



Vol 15, No 3
Jan-Feb 1987

Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



BALTIMORE PEREGRINE FALCON UPDATE FOR 1986 - JOHN BARBER

Ed. Note: John Barber presented "The Scarlett Story: Peregrine Falcons Return" to the Chapter at its December 1985 meeting. At that meeting we presented him with a \$250.00 check for the Peregrine Fund which was matched by USF&G. In September 1986 he provided us with the following update.

Baltimore's pair of Peregrine Falcons continued nesting on the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Insurance Company building at the Inner Harbor. Blythe and Beauregard courted throughout March by performing dramatic flights over the USF&G building and by presenting food to each other. In late March, Blythe laid three eggs on the nest ledge on the south side of the building. After the usual 30 day incubation period, two of the three eggs hatched giving the parents a male and female eyas (baby falcon).

Cornell University's The Peregrine Fund, which has been overseeing the recovery of the Peregrine Falcons in North America, moved its headquarters from Cornell to the new World Center for the Study of Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho. Included in the move were the dozens of pairs of captive breeding Peregrines that have produced young falcons for introduction throughout the falcons' historical nesting habitat. Immediately after the move, tragedy struck the captive flock causing most eggs laid by the flock to fail to hatch and young that did hatch died soon after. The tragedy was traced to a contamination of the feed given to the quail fed to the captive falcons. This graphic demonstration of the effects of pollutants in a food chain meant that The Peregrine Fund had no young birds to foster into unsuccessful nests.

The Peregrine Fund asked for, and received, the baby male falcon from the USF&G nest in May. This eyas was flown to an urban nest site in Albany, NY, from which it fledged successfully in July. The female eyas from the building fledged in July also after growing at a tremendous rate, easily surpassing the adults in height and weight. (For some time after the male eyas was removed, the adults continued to bring in enough food for two eyases, at first caching the extra food around the building and gradually bringing in less.)

Cities around the United States now have nesting Peregrine Falcons. The Peregrine Fund is slowly reducing the number of birds it releases as the population levels climb. Within five years, the Fund will probably cease all Peregrine release efforts and turn its attention to other endangered species of falcons. Baltimore has already contributed 27 young falcons to the species' recovery--and the USF&G site should be productive for generations of falcons to come.

THE HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER WILL BE THE HOST FOR THE STATE MOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEBRUARY 7TH IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CENTRAL LIBRARY. DONATIONS OF DOUGHNUTS, BAKED GOODS, CHEESE, CRACKERS, FRUIT, ETC., ARE WELCOME AND APPRECIATED. CALL MARTY CHESTEM AT 730-1527. *John Barber*

DEADLINE FOR MARCH-APRIL NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 15. Newsletter items should be mailed or phoned to Jo Solem, 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707; Tel. 725-5037.

BIRDING "HOT SPOTS" IN HOWARD COUNTY - CHRIS LUDWIG - JACKSON POND

Jackson Pond (formerly Hittman Pond) has been long ignored by county birders; however, the Williamsons and the Krishnamoorthys have birded the area for more than 10 years and have found it surprisingly productive.

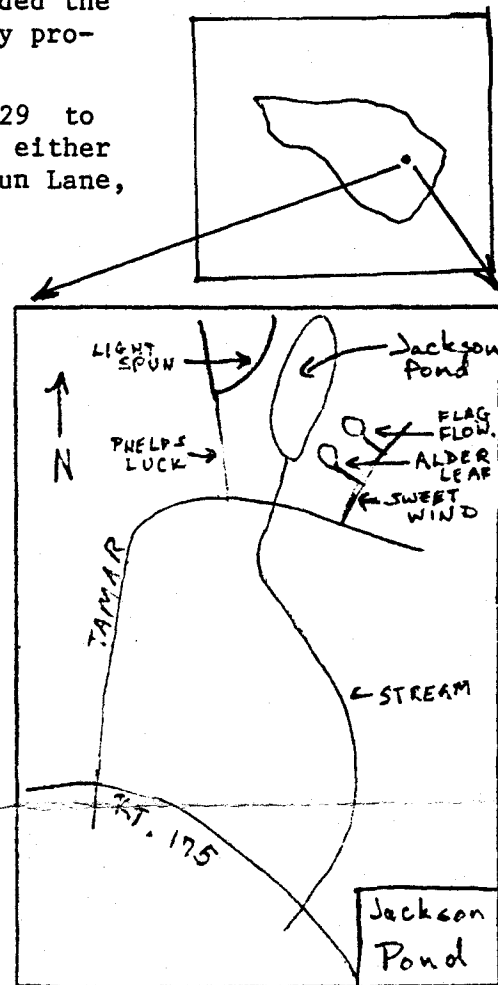
To reach Jackson Pond, take Route 175 east of Route 29 to Tamar Drive. Head north (left) on Tamar and turn left on either Phelps Luck Drive or Sweetwind Place. Park along Lightspun Lane, Alderleaf Place or Flag Flower Place.

First, bird the pond. In general, the same birds found on the other lakes in Columbia can be found here, though generally in lower numbers. Some unusual species which have been seen include Common Egret (July 1986), Common Loon (1983), Tundra Swan (1981), a possible Bonaparte's Gull (March 1977), Caspian Tern (April 1984), and the best bird, a White Ibis (Aug/Sept 1980). Other waterbirds which have been spotted include Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Hooded Merganser, Red-head, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Canada Goose and, of course, Mallards. Purple Martins are commonly found flying over the pond during the late spring and summer months.

Next, walk the path that follows the stream from Jackson Pond south to Route 175. This path is particularly good for warblers in the springtime and almost all of the possible species have been recorded. Look for Scarlet Tanagers, Belted Kingfishers, and resident Barred Owls that are often seen. In spring, also look for wildflowers including Skunk Cabbage, Spring Beauty, Yellow Trout Lily, Jack-in-the-pulpit, False Solomon's Seal, and Perfoliate Bellwort. The path is about .5 mile from the pond to Route 175.

We recommend a quick stop at Jackson Pond when birding some of Columbia's lakes at any season and in the spring when looking for a brief walk for warblers and wildflowers.

Ca. hy Williamson and Marcia Krishnamoorthy (with the help of Kris' extensive records) provided the material for this feature. If you are acquainted with an area rich in wildflowers, birds, ferns, etc., that you would like to share with other members, contact me evenings at 796-8373 or send material to 7992 Millstream Court, Elkridge, MD 21227.



CAVITY NESTER BOXES TO BE PLACED AT ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL - BILL ECKERT

The "Bluebirds in the Parks" program, of which the Howard County Bird Club is one of the sponsors, is adding a trail at the Alpha Ridge landfill on Marriottsville Road. About 8-10 bluebird boxes and an American Kestrel box will be placed on this property. Although there is much excellent bluebird habitat available and we anticipate expanding the number of boxes eventually, we place a few boxes and, after some successful nesting, add more as they appear to be needed. We do not place boxes unless we have sufficient monitors. Since there is a turnover of monitors, there is always opportunity to volunteer. If you would like to participate in the program in one of our parks, contact me at 992-2464 (days).



CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia, MD. Meeting is cancelled if schools are closed for any reason. Hospitality session at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 p.m. Club bookstore opens at 7:30 p.m.

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 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 due to inclement weather. If you have questions, contact the leader(s) or Field Trip Chairman Roy Trudel 992-7105, evenings.

JAN 8 - MOVIE/POPCORN NIGHT. "Twilight of an Estuary" is the featured film highlighting the Chesapeake Bay. Jane Geuder.

JAN 24 - SEED SALE PICKUP - See enclosed flyer.

JAN 25 - WINTER HABITAT WALK, CENTENNIAL PARK. Second of our seasonal visits to this Sunday park. Leaders: Chuck Dupree 796-1086 (evenings) & Bill Eckert 992-2464 (days). Co-spons. w/How. Co. Rec. & Pks. Paved path makes for relatively easy walking though there are some hills. Meet at the Old Annapolis Road entrance 1:00 p.m.

JAN 31 - WINTER COUNT. The second annual count covering all of Howard County during Saturday "true" winter. Rules are identical to May Count. Both field observers and feeder watchers are needed for whatever portion of the day you can give. Compilers: David Holmes & Jo Solem. Call Jo Solem 725-5037 if you can help. Tally/meal in evening at the Farrell's. Call Jane evenings 596-2630 to reserve space.

FEB 12 - "BRITISH BIRDS" - Joe Van Auker. Joe lived in England and birded extensively Thursday in the British Isles.

FEB 14 - EASTERN SHORE TRIP. Leader: Carol McCullough, 1-643-2465 & Roy Trudel 952-7105. Remington Farms, Eastern Neck NW Refuge & other areas in the vicinity. Joint trip with Kent County Chapter. Meet at Grempler at 7:30 a.m. for all day trip. Bring lunch, beverages and warm clothes. We will carpool.

FEB 28 - HOWARD COUNTY FEEDER TRIP. Leader: Eva Sunell 995-0029. Feeder trips have Saturday been a club tradition. Great way for beginners to learn local birds and for dedicated feeder watchers to pick up ideas from others. Fox Sparrows and various species of blackbirds should be on the move by this time as well as boreal visitors. Meet at Grempler at 1:00 p.m.

MARCH 7 - ANNUAL POTLUCK AT FLORENCE BAIN SENIOR CENTER. Call Monika 465-5758.

BOARD MEETING - Jan. 29, Thursday - Don & Jan Randle's, 6424 Lochridge Rd., 531-6296.

NOTE TO RECYCLERS: Although many of our members are attempting to be environmentally careful of our natural resources and landfill areas by recycling aluminum cans, glass bottles, and newsprint, it is relatively difficult to recycle in Howard County. If you persevere, you are to be commended. The Athelas Institute on Oakhall Lane (first building on left) has requested that individuals recycle on Saturday mornings only which in itself is a problem for some people. Complaints were heard that items did not appear to be weighed and may not have been credited to our account. A recent letter from the group assures us that receipts will be issued and materials will be weighed as they are brought in. They ask us to advise them if there are any further problems. They close by noting, "We have been pleased to have such dedicated recyclers as the Bird Club members working with us and we certainly want the relationship to continue in a happy fashion."

DID YOU KNOW that for the second year in a row the Howard County Chapter fielded more observers for May Count than any other chapter in the state? This helped tally the third highest total of individual birds: 11,774. Save May 2, 1987 for 1987's count.

ANNUAL POTLUCK, SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1987 - MARK YOUR NEW CALENDAR

The annual potluck will be held at the Florence Bain Senior Center on Saturday, March 7. Singles, couples and families are encouraged to share an evening of good food and nature slides with fellow members. Children, accompanied by an adult, are welcome.

The Chapter furnishes eating utensils, beverages, social hour snacks, rolls and condiments; members attending bring a salad, vegetable, main dish or dessert. YOU MUST RESERVE SPACE so adequate arrangements can be made and a balance of food choices planned. Call Monika Botsai 465-5758 or Grazina McClure 531-2780 no later than Tuesday, March 3 to let either of them know the number of people in your party along with the type of food you will bring. Can't cook? Adjustments can be made.

Food is only part of the fun. If you are a photographer, bring along some of your favorite nature slides (maximum one dozen) and be part of the program. Mike McClure will take care of this portion of the evening. There is, usually, an item to auction, some door prizes (including bird seed, items from the Club Bookstore and the Nature Nook). The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Be sure any serving dishes and the accompanying serving implements are marked with your name. Monika and Grazina welcome help setting up so let them know if you'd like to come early to give them a hand.

The Florence Bain Senior Center is located at 5470 Beaverkill Road which is off Harper's Farm Road, one block east of Cedar Lane behind the Joseph Square shopping center on the west side of Columbia. There is ample parking.



NEWS ITEMS:

- The Howard County Chapter MOS was responsible for mailing the last two issues of Maryland Birdlife. On short notice, in December, the following individuals provided much needed help: Eva & Augie Sunell, Elise Seay, Marjorie Mountjoy, Bob Solem, Don Waugh, Jane & Jack Farrell, Jim Orgain, Tom Strikwerda, Marty Chestem, Eileen Clegg, Don & Jan Randle. The mailing of the next two issues is also this chapter's responsibility. If you would like to assist, contact John Clegg 730-4362 or Jane Farrell 596-2630.
- Send a list of the bird species you observed during 1986 to David Holmes, 5643-A Harper's Farm Road, Columbia, MD 21044 by January 15, 1987.
- Cliff Grant, who produces finely crafted bluebird boxes, has recently made a sizable donation to the Chapter which represents boxes he sold. He continues to provide boxes at no charge to Bill Eckert for the trail in the parks. Many thanks, Cliff!
- The Gulf service station in Oakland Mills reportedly accepts used motor oil for recycling. If you know of other stations that accept oil, let Conservation Chairman Bob Solem know, 725-5037.
- Our nest collection is not being used adequately because it lacks sturdy, transparent display boxes. Before purchasing same, the Board thought it wise to check for donations from members. Boxes of varying sizes are needed (not shoe boxes) that can be used for individual nests. Food saver boxes with clear sides (no designs, wavy panels or translucent materials) are ideal. Deli containers can be used, if necessary. Removable opaque tops are O.K. If you have containers that you wish to donate, bring them to a meeting or contact Jo Solem, 725-5037.

DOLLY SODS SCENIC AREA - JERRY G. PERSALL

Ah! Wilderness!

Probably one of the best pieces of conservation legislation to emerge in the mid-sixties was The Wilderness Act, passed by Congress in 1964. It mandated guidelines for the Forest Service to manage designated wilderness acres so that they are "an enduring resource", one that remains "unimpaired for future use and enjoyment." The whole concept of "national" forests was originally established to protect watersheds and supply timber, and this vital purpose of conserving natural resources still remains foremost in the management objectives of many sites throughout the country. In addition, however, these forest lands are now in various stages of successional growth and are rich in wildlife, forage and recreation opportunities.

One such area lies to the west of the Baltimore-Washington metroplex in neighboring West Virginia. The Monongahela National Forest stretches over 830,000 acres of the Allegheny Mountain Range, and the extensive network of back country roads offers thrilling views of some of the loftiest mountains in the East. The Dolly Sods Wilderness, contained within the boundaries of the Monongahela, is a 10,000 acre wilderness located in Tucker and Randolph counties. It is a mountainous land, rising to the Allegheny Plateau, with elevations ranging from 2600 to 4000

feet. The area is named for the hardy German pioneer Dahle (Dolly) family who "hacked" and cleared some of the land in the last century for livestock grazing. (Sods is an old term for pasture or grassland.)

There is a separate and distinct Dolly Sods Scenic Area located to the east and north of the Wilderness. Forest Service Road 75 runs through this windswept land and offers a scenic drive with overlooks, the Northern Loop Interpretive Trail, and Red Creek Campground.

The remote Dolly Sods Scenic Area, high on Allegheny Mountain, is noted for fall migratory birds. It is mentioned in The Audubon Society Field Guide to the Natural Places of the Mid-Atlantic States: Inland that "under certain conditions in fall, flights of migrating hawks pass by Bear Rocks, sometimes several hundred in a single day. Winds from the east strike the Allegheny front and rise, providing updrafts on which the hawks ride. When there are no winds, they may ride on thermals, rising currents of warm air. The winds at Dolly Sods are generally out of the west, however, often bringing flights of southbound warblers by Bear Rocks. Since these winds cross the plateau without creating updrafts, the hawks continue their migrations along other ridges. During the fall, many people are involved in netting and banding migrating birds here, in a widespread effort to track and understand their migration patterns."

The Dolly Sods is desolate, uninhabited and fascinating. It is a naturalists' delight! Its high elevation and constant exposure to the raw elements result in a climate similar to Canada. Allan E. Morgan, Jr., writing in the September, 1986 issue of Backpacker magazine calls it "a bit of Canada gone astray." Spring arrives late, fall early. The Audubon guide notes that "...windswept expanses of heath barrens, interrupted by rock ridges and patches of trees; cover thousands of acres. Sphagnum glades, with their northern plants, and unexplained grass balds add to its diversity. Although rugged in appearance, this tundralike area is actually quite fragile." Some of the vestigial Spruce-Healock forest remains. Constant winds and the added weight of winter icing have caused many Spruce trees to have limbs remaining on only one side of their trunks, practically a trademark of the Sods.

It was to this living example of managed forest conservation that our party of eleven backpackers went to weekend in early October. The Sods is not a place to visit without prior planning and its distance from Howard County, 181 miles from Glenelg, makes it unsuitable for a spur-of-the-moment day trip. The drive to West Virginia takes you through Harpers Ferry, Winchester and on to just west of Petersburg. The portion of the Monongahela containing the Dolly Sods lies south of the westernmost border of Maryland. Workday obligations

split our party into two groups: the Friday afternoon advance group and the Saturday morning arrival group. Both groups made the drive in 4-5 hours.

Trails, suitable for hiking, are maintained in and near the Wilderness and Scenic Area. Most are marked with blue paint on trees. Trail signing in Dolly Sods Wilderness consists only of simple blaze markings at trail junctions. No distances or directions are provided. USGS topographic maps are recommended. The 7.5 minute Blackbird Knob, Blackwater Falls, Laneville and Hopeville quads are required to cover the entire area. Our trip was easily covered using only the Hopeville quad. It is a rather remarkable feat of map-reading to have a second group of friends rendezvous with the advance group the next morning at the 3.4 mile mark on a trail in the wilderness.

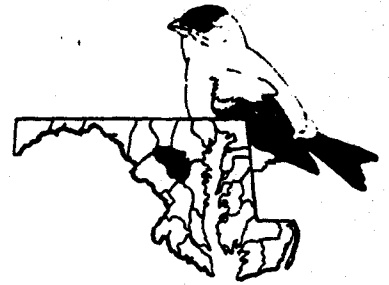
The Rohrbaugh Plains Trail loop hike takes you through a small section of high-elevation heath barren habitat as well as some typical upland forests. Total distance is 7.2 miles, easily walked at a strolling pace over a period of 6-7 hours spread fairly evenly over two weekend days. It is described in detail in Fifty Hikes in West Virginia by Ann and Jie McGraw. (Backcountry Publications, Woodstock, Vermont) Total elevation change along the entire circuit is only 640 feet, a fact much appreciated by experienced and novice members of our group alike.

(To be continued)



Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WINTER SEED SALE PICKUP IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1987

NO PRICE INCREASE - STOCK UP NOW!

Co-ordinator Eileen Clegg has announced the date of the last seed sale of the 1986-1987 feeding season. Maryland state sales tax is INCLUDED in the prices below.

Pickup is at the First Presbyterian Church on Rt. 108, 1/4 mile east of Rt. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. IF YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO PICK UP YOUR SEED AT THAT 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 coordinator means your seed will be sold! You will receive a refund, minus a \$5.00 handling fee. If, on the pickup date, you desire additional seed or wish to purchase seed without having ordered it, check at the church between 1:00-1:30 p.m. All unclaimed seed will be sold at that time on a first-come, first-served basis. Supplies will be limited.

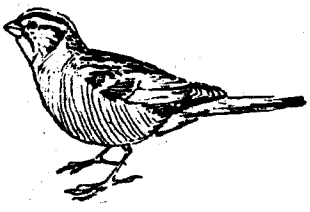
Volunteers are essential to the success of our sales and are needed inside at the desk and in the bookstore and to load outside. (Donations of baked goods for the workers are always appreciated.) It's fun to help and those who help load receive their choice of a 25 lb. bag of either sunflower seed or millet, a 4 lb. bag of thistle, or an 8 lb. bag of peanut hearts.

We will be located in the large fellowship hall on the lower level. Fran Schoenberger and Eva Sunell will have the Club Bookstore stocked with an ample supply of items at discounted prices. The Nature Nook will have feeders and suet cakes available. Some bird specimens will be on display.

➔ ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID AND RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1987 ➔

ORDER TODAY. BE SURE TO MARK THE JANUARY 24TH PICKUP ON YOUR CALENDAR

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WINTER SEED SALE



	No. of Bags	Total
50 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower.....	_____	..\$12.00
25 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower.....	_____	..\$ 6.25
50 lbs. White Proso Millet.....	_____	..\$ 8.50
25 lbs. White Proso Millet.....	_____	..\$ 4.50
50 lbs. Sunflower Chips (Hulled)....	_____	..\$23.50
25 lbs. Sunflower Chips (Hulled)....	_____	..\$11.75
4 lbs. Niger Thistle Seed.....	_____	..\$ 4.00
8 lbs. Peanut Hearts.....	_____	..\$ 4.00

Prices INCLUDE 5% Maryland state sales tax. Do NOT add it. Total Order _____

Make checks payable to Howard County Chapter-MOS.

NAME _____

Mail to Howard Co, Bird Club Seed Sale
6007 Flywheel Court. ADDRESS _____
Columbia, MD 21044

YES! I would like to volunteer. Please call me. TELEPHONE _____

This is my first order. Please add my name to your mailing list.

CLUB BOOKSTORE CAN ORDER SHIRTS WITH CHAPTER LOGO

Bookstore Manager Fran Schoenberger, 465-1981, is able to order high quality shirts imprinted with the Chapter's logo. The following styles come in royal blue: Long-sleeved T-Shirt \$9.15; Sweatshirt \$13.25; Short-sleeved T-Shirt \$7.20. **NEWLY AVAILABLE!** HOODED PULLOVER WITH POUCH \$17.00 without zipper, \$18.35 with zipper. They are available with logo in white, red, navy, and royal blue. Children's sizes can also be special ordered. Call Fran at the above number to order or see her at a meeting or seed sale.

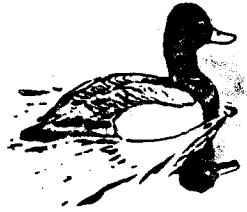
1987 IS FINAL YEAR FOR STATEWIDE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT - Chuck Dupree

We thank the people who have helped with this project over the last four years, but in this last year of field work we are anxious to have all interested birders provide a little extra help. Especially needed are records for nocturnal birds such as owls, Whip-poor-wills and woodcock. Area coordinators are Jon E. Boone, Marty Chestem, Chuck Dupree, Jo Solem and Mark Wallace. If you want to volunteer (help in western part of county most needed) call Jane Farrell 596-2630 evenings. She is the co-coordinator for the county and welcomes volunteers for even a few hours.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM COOPERATORS HAVE SUCCESSFUL YEAR - Bob Solem

For a number of years the Howard County Bird Club has been cooperating with the Maryland Natural Heritage Program in an attempt to locate and catalogue rare plants (and, therefore, habitats). This is part of the Chapter project of recording the blooming dates of flowering plants. Chris Ludwig, Burton Alexander and I recorded at least 11 new plant species of which two were B-2's, two B-3's, and two C's which are categories of rarity as defined by the state. Dozens of blooming date extensions were recorded with the additional help of Grazina McClure and Rosamond Munro. Unfortunately, the new interchange at Routes 29 & 108 wiped out the only known Howard County populations of three species (two of which were orchids but not state endangered). Most of the new species were located in a small area in the eastern part of the county though in late autumn Chris Ludwig identified birch trees at Green Bridge on Triadelphia Reservoir as Gray Birch (Betula populifolia) --perhaps the only extant population in the state. Even in a county as small as ours, searches of specialized habitats can produce interesting discoveries. Burton and Rosamond are two individuals who have added to our knowledge by working a relatively limited area extensively over several years. If you would like to help, give me a call 725-5037.

Howard County Bird Club
10617 Graeloach Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707



WINTER SEED SALE INFO
JANUARY 24
ANNUAL POTLUCK
MARCH 7

of year 1987...
Maryland...
Howard County Bird Club...
Laurel, Maryland 20707