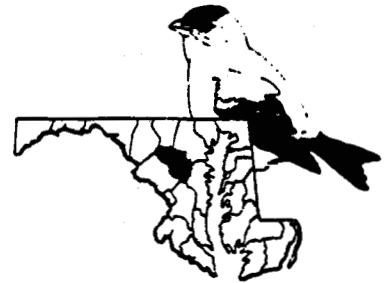




Vol 16, No 5  
May-June 1988

# Howard

A Chapter of the  
Maryland Ornithological Society



## OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1988-1989

At the April annual meeting, the following individuals were elected to lead the Howard County Bird Club for the coming year: President Tom Strikwerda; Vice President Nick Short; Treasurer Eva Sunell; Secretary Marci Krishnamoorthy; State Directors: Jane Farrell, Ralph Geuder, Paul Zucker; Chapter Director: Michele Wright (Maud Banks will be completing the second year of her term).

The Nominating Committee consisted of Maud Banks, ch., Martha Waugh and Marci Krishnamoorthy.

## HOWARD CHAPTER ATLAS DONATION WILL EXCEED \$1700 - AND IT WILL BE MATCHED!

The Bird Club seed sale order blank in January described a matching grant challenge by an anonymous MOS donor to help raise funds for publication of the five year statewide Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The Howard County Bird Club board voted to donate \$500 and match up to another \$500 of individual contributions. To date, chapter members and friends enumerated below have donated \$770.00! The double matching aspect of this program will make all donations much more valuable. Support for this project is a tribute to widespread understanding of the importance of the Atlas Project in helping the state make land use decisions. The Howard Chapter has been a leader in field coverage; now we are also setting a high standard for support of the publication of the material. You have until June 1st to make a donation if it has slipped your mind. Mail your check made out to Howard County Chapter-MOS and mark it Atlas Challenge to Treasurer Eva Sunell, 6730 Carlinda Ave., Columbia, MD 21046.

As of March 31st, the following individuals were listed as donors:

Elise Seay  
Marjorie Mountjoy  
Martha Chestem  
Eva Sunell  
Isobil Schum  
Helen Thompson  
Steve Clarkson  
William Showalter  
Mary Crosby  
Georgia Morris  
Nancy Magnusson  
Paul & Marlee Lindon  
Dr. R.C. & B.W. Rock

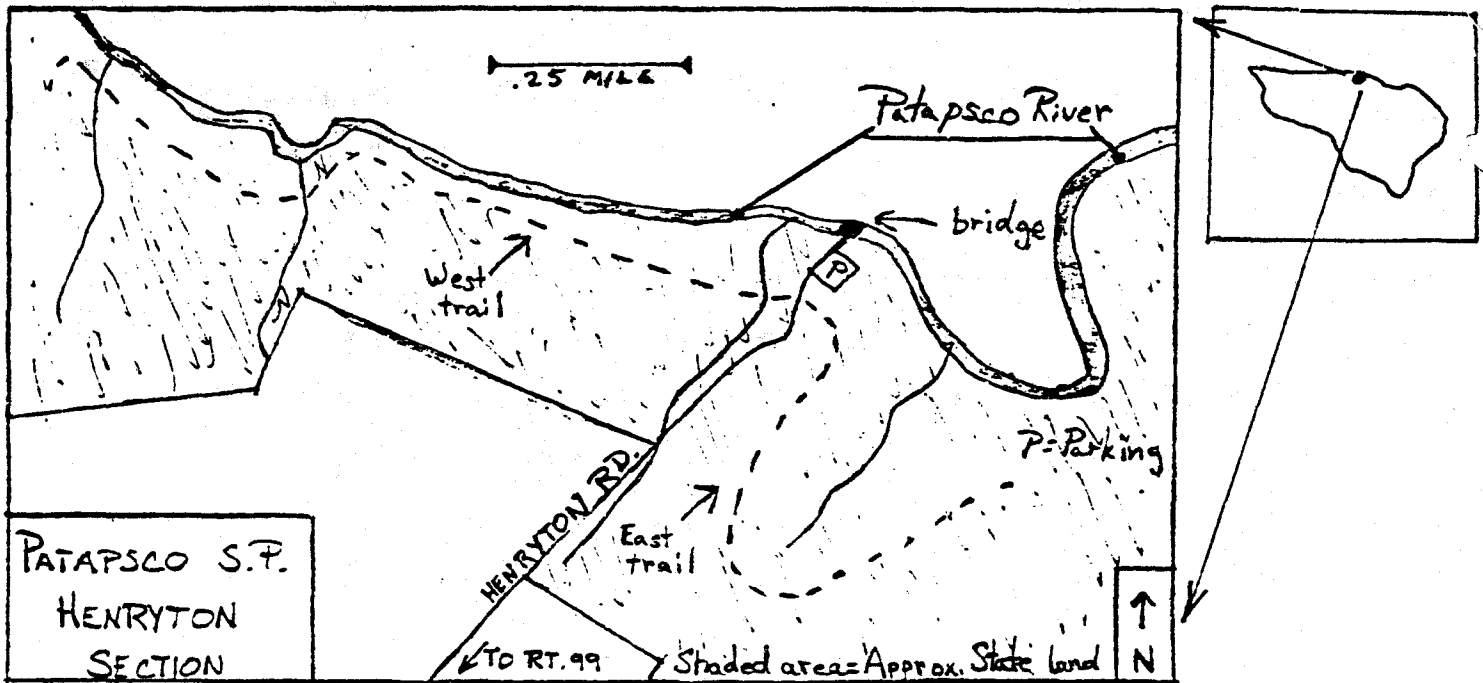
Michele M. Wright  
Rosamond & G.C. Munro  
Elsa Fawcett  
J. Shearer  
Dale & Nancy Huting  
Rosamond Ridgley  
Susan Buswell  
J. Habert  
Florence Saito  
Lynn & Linda Holley  
Joanne Moroney  
Thomas Horwath

Chet & Margie Kupiec  
Robert & Ann Coren  
Bob & Joanne Solen  
Margo Garner  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Herbert  
John & Martha Blaisdell  
Lois C. Carleton  
Frances J. Ehlers  
William & Louise Dove  
Paul Zucker  
Mr. & Mrs. John McKittenick  
Thomas Strikwerda

John C. Williamson  
Dorothy DeCrette  
Cleo & Gus Karafas  
John & Eileen Clegg  
F. Schilling  
Jim Blanchard  
D.D. Dowling  
Jean E. Adamaou  
L. Barnes  
Jack & Jane Farrell  
Bill Keimig  
Charles Swift

## WORKSHOP HELPERS AT MILLER BRANCH LIBRARY ON MARCH 12TH

The workshop emphasizing beginning birding and cavity nesting species held on Saturday, March 12, was organized by President Martha Chestem. She particularly thanks Chuck Dupree for his two slide presentations of North American Bluebird Society programs and David Holmes for his consistently popular and helpful identification presentation. In addition to the Club Bookstore staffed by Sue Hudson, Marjorie Mountjoy and Elise Seay, there were displays including one by Michele Wright showing taxidermy techniques, one by Mark Wallace and Joe Sues featuring their traps, and one by Cliff Grant featuring his carefully crafted cavity nester boxes.



The Henryton section of Patapsco Valley State Park has mature deciduous woodlands and offers local naturalists a chance to observe many of our county's rarer birds and wildflowers. Simply turn off Route 99 at Henryton Road and drive north to the dilapidated bridge over the Patapsco River. Parking is on the right near the bridge.

Birding during the warmer seasons can provide many rewards. Spring and fall bring waves of neotropical migrants, many of which favor mature woodlands and bottomlands. Generally, the peak periods run from 25 April until 25 May and from 20 August until 15 October. In the spring, the best dates are in the middle of the period. Neotropical migrants are simply defined as species which migrate from tropical regions during our winter months to temperate and northern regions to breed in summer. Many wood warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, and flycatchers found in Maryland fit this category.

In summer, many of the neotropical migrants stop here to breed. Cerulean Warblers are found high in the Sycamores singing a song quite similar to that of the Northern Parula which is also found at Henryton. Listen in the deeper woodlands for Worm-eating Warblers which sound much like a fast, high-pitched Chipping Sparrow's trill. Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Veery, and four vireo species should be sought here in late spring and summer. One of the few confirmed turkey records in the county is from this area.

Wildflowers are another highlight. In spring, look for all of our common woodland species plus two less common plants: Dog Violet (*Viola conspersa*) and Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*). In summer, look for many of our nettle species (*Urticaceae*). Don't touch! A nettle's sting can be quite painful. Rarer summer species include Poke or Tall Milkweed (*Asclepias exaltata*), Moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*), Water Speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*), and Showy Skullcap (*Scutellaria serrata*).

Henryton offers a rich diversity of woodland species and a quiet location in which to contemplate the beauty of one of our finest woodlands. Bob and Jo Solem helped greatly in providing information for this feature.

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September-October newsletter items due by July 1st; spring migration records by June 7th. Call or mail to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707; tel. 725-5037


# CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, SPECIAL EVENTS


Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. 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 noted. Carpooling is encouraged with riders sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footgear 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 or Field Trip Chair Michele Wright 465-6057.

FOR LATE APRIL, EARLY MAY FIELD TRIPS REFER TO MARCH-APRIL NEWSLETTER.


MAY 12 - "THE MARYLAND NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM: A HOWARD COUNTY PERSPECTIVE" - Chris Thursday  
 Ludwig. Chris is the botanist for the Program and the author of the "Hot Spots" column in our newsletter. This presentation is being designed to spotlight Howard Co.'s natural history within the broader perspective of the Maryland Natural Heritage Program. A number of our members have contributed data to this project which, like the Breeding Bird Atlas Project, becomes a baseline reference for land use planning in the state.

MAY 14 - MAY COUNT - 41st annual daylong statewide count by the Maryland Ornithological Saturday  
 Society. Explanatory material enclosed with this newsletter. All birdwatchers welcome. Contact county compiler Paul Zucker 681-9005. If you do not wish to take a territory alone, ask to be put with a party. Tally in evening at Randle's 531-6296. Please reserve for meal. If you can't stay, be sure count results are dropped off.


MAY 22 - SPRING WARBLER WALK. Leader: David Holmes. Special emphasis will be placed Sunday  
 on identification by song. This is your chance to join one of our best field birders during the latter stages of warbler migration. Meet at Grempler at 7:00 a.m. for a 1/2 day trip; location to be decided by the leader. For more info, call Michele at 465-6057 before 9:00 p.m.


JUNE 4 - BLUEBIRD BANDING. Leaders: Joe Suess 854-0250 & Mark Wallace 725-6370 for Saturday  
info. Walk along a bluebird trail with Joe & Mark with a chance to see adults and nestlings. Banding of young is dependent on their age. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Grempler for 1/2 day trip. Limited to 10 people. If oversubscribed another date may be arranged. Call Michele at 465-6057 to reserve.

JUNE 10-12 - MOS ANNUAL CONVENTION AT HOOD COLLEGE IN FREDERICK, MD. Join MOS members  
Fri-Sunday from across the state for this annual event. Numerous field trips. Registration information will be sent by the state.

JUNE 18 - TREE WALK AT CYPRESSMEDE PARK. Leader: Michele Wright 465-6057. Second sea- Saturday  
 sonal trip to this park to identify trees, this time by looking at leaf structure and other characteristics. Meet at park at 1:00 p.m. Refer to Jan/Feb. 1988 newsletter for directions or call Michele.

JUNE 26 - FERN/WILDFLOWER WALK IN HENRYTON SECTION, PVSP - Leaders: Jo & Bob Solem Sunday  
725-5037. Visit the "Hot Spot" featured in this newsletter to check some of the interesting flora. Meet at Grempler at 1:00 p.m., Henryton bridge 1:30.

JULY 24 - SUMMER HABITAT WALK AT SCHOOLEY MILL PARK. Leaders: Chuck Dupree 796-1086 Sunday  
 (evenings) and Bill Eckert 992-2464 (days). Co-sponsored with How. Co. Rec & Parks. Third in a series of seasonal walks in this new county park. Meet at park building at 1:00 p.m. Park entrance is 1/2 mile west of Rt. 216 on Hall Shop Rd. in the southern part of the county. (Much of the walk will be on shaded trails along the streams.)

AUGUST 14 - GOLDFINCH WALK AT CENTENNIAL PARK. Co-sponsored with Howard Co. Rec & Parks. Sunday  
 Registration \$1.00, fee payable to Director of Finance. Refer to Summer Rec & Parks program guide. Observe our county bird along with other nesting species. Meet at concession building off Rt.108; 9:00-11:00 a.m. Contact Bill Eckert days 992-2464 for more information.



AUG. 25-29 - CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Chuck Dupree will be in the area and  
 Thur.-Mon. would be happy to have members join him in birding the refuge and nearby  
 hot spots. Overnighters must make own arrangements well in advance. Con-  
 tact him at home evenings 796-1086 no later than Aug. 23rd to make arrange-  
 ments for meeting.

BOARD MEETINGS are held in the Howard Co. Central Library meeting room at 7:30 p.m.  
 MAY 19 - Thursday

NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

THE FOOD AT THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BIRD CLUB POTLUCK on Saturday, March 5th was organized  
 by Monika Botsai and Grazina McClure with the usual excellent variety. Mike McClure took  
 care of the excellent slides. President Marty Chestem and Marci Krishnamoorthy intro-  
 duced three individual speakers who had played a significant role in the early history  
 of the club: Nan Rhineland, David Holmes and Ben Dawson.

Marty Chestem presented the first two chapter Valued Service Awards to Eileen Clegg  
 and Joanne Solem. The state has recently initiated this program to honor MOS members who  
 have made outstanding volunteer contributions on a chapter level. These awards are given  
 at the sole discretion of the president of the chapter.

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JAN & DON RANDLE OF THE NATURE NOOK have donated a swan statue which will be given to the  
 state MOS to be used in the silent auction at the convention to raise funds for the Atlas  
 publication.

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THANKS TO THE FEBRUARY TRIP HOSTS: Frances Ehlers, Randy Grobaker, Pat Hirt & John Tam.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE DISPLAY AT THE COUNTY FAIR IN AUGUST CAN ALWAYS USE VOLUNTEERS. Contact Pres. Tom  
 Strikwerda 942-2841 evenings.

\*\*\*\*\*

THANKS TO LEISUREFEST HELPERS! Eileen Clegg lists the following individuals as helping  
 to staff the Bird Club display at the Columbia Mall in February (formerly called Recrea-  
 tion Expo): Marty Chestem, Helen Zeichner, Pat Jackson, Monika Botsai, Jo Solem, Jerry  
 Einem, Linda Stirrat, Anna Llewellyn, John & Eileen Clegg, Sue Hudson, Ralph & Jane  
 Geuder.

\*\*\*\*\*

A PAT ON THE BACK to those people who wrote or called their legislators in helping to  
 defeat a bill to extend the goose hunting season by starting it two weeks early. DNR  
 was opposed to the bill and asked for our help on very short notice. The bill was de-  
 feated.

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BIRD CLUB MEMBER GEORGIA EACKER is establishing wildlife habitat through plantings and  
 feeders at Winter Growth, the new elder care facility in Harper's Choice near the Flor-  
 ence Bain Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION will begin seeding some wildflowers on major  
 state highways in test plots according to a letter passed along by Alice Grant. Two  
 plots in Howard County (I-70 & Rt. 40 and Rts. 29 & 216) will be seeded this fall. Un-  
 fortunately, because of the difficulty in obtaining seeds in quantity, only about half  
 of the material seeded will be plants that one could expect to see "in the wild" in the  
 Northeast.



Every year since 1948 members and friends of the Maryland Ornithological Society have conducted an annual May count. No other state can equal this record of spring migration counts taken on a single day each year. The results of this group effort are compiled and published in Maryland Birdlife.

All members of the Howard County Chapter and interested friends are invited to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know other chapter members at the optional tally rally at the end of the day. Inexperienced birders are encouraged to participate; the compiler will try to team them with more experienced birders. (Personally, I have learned an immense amount about birding from going out on counts like this in a small group with more experienced colleagues.) Participation is also sought from people who will watch their feeders. It is not necessary to spend the entire day counting (although many people do)--part-day participation is also encouraged.

The compiler for the Howard County May Count is

Paul A. Zucker  
112 Finale Terrace  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
Telephone 681-9005

The areas to be birded and the groupings of observers into parties will be assigned by the compiler although, whenever possible, requests will be honored. There are many parts of the county which are yet to be covered. It is necessary for all participants (including feeder watchers) to contact the compiler during the two weeks prior to the count or at the April or May chapter meetings.

The county has been divided into 18 regions; a team leader will be assigned for each region. Each leader is responsible for combining all the field notes from that region into one clean, final tally sheet. This tally sheet MUST be turned in to the compiler at the tally rally. This final tally should be neat (no extraneous marks), legible, and on the official form which is enclosed (extras available at rally). The leaders are also responsible for tallying start time and miles, stop time and miles, party-hours by car and by foot, party-miles by car and by foot (and by other means), and the names and addresses of all the participants on the team. (Time out for lunch and time out of the assigned area must be subtracted off the totals.) In addition, the team leaders are responsible for obtaining the write-ups of all unusual sightings for their regions.

Occasionally, people who are birding in Howard County on May Count day, but who are not Count participants, wish to submit observations to the compiler. Such records are welcome but can only be used in those cases when no one else has seen the species in question (otherwise there may be double counting). Such less common species are generally "unusual sightings" as described below which require written documentation.

#### SOME GENERAL HINTS

It is necessary to keep track of party-hours and party-miles separately for time spent in the car, on foot, or with other means of transportation. Observers within talking or shouting distance of each other are one party. Thus, if a party of three people spends an hour together on foot, then one party-hour should be notated. If, however, one party member is separated from the others for half of that hour, then a total of one and a half party-hours should be tallied. I find it easiest to keep track of the hours spent on foot by making a notation to the nearest quarter-hour each time I get back into the car.

Count all birds. Large flocks can be estimated (don't be timid--most people underestimate). Although undue effort should not be spent chasing after common birds, it is important to count all birds seen. Don't ignore House Sparrows and European Starlings.

For keeping notes in the field, I like to use a notebook. Final totals, times and miles are then transcribed to the tally sheet which is enclosed. When I see a few birds of a species, I record them using hash marks (#). When I see a large flock, I write the total number and then circle it. It is a good idea to have extra paper along for making notes about unusual sightings. If something unusual is seen, it is useful to make the appropriate notes on the spot. (See the section below entitled UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS for procedures and species to be documented.)

If you see birds outside of your assigned area, please make notes on a separate sheet of paper. This information should not be added to your tally but should be given to the person responsible for the area where the birds were seen. If your total for that species in their region is higher than theirs, they can use your total instead. Only if you are both sure that you counted different individual birds can your total be added to theirs.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

All unusual sightings need to be documented. Such documentation should include name of person making the identification, names of all others who saw the bird, when and where the bird was seen, how far away the bird was (approximately), what the lighting conditions were, what the bird was doing and how long it was observed, what field marks and coloration were observed, any other information pertaining to the decision of the species of the bird in question.

The following species are unusual for Howard County May Counts and need to be documented. First, all species not on the official checklist (enclosed in this mailing) are considered unusual. Second, all of the following species which have been seen on four or fewer of the last 14 Howard County May Counts are considered unusual and should be documented: Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Tundra Swan, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Greater or Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, ~~Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck~~, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Sora, American Coot, Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short or Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, American Tree Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, and any other species you suspect may never have been seen on a Howard County May Count.

MAY COUNT TALLY POTLUCK TO BE HELD AT DON & JAN RANDLE'S, 6424 LOCHRIDGE ROAD, BRAEBURN

Although it is not necessary to attend the tally in order to participate in the May Count, many birders find that the get-together in the evening is a pleasant and satisfying way to end one of the best birding days of the year. It provides an excellent opportunity to share your best sightings, find out what others saw (and where), and perhaps relate the thrill of seeing some species for the very first time. Anyone who participates in the Count is welcome at the tally (including feeder watchers). Call Jan Randle 531-6296 to let her know the number coming and your choice of food to share. (Non-cooks or all-day counters are not expected to prepare a culinary masterpiece; ask Jan for suggestions.) Counters begin gathering any time after 5:30 p.m.; dinner usually begins between 6:30-7:00 p.m. The Randles live in Braeburn which is on the west side of Cedar Lane (the section north of Rt. 32 and south of the stoplight at Owen Brown Rd.) Entrance road is Braeburn Rd., turn right on Lochridge and continue to first house on left after Hillbrook Dr. (one long block). If unable to attend, make arrangements with area leader or Paul to turn in or phone results sometime during Count Day or evening. All participants will receive a copy of the results and highlights.

HOWARD COUNTY MOS MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT - JANUARY 30, 1988 - DAVID HOLMES  
& JOANNE SOLEM, CO-COMPILERS

What a gorgeous day to be out! Some morning fog added mystery to the snowscape, winds were non-existent, the sky was clear to partly cloudy, and the temperature ranged from downright nippy (14 F.) at dawn up to nearly 50 F. by mid-afternoon. So what did we do with that opportunity? We moved our tails! 737 miles by car suggests that an awful lot of the county at least got seen from a distance and the 132 miles on foot was almost 50% more than in 1986 (remember that in 1987 walking was nearly impossible with over a foot of snow cover). It worked. We counted 41,729 feathered tails or 500,748 tail feathers assuming that each bird had its full complement of 12. Counting 500,000 of anything is an impressive achievement, don't you think? Seriously, let's look at a few comparisons for our three midwinter counts:

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Species	81	79	89
Individuals	28966	33964	41729
Total party hours	133	164	222.5
Birds per party hour	217.8	207.1	187.6

Now, before you draw the conclusion that the greater the effort, the fewer the birds, let's look at one significant family:

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Gulls	5005	8208	3085

Conclusion: mild weather does not bring birds down to see us from further north. It was also not much of a winter finch year except for our favorite almost-pests, House Finches, which registered a 50% increase in actual numbers over last year. Here are some birds per party hour figures on our resident species just so you can see how they look.

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Red-tailed Hawk	0.293	0.296	0.220
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1.180	0.652	1.002
Downy Woodpecker	1.150	0.768	0.943
Carolina Chickadee	2.316	2.012	3.447
Tufted Titmouse	1.812	1.512	2.503
Northern Mockingbird	1.602	1.726	2.157
Northern Cardinal	4.556	5.329	5.294
House Sparrow	3.098	4.787	6.369

Did it show anything of interest? We guess! The woodpeckers make some sense because in 1987 we couldn't get to where they were so their totals should have been low. The chickadees and titmice are a surprise. The mockingbirds may be explainable as more of the county becomes mockingbird habitat, but the House Sparrows? This is supposed to be a declining species! Oh well, when the figures don't support your conclusions, just change the figures. Or does that rule only work in the government? This is why we want at least five years of results to work with. We really suspect that our coverage is getting lots more efficient and until coverage gets itself better standardized, our figures may be telling us things that aren't really. In blunt terms, we don't know either, but isn't it fun to speculate!

Let's look at a few comparisons with our near local Christmas Bird Count--just to see if some of the 1986 points of interest are holding true this year. Remember that the CBC (TR for Triadelphia) is held at the end of December and that our count (HC for Howard Count) is held at the end of January.

Species	<u>1986</u>		<u>1987</u>		<u>1988</u>	
	TR	HC	TR	HC	TR	HC
Winter Wren	9	2	12	3	3	6
Golden-cr. Kinglet	41	27	113	15	20	60
Hermit Thrush	39	2	22	11	11	4
Rufous-sided Towhee	57	15	41	6	59	34
A. Tree Sparrow	28	24	41	22	17	9
Field Sparrow	252	44	125	65	171	88

Species	1986		1987		1988	
Fox Sparrow	23	3	16	1	8	4
White-thr. Sparrow	2159	1208	2227	1287	1391	1398
Dark-eyed Junco	1865	1140	2015	1350	712	864
House Finch	532	820	1120	1044	791	1588

Fascinating! This suggests that most of our wintering sparrows and Hermit Thrushes are still migrating at the end of December--or have experienced a considerable amount of winter die-off by the end of January when we do our count. These figures also suggest that this year was generally mild and a number of species (wren and kinglet) simply had not gotten here yet by the end of December and that juncos and tree sparrows just decided not to waste their energy in long flights this year. Now, if someone will just show us how to quantify the various elements which make up the winter food supply, we will have the possibility for something really significant.

This year, scheduling deadlines prevented the separate feeder analysis that appeared in last year's article. Perhaps, a combined effort will appear next year. The interest is still very much alive.

The only other comment is that when there is open water, there is a variety of waterfowl--and our species list shows it.

	1986		1987		1988	
Total Species	TR	HC	TR	HC	TR	HC
	103	81	92	79	93	89

It was a wonderful count. This year will provide "baseline" data to work from for years in the future. Thanks so much to all of you Howard Countians and to all our friends from faraway places like Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Montgomery and Carroll Counties. And, great credit goes to all of the area co-ordinators! A delicious thank you to Hal and Zelda Simon for again hosting the tally, to Jane Farrell for assisting in the meal planning, and to Bob Solem for part of the compilation. Be sure to reserve Saturday, JANUARY 28, 1989 for next year's count.

#### HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT - JANUARY 30, 1988

Great Blue Heron	8	hawk sp.	1	Blue Jay	738	Rufous-sided Towhee	34
Tundra Swan	15	Ring-necked Pheasant	4	American Crow	4293	American Tree Sparrow	9
Mute Swan	5	Northern Bobwhite	2	Fish Crow	449	Field Sparrow	88
Canada Goose	6454	Common Snipe	1	crow sp.	1448	Savannah Sparrow	1
Green-winged Teal	1	Ring-billed Gull	2229	Carolina Chickadee	767	Fox Sparrow	4
American Black Duck	44	Herring Gull	646	Tufted Titmouse	557	Song Sparrow	534
Mallard	1048	Great Black-backed Gull	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Swamp Sparrow	31
Northern Pintail	2	gull sp.	132	White-breasted Nuthatch	111	White-throated Sparrow	1398
Northern Shoveler	1	Rock Dove	2034	Brown Creeper	21	White-crowned Sparrow	145
American Wigeon	13	Mourning Dove	1809	Carolina Wren	153	Dark-eyed Junco	864
Wood Duck	1	Eastern Screech-Owl	2	Winter Wren	6	Snow Bunting	2
Canvasback	1	Great Horned Owl	11	Golden-crowned Kinglet	60	Red-winged Blackbird	58
Ring-necked Duck	3	Barred Owl	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Eastern Meadowlark	43
scaup sp.	10	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Eastern Bluebird	114	Rusty Blackbird	10
Bufflehead	1	Belted Kingfisher	18	Hermit Thrush	4	Common Grackle	1130
Hooded Merganser	4	Red-bellied Woodpecker	223	American Robin	33	Brown-headed Cowbird	63
Black Vulture	79	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	13	Gray Catbird	1	blackbirds sp.	140
Turkey Vulture	198	Downy Woodpecker	210	Northern Mockingbird	480	Purple Finch	50
Northern Harrier	1	Hairy Woodpecker	28	Brown Thrasher	2	House Finch	1588
Sharp-shinned Hawk	24	Northern Flicker	172	Cedar Waxwing	402	Pine Siskin	64
Cooper's Hawk	1	Pileated Woodpecker	26	European Starling	6749	American Goldfinch	463
Red-shouldered Hawk	68	Eastern Phoebe	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	17	Evening Grosbeak	1
Red-tailed Hawk	49	Horned Lark	358	Northern Cardinal	1178	House Sparrow	1417
American Kestrel	35						

OBSERVERS: AREA 1: MARK WALLACE, Chandler Robbins, Charles Swift, Paul Jung, Bill Wendell, Jay Sheppard, Elwood Martin; AREA 2: PETER OSTENTON, Michele Wright, Don Henderson, Don Morris, Paul Zucker, Sue Hudson, Tom Strikwerda, Mariano Gonzales, Joe Suess\*, Frances Ehlers\*, Rose & Suzanne Townsend\*, Susan Sullivan\*; AREA 3: KAREN SKULDT & DAVE HARVEY: Brent Byers, Mary Grover, David Holmes, Bob Dixon, Peggy Bohanan, Shirley Geddes, Graham Egerton, Helene & Alex Hammer, Will & Robin Tress, Art Rogers, Dave Johnson, Steve Sanford, Maureen Ritz, M. Wright\*, Lynn & Linda Holley\*; AREA 4: MIKE MC CLURE, Chuck Stirrat, Mike Schlitzer, Mike Leumas, Linda Yahr,



Caroline Halliday, Elsa Ponce, Grazina McClure, Jim Blanchard\*, Bob Doyle\*, Georgia Eacker\*, Margaret Lord\*, Betty Buck\*, Roy Trudel\*; AREA 5: MARTHA CHESTEM, Helen Zeichner, George Chase, Nancy Magnusson, John & Eileen Clegg, Burton Alexander, Gerald Elgart, Kevin Heffernan, Don & Jan Randle\*, Pat Hirt\*, Zelda Simon\*, Nan Rhineland\*, John Blaisdell\*, Pat Jackson\*, Alice Grant\*, Rosamond Munro\*; AREA 6: CHUCK DUPREE, Mary Lou Clark, David Mozurkowich, Ralph & Jane Geuder, Margie Kupiec, Cathy Williamson, Marci & Anu Krishnamoorthy, Billy Humpheys, Bob Davis, Monika Botsai, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Huting, William & Louise Dove, Bruce Moore, Mike & Sandy Meyerhoff\*, Kathy Cahill\*, Lois Wensil\*, Debs & Barbara Dupree, Jr.\*, Ceil Casciaro\*; AREA 7: JO SOLEM, Don Waugh, Richard Hegner, Edwin Gould, Eva Sunell, Maud Banks, Jane Farrell, Georgia Morris, Bob Solem\*, Martha Waugh\*, Chet Kupiec\*, Fran Nahrgang\*, Bea Newkirk\*, Alice Hegner\*.

CAPITALS - Area Leaders; \* - indicates a feeder/yard watcher

FLOWER FEATURE: COMMON ST. JOHNSWORT - GEORGIA MORRIS & BOB SOLEM

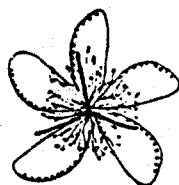


1' - 2½' upright plant

Leaves: opposite, narrowly oblong, without teeth, almost clasping stem, dotted with translucent spots.

Pistil: One, with three long styles, projecting beyond the stamens.

Stamens: Yellow, numerous and long, giving the flower a shaggy appearance.



COMMON ST. JOHNSWORT - Hypericum perforatum

HABITAT - Roadsides, thickets, damp places, powerlines & other areas mowed annually

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - June to mid-October

FAMILY - St. Johnswort (Guttiferae)

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATION - Lake Elkhorn, Middle Patuxent River behind Hammond H.S. Cypressmeade Park, APL

FLOWERS - Bright yellow in a terminal branching cluster. Each flower has 5 small green sepals & 5 separate, slightly asymmetrical petals (almost like a pinwheel). Each petal is dotted with tiny black spots on the curved edge. Note: The flowers produce NO nectar and so attract few insects. They are pollinated by bees who visit the flower for pollen only.

FRUIT - Ovoid brown capsule containing numerous seeds. In the fall, the plant and seed pods turn a reddish brown and are collected for use in dried flower arrangements.

SPECIAL INFORMATION - Look for this bright yellow flower all summer. St. Johnswort is named for St. John the Baptist whose feast day is June 24th, the time when this flower begins blooming. This is also the time of the summer solstice and the scientific name Hypericum may come from Hyperion, father of the sun god Helios. The plant was introduced from Asia via Europe. Formerly, there were many superstitions about it.

St. Johnswort is considered a pernicious weed by farmers because it is difficult to eradicate, it draws nutrients from the soil, and it is bitter and inedible to livestock.

Another St. Johnswort found commonly in Howard County is Spotted St. Johnswort (Hypericum punctatum). In this species the leaves are conspicuously spotted with black dots. The leaves are larger and the flowers smaller proportionately than the Common.

Also found in Howard County but less commonly seen are Canadian St. Johnswort which has tiny flowers (less than ¼") and very narrow leaves, and Dwarf St. Johnswort which has an even tinier flower (less than 1/5" across) and broadly oval leaves. These two species also have only 12 to 15 stamens per flower.

1987's annual list ties the 1982 record of 213 species. This is one more than the 1986 total of 212 species (one 1986 record is still with the State Records Committee). This 1987 total is quite impressive when you realize that we missed two species that had been seen every year since 1979 (Redhead and Semipalmated Sandpiper) and had only 12 species of shorebirds, versus 16 species of that group in 1982 and 15 in 1986. We exhibited persistence in finding even 12 species when the reservoirs (our normally productive areas for fall shorebird migration) were filled to near capacity. Without extensive mudflats, it was a hard go. Our total clearly shows we have more members in the field, we are getting better at finding birds and identifying them, and we are reporting what we find.

If only we could count the Budgerigar frequenting Ceil Casciaro's feeder on September 23rd and 24th. With Bea Newkirk's Chukar (an introduced species which has not proven to be self-sustaining without continuing introduction) we would be way up there. However, that would be like cheating at solitaire.

We added two new species to the list of birds seen in Howard County: Western Sandpiper and American Avocet. Caspian Terns (seen in 1986 for the second year since 1956) were seen on several occasions in several locations both spring and fall. Bonaparte's Gull was similarly seen in both spring and fall by different observers in several localities. We redeemed ourselves in 1987 by finding Connecticut Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow, both missed in 1986 and lamented by David Holmes in his 1987 article.

Thanks go to the following members who sent in their complete 1987 Howard County bird lists: John Blaisdell, Ceil Casciaro, Marty Chestem, Chuck Dupree, Jane Farrell, Alice Grant, Dave Harvey, David Pardoe, Jo Solem, Charles Swift, Mark Wallace, Michele Wright and Paul Zucker. Special thanks to Jo Solem for passing along the data submitted for the season reports for Maryland Birdlife, to the participants and compilers of Winter, May, Christmas counts and the Atlas Project, and to those of you who passed along single sightings. Last, but not least, thanks to David Holmes and Bob Ringler for technical expertise and guidance.

What will 1988 bring? We are off to a good start with two birds reported only once each in the last decade. Get out there and beat the bushes. Report your finds and have fun.

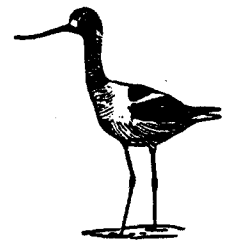
Addendum: Howard County Bird List 1986. David Holmes reported 210 species and 2 hybrids in his report in the May-June 1987 newsletter. As he predicted, the Sandhill Crane was accepted by the State Records Committee. A Philadelphia Vireo was reported after the newsletter was published and was accepted to bring the 1986 total to 212 species and 2 hybrids. Still pending with the records committee is an additional species reported.

Red-throated Loon  
Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Cattle Egret  
Green-backed Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Tundra Swan  
Mute Swan  
Snow Goose  
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Green-winged Teal  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Northern Pintail  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Goosander  
American Wigeon  
Canvasback  
Ring-necked Duck  
Lesser Scaup  
Oldsquaw  
Common Goldeneye  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck

Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk  
Cooper's Hawk  
Northern Goshawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Rough-legged Hawk  
American Kestrel  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
Ring-necked Pheasant  
Wild Turkey  
Northern Bobwhite  
Virginia Rail  
Common Moorhen  
American Coot  
Killdeer  
American Avocet  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper  
Least Sandpiper  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Common Snipe  
American Woodcock  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Laughing Gull  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Black Tern  
Rock Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Common Barn-Owl  
Eastern Screech-Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Barred Owl  
Common Nighthawk  
Whip-poor-will  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Willow Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
Horned Lark  
Purple Martin  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Barn Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Winter Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
Veery  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Swainson's Thrush  
Hermit Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Northern Mockingbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Water Pipit  
Cedar Waxwing  
European Starling  
White-eyed Vireo  
Solitary Vireo  
Horned Lark  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo



Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Tennessee Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler  
Chestnut-sided Warbler  
Magnolia Warbler  
Cape May Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Palm Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Black-and-white Warbler  
American Redstart  
Prothonotary Warbler

Worm-eating Warbler  
Ovenbird  
Northern Waterthrush  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
Kentucky Warbler  
Mourning Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
hooded Warbler  
Wilson's Warbler  
Canada Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Dickcissel  
Rufous-sided Towhee  
American Tree Sparrow

Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Fox Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Bobolink  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Rusty Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird

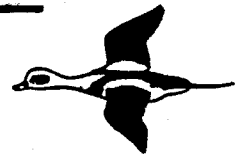
Orchard Oriole  
Northern Oriole  
Purple Finch  
House Finch  
Common Redpoll  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
Evening Grosbeak  
House Sparrow



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PRESENTED BETWEEN APRIL 12, 1987 AND APRIL 13, 1988

Each year members are asked to speak to local groups usually using mounted bird specimens while some of our members borrow one or two for personal study. In the last two years, we have been asked increasingly often to speak to students who are part of the gifted and talented program (gt) in the county or to serve as advisers for special projects. Among the groups to whom presentations were made or events at which there were public displays were the Glenelg Country School (sev. times), Westowne Elementary School (E.S.), Hometown Fair at the Columbia Mall, Autumn & Winter seed sales, art students at Centennial High School (H.S.), Phelps Luck E.S. 3rd gr. gt, display at 15th anniversary meeting, Bushy Park E.S. (K-5), Hammond E.S. (kind.), Hammond Middle School (M.S.) gt science, Patapsco M.S. 7th gr., biology classes at Centennial H.S., West Friendship E.S. (3rd gr. plus 2 spec. proj.), Howard County Garden Club, Leisure Fest at Columbia Mall, Nature in Winter classes at How. Community College, Boy Scouts meeting at St. Mark's Church Catonsville, Workshop at Miller Branch Library, What Children & Co. Nurs. S., Thunder Hill E.S. 4th gr., Howard Co. Garden Show at How. Comm. College, Waterloo E.S. (kind.), Worthington E.S. (gt) & Brownie Troop at same school & troop # 248, Phelps Luck E.S. (K-5), Florence Bain Sr. Center (wildflower slides), Guildford E.S. (2nd gr.), Howard County Fair, Harper's Choice M.S. (7th gr. science, 1 gt), Cub Scouts: den 3 at Glen Mar Church, den 4 at Magruder's, Troop #362 at Blanchard's.

Making the presentations or using the birds for personal study were Carolyn Cradler, Florence Seiko, Eileen Clegg, Jo Solem, Jim Hill, Jane Geuder, Martha Chestem, Helen Zeichner, Bill Bridgeland, Eva Sunell, Peter McIntosh, Marci Krishnamoorthy, & Suzanne Probst.



## RARE BIRD ALERT CALLERS - BEA NEWKIRK

For the current year the following individuals have volunteered to telephone members on the Rare Bird Alert: Mariano Gonzalez, James Medwin, Anna Llewellyn, Zelda Simon, Margie Kupiec, Peggy Willson, Monika Botsai, Helen Zeichner, Mike Leumas, Elise Seay, Joe Byrnes, Debbie Grant, and Marjorie Mountjoy. Individuals are always welcome to volunteer to telephone because the more callers there are, the fewer calls each must make. If you would like to help, contact me at 498-1902. The callers would also appreciate not having to contact those who never go looking for rarities. If circumstances have changed and you no longer wish to be on the Alert, please call and ask to be removed. On the other hand, if you are a new member and would like your name added, also call.

During late March and the first half of April, Centennial Lake was perhaps the hottest birding spot in the county. Not all of the birds were rarities, but they presented an interesting variety; at least a couple are species seen only once every few years. Did you see the Buffleheads, Blue-winged Teal, Common Loon, Greater Yellowlegs, Common Snipe, Oldsquaws, Caspian Terns, Horned Grebe, White-winged Scoters, Spotted Sandpiper, Double-crested Cormorant, Cattle Egret or Glossy Ibis? Unfortunately, most of the choicest sightings were birds that stayed less than a day--sometimes only a few hours or a few minutes. It is worth watching any body of water on a regular basis during periods of migration for it is impossible to predict what will turn up when or for how long.

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The Bird Club thanks Cliff Grant for his recent donation from the sale of bluebird boxes. His generosity and continued support of the Boost Bluebirds--And Other Cavity Nesters Project is much appreciated.

PARKS/LAKES BIRD CHECKLIST PROJECT - JANE FARRELL



The Howard County Bird Club has embarked on a Bird Checklist Project in cooperation with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks and the Columbia Association. The goal of the project is to identify birds occurring in the major Howard County parks and lakes in the Columbia Open Space System and to publish a checklist for each area to assist visitors to these natural areas.

The parks and lakes to be completed first are Centennial Park, Rockburn Branch Park, Savage Park, and Schooley Mill Park as well as Lake Elkhorn and its environs. We will work on the other major county parks and Columbia lakes in the future.

We urge all interested members to assist in the project by keeping lists of the birds identified while visiting any of the above-named areas along with the dates observations are made. Please pass these records on to the following members who have agreed to chair certain areas. Forms to make reporting easier are available from anyone listed below: Centennial Park - Charles Swift, 10563 Tolling Clock Way, Columbia, MD 21044, 964-1989; Rockburn Branch Park - Jane & Ralph Geuder, 9282 Soaring Hill Rd., Columbia, MD 21045 (calls taken by Jane Farrell 596-2630); Savage Park - volunteer needed; Schooley Mill Park - George Chase, 10699 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, 953-7693; Lake Elkhorn - Dick Hegner, 8318 Hickory Limb, Columbia, MD 21045, 381-8237.

Please save your data on other parks and lakes for future lists or pass the data on to me at 6324 Sandchain Rd., Columbia, MD 21045, 596-2630 and I will save it. Any member interested in chairing Savage Park, please call me.

PARKS WILDFLOWER CHECKLISTS - BOB SOLEM

At the time we publish the bird checklists for the various areas named above, we should also be able to make available a comprehensive plant list for each. Much of this data has already been compiled while working on the Natural Heritage Program Survey and continues this year with work relating to the two hundred most common county wildflowers. Individuals wishing to help are always welcome. Those who indicated an interest in wildflower projects on the annual questionnaire should have received materials by now. If you have not, or you wish additional copies, call me evenings at 725-5037 or write to 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707.

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At the April meeting, a resolution was passed that the Howard County Bird Club continue to encourage recycling through active support of the Howard County government in its plans to implement the law recently passed by the Maryland legislature.

Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.  
Cylburn Mansion  
4915 Greenspring Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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