --- ● (28) SR - Worm-eating Warbler  
 --- ● (29) SR - Ovenbird  
 --- (27) M - Northern Waterthrush  
 --- ● (29) SR - Louisiana Waterthrush  
 --- ● (29) SR - Kentucky Warbler  
 --- ( 8) AM - Connecticut Warbler  
 --- (16) M - Mourning Warbler

--- ● (29) SR, M - Common Yellowthroat  
 --- ● (28) SR - Hooded Warbler  
 --- (23) M - Wilson's Warbler  
 --- (28) M - Canada Warbler  
 --- ● (29) SR - Yellow-breasted Chat  
 --- (12) M - Summer Tanager  
 --- ● (29) SR - Scarlet Tanager  
 --- ● (29) PR - Northern Cardinal  
 --- (28) M - Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
 --- ● (23) SR - Blue Grosbeak  
 --- ● (29) SR - Indigo Bunting  
 --- ○ (11) SV, WV, M - Dickcissel  
 --- ● (29) SR, WV, M - Rufous-sided Towhee  
 --- ( 1) H - Bachman's Sparrow  
 --- (26) WR - American Tree Sparrow  
 --- ● (29) SR - Chipping Sparrow  
 --- ● (29) PR - Field Sparrow  
 --- ○ (27) SV, M - Vesper Sparrow  
 --- (27) WV, M - Savannah Sparrow  
 --- ○ (29) SR - Grasshopper Sparrow  
 --- ( 6) SV, M - Henslow's Sparrow  
 --- (29) WV, M - Fox Sparrow  
 --- ● (29) PR, M - Song Sparrow  
 --- (15) M - Lincoln's Sparrow  
 --- (28) WR, M - Swamp Sparrow  
 --- (29) WR - White-throated Sparrow  
 --- (28) WR - White-crowned Sparrow  
 --- ( 2) AV - Harris' Sparrow  
 --- (29) WR - Dark-eyed Junco  
 --- ( 5) AV - Snow Bunting  
 --- (29) M - Bobolink  
 --- ● (29) PR, M - Red-winged Blackbird  
 --- ● (29) PR - Eastern Meadowlark  
 --- ( 1) AV - Yellow-headed Blackbird  
 --- (23) WV, M - Rusty Blackbird  
 --- ( 2) H - Brewer's Blackbird  
 --- ● (29) PR, M - Common Grackle  
 --- ● (29) PR, M - Brown-headed Cowbird  
 --- ● (29) SR - Orchard Oriole  
 --- ● (29) SR, WV - Northern (Balt.) Oriole  
 --- (29) WR, M - Purple Finch  
 --- ● (19) PR - House Finch  
 --- ( 6) WV - Red Crossbill (6 in 31 yrs)  
 --- ( 3) AV - White-winged Crossbill  
 --- ( 4) AV - Common Redpoll  
 --- (20) WV - Pine Siskin  
 --- ● (29) PR - American Goldfinch  
 --- (27) WV - Evening Grosbeak  
 --- ● (29) IPR - House Sparrow

There is a historical record of a Swallow-tailed Kite specimen from Ellicott City, 1879.

--- Brewster's Warbler (hybrid) has been seen 3 times in 2 different years.

Escaped and Introduced species which have not proved self-sustaining without continuing introduction:

Chukar  
 Ringed Turtle dove  
 Monk Parakeet

Compiled by J. Solen, D. Holmes & M. Chester, 1985.



**A REDHEAD AND A CANVASBACK - Jon E. Boone, ill. by the author**

Because of the aggregations of large ponds and lakes throughout Howard County, migrating ducks often spend the winter here. Two of these, the Redhead and the Canvasback, both bay-oriented diving ducks, have strong physical similarities, confounding attempts at identification. There are distinctive differences, but first the similarities.

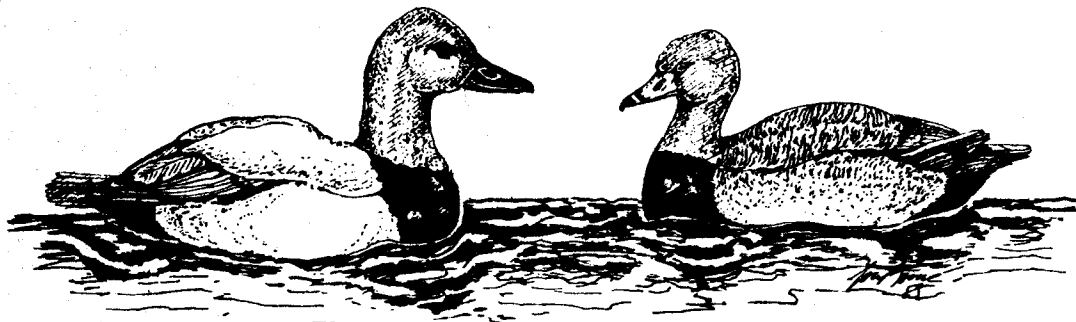
These diving birds often frequent deeper water than those ducks which are surface feeders known as the "dabblers" such as Mallards. The males have dark, blackish breasts and rumps, along with reddish, chestnut-hued heads and necks. Females are brownish but retain the characteristic species shape. Usually, the head and bill configurations are very useful features. They are relatively large, heavy ducks and, as a consequence, have a great deal of trouble getting airborne. It is not uncommon to see them running along the surface of the water for a hundred feet flapping their wings furiously to gain altitude. Both birds have rapid, almost oscillating wingbeats. Finally, neither species nests in our area, although they sometimes winter here in small to medium-sized flocks until the ice cover forces them to seek open water elsewhere. They are seen far out in the lakes and reservoirs in areas of deep water.

But how to tell the difference?

\* Canvasback ducks are typically the larger of the two species with a long, sloping forehead. They have a large, black bill which slopes along at the same angle as the forehead. At close range, notice the reddish eye. The male Canvasback has a very light grey, almost white back and sides. The female is brownish about her head and neck, while the rest of her body is distinctly light grey-brown. The male has a relatively long, reddish neck, and the facial area is fairly dark in contrast with the chestnut along the cheek.

\* Redheads have a rounder head and shorter neck and bill. There is less black in the face. Their bills are bluish or light grey with a black tip. Many have a white ring just above the black tip. The Redhead's back is smoky grey and its upper sides retain the dusky hue. The eyes of the male are golden. The females are dark brown throughout, particularly on the neck and back.

\* In flight the two are very hard to distinguish. The Redhead has a light grey streak at the base of its secondary feathers--a mark the Canvasback does not have. But the Canvasback probably has more white showing on the breast, stomach, and underwings than any other North American duck. The Redhead's coloration in flight is more sooty. Both ducks are speedy flyers and migrate in irregular V's or in lines, often low to the water. In this area they make few sounds. They are gregarious but wary of people. It is not uncommon for either species to accumulate a dozen or more bits of lead shot in their gizzards.



Send or phone Spring Arrival and Departure dates to Jo Solem, 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707; 725-5037; by June 15. They are compiled for MD Birdlife.

JUNE 15TH NAMED INTERNATIONAL ATLAS DAY - MARK THE DAY BY BIRDING - Chuck Dupree

The Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas will cooperate in marking June 15th as International Atlas Day. Most species are at the peak of their breeding cycle at this time so it should be an excellent day to be in the field. If you enjoy May Count and wish that you had another opportunity like that during the breeding season, then set aside the third Saturday in June and join us in the field.

Each county has been asked to target five species. Here in Howard County we are going to search for birds in several different habitats. High on the list is our County Bird, the American Goldfinch. We will also search for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler, and White-breasted Nuthatch. (For those who want an extra challenge, add Cedar Waxwing and Warbling Vireo.) At the end of the morning (approximately 7:00 a.m. till noon) we hope to have covered as many as possible of the 144 quarter-blocks for which we are responsible. Because Howard County is one of the few counties in the state which is being atlased by quarter-blocks, we need the cooperation of as many people as possible.

In the afternoon from about 3:00 p.m. till dark there will be a potluck and pool party at my house to compare results. If you are new to birding or to the idea of atlasing, I will be glad to assign you to one of our experienced observers. Give me a call evenings at 796-1086 or see me at the May meeting. Let me know the area of the county to which you would like to be assigned and, if you are able to attend the tally, what you will bring.

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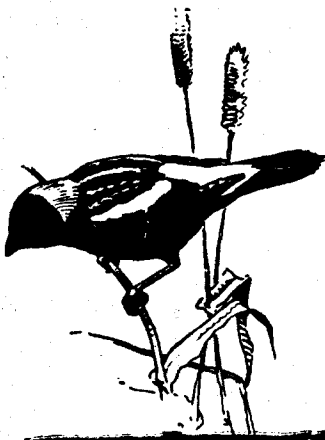
WILDFLOWERS RETURN--ALONG WITH A CHECKLIST - Bob Solem

Now available at the Howard Club Bookstore is the Preliminary Checklist of Howard County Wildflowers which is a listing by common name of all flowering plants located thus far in the county. Special thanks to Chris Ludwig and Burton Alexander for their major contributions to this project.

As part of the regional celebration of Patuxent Day, in cooperation with Howard County Rec and Parks, the Howard Chapter will sponsor a wildflower and birding trip to Savage Park on Saturday, May 11. See the Calendar for meeting time.

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



CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF HOWARD COUNTY  
MARYLAND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STAMP