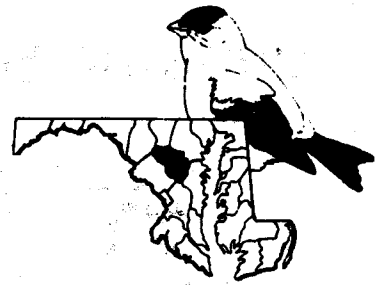




# Howard

A Chapter of the  
Maryland Ornithological Society

Vol. 19, No 1  
Sept-Oct 1990



## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Ralph W. Geuder

The Howard County Bird Club is marking its eighteenth year. We welcome you and invite you to renew your membership or join us if you haven't been a member before.

It is our hope that you will be able to participate with us actively. Come to the monthly meetings and go along on field trips. Become a member of a committee or help with our seed sales or other activities. Please take a few minutes to share some of your thoughts and ideas with the board of directors as you return the questionnaire which accompanies the membership form. Your input is important to us.

The club is very active in issues related to conservation and the environment. Continued and perhaps even increased participation in such areas will be an important facet of our organization's program this year.

It seems to me that finding ways of sharing our interests in and concerns about the natural world through increased education and involvement of students is an important challenge that we face. It is a truism that our future is in their hands. What may be less clear to some is the influence and task dedication that young people are able to exert right here and now. Please help us find ways to get them excited about the wonders and problems of the natural world.

You may have noticed that both the local and state dues have increased. This was the first such increase in many years, and our reasoning was simple. We felt it was important that our newsletters and activities be self-sustaining, so that all the monies we raise can be used directly for causes which reflect our concern for the natural world. If you should find that the increase in dues presents a financial hardship, write to the treasurer for a special arrangement. Your application will be held in confidence.

So again, welcome, and we hope that you have a birdwatching year that is fun, and one of accomplishment as well.

*Ralph W. Geuder*

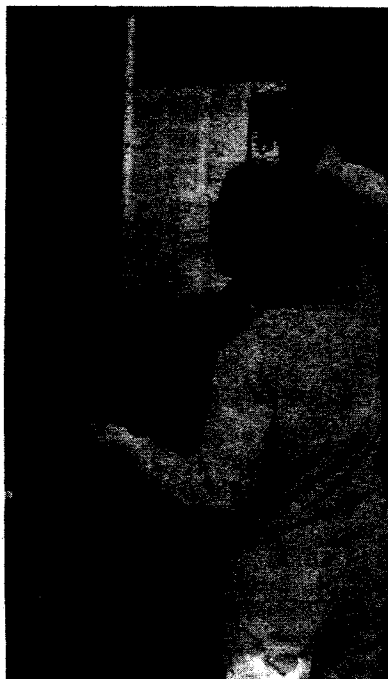
## BIRD CLUB DONATES BULLETIN BOARD TO CENTENNIAL PARK

The Howard County Bird Club donated a bulletin board to Centennial Park to be used for nature news. The board is located on one of the south walls of the concession building reached from the MD 108 entrance to the park.

The bulletin board was dedicated by Howard County Executive Elizabeth Bobo and Jeffrey Bourne, Director of Recreation and Parks. Joanne Solem, vice president elect, assisted with the unveiling. This was one of the special activities scheduled at county parks to celebrate April 22nd as the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day.

*Photograph: County Executive Elizabeth Bobo (left) and Joanne Solem attach first items to new bulletin board at Centennial Park.*

*Photograph by Ronald Dunwiddie.*



**SEED SALE!  
TWELFTH YEAR**

**FIRST SALE  
OF 1990-1991  
YEAR IS SAT,  
OCTOBER 13.**

**ORDER BLANKS  
WILL BE SENT  
IN SEPT. IF  
YOU DO NOT  
RECEIVE AN  
ORDER BLANK  
BY OCT 1, OR  
IF YOU HAVE  
QUESTIONS,  
CALL EILEEN,  
730-4362.**

 recycled paper

# ANTARCTIC BIRDING ADVENTURE

JANUARY 6-26, 1990

George B. Chase

Expecting the cruise to be spectacular was hardly enough to prepare us for what lay ahead on board the *M.V. Society Explorer* as it departed the Beagle Channel to begin Project Antarctica, Falkland, and South Georgia Islands. In retrospect, it was "hang-jawed numbing awesome."

We made 19 Zodiac trips from the ship, including landings at Islas Diego Ramirez in Drake Passage in 45 knot winds; Pendulum Cove in Deception Island where we parboiled ourselves in steaming ice water; and West Point in the Falklands where we had a barbecue in balmy near-Caribbean ambience. We had another on deck anchored in Paradise Bay, Antarctica, after we had passed through what, to some, was the most startling scenery of the cruise, Neumayer Channel.

Sixteen marine mammals were sighted, tying the cruise record, including Southern Right Whales at close range as Captain Zander pursued them like an old time whaler until we could drift among them as they fed. One lovely moonlit midnight in an ice framed canyon, the weird songs of Hump-backed Whales were broadcast over the ship's p.a. system just in case some unfortunate passengers were sleeping through the wondrous spectacle. Elsewhere, dolphins played tag with our Zodiacs, fur seals harassed us, Weddell Seals ignored us, and the ubiquitous Elephant Seals greeted us with thunderous flatulence.

We saw seven species of penguins, all in huge nesting colonies except the prize bird of the cruise, the Emperor Penguin. The ship had diverted from its usual destinations to try the Weddell Sea which is seldom open to navigation. We approached close enough to see Snow Hill, but reversed course and bumped and ground our way back through pack ice for a landing on Paulet Island. Icebergs, as large as city blocks and many stories high, drifted among ice flows on which lounged Crabeater Seals, Leopard Seals, and Emperor Penguins. More than once I doubted our sea captain's sanity, but never his enthusiasm for the challenges of this cruise.

Another prize bird was Peter Harrison, author of *Sea Birds of the World*, who got his reincarnation schedule all screwed up and came back as both a man and a sea bird, complete with zippered egg-warming patch which he blithely demonstrated to his amazed audience. Peter Harrison is an artist, an ornithologist, and an entertainer extraordinaire.

Of albatrosses we saw six species, four at close range tending to their nests. We saw many species of petrels and prions at sea and several in their nesting holes as well: Cape, Snow and Dove in the South Orkneys and Giant Petrels on South Georgia. In all, I personally checked off 35 sea bird species.

Passengers were Swiss, Brits, West Germans, Aussies, Belgians, Yanks, Canadians, and a Portuguese who was a birder, as were most of the passengers—some terribly earnest about listing, counting and noting every detail. One was criminally earnest, a thrip of a British lady who had been arrested in four countries for pursuing birds into restricted military areas. The staff threatened to duct-tape her into her cabin when we reached Port Stanley because her passport contained an Argentine visa permit.

There were a few non-birders after all. One was a former rock star from the sixties who actually complained to me about feeling a little left out. Could I believe it? Years ago I was one of those closet bird watchers who didn't even know that what we did had a name, sensing only that it was a little suspect.

The Falklands have had bad press. The islands are beautiful and scenic, and birds are plentiful, varied, and very tame. A Tussac-bird sat on someone's head, snipe sat at our feet, night-herons regarded us with utmost disdain, and a Blackish Oystercatcher allowed us to watch her egg hatch with minimal concern. My own checklist for Falkland birds numbers 37.

As an anticlimax to this cruise when we got back to Chile, a few of us Yanks thumbed off the highly competitive Bird Quester's bus and hired a Hertz Rent-a-Car in which we skirted Punta Arenas and found 27 life birds, among which was one species that we knew the Bird Questers had missed—the name, however, we tacitly conspired never to divulge. What is more, we witnessed a corroboree of Lesser Rheas shuckin' and jivin' some goofy dance, spreading their plumed skirts, running at blinding speed, skidding, turning, and charging back for more, and more, and more—a nice way to punctuate a "hang-jawed numbing awesome" Antarctic birding adventure.



# 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 Bonnie Ott 461-3361.

- SEPT 9 Sunday CENTENNIAL PARK. Contact Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for info. 1/2 day trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Centennial Lane parking lot in park. Expect the unexpected at our county's popular hot spot.
- ★ SEPT 13 Thursday "CAN WE BRING BACK THE TRUMPETER SWAN TO MARYLAND" - Dr. William Sladen. Our speaker spent many years studying all swan species and banding them on their nesting grounds on several continents.
- SEPT 16 Sunday ROCKBURN PARK. Leader: David Holmes. 1/2 day trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Rockburn Park office. Be prepared for muddy areas. Possible migrating Broad-winged Hawks, warblers, etc. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for info.
- SEPT 22 Saturday BEGINNING BIRDER'S WALK AT WILDE LAKE. Leader: Helen Zeichner 730-3695. 1/2 day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at boat dock on Wilde Lake. Bring binoculars and a field guide for a leisurely walk at this Columbia lake.
- SEPT 23 Sunday HUGHES HOLLOW. Contact Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for info. Approximately 1/2 day. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Grempler. Bring lunch & beverage as desired. Mont. Co. hot spot has different habitats with owls, turkeys, herons, ducks and many woodland and field birds.
- ★ OCT 11 Thursday "A TRIP TO THE MARITIMES: BIRDS & MORE" - Ralph Geuder. Share in the summer 1990 trip to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Maybe we'll see a puffin.
- ★ OCT 13 Saturday AUTUMN SEED SALE. Seed sale order blanks will be mailed in September to all members and to those on our mailing list. If you have questions, call Eileen at 730-4362. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.
- OCT 14 Sunday SCHOOLEY MILL. Leader: Nancy Magnusson 461-8912. 1/2 day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at building on left at Schooley Mill. Prepare for muddy trails as well as migrating sparrows and hawks.
- OCT 20 Saturday ROCKBURN PARK HAWK WATCH. Leader: Ralph Geuder. 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Meet at first lot on left off Montgomery Road entrance to Rockburn Park. Bring blanket or folding chair, beverage and lunch if desired. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for info.
- OCT 21 Sunday HABITAT WALK AT SAVAGE PARK. Co-sponsored with Howard Co. Rec & Parks. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for info. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Meet at brick park office building.
- OCT 27 Saturday MARYLAND CENTRAL FARM. 1/2 day. Joint trip with Baltimore MOS. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Centennial Park parking lot off Centennial Lane. Possible pipits, larks and migrant sparrows.
- OCT 28 CENTENNIAL PARK FALL WEEKLY WALKS. Leaders: Marty Chestem, Jane Farrell,  
NOV 4, 11 Nancy Magnusson, Bonnie Ott. 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Call Bonnie Ott  
& 18 461-3361 for info. Meet in parking lot off Centennial Lane in park.  
Sunday Prime time for migrating waterfowl: numbers and species change from week to week. Late migrant hawks also possible depending on weather.

## BOARD MEETINGS:

Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced.  
Thursday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1990 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due Oct. 5. Call or mail to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723; telephone 725-5037.

# NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS - NEWS

## PARCEL 245 BECOMES PARKLAND

Patapsco Heights-Church Road Association celebrated on June 19 to mark the acquisition of parkland near Sucker Branch that links Patapsco Park to the Ellicott City Historic District. The Bird Club was one of 30 organizations commended for helping the effort. The guests included a representative of Gov. Schaefer, County Executive Elizabeth Bobo, Sen. Kasemeyer, Council Reprs. Beltram and Farragut, and many citizens. Conservation Chair Bob Solem accepted the certificate awarded the Bird Club.

## TAX CHECKOFF TOPS ONE MILLION

The Bird Club has actively promoted the state income tax checkoff program which benefits The Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Dept. of Natural Resources. The state has collected \$1,009,092 for 1989 (and not all returns had been processed). In 1988, the first year, the final figure was \$994,710. The increase is significant because states with similar programs usually have shown a dropoff in the second year.

Howard County is first in the state for percentage of participation with 4.3%. Montgomery County had 4.1% participation but raised more money than Howard. The Bird Club will promote the program again in 1990.

## BLUEBIRD/CAVITY NESTER SURVEY

Bluebird/cavity nester survey forms will be mailed to all individuals who reported in 1989 or who communicated with Joe Suess or Mark Wallace during the 1990 breeding season. If you monitored boxes in the parks, Bill Eckert will be collecting your data before forwarding it.

## MARYLAND BIRDLIFE HELPERS

Those helping to mail the last issue of *Maryland Birdlife* were Tom Strikwerda (942-2841), Nancy Magnusson, Marty Chestem, Ruth Leffler, Elise Seay, Eileen Clegg, Maud & Harry Banks. The Howard Chapter has volunteered to continue to mail the state journal, which involves several evening hours about once a quarter. If you are able to help, call Tom at the above number. The more hands, the more quickly the job is done!

## MOS LICENSE PLATES

License plate tag applications are available from Tom Strikwerda. Call him and leave a message at 942-2841. Spot other birders and advertise MOS.

## BANDED HOUSE FINCH FOUND

Ralph Geuder discovered a dead banded House Finch at his home in the eastern part of the county on April 5, 1990. He mailed the number on the band to the Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel. They advised him that the bird had been banded on December 8, 1989 near York, South Carolina (off I-77 in south-central North Carolina near Charlotte), a distance of 410 miles from here. During the summer Dr. Aelred Geis on Trotter Road has been color-banding House Finches with the help of some Bird Club members. Watch for the birds at your feeders this winter.

## ALUMINUM CANS FOR SAVAGE PARK

Sue Mueller, assistant manager at Savage Park, urges you to save and recycle your aluminum cans. If it is convenient for you, leave them at the park building in Savage Park. They will be redeemed and the money raised will be used to mount mammals and birds for display and educational purposes as well as to pay for winter bird food. If you have questions, call the park office at 490-7575.

## HUBER PAINTS MD DUCK STAMP

Karla Huber, a Columbia resident, was the winner of this year's Maryland duck stamp competition with her painting of Lesser Scaup. The Bird Club's male Lesser Scaup was the model. Congratulations, Karla!

## MILLER DONATES HONORARIUM


Stauffer Miller, who presented the May program, donated his honorarium to The Nature Conservancy.

## AREA BIRDING HOTLINES

A reminder that information about bird sightings in the mid-Atlantic region can be obtained from The Voice of the Naturalist at 652-1088 (a D.C. number). This tape is changed weekly, usually Wednesday mornings. Another hotline (operated by the Harford County MOS) is 638-0290. This tape is changed three times a week, more often if something really rare shows up. Thanks to the Howard County telephone Rare Bird Alert, headed by Bea Newkirk, county rarities are circulated. Normally, callers try twice at different times. Since the number of people to be called is substantial, the Howard Alert is rearranged each year in response to the annual membership questionnaire. You MUST indicate your interest on an annual basis or you may be dropped from the list.

## IN MEMORIAM: Frances J. Ehlers, 1909-1990

To those of use who knew her, Frances Ehlers seemed spirited and indestructible but suddenly, the afternoon of June 6th, she was gone from our midst. She had been working in the yard, although at that moment she probably would rather have been peering into a bluebird box greeting new life as hers came to a close.



Frances was a native Washingtonian. She graduated from Central High School, attended Strayer Business College, and obtained a law degree from Southeastern University. Although admitted to the bar, she never practiced law but used her legal skills to become an insurance claims examiner for Veterans Administration, the Labor Department, and the Social Security Administration. She retired from government service in 1969. She moved to Clarksville in 1961 after spending much of her early life in Silver Spring.

Frances was confronted with challenges throughout her life and met each with vigor. She held a private pilot's license and was an accomplished horsewoman as well as an avid swimmer. She loved all the gifts of nature, especially birds. Her feeders were kept filled for them all year and her property contained plantings which attracted them. Winter feeder trips often included a stop to see Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins which were sometimes regular at her feeders when they were scarce elsewhere. Frances was a true steward, an advocate for many environmental causes and organizations, generous with both time and money. She was a staunch supporter of Bird Club activities volunteering numerous hours staffing exhibits, mailing *Maryland Birdlife*, and attending hearings. Her great love was the Eastern Bluebird. She was a charter member of the North American Bluebird Society and for many years maintained a bluebird trail of nearly 50 nest boxes, faithfully monitoring them weekly. She was amused each year when she fledged higher percentages of bluebirds than her two friendly male "competitors" in the county.

Frances was candid; she could amaze and amuse you by what she said, but her conversation was refreshing. Behind a rugged exterior was a generous and loving person, a loyal and devoted friend. We and the bluebirds will miss her.

—Joseph Seuss

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## CONNIE BOCKSTIE WINS MOS CONVENTION PIN COMPETITION



Howard Bird Club member Connie Bockstie will remember her first MOS annual convention for a long time. Not only was she seeing birds morning, noon, and night, but President John Malcolm announced that she was the winner of the fourth annual convention pin competition. It was the first time a Howard County Bird Club member had been so honored.

Because of the convention's location in Kent County, Connie chose a Canada Goose as her subject. The brown, black and white goose is outlined in gold on an aqua background with MOS 1990 in gold. Connie received a check good at the convention bookstore. The pin was given to the record 340

people who attended. Next year's convention will be held May 24-26, 1991 at the 4-H Center sponsored by the Montgomery Chapter. Artists, start planning your design. Choose a species that is an important part of the birdlife in Montgomery County and let's see if Howard County can make it two in a row!

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## AMERICAN KESTREL NEST BOX DISPLAY CONSTRUCTED BY MARK WALLACE

The newest Bird Club display is a kestrel nest box constructed by Mark Wallace in his meticulous fashion with a plastic top and front. It is not a typical nest, for the kestrel laid eggs on top of nesting material from a displaced starling. The bones and other prey items found in the box included a leg bone bearing a band from a fledgling bluebird which had been raised about a half mile from the kestrels. The display was exhibited at the Howard County Fair in August.

# SUMMARY OF 1990 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

Paul A. Zucker

The 1990 Howard County May Count was conducted from 4:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. on May 12. This year was the third year that the count was held on the second Saturday in May. There were a total of 49 participants in 21 field parties. Compared to previous years, this count continued to have a good turnout and reasonably good coverage of the county. Totals for party miles and hours and species total will appear in the June 1990 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. A total of 148 species were identified (third highest total in the last 15 years), and 13,998 individual birds were tallied. Early in the morning there was a ground fog in the low-lying areas. Temperatures started in the 40's. At about 9:00 a.m. the sky clouded over and the wind picked up. During the afternoon the sky remained mostly cloudy, and the wind continued to blow. There were occasional light rain showers. The high temperature for the day was in the 60's.

The following discussion refers to the most recent 15 May Counts (1976-1990). Unusual sightings (seen four times or fewer in this interval) are listed below along with the number of years recorded: Bald Eagle (1, an immature), Mourning Warbler (1), Henslow's Sparrow (1), Tundra Swan (2), Willow Flycatcher (3), Lincoln's Sparrow (3), Ruddy Duck (4), Semipalmated Sandpiper (4), Common Nighthawk (4), and American Pipit (4). On the other hand, there were several species missed this year which have been seen on at least 10 counts in this interval: American Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Solitary Vireo, Palm Warbler, and Purple Finch. High counts were tallied for the following species: Green-backed Heron, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Flicker, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Carolina Wren, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Field Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, and House Finch. Unusually low totals were obtained for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Blue-winged Warbler.

The participation of the following people is greatly appreciated: Scott Atkinson, Connie Bockstie, Joy and Michael Bowen, George Chase, Marty Chestem, Graham Chisom, John Clegg, Jane Farrell, Charles Fuller, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Richard Giannola, Shiras Guion, Anne and Ken Hart, Kevin Heffernan, Ann Higgins, John Hoffman, David and Irene Keefer, Anu and Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Dave Kubitsky, Mike Leumas, Bob and Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Kathy Mariano, Sherry Martin, Grazina and Mike McClure, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Susanne Probst, Jan and Don Randle, Chandler Robbins, Michael Smith, Bob and Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, Linda Stirrat, Tom Strikwerda, Mark Wallace, Peggy Willson, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, and Paul Zucker (compiler).

## FLOWER FEATURE

### CHICORY

Georgia Morris & Bob Solem



CHICORY - *Cichorium intybus*

FAMILY - Composite (*Compositae*)

HABITAT - Roadsides, waste areas, disturbed soil, meadows.

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - End of May to mid-November.

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATION - Nearly every roadside, field, meadow or area where the soil has been worked in the last few years.

PLANT - 1' to 4' high, stiffly erect, branching plant with blue daisy-like flowers growing close to the stem.

FLOWERS - 1-1½" across, each with 12 to 20 square-tipped, fringed ray flowers. Unlike most composite flowers, there are no center disk flowers. Instead, the center is composed of numerous 2-part styles, each surrounded by dark blue fused anthers.

LEAVES - A rosette of basal leaves, not unlike dandelion leaves, surround the stem. They are large (6" long) oval, coarsely toothed. The stem leaves are small, lance-shaped and clasp the stem."

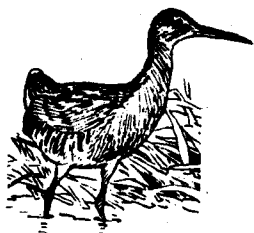
SPECIAL INFORMATION - Look for Chicory along roadsides in the early morning on sunny days, for by noon it has faded or closed. The flowers do not open in cloudy or rainy weather. The long tap root can be ground, dried, and roasted for a coffee substitute. The basal leaves can be collected in spring and used in salads or cooked and served like spinach. In Europe, Chicory is grown as a cash crop and shipped to the U.S. Also called Blue Sailors or Ragged Sailors, it is loved for its color and hated for its weedy tendencies.

# THE BIRDING YEAR IN HOWARD COUNTY

AUGUST  
Jo Solem

- Fall migration is taking place. Although it is most pronounced from the last half of August through October, it continues until freeze up.
- Shorebirds should be coming through now with muddy areas of reservoirs the best possibilities though heavy rains may make some fields attractive. Watch the shoreline to see when reservoirs are drawn down. There is variation from year to year due to rainfall, heat, water demand, and dam maintenance.
- Continue to look for wandering egrets, herons, cormorants or even an occasional White Ibis.
- Ospreys should be seen with consistency into early November.
- Keep an eye out for Laughing Gulls.
- Be alert for terns, especially mid to late August; rarely seen for more than a short time and normally in low numbers on or over reservoirs and lakes.
- Dusk from mid August to early September is the prime time to see nighthawks migrate, sometimes in large numbers.
- In late August Olive-sided Flycatchers are a possibility. Check dead trees or dying portions of trees usually near water.
- August can produce unusual sightings, but it can also produce days in which almost nothing is seen (one shorebird or warbler wave has moved out and the next has not arrived), but the chance of catching something special is enough to keep some observers checking reservoir levels, watching weather systems (particularly cold waves and hurricanes), and visiting specialized habitats.
- Swallows are congregating over ponds and lakes. Brighton Dam may be good for species besides the nesting Cliffs especially during the first half of the month.
- Blue Grosbeaks are often easier to find this month than earlier in the breeding season. Check open scrubby areas not far from water.

## KING RAIL MAKES MULTIPLE APPEARANCES IN THE COUNTY



Howard County records of the elusive rail family are few, but 1990 has become the Year of the King Rails. Until April the only King Rail record was one from 1963. On April 15, Wes and Susan Earp observed the first (of the three reported so far) at the edge of a wet wooded area on their property. That bird did not stay. June 16, Jon K. Boone found a bird at Schooley Mill Park in the sediment pond not far from the road. The combination of cattails, long grass, and plentiful food (especially crayfish) conspired to make this highly vocal male happy enough to stay for weeks. Jon heard and saw the bird and happened to be in the park at the same time as a scheduled Bird Club field trip, so the lucky participants saw it. To disturb the rail as little as possible, the Rare Bird Alert offered birders an opportunity to go with a group to see and hear it. The third King Rail was observed by Jon's father, Jon E. Boone, on the westernmost island at Centennial Park on July 3. This bird was a probable female producing few vocalizations. It was seen sporadically for several weeks. Observers were able to establish that there were two separate birds at the same time in the county.

## MOS MATCHES HOWARD COUNTY'S CHALLENGE GRANT

The March-April *Maryland Yellowthroat* announced a challenge grant that the Howard County Bird Club had made in continuing support of the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Up to \$2,500 would be matched by this chapter by the end of the annual convention (June 10). Individual contributions along with the convention raffle and silent auction put the state over the top! In addition, Linda Fields, Howard County's Solid Waste Program Manager who was our December 1989 speaker, donated her honorarium to this project.

## PUBLICITY: Television and Membership Brochures

During the first week of June, the Bird Club was featured on the "Howard Weekly" program on cable television. Thanks to Susan Earp, Mark Wallace, Jane Farrell, Kathy Mariano, and Jo Solem for assisting and appearing on several different days. Spotlighted were the club's bluebird program, field activities, and educational programs.

The Bird Club's yellow membership brochure was reprinted during the summer. Special thanks to Suzanne Probst who provided a new drawing of an American Goldfinch on a thistle, to Shiras Guion for word processing support, and to Bob and Jo Solem for revision and layout.

# CONSERVATION REPORT

Bob Solem

Howard County has a 1990 General Plan with the environmental provisions to acquire green space, to protect the landscape, and to promote solid waste reduction. The Bird Club advocated inclusion of these provisions as early as December, 1989, when the General Plan Guidelines were being adopted. Executive Elizabeth Bobo included provisions we supported in the legislation sent to the County Council. Council Chairperson Shane Pendergrass presided over several nights of public hearings and many hours of Council work sessions. Council member Angela Beltram sponsored amendments encouraging acquisition priority of parkland along the Patapsco and Patuxent Rivers. She also sponsored an amendment requiring environmentally sensitive development in areas needing such protection. Council member Vernon Gray proposed that a system of trails and pathways be designed as pedestrian/bike paths and trails. Ms. Beltram and Council member Paul Farragut sponsored amendments to give priority for park acquisition in developed areas and to base the acquisition needs on an "environmental index analysis." Mr. Farragut sponsored an amendment promoting solid waste reduction by expanding programs emphasizing source reduction, reuse and recycling.

All of the above amendments were passed by the Howard County Council on July 2, 1990. The *1990 General Plan of Howard County* was passed by a 4-1 vote, with Council member Charles Feaga voting against the resolution.

Solid waste reduction was the subject of an EDF newsletter, *Recycling WORLD*. Many of the tips may help you when shopping:

**Buy in bulk.** This not only uses less total packaging, it also saves you money.

**Buy recycled paper packaging.** Pass up polystyrene foam cartons; look for paper boxes made from recycled material.

**Avoid throwaway products.** Don't buy single- or limited-use items such as plastic razors, throwaway cleansing pads, non-refillable pens, etc.

**Avoid excess packaging.** Compare the size of the package to the size of the product. Avoid miniaturized "single-serving" packages. Buy fruit and vegetables loose. Be wary of convenience gimmickry. Choose products that are not in plastic trays and do not have attached "promotional" materials.

▶ PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION SOON. MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - AUGUST 31. YOUR PROMPT RENEWAL SAVES US POSTAGE.

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Maryland Ornithological  
Society, Inc.

c/o Helen Ford  
408 Beach Dr.  
Annapolis, MD 21403

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