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Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



CENTENNIAL PARK BIRD CHECKLIST PUBLISHED - Jane Farrell

Bird Checklist

Centennial Park
Howard County, Maryland

The Howard County Bird Club has published a Bird Checklist for Centennial Park. A cooperative effort, the checklist was compiled by the Bird Club and printed and distributed by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. This is the first in a series of checklists planned for the county's major parks and environmental areas and for Columbia's lakes and major open space parcels.

The checklist provides data on the 189 species observed in Centennial Park from 1983 through late 1989. The data identifies the status (resident, migrant, visitor, or accidental) of each species for spring, summer, fall, and winter and indicates which species have bred in the park.

Charles Swift, who is the Centennial Park coordinator, ~~is no longer living in Howard County.~~ Connie Bockstie has agreed to co-coordinate the continuing effort for Centennial Park. You can reach Connie at 465-2063 with additional observations to be used in future revisions of the checklist.

The following club members participated in the effort: Scott Atkinson, Connie Bockstie*, Ceil Casciaro, George Chase, Martha Chesten*, Eileen Clegg, Jane Farrell*, Ralph Geuder, Dave Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Dick Hegner, Jim Hill, David Holmes, Mike Leumas, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson*, Grazina & Mike McClure, Sandy Meyerhoff, Norma Petersen, Sue Probst (who provided the Great Blue Heron drawing for the cover), Bob Ringler, Susan & Jim Rose, Jo & Bob Solem*, Charles Swift*, Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner and Paul Zucker. Thanks also to all members who contributed data in the past by leading trips or participating in counts in the park.

We also appreciate the assistance provided by the following Howard County government and Department of Recreation and Parks personnel: Jeff Bourne, Bill Eckert, Chuck Fouke, Bob Linz, Shirley Miner and Casey Willis.

Checklists will be available at scheduled meetings and events or can be obtained by calling Cedar Lane Park 992-2464 and they will send one. After the concession stand at Centennial Park opens in the spring, checklists are expected to be available there on request.

*indicates major contribution



1515 BLUEBIRDS FLEDGE IN COUNTY IN 1989 - Mark Wallace and Joseph Suess

The number of bluebirds fledged in 1989 was down slightly from the 1563 fledged in 1988, but above the 1352 of 1987. We suffered another wet spring which appears to have reduced the average clutch size of the first brood. The number of reports we received was down slightly which could be an indication the birds did not fare as well in those areas.

We appreciate the kindness of the property owners who allow bluebirders to monitor boxes on their land. Their names are too numerous to mention. We also extend our thanks to the following individuals who submitted data for 1989:

Anthony, Julie	Casciaro, Ceil	Hirt, Pat	Robbins, Eleanor
Ballard, William	Cope, Regina	How. Co. Rec & Parks	Rodgers, Hilde
Ballentine, William	Cradler, Carolyn	Hogue, Paul	Serafinas, Phil
Bockstie, Connie	Earp, Wesley	Iager, Albert	Smith, Boyd & Edna
Bogdan, Bob	Ehlers, Frances	Iager, Howard	Snyder, Charene
Boone, Jon E.	Erwin, John & Debbie	Jackson, Cliff	Stirrat, Chuck
Boone, Jon K.	Fisher, Rosemary	Jacobsen, William	Stup, Ralph
Botsai, Monika	Frasier, John & Emily	Keller, Tim & Mary	Suess, Joseph
Bready, Nadine	Freas, Richard	Lord, Margaret	Theis, Bill
Brinkley, Marilyn	French, Sandy	McClure, Mike & Grazina	Thomann, Vera & Andre
Brokaw, Rick	Fulmer, Glenn	Nazlerod, Marian	Traynham, Ann
Brown, Al	Funkhouser, Sarah & Glenn	Newkirk, Bea	Tyson, Helen
Brown, Gisela	Grant, Lee & Carol	Olow, John	Wallace, Mark (his trail & others)
Bulharowski, Adam	Hawkins, Nancy	Peters, Karl	Walton, Randy & Margaret
Buswell, Susan	Heller, Jim	Proia, Judy	Westwood, Felix
Cameron, Ermina		Resau, Jim	

Our special thanks is again extended to Connie Bockstie and Ceil Casciaro for their management of the Sharp Road Bluebird Trail and for Frances Ehlers' help, not only with her own trail, but with part of the Boone's and some of Joe Suess's boxes when he was ill this year. Sandy French became a monitor in 1989 and looked after the boxes along Carroll Mill Road. To Sandy's delight, some young were fledged from these boxes. Two clutches of bluebirds were banded and fledged from a wooden newspaper box on Prestwick Drive.



	# BOXES	TOTAL	EGGS	EGGS	EGGS	YOUNG	YOUNG	YOUNG	
<u>TRAIL</u>	<u>MONITORED</u>	<u>USED</u>	<u>SUCC.</u>	<u>LAI</u>	<u>LOSS</u>	<u>HATCHED</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>FLEDGED</u>	<u>BANDED</u>
1988	636	346	2405	586	1813	256	1563	778	
1989	713	297	2383	606	1777	262	1515	838	

<u>TRAIL</u>	<u>CACHICK</u>	<u>TITMOUSE</u>	<u>HWREN</u>	<u>CAWREN</u>	<u>TREESW</u>	<u>SC OWL</u>	<u>KESTREL</u>	<u>PMARTIN</u>
1988	59	30	184	6	22	3		
1989	30	12	193	3	18	2	0	100

Bill Eckert reported that the Bluebirds in the Parks program which the Bird Club co-sponsors fledged the third highest number of bluebirds in the program's brief seven year history. The 81 bluebirds are included in the above total. They fledged from 54 boxes in 15 parks. A nesting of Tree Swallows at Centennial Park was a first for the program. In late fall and early winter, reports were received of people seeing flocks of 25-50 bluebirds in Benson Branch, Centennial, Rockburn Branch and Schooley Mill parks. Thanks to the following people who monitored boxes:

Chevalier, Mary & J.P.	Femrite, Sharon	Kiekebusch-Steinitz,	Schiffer, Linda
Delaney, Carol	Gross, Cliff	Bernd & Lucy	Schmitt, Cathy
Duffy, Nuala & Micaela	Hricz, Nancy	Meyerhoff, Mike & Sandy	Wright, Michele
Earp, Susan	Jacobson, Phil	Rowe, Barbara & Geoff	Yowel, Betsie

For help or information contact Joe Suess 854-0250 or Mark Wallace 725-6370. We always need monitors especially in the western section of the county.

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 or fewer than 3 participants. Questions? Call leader or Field Trip Chair Michele Wright 465-6057.

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Earth Day April 22 with a bird walk and mark Earth Week April 14-22 and Outdoor Awareness Week April 21-28 with other activities described below.

MARCH 3 ANNUAL POTLUCK. See previous newsletter for details. Call Monika 465-5758 Saturday or Grazina 531-2780 by Tuesday, Feb. 27 to reserve space.



COLUMBIA LAKES TRIP. Leaders: Mike & Grazina McClure. 1:00 p.m. at Grempler

MARCH 8 "BIRDS OF ALASKA" - Bob Ringler. Sooner or later all serious birders go to Alaska--or want to. Bob will show us why it is such a fascinating birding area and such a fragile environment.



MARCH 24 STATE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING - Miller Branch Library. Host: Howard Co. Chapter. The host chapter supplies a light breakfast and snacks for the meeting. Donations of baked goods, cheese & crackers, fruit plates, etc. are most appreciated. Contact Tom Strikwerda evenings at 942-2841 or Marty Chestem 730-1527.

MARCH 25 COLUMBIA LAKES. Joint trip with Baltimore Chap. MOS. Leaders: Jane Farrell 596-2630 & Pete Webb 486-1217. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the Centennial Lane entrance of Centennial Park at the far east end of the parking lot overlooking the lake. 1/2 day. Leaders will have scopes.



APRIL 8, 15, 22, 29 & May 6 SUNDAYS FIVE WEEKLY CENTENNIAL PARK WALKS. For the second year the Bird Club will co-sponsor with Howard Co. Rec & Parks a series of spring walks in Centennial Park. Walks will run from 7:00-10:00 a.m. Meet this year in the parking lot off Centennial Lane near the tennis courts.

APRIL 12 "MANAGEMENT OF A NEOTROPICAL MIXED SPECIES BIRD EXHIBIT" - Jack Cover. Mr. Cover is from the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The program will be about the exhibit at the National Aquarium.



APRIL 14 BEGINNING BIRDERS WALK. Leader: Bonnie Ott 461-3361. 1/2 day trip in Rockburn Branch Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office building off Landing Rd. Chance to gain experience in using binoculars and field guides and spotting birds, habitats, field marks, etc.



APRIL 21 COLUMBIA LAKES. Leader: Burton Alexander 381-5574. Baltimore MOS trip to Howard Co. See March 25 meeting time and place. 1/2 day.

APRIL 28 BLUEBIRD WALK. Leader: Mike Meyerhoff 465-4489. 1/2 day trip in Rockburn Branch Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at park office building off Landing Rd. Co-sponsored by How. Co. Rec & Parks. Mike will point out several different types of nesting boxes, possibly a nest or two, nesting and wintering habitat and, with any luck, bluebirds!



✓ APRIL 28 **WILDFLOWER WALK.** Leaders: Bob Solem 725-5037 & Sue Muller 490-7575.
Saturday Co-sponsored by How. Co. Rec & Parks. 10:00 a.m. 2 hr. walk on flat, wide path. Meet at entrance to Savage Mill Trail at the corner of Gorman Road and Foundry St. in Savage.



MAY 5
Saturday



C & O CANAL FOR SPRING MIGRANTS. Leader: Marci Krishnamoorthy 730-0568.
In the Washington, D.C. area there are few more exciting places to be on a May morning than the towpath of the canal. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Grempler for a 1/2 day trip. Bring liquid & snacks as desired.



SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK. Leaders: Bob Solem 725-5037 & Sue Muller 490-7575. Savage Park 10:30 a.m. Meet at the building in the park at the west end of Baltimore St. in Savage for a several hour walk. Patuxent River Appreciation Day activity with Howard Co. Rec & Parks.

MAY 6
Sunday



BUTTERFLY TRIP TO DANIELS. Leader: Richard Smith 997-7439. Daniels section of PVSP 10:30 a.m. Several hour trip to serve as an introduction to butterfly identification, habitat preferences and plant use. Meet at the small parking lot on the left near the river. (There is additional parking on the right beyond the curve.) Bring lunch & beverage as desired. Need sunny or partly cloudy weather. If overcast or rainy, trip is cancelled. If unsure of weather conditions, call leader.

★ MAY 12
Saturday

MAY COUNT - The 43rd statewide census by the MD Ornithological Society on a Saturday in May. More info next newsletter; save all or part of this day for a highlight of the birding year. Call Paul Zucker 681-9005 for info.

BOARD MEETINGS

✓ MARCH 29 **JANE FARRELL's** at 7:30 p.m. 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045. Tel Thurs 596-2630 for directions.

✓ MAY 3 **MARTHA CHESTEM's** at 7:30 p.m. 10850 Faulkner Ridge Circle, Columbia, MD Thurs 21044. Tel 730-1527 for directions.

ITEMS FOR MAY-JUNE newsletter due April 1. Call or mail to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeloch Road, Laurel, MD 20723. Spring migration records due on or before June 7.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER REPORTED IN HOWARD COUNTY - Floyd Murdoch

On 10 November 1989 I was driving one-half mile south of Highway 32 on I-95. The adult bird was seen flying from west to east over I-95 (long tails were observed, but I did not see the rose-colored marking). I observed the bird over the southbound lane as I went north. It continued to the northbound lane ahead of me. I pulled over as the bird flew into or over the trees to the east of I-95's northbound lane.

The bird was a typical flycatcher with the somewhat "bouncy" flight of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. I've seen hundreds, but only the Antietam bird in Maryland. It showed the silver-gray color and about three-quarters of its full tail length.

Acceptance of this species is subject to ratification by the MOS State Records Committee.

PARKS CHECKLIST PROJECT - The Howard County Bird Club continues to work on checklists for Rockburn Branch, Schooley Mill, and Savage parks, the Trotter Road Environmental Area, along with the three Columbia lakes. Sightings of common as well as uncommon species are welcome. To make reporting easier, request a Parks Checklist form for each park or area you would like to help with. See Jane Farrell at any meeting, write to her at 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045, or call her at 596-2630.

FLOWER FEATURE: TROUT LILY - Georgia Morris and Bob Solem

TROUT LILY - *Erythronium americanum*

(Also called Dogtooth Violet, Adder's Tongue)

FAMILY - Lily (*Liliaceae*)

HABITAT - Rich damp woods; floodplains

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - Late March to beginning of May

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATION - Savage, Centennial, Cypressmede Parks; Lake Elkhorn; Patuxent River Park; Daniels section PVSP.

PLANT - 3" to 10" high. Each bulb produces only one set of two leaves with a single flower stalk. Single leaves indicate a young non-flowering plant.

FLOWERS - 1" wide. It has 6 pointed, reflexed lemon yellow "petals." (Actually, like many lilies, it has 3 petals and 3 sepals.) The center has 6 stamens with brown anthers and one long pistil ending in a 3-parted stigma.

FRUIT - Ovoid capsule.

LEAVES - 3" to 9" long. The two basal leaves are smooth edged, oval shaped, ending in a sharp point. The most notable characteristic of the leaves is the purple-brown mottling that covers them, giving rise to the name "trout."

BULB - Like other lilies, the Trout Lily grows from an underground bulb. The tooth-like shape of this bulb accounts for one of the common names--Dogtooth Violet.

SPECIAL INFORMATION - This lovely, though small, lily is only in bloom for 5 or 6 weeks in the early spring. Be sure to look for it in damp wooded areas this spring.

THE BIRDING YEAR IN HOWARD COUNTY: APRIL - Jo Solem

- Watch for seldom seen Red-throated Loons on reservoirs in mid-April. Common Loons migrate well into May and are regular on Centennial Lake.
- Pied-billed Grebes and most mergansers leave by mid-April.
- A few American Bitterns may show up this month thru early May in correct habitat.
- Green-backed Herons begin returning in numbers about the third week.
- Oldsquaws may appear during the first week of April especially during periods of bad weather.
- April is a month to watch lakes and reservoirs on a daily basis for migrants can drop in, rest briefly, and depart quickly. The more miserable the weather, the more likely stray migrant waterfowl and shorebirds will show up.
- Numbers of migrating Ospreys drift through from the middle of the month well into May; earlier ones can be seen sporadically from late March on.
- Northward moving Broad-winged Hawks are most visible from the middle of the month into May.



APRIL (continued)

- Rough-legged Hawks leave by the third week. Last half of April or before leaves grow too large, check main forks of large deciduous trees for nesting buteo hawks.
- Shorebirds begin appearing in numbers from mid-month on. Check muddy areas around the western islands at Centennial Park from late March until the vegetation grows up. Shallow pond and river edges anywhere in the county can be productive. Shorebirds may be found sometimes in good numbers through the first part of May; few are noted after mid-May.
- Caspian Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls can be seen sporadically much of the month on the county's larger lakes and the reservoirs.
- Listen at dusk for Whip-poor-wills from about the middle of April. (This species has declined dramatically in the county.)
- Watch at dusk for early Common Nighthawks the last week of the month.
- Hummingbirds may begin appearing sporadically during the last half of the month although most come through in early May. Look for them around azalea and mimosa (*Albizzia*) blossoms. Planting bright tubular flowers may attract them during the summer. Feeders with sugar water solutions should be hung by late April.
- The majority of woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches and titmice are excavating or choosing cavities and beginning to nest. March and April are good times to observe courtship.
- Look for Red-headed Woodpeckers this month in areas of mature oaks and hickories with little or no understory.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are around through April.
- Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds show up the last 10 days of the month.
- Cliff Swallows can usually be seen at Brighton Dam by late April or early May.
- House Wrens can show up from mid-month on.
- Marsh Wren migration peaks the last week in April and the first week in May.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatchers should be visible in floodplain situations from the middle of the month. They begin nesting before the leaves are completely out.
- Heaviest Hermit Thrush migration is the first half of the month.
- Gray Catbirds should begin appearing the third week with the Wood Thrush and Veery making their first appearance the last week of the month.
- Brown Thrashers arrive in late March and early April.
- Bluebirds may begin nest building the first half of the month if weather is favorable. Be sure boxes are up no later than March 1st.
- White-eyed Vireos may begin appearing after mid-month.
- Solitary Vireos go through in the last half of the month tapering off in early May.
- The last week of the month may produce early records for some warblers, but they are generally few in number except for Yellow-rumps and a few other typically early species. The earliest warblers are the Pine (in March), Palm, Yellow-throated and Louisiana Waterthrush during early to mid-April; Common Yellowthroats after the middle of the month. Some Yellow-rumps usually winter here, but more migrate through in April.
- Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers may begin appearing late in the month, the majority in early to mid May.
- Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows should arrive--the former around the middle of the month and the latter anytime during April.
- The last week in April and first week in May White-throated Sparrows are moving.
- Generally, the most productive areas for migrants in late April are places near water and where oaks and Box Elders flower early (southern and eastern areas). Sometimes northern areas, such as Daniels, can be good despite slow leaf emergence but can be very quiet on a clear, chilly morning.



should be white crown

WINTER SEED SALE WORKERS DO GREAT JOB! - Coordinator Eileen Clegg reports that the highly successful seed sale on February 3 moved 33,000 pounds of seed. Helping outside loading or inside at the desk and bookstore were Don & Martha Waugh, Jim Blanchard, Warren Drell, Sr., John Greer, D. W. Trovinger, Rick Ostrander, Mark Wallace, Bob Bogdan, Tom Horwath, Bill & Shiras Guion, John Clegg, Bruce Eberle, Dave Kubitsky, Jane Farrell, Chuck Stirrat, Bob & Jo Solem, Mary Chevalier, Steve & Michael Koziol, Rod Botsai, Margo Garner, Barbara Doarnberger, Joe Suess, Zelda Simon, Carolyn Sisk, Linda Mcdaniel, and Doris Holmes. The crew cheerfully and efficiently served the almost 300 customers despite the fog and drizzle. Marty Chestem publicized the Maryland checkoff program to benefit the Chesapeake Bay and endangered species, Michele Wright had the fine club bookstore stock available, and the Nature Nook with Don Randle set up its usual excellent selection of feeders. Providing baked goods for the workers were Barbara Davis, Judy Habib, Deborah Schultz, Roselle Martin, Roni Phillips, Monika Botsai, and Romayne Smith. Thanks to one and all who, under Eileen's capable leadership, contributed to an efficient and enjoyable event.

SUPPORT OF SUSTAINING MEMBERS APPRECIATED - For the membership year 1989-1990, the following indicated a special level of support for the Howard County Bird Club by joining at the sustaining level or making an extra membership contribution:

Jim Blanchard, Lois Carleton, Marty Chestem, Ron Dunwiddie, Frances Ehlers, Alice Fazekas, Charles Fuller, Margo Garner, Pat and Dudley Jackson, Dennis Luck, Georgia Morris, Marjorie Mountjoy, Elise Seay, Bob and Wava Skaggs, Charles Swift and Melinda Upp.

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE MAILINGS - Two issues of the state journal have been mailed by the Howard Chapter during January 1990. ~~The June 1989 issue was assembled for mailing on January 10 at Eileen & John Clegg's.~~ In addition to Eileen & John, those helping were Marty Chestem, Tom Strikwerda, Lois Carleton, Frances Ehlers, Marjorie Mountjoy, Elise Seay, Helen Zeichner and Maud Banks. On January 31 the September 1989 issue was "stuffed" and labeled by Kenner Ashby, Maud Banks, Lois Carleton, Marty Chestem, Eileen Clegg, Frances Ehlers, Marjorie Mountjoy, Elise Seay, Zelda Simon, Tom Strikwerda, and Helen Zeichner at Zelda and Hal Simon's. Thanks to all who helped for assisting *Maryland Birdlife* reach the membership in an increasingly timely fashion. The Simons have volunteered to serve as the drop-off point, according to Maud Banks who organized these get-togethers. If you can help for a few hours occasionally with the mailings, let Maud know at 381-3240.

RICHARD SMITH HAS PROVIDED BUTTERFLY DISPLAYS - Local butterfly enthusiast Richard Smith has been faithfully bringing a few cases of specimens to each meeting this year. He will head a Bird Club project to census the butterfly species at Centennial Park. A May introductory trip is planned for those interested in learning more about butterflies, their habits and identification.

BAT BOX DONATED - Ruth Leffler recently donated a bat box to the Bird Club. After discussion with Bill Eckert from Howard County Recreation and Parks, it will be placed in one of the large parks. Dr. Edwin Gould has agreed to serve as a consultant in its placement.

91 NATURAL HERITAGE CALENDARS SOLD - Michele Wright reports that the bookstore sold 91 calendars produced by the Maryland Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Natural Resources. Each calendar contains 12 color photographs of Maryland wildlife in an attractive format suitable for hanging. They sold for a modest \$3.50. Not only did the Natural Heritage Program benefit, but both the state and local MOS received a small profit. Look for the 1991 calendar for sale next fall.

HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL PLAN - Bob Solem

As you have seen in the newspapers, Howard County is preparing to adopt *The 1990 General Plan: A Six Point Plan for the Future*. (The General Plan is a blueprint for Howard County for the next 20 years.)

The Howard County Bird Club strongly supports environmental and recycling provisions in the General Plan and is asking members and associates to sign a petition supporting this position. The plan suggests acquiring green space (extending Patapsco Park from MD 32 west to Mt. Airy, acquiring parkland in Elkridge and North Laurel along the rivers, developing continuous stream valley greenways, and creating critical masses of protected areas by filling in gaps and making the areas continuous). Another part of the plan outlines ways to protect the landscape: minimize disturbance of land during construction of parks and open space; set standards to preserve woodlands, hedgerows and existing vegetation; require the county government to set a good example in construction and land management; conduct stream surveys and watershed studies; develop sound strategies to preserve open space; and establish a baseline index of environmental and landscape resources. There is also a need to include in this General Plan more emphasis on recycling (encouraging source reduction, reuse and recycling as well as expanding the current residential and commercial recycling programs).

The six points of the General Plan are Responsible Regionalism, Preservation of the Rural West, Balanced Growth, Working With Nature, Community Enhancement, and Phased Growth. In contrast to earlier Howard County General Plans, this one has a chapter on the next key steps which must be undertaken in the next two years. These steps involve changes to laws or regulations, administrative actions, or interaction with other agencies.

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

Nonprofit Org.
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1989 Cavity Nester Report

Centennial Park Bird
Checklist Published