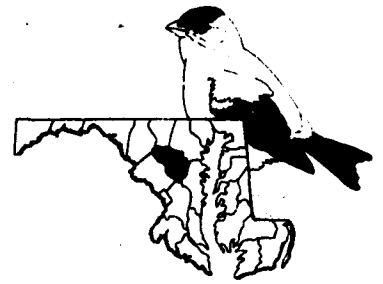




Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



Vol. 19, No 3
Jan-Feb 1991

PARTICIPATE IN MARYLAND'S "WILD ACRES" PROGRAM

Maryland has a project for homeowners funded by the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund. As part of the Urban Wildlife Program, it is designed to encourage landowners to enhance their wildlife habitat.

In order to enroll in the program, you must complete an *Application for Certification* which may be obtained on request from the Urban Wildlife Program, Maryland Forest, Park and Wildlife Service, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401. You are asked to indicate the type of land ownership, size of lot and type of neighborhood. More important is your listing of types of food for wildlife including plantings and bird seed; shelter including live, dead and fallen trees, shrubs, brush and rock piles, nest boxes, unmowed grass or meadow, and evergreens; and water whether natural or provided. Sketches, photographs and slides are welcome but not necessary.

An aspect of this program which may be of special interest to owners of new homes is that if you are working on plans to enhance your property for wildlife, you may describe your plans and ask biologists to make comments and suggestions.

Individuals who request information about the Wild Acres program will be sent an application and a packet of printed material designed for a looseleaf 3-ring binder. The topics are designed to help you create an inviting wildlife area: Purple Martins, Backyard Ponds, Hedgerows, Planting Shrubs for Wildlife, Feeding Wild Birds, Owls in Maryland, Woodpeckers, Brush Piles, Wildflower Meadows, How to Attract Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Bees, Eastern Bluebirds, Bats in Maryland, The American Robin, and Squirrels.

When should you start your Wild Acres? "Start now. Admittedly, spring and fall are the best times to begin planting, but summer is still a good time to plant the flowers, shrubs, and trees that are available. In the colder months, bird feeders can be assembled and filled for wintering animals. Nest boxes can be built in anticipation of the spring nesting season. And, of course, anytime is perfect for drawing your backyard habitat plans, choosing plants to use, and assembling the materials you will need for the warm weather."

There is no charge for this program and certification of your land carries no legal change of status in any way. It is designed to help you help wildlife. The Urban Wildlife material points out that "By following the recommendations made in this packet of information, you will be rewarded with the knowledge that you have contributed valuable habitat to your neighborhood."

HOWARD COUNTY ANNUAL BIRD LISTS DUE JANUARY 15, 1991

For the twelfth consecutive year an annual county bird list is being compiled. Last year we broke the record AGAIN by reaching 223 species. This reflects increasingly better coverage of a wide variety of habitats by more birders along with a good dose of luck and serendipity. Put together those birds you saw within the boundaries of Howard County during 1990. You may have concentrated on one park, a single lake, or your own backyard—the length of the list isn't important. Those who submit material will receive a printout of the 12-year compilation.

Send lists to Jane Farrell, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045 by Jan 15, 1991 (or let her know by phone at 596-2630 if you can't quite make the deadline).



BIRDING THE LAND DOWN UNDER Chuck Dupree

Many of our members travel widely. This newsletter welcomes descriptions of natural history trips. Lengthy accounts may have to be cut or divided into several parts. Share your adventures!



Australia, a country of English speaking people, is about the same size as the United States, but there the similarity ends. The world's largest island and smallest continent lies mostly in the tropics (40%), has no high mountains to accumulate enough snow to feed rivers all year long, and has a total population of 16.5 million.

Rainfall is greatest during the summer (winter in the U.S.) in the north and east and during the winter (our summer) in the south and west. Rainfall, soil type and elevation determine the vegetation growing in an area. Forests and woodlands are dominated by eucalyptus, shrubland by acacia, & grasslands by *Triodia spinifex*.

While visiting my daughter and her family from the second week in August through the third week in September of 1990, I was able to see a small portion of this beautiful and unique country. The weather was ideal, warm during the day and cool at night, with only a few showers.

Cairns, a tropical paradise in the northeast corner of Australia, was our first stop. This small tourist city is on a narrow strip of land sandwiched between the rainforests of the Great Dividing Range and the Coral Sea. The main attraction is the Great Barrier Reef which lies several miles offshore. There were many choices of islands to visit, but to me the only logical one was Michaelmas Cay, where the seaward half is a nesting area for pelagic birds. In less than an hour a swift catamaran crossed the reef and anchored close to the cay where small boats ferried tourists ashore. Most of the passengers went scuba diving to view the tropical fish, some went swimming, many sunbathed on the sandy beach. This didn't make much sense when there were thousands of nesting seabirds on the other side of the island. These included the Crested, Lesser Crested and Sooty Terns, the Brown Booby and the Common Booby. A Least Frigatebird also paid a visit.

Actually some of the best birding was right from the side porch of the condo. Only two blocks from the rain forest and two blocks from the ocean, the area had a sort of edge effect. Yellow-bellied Sunbirds, Mistletoebirds, Helmeted Friarbirds, Figbirds, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, flocks of Rainbow Lorikeets, a Grey Goshawk and Rainbow Bee-eaters were a few of the species seen. On a tree near the porch a male Laughing Kookaburra offered a female a lizard, but she would have none of it. On the ground a Sacred Ibis probed the earth for food.

For sheer beauty the trip to the Daintree River National Park along the Captain Cook Highway was hard to beat. In many places the tropical forests of gum and palm trees growing on the steep slopes of the Great Dividing Range extended almost to the ocean. Sugarcane fields dotted the landscape where the land was flat. A boat excursion on the Daintree River to see the giant crocodiles yielded only two very small ones sunning themselves on a sand bar, but the birding was fruitful. Azure and Sacred Kingfishers and a Yellow Oriole were spotted in the mangrove swamps. Hundreds of egrets lined the sand bar while a Roof Egret, a Straw-necked Ibis and a Black-necked Stork were seen flying overhead.

A 22 mile trip up the twisting, narrow road across the Great Dividing Range took over an hour before we reached the tableland. Crop land and cattle feeding ranches dominated the landscape. On the way to Kuranda to see the falls, a flock of large birds the size of Sandhill Cranes was seen landing in a pasture near the road. They proved to be Broglia. Not too far away an even larger flock of Sarus Cranes was feeding in another pasture. The falls were a disappointment. Due to the lack of rain, just a trickle of water was falling to the bottom of the enormous gorge.

Two Australian Brush Turkeys flew across the road as we were travelling to see a huge fig tree. When a tall fig tree falls, it sometimes gets hung up in another tree. Ripe seeds begin to germinate as they drop into crevices of the fallen tree. Hundreds of roots are sent down to the earth forming a curtain — a very impressive sight!

Lake Tinaroo, a man-made lake covering hundreds of acres, proved to be a very good birding area. Brahminy Kites, Black Kites and Wedge-tailed Eagles soared overhead. Australian Pelicans, Manned Ducks, Cotton Pygmy Geese and several species of cormorants were viewed on the lake, while the Masked Lapwings and Black-fronted Plovers patrolled the shoreline. Some of the more interesting land birds were the Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Leaden Flycatcher, Pied Currawong and White-breasted Woodswallow.

(To be continued)

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.*

- ★ JAN 10 **MOVIE NIGHT.** "The Predators," a Marty Stauffer production, narrated by Robert Redford (50 min.) Yes, we will have popcorn (after all, it is a movie night). Thursday
- JAN 12 **FEEDER TRIP TO HOWARD COUNTY LOCATIONS.** Leader: Michele Wright (465-6057). 1/2 day trip. Meet at Grempler at 1:00 p.m. This may include some walking on private property. Saturday
- ★ JAN 26 **SIXTH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT.** Field observers and feeder watchers needed. Call Jo Solem 725-5037 to volunteer. Tally meal in evening at Hal & Zelda Simon's for field participants. Call Zeld 730-8328 to reserve space and tell her what you can bring. Saturday
- JAN 27 **WINTER HABITAT WALK AT SAVAGE PARK.** Cosponsored with Howard County Dept of Recreation & Parks. Leader: Bill Eckert. 1:00-2:30 p.m. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for information. Meet at brick park building. Sunday
- ★ FEB 2 **SEED SALE.** Order blanks will be mailed in January to all members and to those on our mailing list. Questions? Call Eileen at 730-4362. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Saturday
- Feb 9
FEB 9 **GULL TRIP TO ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL and/or TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR.** Leader: Nancy Magnusson. 1/2 day trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Grempler. Limit 15 people. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 to make reservations. Saturday
- ★ FEB 9 **LEISUREFEST AT COLUMBIA MALL.** Coordinator: Eileen Clegg 730-4362. Volunteers to stay with the table and chat with people are needed for an hour or two from 10:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m. If inexperienced, Eileen will arrange to put you with someone. Saturday
- ★ FEB 14 **SISTER BARBARA ANN** of Catonsville, MD, has been a keen observer of the natural world for decades. Her account of raising two badly injured bluebirds has been included in her recent book *Beakless Bluebirds and Featherless Penguins*. She will talk about her experiences and will also be available to autograph her book. Thursday
- FEB 17 **HOWARD COUNTY WATERFOWL TRIP.** (Leader will decide location.) 1/2 day trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Grempler. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for info. Sunday
- ★ MARCH 2 **SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER.** Our annual potluck will be held at the Florence Bain Sr. Center. See article on page 5 for information on how to make reservations. Saturday
- MARCH 3 **OWL TRIP.** Leader: Bonnie Ott 461-3361. Limit 12. Meet at 5:30 a.m. Call leader for details. Sunday
- MARCH 3 **ROCKBURN PARK.** Leader: Bonnie Ott 461-3361. 1/2 day trip. Meet at Rockburn Park office 7:30 a.m. Tree sparrows, kinglets, & Winter Wrens? Sunday
- MARCH 6 **CENTENNIAL LAKE.** Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for information. 3 hour trip. Meet at parking lot at west end of Centennial Park at 8:00 a.m. Wednesday
- MARCH 9 **WILDE LAKE.** Leader: Helen Zeichner 730-3695. 8:00-10:00 a.m. Meet at boat dock at 8:00 a.m. Focus on waterfowl. Saturday
- ★ MARCH 10 **CENTENNIAL LAKE.** 8:00-11:00 a.m. Meet at parking lot at west end of Centennial Park. Joint trip with Baltimore Chapter. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for information. Sunday

BOARD MEETINGS:

- Thursday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. Longfellow Elementary School.
- Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. Longfellow Elementary School.

BREEDING BIRD CENSUS COMPARISON: 1971 VS 1990

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Gerald Einem



In 1971, a 29.7 acre census plot was established in the Middle Patuxent River valley which is now referred to as the Howard County Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. This census plot is a mature upland tulip tree, maple, and oak forest. The first quantitative Breeding Bird Census was conducted by Chandler Robbins, Edward Connor, Dedra Birchwald, Paul Wagner and Aelred Geis. Chandler Robbins continued to census the area each year 1972-1976. The following information compares the 1971 breeding bird population to my recent 1990 census, 19 years later.

	1971	1990		1971	1990		1971	1990
Wood Thrush	7.5	18.5	Veery	0.0	2.0	Brown Thrasher	+	0.0
Red-eyed Vireo	14.0	17.0	Gray Catbird	1.0	2.0	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	+	0.0
Hooded Warbler	6.5	8.5	Blue Jay	+	1.0	Yellow-breasted Chat	+	0.0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2.0	7.0	Hairy Woodpecker	1.0	1.0	American Goldfinch	+	0.0
Acadian Flycatcher	9.5	7.0	Carolina Wren	2.0	1.0			
Northern Cardinal	13.0	5.0	Northern Flicker	+	1.0			
Scarlet Tanager	2.0	5.0	Northern Parula	2.0	1.0	Breeding birds which visited the area		
Tufted Titmouse	4.0	4.0	Yellow-throated Vireo	1.0	1.0	but whose territories were largely		
Kentucky Warbler	4.5	3.5	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	+	0.5	outside the study plot:		
Ovenbird	2.0	3.0	Brown-headed Cowbird	+	0.5			
Downy Woodpecker	2.5	3.0	American Crow	+	0.5	Red-tailed Hawk	0.0	+
Eastern Wood-Peevee	3.0	2.5	Cerulean Warbler	2.5	0.0	Red-shouldered Hawk	+	+
Carolina Chickadee	1.5	2.0	White-eyed Vireo	2.0	0.0	Black-billed Cuckoo	0.0	+
Rufous-sided Towhee	8.0	2.0	Northern Bobwhite	+	0.0	Barred Owl	0.0	+
Mourning Dove	2.5	2.0	Great Crested Flycatcher	+	0.0	Pileated Woodpecker	0.0	+
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.0	2.0	Fish Crow	+	0.0	Worm-eating Warbler	1.0	+

Male birds were located by grid markers and counted primarily on the basis of male vocalization and woodpecker drumming. To be counted, a male bird must be heard on his territory a minimum of three visits. (In 1990, 25 visits were made to the census plot.) A count of 0.5 means that the bird was heard outside and inside the census plot an equal number of times. We assume, therefore, that half of the male's territory is within the study plot. The columns show the number of different male birds vocalizing on territory during the period of the breeding census.

An important aspect of the current census, when compared to the 1971 census, is that (with one exception) there were not any significant reductions in the populations of forest dependent neotropical migrants such as the Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Ovenbird. Reductions of neotropical migrants, if they had occurred, might be expected as a result of tropical deforestation on their wintering grounds. The Cerulean Warbler was not present; however, other factors could account for its disappearance such as the clearing of the adjacent river bottom forest for a sewer line in 1983.

The reduced numbers of some species in 1990 such as the White-eyed Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Yellow-breasted Chat probably resulted from an increased growth of the forest leaving fewer open areas inside the census plot. These species are still common in the early successional forest just outside the plot.

An annual census of breeding bird populations provides an excellent barometer of the environmental fitness of the area for breeding forest birds. Because of the long term observations in the early 1970s of this plot and an adjacent river bottom census plot, we have a firm basis for comparison of future census data. The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area may be developed as a park and an environmental education center for the Howard County Public Schools. Columbia's new village will adjoin the area. If the breeding bird census areas are protected within the environmental area, future breeding bird population data will be invaluable in determining the impact of development within and outside the environmental area.

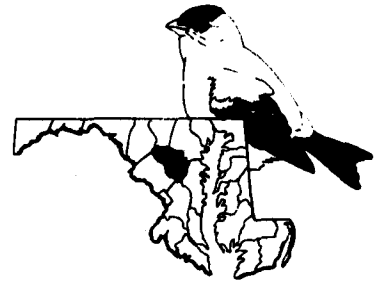
The 1990 census data establishes that the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, one of the few undisturbed large tracts of mature forest left in Howard County, is still a premier area for breeding forest birds. The environmental area and the census plots can serve students, nature lovers and others as a showcase as well as an index of the rich biological heritage of this region, particularly those birds requiring large tracts of undisturbed mature forest.

Long term data gathering for nesting species is proving to be highly useful to researchers. Because these two plots were censused almost two decades ago, they may be particularly valuable in this rapidly changing county. Gerry would like to hear from other Bird Club members who might like to help him with an occasional trip on the upland plot. You must be able to identify the local breeding species by sight and sound. If enough field people respond, we may be able to reestablish the boundaries of the floodplain plot. Would you be willing to spend time in the winter looking for the stakes, remeasuring lines, and cutting brush from the narrow census trails? Let him know evenings at 730-0877.



Howard

*A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society*



RECYCLING

After considering the solid waste problems the county faces, the Howard County Bird Club believes that residents and businesses should recycle **more than one-fourth of the waste stream by 1994**. In order to reach that goal, the county government should take the following actions:

1. Collect and provide processing for targeted recyclables which comprise nearly half of the total waste stream:
 - newspaper
 - glass
 - aluminum
 - corrugated
 - yard wastes
 - office paper
 - ferrous metals
 - plastics
2. Construct or contract for services for a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to process collected residential recyclables and commercial corrugated cardboard and office paper.
3. Provide curbside recyclable collection for all residents currently receiving curbside trash pickup and for multi-family units with fewer than 20 dwellings.
4. Implement a drop-off container program at multi-family units with more than 20 dwellings.
5. Construct or contract for services for a composting/mulching facility for processing leaves, brush and branches, wood wastes, and grass.
6. Provide curbside collection of residential yard wastes: leaves, brush, branches, and grass.
7. Implement a comprehensive public education/information program to maximize residential and commercial/industrial participation in the recycling program. Include a technical assistance program to advise on markets and collection programs.
8. Assist commercial/industrial concerns in identifying markets for collected recyclables.
9. Establish an administrative staff to execute the marketing, public education/information, and technical assistance programs.
10. Increase landfill tipping fees incrementally to finance the cost of the recycling program as programs and facilities are brought on line.

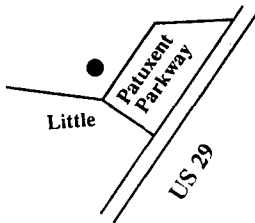
RECYCLING EXPANDS WITH SECOND MOBILE RECYCLING TRUCK (Mo.R.T.)

Howard County has two Mobile Recycling Trucks that stop at nine locations in the county each week to service those who do not have curb-side pickup. Mo.R.T. will be collecting the same items for recycling that are picked up at curb-side:

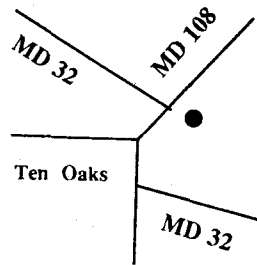
- **NEWSPAPERS** placed in a brown grocery type bag or bundled with string (no inserts please).
- **ALUMINUM CANS** (juice, pet food, and beverage cans). Rinse food and liquids from cans. Use a magnet to be sure; if the magnet **DOES NOT STICK** to the can, it is aluminum.
- **BIMETAL CANS** are regular "tin" cans. If a magnet sticks to the can, it is a bimetal can.
- **GLASS** (all glass bottles and jars - clear, green and brown). Rinse food and liquids from jars and bottles. Remove lids and metal rings.
- **PLASTIC** narrow-neck bottles with a "1" or "2" on the bottom. (PET and HDPC; sorry, no bottles with "3" on bottom. We can't use PVC yet.)

Where to meet Mo.R.T.

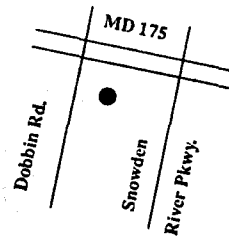
- 1 The Mall in Columbia
Mon 12:30 - 6:30 p.m.



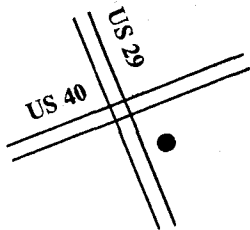
- 2 Clarksville Fire Station
Tues 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.



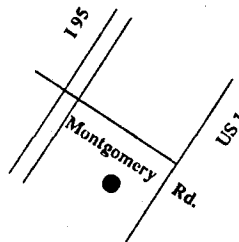
- 3 Dobbin Center
Tues 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.



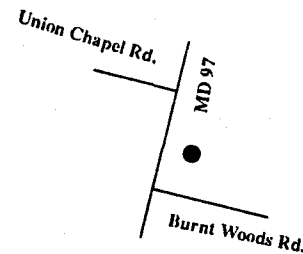
- 4 Golden Triangle Center
Wed 12:30 - 6:30 p.m.



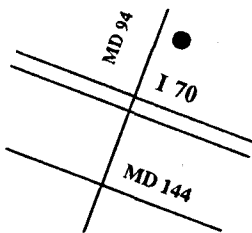
- 5 Elkridge Unity Baptist
Thurs 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.



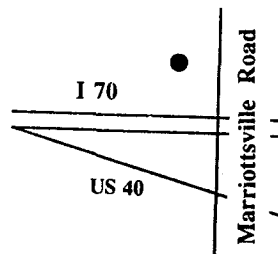
- 6 Glenwood Gardens
Thurs 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.



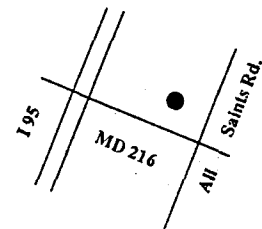
- 7 Lisbon Shopping Center
Fri 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.



- 8 Alpha Ridge Landfill
Sat 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



- 9 Weis Market (N. Laurel)
Sat 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Collection: The schedule of days and times will remain the same each week during the year.

Holidays: Collection centers will be closed on all county holidays.

Weather: If may be difficult for Mo.R.T. to operate in severe weather conditions. Call 313-SORT for inclement weather updates. This is a new phone number.

Printed by the Howard County Bird Club



Recycled

THE BIRDING YEAR IN HOWARD COUNTY

JANUARY
Jo Solem



- Check flocks of blackbirds for a stray Yellow-headed (most often an immature bird).
- On manured fields, short grass with poor turf, or fields with exposed ground look for Horned Larks and American Water Pipits. They may be most easily located if there is some snow cover.
- In open country, watch for the very occasional perched or hunting Rough-legged Hawk which quarters low over the fields.
- If there is any open water on lakes, ponds, or reservoirs, look for lingering waterfowl. Check the large flocks of Mallards for stray wigeons, shovelers, or other ducks. Even if most open water freezes, a few diving ducks may still be able to linger on the deep quarry ponds or in the patches of ice free water on several of Columbia's lakes.
- Keep feeders filled and watch them for irruptive northern species that may wander through. Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Purple Finches may come consistently for days or even weeks, or they may appear briefly and never be seen for the rest of the winter.
- The coldest periods of winter provide an excellent chance to see unusual gulls, especially the white-winged vagrants. Examine flocks carefully. If there is open water on Triadelphia Reservoir, Brighton Dam provides an easily accessible vantage point. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times.
- Participate in Midwinter Count in the field or at your feeder.
- Look for Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls in pine stands. You may find other species of owls roosting as well.
- Check weedy edges and tangles for sparrows. A few Fox Sparrows may winter; White-crowned and American Tree Sparrows are also handsome and among the species that can be found wintering.
- By the end of January, Red-shouldered Hawks are engaged in courtship. Watch for talon-grappling and closed wing dives over nesting territories.
- Chickadees and titmice are singing by the middle of the month.



18TH ANNUAL POTLUCK MARCH 2, 1991. RESERVE SOON!

The annual potluck will be held at the Florence Bain Senior Center on Saturday, March 2, 1991. Members and their guests are welcome to share the food, fun and nature slides. The club furnishes eating utensils, beverages, social hour snacks, and rolls; those attending bring a salad, vegetable, main dish, or dessert. **YOU MUST RESERVE IN ADVANCE.** Call Monika Botsal 465-5758 or Grazina McClure 531-2780 no later than Tuesday, February 26 to let them know the number in your party & the food you will bring. Can't cook? Adjustments can be made. If you or someone in your family is a photographer, bring along a maximum of a dozen of your favorite nature slides (more if you'd like, to be shown if there is time). The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Mark serving dishes & the accompanying serving implements with your name. Let the organizers know if you can come early to help set up.

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

1990 COLUMBIA LAKES SIGHTINGS WANTED

Work is going ahead on a bird checklist for the Columbia lakes similar to the one that was published for Centennial Park. If you have been keeping track of sightings at one of the Columbia lakes on the form provided, please send that. If you simply have a list of sightings from 1990 (or earlier), that would be welcome, but please indicate the season in which each species was seen: winter Dec-Feb, spring Mar-May, summer June-July, autumn August-Nov. Send Lake Elkhorn sightings to Kathy Mariano, 9407 Hickory Limb, Columbia, MD 21045; Lake Kittamaqundi to Martha Chestem, 10850 Faulkner Ridge Circle, Columbia, MD 21044; and Wilde Lake to Helen Zeichner, 10167 Pasture Gate Lane, Columbia, MD 21044. If you have a combined list for all the Columbia lakes, send it to Martha Chestem at the above address.



Howard County Midwinter Count January 26, 1991

Howard County's sixth annual Midwinter Count will be held on Saturday, January 26, 1991. Both field and feeder participants are needed. Sign up at the January meeting or call Jo Solem 725-5037 to volunteer. If you have never participated in a count of this kind, set aside part of all of the day and ask to be placed with an experienced observer. Field birders gather in the evening for a meal and tally at Hal and Zelda Simon's. Contact Zelda at 730-8328 to reserve space at the tally and to tell her what food you can bring. If you are busy on that date but are interested in some winter birding, check the *Yellowthroat* for times when other counties are conducting their counts.

Howard County Midwinter Count, January 27, 1990 (revised totals) David Holmes & Joanne Solem, Co-Compilers

The totals for the 1990 count that appeared in volume 18, number 5 (Jan-Feb 1990) of the Howard newsletter contain errors because figures for one of the seven areas were inadvertently left out. Corrected figures appear below:

Party hours - Foot	175.5	Party miles - Foot	161.0				
Party hours - Car	74.5	Party miles - Car	729.5	Total species	86	FEEDER	39
	TOTAL		TOTAL	Total individuals	102,369		105,412
Party hours - Owling	4.75	Party miles - Owling	26.5				
Party hours - Feeder	94.5						

SPECIES	FIELD	FDR	TOTAL	SPECIES	FIELD	FDR	TOTAL	SPECIES	FIELD	FDR	TOTAL
Great Blue Heron	2		2	Northern Bobwhite	1		1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	150		150
Tundra Swan	29		29	Killdeer	2		2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5		5
Mute Swan	10		10	Common Snipe	2		2	Eastern Bluebird	249		249
Snow Goose	1		1	Ring-billed Gull	4415		4415	Hermit Thrush	6		6
Canada Goose	3610	83	3693	Herring Gull	6212		6212	American Robin	23	3	26
Green-winged Teal	1		1	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1		1	Northern Mockingbird	350	26	376
American Black Duck	265		265	Great Black-backed Gull	29		29	Cedar Waxwing	184		184
Mallard	964	5	969	gull sp.	927	400	1327	European Starling	6794	229	7023
Northern Shoveler	1		1	Rock Dove	771	43	814	Yellow-rumped Warbler	52		52
American Wigeon	24		24	Mourning Dove	757	194	951	Northern Cardinal	703	124	827
Canvasback	11		11	Eastern Screech-Owl	2		2	Rufous-sided Towhee	9		9
Ring-necked Duck	38		38	Great Horned Owl	14		14	American Tree Sparrow	78		78
Lesser Scaup	1		1	Barred Owl	6		6	Field Sparrow	60	6	66
Oldsquaw	1		1	Belted Kingfisher	7		7	Savannah Sparrow	1		1
Common Goldeneye	7		7	Red-bellied Woodpecker	179	14	193	Fox Sparrow	1		1
Bufflehead	4		4	Downy Woodpecker	140	36	176	Song Sparrow	391	21	412
Hooded Merganser	59		59	Hairy Woodpecker	19	7	26	Swamp Sparrow	7		7
Common Merganser	79		79	Northern Flicker	89	6	95	White-throated Sparrow	767	52	819
Red-breasted Merganser	5		5	Pileated Woodpecker	16	1	17	White-crowned Sparrow	33		33
Ruddy Duck	4		4	Blue Jay	248	63	311	Dark-eyed Junco	971	180	1151
Black Vulture	119	1	120	American Crow	3697	178	3875	Red-winged Blackbird	17214		17214
Turkey Vulture	419	19	438	Fish Crow	118		118	Rusty Blackbird	3		3
Bald Eagle	1		1	crow sp.	559	95	654	Common Grackle	42201	136	42337
Northern Harrier		1	1	Carolina Chickadee	722	102	824	Brown-headed Cowbird	3160		3160
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	2	11	Tufted Titmouse	479	72	551	blackbird sp.	951	250	1201
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	2	6	Purple Finch	14	10	24
accipiter sp.	2		2	White-breasted Nuthatch	134	17	151	House Finch	1144	419	1563
Red-shouldered Hawk	68	6	74	Brown Creeper	25	3	28	Pine Siskin	6	22	28
Red-tailed Hawk	69	2	71	Carolina Wren	198	22	220	American Goldfinch	278	101	379
American Kestrel	37		37	Winter Wren	4		4	House Sparrow	951	79	1030
Ring-necked Pheasant	1		1								



MOS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

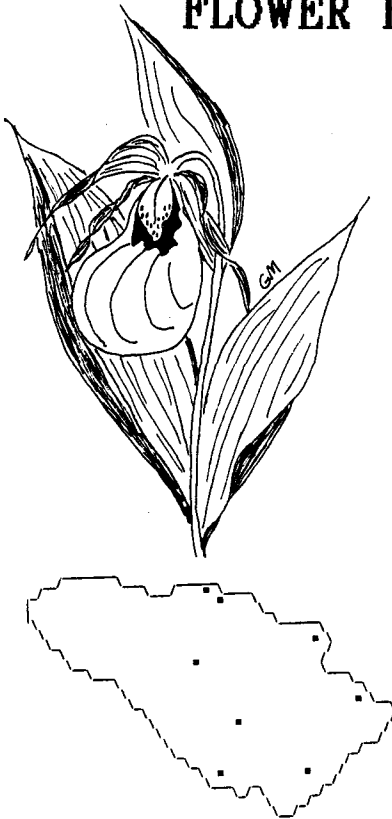
The Maryland Ornithological Society annually grants scholarships to teachers, youth leaders, nature center personnel and others who work with young people. These are grants to attend ornithology workshops at Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology or one of Audubon's ecology camps. Contact President Ralph Geuder at the January meeting or write to Mildred E. Gebhard, 2202 Foley Road, Havre de Grace, MD 21078 for an application and information. Applications are due January 31, 1991. Applicants pay their own travel expenses and must be endorsed by an MOS chapter.

MARCH-APRIL 1991 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due Feb. 1, 1991. Call or mail to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723; telephone 725-5037.

FLOWER FEATURE

LARGE YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER

Georgia Morris & Bob Solem



LARGE YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER -
Cypripedium calceolus v. *pubescens*

FAMILY - Orchid (*Orchidaceae*)

HABITAT - Rich deciduous woods, usually on moist slopes.

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - End of April to end of May.

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATION - A few locations along the Patapsco River, and the Little and Middle Patuxent Rivers.

PLANT - 1' to 2' high with one to three blossoms.

FLOWERS - 1" to 1½" golden yellow, balloon- or pouch-like flower (slipper) nodding from an upright stem, with two lateral brown petals (long, thin & twisted) and two brown sepals (one above & one below flower) triangularly shaped, resembling leaves.

LEAVES - 3 to 5 large (5" to 8" tall), bright green, parallel veined, ovate, pointed leaves which surround the stem.

FRUIT - A small capsule.

SPECIAL INFORMATION - Orchids do NOT survive if dug from the wild and transplanted to your yard, nor do the flowers last if picked. Admire them where they are and leave them for the next person. The fruit is formed in the ribbed area of the stem just behind the petals & sepals.

It forms a capsule which dries, splits open and allows the seeds (very tiny, like sawdust) to be carried away by the wind. The seeds germinate to form a small corm but cannot produce another plant without the help of a specialized fungus to absorb nutrients which can take several years. It may be several years after that before the new plant blooms. The flowers are pollinated by bees.

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS WINS THIRD ANNUAL CHUCK YEAGER AWARD

Fish & Wildlife Service biologist Chandler S. Robbins received the 1991 *Chuck Yeager Award* from Service Director John Turner at a November 19, 1990 ceremony held in Washington, DC. The award carried with it a \$15,000 grant to be donated to the conservation projects of his choice. Chan chose to divide the grant among projects in Guatemala, Belize and Chile. He also received a Robert Bateman print of a pair of Tundra Swans which is the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 1990 conservation stamp print.

The Yeager Award, named for the aviator, is presented to a wildlife management or research professional who demonstrates exemplary fieldwork on behalf of fish and wildlife populations. It was the first award to a Fish & Wildlife Service employee.

Chandler Robbins, a 45-year employee of the Fish & Wildlife Service, has published numerous scientific papers, is widely known for his development of a nationwide population monitoring system (the Breeding Bird Survey), has been instrumental in establishing atlas projects in North America to determine baseline breeding information, and has co-authored a widely used field guide. Most recently he has turned his attention to studying changes in the population of neotropical forest-dwelling species both on their nesting and on their wintering grounds.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, headquartered in Washington, DC, is a non-profit organization created by Congress to foster cooperative partnerships for the benefit of the nation's fish, wildlife, and plant resources. The Foundation, which receives appropriated funds to match non-federal donations, supports a wide variety of wildlife conservation projects in the United States and other countries.

As a long-time participant in counts, surveys, and research in Howard County, Chan was made an honorary life member of this chapter November 20, 1983.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Bob Solem

Recycling is alive and well in Howard County. More people have curbside pickup of more materials in the pilot areas. Those of us who don't have curbside pickup have more opportunities to take our recyclables to MoRT (Mobile Recycling Truck) at more locations. We are including a flier with the locations and times for MoRT with our seed sale notice. This information will be sent to 1000 households.

Also with the seed sale blank is a report on additional steps that the Bird Club believes the county should take to promote recycling: Expansion of curbside pickup for the entire county, including multifamily dwellings; increased county purchasing of supplies made with recycled materials; and an investment now to avoid larger costs later — a Material Recovery Facility. County Executive Charles Ecker said at the installation ceremony that solid waste management is one of the opportunities facing Howard County.

There have already been initiatives in the county government to use more recycled material. County Council Member Paul Farragut was instrumental in organizing a meeting among staff members from county government, the community college, the public school system and the public library to explore increased use of products made from recycled materials. (The *Recycled Products Guide* will soon be available in the reference section of the public library). Mr. Farragut also encouraged collection of corrugated cardboard.

The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area may become more than a name if the county government provides money for the transfer of the land from Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRD). There are proposals to use the land as a county park and environmental education center to provide year-round learning experiences for students, teachers, and residents of Howard County. To plan for this, there is a Middle Patuxent Environmental Area Program Development Committee with members from the Dept. of Recreation & Parks, Board of Education, area representatives and environmental organizations. I am the representative from the Bird Club and will have later reports on the Environmental Area and the work of the committee.



Recycled

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HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
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