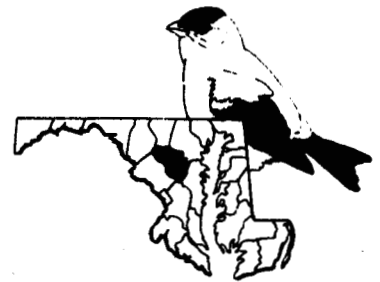




Vol. 19, No 5
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Howard

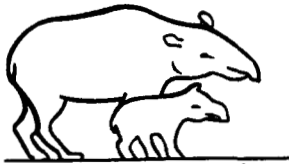
A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



1991-1992 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the annual meeting in April, the following were elected to lead the Howard County Bird Club for the coming year: President Ralph Geuder, Vice President Joanne Solem, Treasurer Nancy Magnusson, Secretary Shiras Guion; State Directors: Jane Farrell, Tom Strikwerda, Helen Zeichner, Paul Zucker; Chapter Director: Pat Hirt. (Bonnie Ott will be serving the second year of her term as Chapter Director.) The Nominating Committee was Eva Sunnell, Tom Strikwerda, and Paul Zucker (chairman).

BIRD CLUB DONATES \$3600 TO MONTEVERDE



The proceeds of the two 1990-1991 seed sales along with donations from individuals were recently given to support the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica. This \$3600 donation will be used to purchase 36 acres of land. Rainforests are under extreme pressure globally. Despite intense publicity, the rate of destruction has actually increased since 1980. Nowhere is this habitat disappearing more quickly than in Costa Rica. Land which less than two years ago cost \$50 an acre has doubled in price.

Although this club has an overriding interest in birds, birds do not exist in a vacuum. The board chose to support a project that would preserve an ecosystem with a high degree of biological diversity. Monteverde has an extremely rich biological community. Its variety is indicated by the presence of more than 400 bird species (including many of our breeding birds), almost 500 species of butterflies, an equal number of tree species, at least 300 species of orchids, 200 kinds of ferns, and mammals such as jaguars, tapirs, ocelots, howler, white-faced and spider monkeys.

Many thanks to all those who supported our seed sales. The following people made individual contributions which were added to the seed sale proceeds:

Ann Barnes
John & Brenda Bell
Jim Blanchard
Ruthe Bowie
Monika & Rod Botsai
Alan & Regina Cameron
Lois Carleton
John & Eileen Clegg
Michael Courbron

Bruce Eberle
Jane Farrell
Linda Hammil
Nancy Hawkins
Eileen Henderson
Bonnie Hurwitz
Cleo & Gus Karafas
Eleanore Klitzke

Dave & Julie Kubitsky
Nancy Magnusson
Margaret Martin
Frances Medenbach
Cathy Muller
Don & Fran Nahrgang
Elsa Ponce
James Resau

Richard & Evelyn Roberts
Skip Skipton
Bob & Jo Solem
Chuck Stirrat
Helen Thompson
Bruce & Virginia Weber
Felix Westwood
William Wills, Jr.
Paul & Kay Wisniewski

EURASIAN WIGEON AT CENTENNIAL PARK

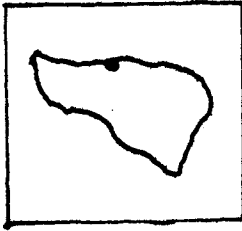
A Male Eurasian Wigeon was discovered in the company of a pair of Northern Shovelers at Centennial Park by Jane Farrell mid afternoon of March 21 near the concession stand. With only a few hours of daylight remaining, the Rare Bird Alert made a valiant effort to contact as many birders as possible. The three birds remained on the lake until dark but were gone the next morning when a search was made. Written details will be submitted to the State MOS Records Committee for acceptance of what would be a new bird for the county.



recycled paper

BIRDING "HOT SPOTS" IN HOWARD COUNTY

Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area David & Maureen Harvey



The Hugg-Thomas Managed Hunting Area is an easily overlooked birding area because of the "hunting" nomenclature. It is important to understand the rules governing the use of this area. Hunting is managed by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. The manager, Marilyn Mause, keeps records of Hugg-Thomas users, as well as records of birds and other wildlife. Please call her at 356-9272 to let her know your use of the area. During the hunting season (Sept 1 through Jan 31), up to five permits are issued on a daily basis, Monday through Saturday. Casual birding during the hunting season is not encouraged except on Sundays when hunting is illegal. Unregistered cars in the lot on legal hunting days are considered possible poachers.

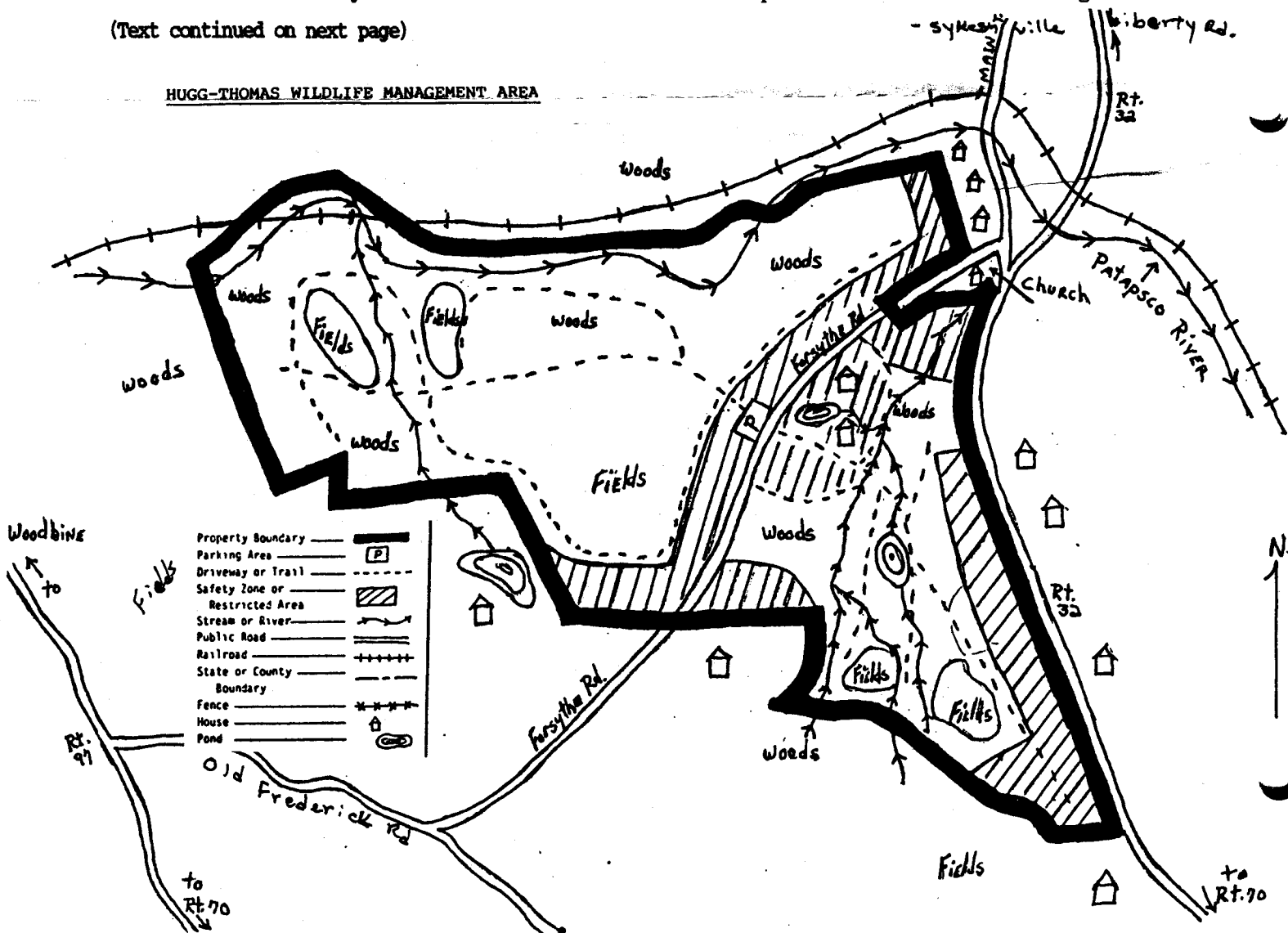
Birds and wildflowers, along with deer and squirrels, are prevalent here thanks to the varied habitat: deciduous and coniferous woods, hedgerows, ponds, and open fields. Corn and millet are sometimes planted for the wildlife. Spring and fall migration are the optimum times for the greatest variety of birds and for rarities.

All of the area must be hiked to be seen and is mostly easy to moderate hiking unless you want to go down to the river. This requires navigating a very steep hill with no trail; it can be a little tough with few rewards.

Wading birds will usually consist of the odd Great Blue Heron or Green-backed Heron. Canada Geese are fairly common, and Tundra Swans have been seen in flight. Ducks occasionally appear on the large private pond. One late February day we accidentally flushed an American Woodcock from the trail. In winter, gulls are common in flight. We have had several good sightings of Black-billed Cuckoo here along with the more common Yellow-billed. Great Horned and Barred Owls have been seen in daylight, and I once found a Ruby-throated Hummingbird building a nest. A Virginia Rail was recorded by atlas observers at the second pond south of the buildings.

(Text continued on next page)

HUGG-THOMAS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



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.

MAY 9 "IDENTIFY WARBLERS BY SIGHT AND SOUND" - David Holmes & Pete Webb.
Thursday During the height of migration, learn some of the tricks of identifying this group of birds. Sort out the buzzes and trills. Practice what you have learned on May Count.

Field trips meet as described for each trip. Carpooling is encouraged with riders sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footgear & 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.

MAY 4 PATUXENT RIVER DAY. Wildflower walk on Savage Historic Mill Trail. 10:30
Saturday a.m. - 12:00. Co-sponsored with Dept of Rec and Parks. Leader: Bob Solem 725-5037. Meet at Bollman Truss bridge in Savage on Foundry Street.

MAY 5 ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK. Joint trip with BBC. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Landing
Sunday Road park office. Last year over 80 species on this day. 1/2 day. Leader: Bonnie Ott 461-3361.

MAY 11 MAY COUNT. See the explanation on the insert in this newsletter. For
Saturday additional information or to volunteer, call Mike McClure 531-2780.

MAY 12 ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK BUTTERFLY & FLOWER WALK. Leaders: Richard Smith
Sunday 997-7439 & Bob Solem. Two hours. Meet at Landing Road office 10:30 a.m. (Plenty of birds, too!)

MAY 18 JUG BAY BOAT TRIP. Leader: Greg Kearns. 1/2 day. Call Bonnie Ott
Saturday 461-3361 for info and registration. Trip limited to 16 people. Priority to Howard members. Meet at Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flier building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) 5:00 a.m.

MAY 19 PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK. 1/2 day. Meet at Grempler 7:00 a.m. Walk
Sunday along the river in the eastern part of the county. Many migrant warblers possible. Call Bonnie Ott 461-3361 for info.

MAY 24-26 MOS CONVENTION IN CHEVY CHASE. Brochures mailed by state MOS. Registra-
Fri - Sun tion deadline is April 24.

JUNE 15 CENTENNIAL PARK BUTTERFLY WALK. Leader: Richard Smith 997-7439. Two
Saturday hours. Meet at parking lot at west end of Centennial Park off Centennial Lane 10:00 a.m. Try to add species to the park butterfly list.

AUGUST 10 SHOREBIRD TRIP TO BOMBAY HOOK NWR & LITTLE CREEK WMA. Leader: Nancy
Saturday Magnusson 461-8912. All day, leave before dawn. Call for info and registration.

Hugg-Thomas (continued)

The area is great woodpecker habitat for all species except the Red-headed. One late August day, we found a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Swallows of several species can be abundant during migration. Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and White-breasted Nuthatches can all normally be found easily. Brown Creepers winter here. There is good habitat for Brown Thrashers. Thrushes can be very good with Hermit in late fall and early spring, Swainson's and Veery during spring and fall migration, and Wood Thrush during the breeding season. One late September morning produced a Gray-cheeked Thrush.

The most common breeding warblers are Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Kentucky, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Flocks of Cedar Waxwings occasionally appear, and vireos can be very good; however, if you find a Philadelphia Vireo, please call me. Over the past three years we have recorded 26 species of warblers here along with many surprises. Icterids (blackbirds) range from scarce to abundant depending on the season. Scarlet Tanagers can be found here, Northern Cardinals are abundant, Indigo Buntings are common breeders, as are American Goldfinches. The House Finch is occasional while the Purple Finch is rare. Rufous-sided Towhees are common. There is good sparrow habitat which provides a good quality mix including an occasional Fox Sparrow and, once, a White-crowned.

Although the area is not heavily wooded, nine or ten species of ferns can be located easily. Summer wildflowers are good here.

BIRDING THE LAND DOWN UNDER (III) Chuck Dupree

Many of our members travel widely. This newsletter welcomes descriptions of natural history trips. Share your adventures! This is the final of three parts.

Although some of the birds seen were migrants, several nesting species were observed. The largest nest found was that of the Black Swan. Seen nesting in a cavity in the side of a sand hill was the Red-browed Pardalote, a very small but extremely attractive endemic species. For the first time on the trip, I found a nest of the very common Willie Wagtail. Three siblings crowded the nest. Several nests of the Australian Magpie-lark were found built of mud on top of large gum tree branches.

Finding nests in the mulga was quite difficult, but a nest of the Spiney-cheeked Honeyeater was spotted after watching the birds fly in and out of the brush for several hours. Incidentally there are 67 species of honeyeaters in Australia. At first the White-plumed Honeyeaters didn't seem to have time to build a nest because they were always chasing each other or some other bird, but I finally did find a nest suspended in a eucalypt.

Fledged young of several species were observed. Flotillas of Pacific Black Ducks glided across the waters of the swamp. Family groups of Variegated White-winged and Splendid Fairy-wrens perched on limbs of shrubs or on fences surrounding the area. One lone Red-kneed Dotterral fledgling darted in and out of the reeds at water's edge.

Raptors in the area included a Swamp Harrier scouting the swamp, an Australian Kestrel looking for food at the dump, Little Eagle and Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring overhead, and the common Whistling and Black Kites perched on the ground or flying from place to place.

Shorebirds may or may not have been migrating, but there was quite a variety. Red-necked Avocets and Black-winged Stilts were there in abundance. Red-capped Plovers preferred the salt flats. Common Sandpipers, Greenshanks, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Wood Sandpipers and a Little Curlew monitored the edges of the impoundments.

White-faced Herons, Pacific Herons and Yellow-billed Spoonbills were some of the larger birds strolling the dikes, while overhead Silver Gulls and Whiskered Terns patrolled the skies. Dusky Moorhens and Australian Crakes darted in and out of the reeds.

On the water Australian and Hoary-headed Grebes dove for food, while Grey Teal, Pink-eared Ducks and Hardheads swam close by or rested on the dikes. Every day for about a week large flock of Budgerigar flew overhead probably migrating to the east coast.

Mixed vegetation of mulga, grasslands and woodland surrounding the water was especially productive. Zebra Finches, Crested Pigeons, Black-faced and Little Woodswallows, Weebills, Yellow-rumped Thornbills and Torresian Crows were fairly common while Mulga Parrots, Tree and Fairy Martins, Long-billed and Little Corellas and Brown Songlarks were less common.

An alfalfa field irrigated with water from impoundments was a good place to find such birds as the Singing Bushlark and Richard's Pipit. While strolling through the grasslands, the melodious song of the Rufous Songlark could be heard permeating the surroundings, whether the bird was perched or bouncing through the air. The voice of the Red-beaked Kingfisher, on the other hand, was very mournful.

After reluctantly bidding farewell to Debbie and her family, I left Alice Springs and the outback for the trip home with two short stops on the way. A few days in Sydney was hardly enough time to go sightseeing much less to do any birding, but I managed to do a little of both. Although birds were plentiful, only a few new ones were added to the trip list. The aptly named Noisy Miner and the Red Wattlebird, with a dark pink pendulous wattle at the ear, were two additional honeyeaters found. Red-whiskered Bulbuls were well represented in the Royal Botanical Gardens as well as the Common Mynah. A nomadic species, the Cockatiel, stopped long enough to take a drink at one of the ponds while a Superb Fairy-wren resented the intrusion from a shrub nearby. Finally, the last life bird recorded was a Tawny Frogmouth. Bob Ringler had told me where to find the bird and, sure enough, there the nocturnal species sat perched on the limb of a giant pine tree exactly where Bob told me to look.

Leaving a land so different from anything I had ever seen before was difficult but, after all, there's no place like home.

References: *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* - Simpson and Day; *Australia* - APA Publication.

THE BIRDING YEAR IN HOWARD COUNTY

MAY

Jo Solem



- Watch for loon flights in April and part of May, especially early in the morning. They may drop onto bodies of water to rest for a few hours and then depart.
- Most shorebirds linger in dwindling numbers to the end of the month; snipe leave by mid month.
- Bonaparte's Gulls are gone after the first week.
- Watch lakes & reservoirs, especially during passages of storm systems with south or southeast winds, as unusual gulls, terns, and waterfowl may appear briefly.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoos come through in small numbers throughout May, but they are late migrants which may still be migrating the first 10 days of June.
- All county Chuck-will's-widow records have been in May.
- Sapsuckers may stay until mid May.
- Late May is the time to spot an Olive-sided Flycatcher in the top of a dead tree.
- Eastern Wood-Pewees return the first half of the month.
- The Willow Flycatcher is a late May and early June migrant. The west end of Centennial Lake is a reliable spot to find them.
- Least Flycatchers come through in small numbers the first half of the month. Listen for their repeated two note call in second growth at field edges.
- Usually in the first week in May there is at least one day at Centennial Lake when all of the swallow species can be seen hawking insects over the water.
- Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, Evening Grosbeaks, kinglets, and Hermit Thrushes are seldom seen after the first week of May.
- Heaviest Swainson's Thrush migration is normally the second week of the month, Gray-cheeked Thrush movement the third week; thrush migrants can continue to be seen sometimes until the last week of May. Check deciduous or mixed woods with little understory.
- American Pipits are usually gone by the middle of the month.
- Solitary Vireos are seldom seen or seen in low numbers after the first third of the month.
- May 1-15 is usually the heaviest warbler migration, but keep an eye out through the end of the month for later migrating species. Mourning Warblers are late migrants peaking during the third week in May. The wispy song of the Blackpoll may sometimes be heard until the last day of the month.
- Often the best strategy for seeing early woodland migrants is to concentrate birding efforts in the eastern and southern parts of the county during late April and early May, especially if the weather is cool. Leaf development and oak flowering may be a week or more ahead of portions of the Patapsco and Patuxent River valleys. ~~Early in the morning when temperatures may still be low, seek out areas where sunshine warms the trees (and insects) for maximum activity.~~ On windy days, find sheltered spots. Do not confine warbler watching to sunny days. Light rain or overcast days after a rainy night may prove highly productive. An unusually long period of rainy weather may cause a fallout of a few species in astonishing concentrations.
- Just as blooming oaks are prime spots to find migrant warblers in early May, near the end of the month check hickories which should be in flower.
- Bobolinks appear in numbers the first week in May, the last have left by the end of the month. Look for them in extensive fields containing mustard, sometimes alfalfa.
- White-throated, White-crowned and Swamp Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos and Pine Siskins may linger in dwindling numbers until the middle of the month. An occasional bird may stay later.
- Participate in May Count, the second Saturday in May, to catch spring migration in full flow. The hours from dawn until mid morning will produce dozens of species. For the experienced birder, it is one of the high points of the birding year; for the beginner, it can be an exciting introduction to field birding.

BIRD SIGHTING SHEET AT CENTENNIAL PARK



When you walk around Centennial Lake, do you wonder what good birds have been spotted there within the last few days? Recently, a gray box containing a clipboard has been built by park manager Bob Lintz and installed on the south wall of the concession stand/office to the left of the nature bulletin board. The sheets on the clipboard provide space for the date, name of bird(s) seen, and the general area of the park where the sighting was made. This should be especially helpful during migration periods when species come and go quickly in this park. The completed sheets will be collected and used to revise the park checklist. Connie Bockstie, who is a regular at this park, has volunteered to take care of the box and serve as a resource person in case of questions. Centennial Park Bird Checklists are available on request from the office.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1991 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due Aug. 1. Call or mail to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723; telephone 725-5037. Spring migration dates are due by June 7.

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

POTLUCK ALWAYS A SPECIAL EVENING

The 18th annual potluck was held on March 2, 1991, at the Florence Bain Sr. Center. Members and their guests have come to anticipate the smoothly run evening that Monika and Rod Botsai and Grazina and Mike McClure provide. Plenty of willing hands helping to set up the tables were much appreciated. Chuck Stirrat took charge of the members' slides which are the entertainment for the evening. Thanks to each of them. President Ralph Geuder presented Valued Service Awards to Nancy Magnusson and Tom Strikwerda.

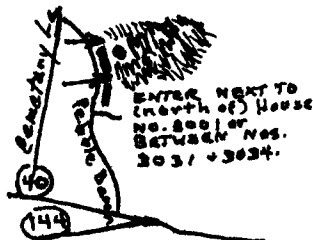
MEMBERSHIP LIST NOT FOR SALE

As a result of a recent commercial mailing from a realty firm, a number of our members have asked whether we sell our membership lists. We do not! The state MOS has several times made a conscious decision NOT to engage in this practice. We print our directory as a convenience for our members. We cannot prevent its misuse in a commercial fashion, but such activity is never taken with the board's consent.

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Telephone number for Jane Farrell is 381-7344.

TURF VALLEY OVERLOOK and DORSEY HALL AREA



Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks has asked the assistance of the Howard County Bird Club in completing two projects. Members can help at their convenience while learning about two interesting (and very different) areas. The effort is being undertaken under the direction and at the request of Mark Raab and the county biologist.

Turf Valley Overlook is located north of Rt. 40 on the east side of Pebble Beach Drive (see map). The county has applied for a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (funded by the income tax checkoff program) to put in a variety of plantings to attract wildlife. Turf Valley Overlook consists of a small pond, a large grassy area, and an edge of mature trees close to the Little Patuxent River & David Force Park. The Soil Conservation Service has verified that a small wetland was filled many years ago; there are plans to remove the excess fill and attempt to return it to its original state. What role does the Bird Club play? In order to assess the value of the plantings and the changes in habitat which will be taking place, we have been asked to monitor the bird species on a regular basis beginning immediately and continuing for several years. Any time you visit the area jot down the birds you see migrating, breeding, or flying over. You can use the parks checklist reporting forms available from Jane Farrell, 6324 Sandchain, Columbia, MD 21045, Tel. 381-7344. Use your birding skills to help the county.

The second project involves the area of county land in Dorsey Hall south of Dunloggin Middle School which has been altered within the last few years by beaver activity. This attractive wetland is a valuable resource near the school. We have been asked to summarize what students could look for in the habitats there. This will not involve a list of bird species. If you can look at various aspects of an area's natural history in ways that would help students, lend a hand. Contact Bonnie Ott at 461-3361.

LEISUREFEST HELPERS

As has been the custom since Leisurefest began, the Bird Club had a display at the Columbia Mall on Saturday, February 9. Eileen Clegg set up the display and arranged for volunteers in two hour segments. Thanks go to Eileen and her crew: Michele Wright, Helen Thompson, Sheila Glanz, Ralph & Jane Geuder, Eva Sunell, Jane Farrell, Bob & Jo Solem, Charles Fuller, Marty Chestem, Shiras & Bill Guion. Members often say they can't sit with a display because they don't know enough, but they find that most people simply want to talk about their own experiences. One hears astonishing, sad, and entertaining stories. For those birders who think the male Hooded Merganser is one of the most gorgeous of all waterfowl, it was a distinct shock this year to have a lady approach the table, point at the specimen and announce, "That's the ugliest bird I've ever seen!"

Beauty truly is in the eye of the beholder....

MARTHA WAUGH FILLS FEEDER

Thanks, Martha, for keeping the feeder at the Howard County Central Library filled! Your faithfulness is not often noted, but it is appreciated by many.



HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT - January 26, 1991 - David Holmes
& Joanne Solem, Co-Compilers

It was a good day to be out. The max-min thermometer at Waterford Farm registered a low of 4°F and a high of 38°F for the day. Well, perhaps it got a bit breezy by afternoon. But it was a sunny day and being out felt good. And by the time we put all of our results together, we had found a record number of species on our sixth midwinter bird count. Absence of truly gigantic flocks of blackbirds (are we sure that's a negative?) kept our number of individuals to about half of last year's record total. Enough suspense?

90 species 90 participants (68 in the field, 22 more at feeders)
49,376 individuals 243 regular field hours, plus 60 hours at feeders
14 hours owling.

The regular field hours total has been fairly stable for the past four years although there is a slight downward trend. But if Jay Sheppard hadn't gotten sick (which left his territory uncovered), there wouldn't be a lower total this year; so we shouldn't take the "trend" too seriously. What is really neat about this year's participation figures is how closely they match the equivalent figures from this season's Triadelphia Christmas Bird Count which was done on December 22, 1990.

	<u>Triadelphia</u>	<u>Howard Co.</u>
Hours on foot	162	164
Hours by car	54	79
Hours owling	12	14

This means that we can directly compare total individual numbers between the counts for the first time since 1986. The weather may have had some effect since Triadelphia was done on a cloudy, somewhat foggy and warm day basically without wind, but lots of numbers are similar. The difference in car hours can be fairly easily explained. Howard County is somewhat larger than the 15-mile diameter Christmas count circle, so we have more roads to cover. Besides, we find the greatest numbers of comparison species while we are on foot (how many Song Sparrows did you identify from your car?), so let's assume that difference is insignificant.

But before the comparisons, let's savor the rarities. We added six species to our cumulative midwinter count list (now 112). The Pied-billed Grebe and Gadwall are simply a reflection of the very mild winter during which the reservoir and lots of lakes never froze. The Falcated Duck is more complicated. It is not a countable bird on any standard North American bird list because it is almost surely an escape. But one of these spent some time in 1989 on Piney Run Reservoir in Carroll County. This year's bird moved around rather freely from pond to pond and county to county, and the suspicion that it is the same bird as the Piney Run bird is hard to ignore. It could be a very interesting bird to keep track of over the years. So I included it on the list but not in the totals. Pine Warbler in a scrubby field? The description checks out and they are known lingerers. The Brewer's Blackbird was seen at a feeder near open fields about four times over the winter. It was turned in as a different species, but when I called to inquire, the description fit perfectly. These also are not unheard of in the winter in Maryland. And the *piece de resistance* was the Northern Shrike! We will always wonder if this was the Schooley Mill bird. It was seen at Marriottsville, only about 13 miles from Schooley Mill. It was seen only two weeks later. It behaved like the Schooley Mill bird. There were several other reports from Maryland locations this winter, and my printed reports from Maine say there was an unusually good flight of these birds this winter. Isn't it fun to be part of an event!

Now for more fun, let's do some comparing. After all, isn't this what a count is really about? For Triadelphia and this count, this year's totals were very similar for most of our permanent residents and total species. This means that water conditions did not change drastically during the month between the counts. But, the migrant species which move late, the Winter Wrens, the Golden-crowned Kinglets, and the sparrows all showed just the same kind of dramatic decline in numbers between the counts that they did in 1986. This suggests that the Howard County counters are real wimps about coverage (but I have trouble believing that!), that there is a substantial die-off of these birds during that month, or that they have not finished migrating by Christmas Count time. We have no real proof of either of the last two possibilities. Anybody for starting some midwinter counts in the Carolinas? Look at some numbers:

	<u>Triadelphia</u>	<u>Howard Co.</u>	<u>Triadelphia</u>	<u>Howard Co.</u>
Belted Kingfisher	17	17	Mourning Dove	1159
Northern Flicker	128	126	Carolina Wren	244
Pileated Woodpecker	26	22	Winter Wren	23
Northern Mockingbird	440	415	Golden-crowned Kinglet	92
			Field Sparrow	104
			Song Sparrow	404
			American Goldfinch	165
BUT				

One indication of a mild winter is the high Winter Wren population. Normal totals on both counts are under 10. Another (unlisted) indication is our second year of Eastern Phoebe since 1986. Triadelphia has had at least one on each count since then. But what do the Carolina Wren numbers mean? Had the population gotten so high that they couldn't cope with the snow?

I also looked at birds per party hour figures for a number of species in 1986 and 1991 to see if they suggested anything at all.

Birds which are nearly equal in both years:

Red-tailed Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Field Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird	House Sparrow
Carolina Chickadee	Northern Cardinal	

Birds which show declines:

Red-shouldered Hawk	Song Sparrow	(substantial)
woodpeckers (slight)	White-throated Sparrow	(")
House Finch (???)	Dark-eyed Junco	(")

None of my comparison species showed a significant increase. I'd hate to say what it means — but there it was. It is statistically dangerous to work with single year comparisons. All kinds of factors can unduly influence a single year's count. It is the long term monitoring which shows real trends and that seems to be what we are settling in to doing with this count. Hooray!

Party hours - Foot	164	Party miles - Foot	152.5	Total species	90	FEEDER	36	TOTAL	90
Party hours - Car	79.25	Party miles - Car	742.0	Total individuals	47,954		1,422		49,376
TOTAL	243.25	TOTAL	894.5						
Party hours - Owling	14.25	Party miles - Owling	95.5						
Party hours - Feeder	59.75								

1991	Pied-billed Grebe	2	accipiter sp.	1	Blue Jay	183	Rufous-sided Towhee	25
	Great Blue Heron	5	Red-shouldered Hawk	56	American Crow	2500	American Tree Sparrow	36
	Tundra Swan	27	Red-tailed Hawk	70	Fish Crow	264	Chipping Sparrow	2
	Mute Swan	9	American Kestrel	42	crow sp.	3593	Field Sparrow	104
	Canada Goose	4654	Killdeer	15	Carolina Chickadee	638	Savannah Sparrow	1
	Green-winged Teal	2	Common Snipe	1	Tufted Titmouse	426	Fox Sparrow	4
	Falcated Duck	(1)	Ring-billed Gull	2560	Red-breasted Nuthatch	38	Song Sparrow	404
	American Black Duck	106	Herring Gull	2247	White-breasted Nuthatch	162	Swamp Sparrow	9
	Mallard	1279	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	Brown Creeper	31	White-throated Sparrow	1033
	Gadwall	1	Great Black-backed Gull	54	Carolina Wren	244	White-crowned Sparrow	13
	American Wigeon	39	gull sp.	393	Winter Wren	23	Dark-eyed Junco	1321
	Canvasback	15	Rock Dove	907	Golden-crowned Kinglet	94	Red-winged Blackbird	3735
	Ring-necked Duck	43	Mourning Dove	1159	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10	Eastern Meadowlark	23
	Lesser Scaup	1	Eastern Screech-Owl	6	Eastern Bluebird	212	Rusty Blackbird	4
	Common Goldeneye	7	Great Horned Owl	7	Hermit Thrush	10	Brewer's Blackbird	1
	Bufflehead	7	Barred Owl	5	American Robin	24	Common Grackle	4201
	Hooded Merganser	10	Belted Kingfisher	17	Gray Catbird	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	173
	Common Merganser	49	Red-bellied Woodpecker	119	Northern Mockingbird	415	blackbird sp.	1800
	Black Vulture	108	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	Cedar Waxwing	4	Purple Finch	4
	Turkey Vulture	295	Downy Woodpecker	197	Northern Shrike	1	House Finch	1335
	Bald Eagle	1	Hairy Woodpecker	34	European Starling	9575	American Goldfinch	165
	Northern Harrier	2	Northern Flicker	126	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	Evening Grosbeak	1
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	Pileated Woodpecker	22	Pine Warbler	1	House Sparrow	728
	Cooper's Hawk	4	Eastern Phoebe	1	Northern Cardinal	1072		

There are two additional things I'd like to do with this data. I did not get the feeder count analysis done this year. There were fewer feeder watchers. You feeder people did see our single Evening Grosbeak and our Brewer's Blackbird. Over the summer, I hope to sit down with a county atlas and pinpoint the location of each feeder you reported. Our area leaders should have this information before they go out into the field and this will be a start. I also need to work through the raptor data you so carefully collected. That stuff is potentially super valuable for getting an idea of how much over- or under-counting we are doing with those birds. That information just may be worth collecting every year. It wasn't hard to do, was it? Keep it in mind.

Many thanks to the area coordinators who make sure our coverage is as complete as possible within more or less handleable parcels of land. Thanks to all of you who kept track of large flocks of geese, gulls, and blackbirds. This information will be expected in all future counts. We LOVE the Simons — who are our perfect hosts for the tally rally. And, we thank all of you who had fun in the field. Without you, we wouldn't be discovering nearly so many fascinating questions without obvious answers. Keep it up!

(Continued on next page)

STATE-WIDE BIRD COUNT

May 11, 1991

County _____

COMMON LOON _____
 PIED-BILLED GREBE _____
 HORNED GREBE _____
 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT _____
 AMERICAN BITTERN _____
 LEAST BITTERN _____
 GREAT BLUE HERON _____
 GREAT EGRET _____
 SNOWY EGRET _____
 LITTLE BLUE HERON _____
 TRICOLORED HERON _____
 CATTLE EGRET _____
 GREEN-BACKED HERON _____
 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON _____
 YEL.-CROWNED NIGHT HERON _____
 GLOSSY IBIS _____
 MUTE SWAN _____
 CANADA GOOSE _____
 WOOD DUCK _____
 AMERICAN BLACK DUCK _____
 MALLARD _____
 BLUE-WINGED TEAL _____
 GADWALL _____
 AMERICAN WIGEON _____
 GREATER SCAUP _____
 LESSER SCAUP _____
 BUFFLEHEAD _____
 HOODED MERGANSER _____
 COMMON MERGANSER _____
 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER _____
 RUDDY DUCK _____
 BLACK VULTURE _____
 TURKEY VULTURE _____
 OSPREY _____
 BALD EAGLE [ad/im/unk] / / _____
 NORTHERN HARRIER _____
 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK _____
 COOPER'S HAWK _____
 RED-SHOULDERED HAWK _____
 BROAD-WINGED HAWK _____
 RED-TAILED HAWK _____
 AMERICAN KESTREL _____
 MERLIN _____
 RING-NECKED PHEASANT _____
 RUFFED GROUSE _____
 WILD TURKEY _____
 NORTHERN BOB-WHITE _____
 CLAPPER RAIL _____
 KING RAIL _____
 VIRGINIA RAIL _____
 SORA _____
 COMMON MOORHEN _____
 AMERICAN COOT _____
 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER _____
 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER _____
 KILLDEER _____
 AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER _____
 GREATER YELLOWLEGS _____
 LESSER YELLOWLEGS _____
 SOLITARY SANDPIPER _____
 WILLET _____
 SPOTTED SANDPIPER _____
 UPLAND SANDPIPER _____
 RUDDY TURNSTONE _____
 SANDERLING _____
 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER _____
 LEAST SANDPIPER _____
 PECTORAL SANDPIPER _____
 DUNLIN _____
 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER _____
 COMMON SNIBE _____
 AMERICAN WOODCOCK _____

LAUGHING GULL _____
 BONAPARTE'S GULL _____
 RING-BILLED GULL _____
 HERRING GULL _____
 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL _____
 CASPIAN TERN _____
 ROYAL TERN _____
 COMMON TERN _____
 FORSTER'S TERN _____
 LEAST TERN _____
 BLACK SKIMMER _____
 MOURNING DOVE _____
 BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO _____
 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO _____
 COMMON BARN OWL _____
 EASTERN SCREECH OWL _____
 GREAT HORNED OWL _____
 BARRED OWL _____
 COMMON NIGHTHAWK _____
 CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW _____
 WHIP-POOR-WILL _____
 CHIMNEY SWIFT _____
 RUBY-THRTD. HUMMINGBIRD _____
 BELTED KINGFISHER _____
 RED-HEADED WOODPECKER _____
 RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER _____
 YEL.-BELLIED SAPSUCKER _____
 DOWNY WOODPECKER _____
 HAIRY WOODPECKER _____
 NORTHERN FLICKER _____
 PILEATED WOODPECKER _____
 EASTERN WOOD PEWEE _____
 ACADIAN FLYCATCHER _____
 LEAST FLYCATCHER _____
 EASTERN PHOEBE _____
 GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER _____
 EASTERN KINGBIRD _____
 HORNED LARK _____
 PURPLE MARTIN _____
 TREE SWALLOW _____
 N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW _____
 BANK SWALLOW _____
 CLIFF SWALLOW _____
 BARN SWALLOW _____
 BLUE JAY _____
 AMERICAN CROW _____
 FISH CROW _____
 CROW SP. _____
 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE _____
 CAROLINA CHICKADEE _____
 TUFTED TITMOUSE _____
 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH _____
 BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH _____
 BROWN CREEPER _____
 CAROLINA WREN _____
 HOUSE WREN _____
 MARSH WREN _____
 RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET _____
 BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER _____
 EASTERN BLUEBIRD _____
 VEERY _____
 GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH _____
 SWAINSON'S THRUSH _____
 HERMIT THRUSH _____
 WOOD THRUSH _____
 AMERICAN ROBIN _____
 GRAY CATBIRD _____
 NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD _____
 BROWN THRASHER _____
 WATER PIPIT _____
 CEDAR WAXWING _____
 EUROPEAN STARLING _____

WHITE-EYED VIREO _____
 SOLITARY VIREO _____
 YELLOW-THROATED VIREO _____
 WARBLING VIREO _____
 RED-EYED VIREO _____
 BLUE-WINGED WARBLER _____
 GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER _____
 TENNESSEE WARBLER _____
 NASHVILLE WARBLER _____
 NORTHERN PARULA _____
 YELLOW WARBLER _____
 CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER _____
 MAGNOLIA WARBLER _____
 CAPE MAY WARBLER _____
 BLK.-THRTD. BLUE WARBLER _____
 MYRTLE WARBLER _____
 BLK.-THRTD. GREEN WARBLER _____
 BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER _____
 YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER _____
 PINE WARBLER _____
 PRAIRIE WARBLER _____
 PALM WARBLER _____
 BAY-BREASTED WARBLER _____
 BLACKPOLL WARBLER _____
 CERULEAN WARBLER _____
 BLACK & WHITE WARBLER _____
 AMERICAN REDSTART _____
 PROTHONOTARY WARBLER _____
 WORM-EATING WARBLER _____
 OVENBIRD _____
 NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH _____
 LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH _____
 KENTUCKY WARBLER _____
 COMMON YELLOWTHROAT _____
 HOODED WARBLER _____
 WILSON'S WARBLER _____
 CANADA WARBLER _____
 YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT _____
 SUMMER Tanager _____
 SCARLET Tanager _____
 NORTHERN CARDINAL _____
 ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK _____
 BLUE GROSBEAK _____
 INDIGO BUNTING _____
 RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE _____
 CHIPPING SPARROW _____
 FIELD SPARROW _____
 VESPER SPARROW _____
 SAVANNAH SPARROW _____
 GRASSHOPPER SPARROW _____
 SHARP-TAILED SPARROW _____
 SEASIDE SPARROW _____
 SONG SPARROW _____
 SWAMP SPARROW _____
 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW _____
 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW _____
 DARK-EYED JUNCO _____
 BOBOLINK _____
 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD _____
 EASTERN MEADOWLARK _____
 RUSTY BLACKBIRD _____
 BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE _____
 COMMON GRACKLE _____
 BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD _____
 ORCHARD ORIOLE _____
 BALTIMORE ORIOLE _____
 PURPLE FINCH _____
 HOUSE FINCH _____
 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH _____
 HOUSE SPARROW _____

Write-in species on Back! Many need DETAILS!

Time Start: _____ Hours on Foot: _____
 Time Stop: _____ Hours by Car: _____
 _____ Hours by Boat: _____
 _____ Hours other: _____
 Hours Feeder Watching: _____

Miles on Foot: _____
 Miles by Car: _____
 Miles by Boat: _____
 Miles other: _____

Hours "Owling": _____
 Miles "Owling": _____

Weather: _____
 Temp. %Clouds Wind* Precip.
 Dawn _____
 AM _____
 Noon _____
 PM _____
 Dusk _____
 *Speed and Direction (e.g. NW10, S5)

MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1991 - Mike McClure

Every year since 1948, members and friends of the MD Ornithological Society have conducted an annual May Count. You are urged to participate for all or part of the day at the peak of migration for an experience like no other in the birding year.

The compiler for the Howard County May Count is Mike McClure, 12237 Mt. Albert Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043, tel. 531-2780. **Field and feeder watchers must contact the compiler during the two weeks preceding the count or at the April or May chapter meetings.** Areas to be birded and observer groupings will be assigned by the compiler but, whenever possible, requests will be honored. Inexperienced or beginning birders are encouraged to participate for even a few hours (early a.m. is most productive); the compiler will team them with more experienced observers.

Each of the 18 regions in the county has a team leader who is responsible for combining all field notes from his/her region into a clean, final tally sheet which must be turned in at the tally (extras will be available). Leaders must also total party miles & time, include names & addresses of observers, and obtain documentation for all unusual species reported. (Time out of the assigned area and lunch breaks should be subtracted from totals.) Observers within talking or shouting distance are one party. If two or more birders spend an hour together on foot, that constitutes one party hour; however, if one member is separated from others for half an hour, then the total is 1¹/₂ party hours. Count all birds; large flocks can be estimated. Do not ignore House Sparrows, European Starlings and other common species. Birds seen outside your assigned area should be noted separately and given to the area leader of that sector at the tally. Comparison of time, direction, and location may enable additions without double counting.

Individuals birding in the county that day who are not participating in May Count occasionally desire to turn in their sightings. To prevent double counting, the only species that can be accepted are those which no one else has seen. Such species are frequently those which require written documentation.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

All unusual sightings need to be documented. Include the name of the person making the identification, names of all others who saw the bird, when and where seen, lighting conditions, optics used, behavior, time period observed, field marks, etc.

Any species not previously recorded in the county nor listed on the checklist needs to be documented. The following species (seen on four or fewer of the last 15 Howard County May counts) need to be documented: Pied-billed & Horned Grebe, Dble-c. Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Yel-cr Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Tundra Swan, Green-wing Teal, No. Pintail, No. Shoveler, Gadwall, Canvasback, Ring-nk Duck, Grtr or Lesr Scaup, Com Goldeneye, Red-brst Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Sora, Am Coot, Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalm, White-rmped, or Pectoral Sandpiper, Short or Long-bill Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Bonaparte's or Herring Gull, Caspian or Forster's Tern, Com. Nighthawk, Chuck-will's-widow, Yel-b. Sapsucker, Olive-sided, Alder or Willow Flycatcher, Blk-cap Chickadee, Winter or Marsh Wren, Golden-cr Kinglet, Gray-ckd Thrush, Am. Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Mourning Warbler, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, Am. Tree, Henslow's, Fox or Lincoln's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird.

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

Anyone who participates in the count is welcome to attend the tally. If you are unable to attend, please make prior arrangements with your area leader or the compiler to turn in or phone in results count day or evening. Call Jan Randle 531-6296 to let her know the number coming and your choice of food to share. (Non-cooks or all-day counters ask Jan for suggestions.) Counters begin gathering any time after 5:30 p.m.; dinner usually begins between 6:30-7:00 p.m. The Randles live in Braeburn which is on the west side of Cedar Lane (the section north of Rt. 32 and south of the stoplights at Owen Brown and Freetown Rds.) Entrance road is Braeburn Rd., turn right on Lochridge and continue to first house on left after Hillbrook Dr. (one long block).

OBSERVERS: AREA 1: MARK WALLACE, John Hoffman, Sue Jones, Paul Jung, Elwood Martin, Joan Osterhouse, Bill Wendell; AREA 2: NANCY MAGNUSSON, Val Barnes, Mary Lou Clark, Mariano Gonzalez, Don Henderson, Peter Osenton, Tom Strikwerda, Paul Zucker, Tish Bell*; AREA 3: DAVE & MAUREEN HARVEY, Clifton Barry, Brent Beyers, Henry Coe, Dan Haft, Karen Morley, Michael O'Brien, Carol Renfrew, Art Rogers, Steve Sanford, Karen Skuldt, Will Tress, Robin Todd*; AREA 4: MIKE McCLURE, Burton Alexander, Kimberly Gross, David Holmes, Mike Leumas, Grazina McClure, Susan Setterberg, Chuck Stirrat, Peggy Willson, Bob Doyle*, Georgia Eacker*; AREA 5: MARTHA CHESTEN, John Clegg, Gerald Elgert, Peggy Erbe, Charles Fuller, John Greer, Bruce Kirtley-Hodess, Marci Krishnamoorthy, Norma Petersen, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, John Blaisdell*, Del Dowling*, Glenn & Sarah Funkhouser*, Pat Jackson*, Dennis Luck*, Rosamond Munro*, Barbara Schuyler*, Zelda & Hal Simon*, Pat Wilson*; AREA 6: BONNIE OTT, Connie Bockstie, Ralph & Jane Geuder, Dave Kubitsky, Brigitte & Bob Lund, David Mozurkewich, Dawn Parker, Sue Probst, Leroy & Cathy Williamson, Monika Botsai*, Irv Robinson*; AREA 7: JO SOLEM, Naud Banks, Brenda & Nick Brienza, Phil Davis, Jane Farrell, John KcKitterick, Georgia Morris, Eva Sunell, Don Waugh, Barbara Davis*, Mary Gold*, Frank Gomez*, Judith House*, Jim & Claudia Medwin*, Bob Solen*, Martha Waugh*.

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

IT'S BLUEBIRD TIME AGAIN

In the last newsletter we listed the many individuals who had monitored boxes and provided reports for the 1990 season. At that time we did not have the complete list of those individuals who monitored boxes on county property for the joint Bluebirds in the Parks Program which we co-sponsor with Howard County Recreation and Parks. Thanks to the following: Sandy Meyerhoff, Michele Wright, Phil Jacobson, Linda Schiffer, Bernd & Lucy Kiekebusch-Steinitz, Cliff Gross, Susan Earp, Kathy Schmitt, Micaela Duffy, Sharon Femrite, Mary & J.P. Chevallier, Kirsten Saxe, Helen Heffer, Don Tharpe, Julie Dunlop, Mike Meyerhoff, and Melanie Waters.

If you have bluebird (or other cavity nester) questions, want to start a trail, or would like to monitor some boxes, contact Joe Suess 854-0250 (leave a message & he'll get back to you) or Mark Wallace 725-6370 between 11 a.m. & noon. These co-chairmen of our Boost Bluebirds Committee have publications available for interested members to borrow. Included are several copies of *The Bluebird: How You Can Help Its Fight for Survival* by Lawrence Zeleny; *Sialia*, the quarterly journal of the North American Bluebird Society; and *Bluebird News*, a newsletter published in Mount Pleasant, TX.

LETTER FROM GERMANY

In December 1990 the treasurer received the following letter:

Regretfully, I cannot renew this year since we've been transferred to Germany. (I would sure love to be able to order seed from your sale!)

I received a European field guide as a gift when we left the states and the first purchase we made here was a new feeder. We've identified about 20 birds so far (Aug-Dec). In the cold and snow, the tits are avidly devouring my suet. We miss the bright cardinals, but a pair of bullfinches make acceptable substitutes.

I will miss your interesting newsletters and will certainly join again if we return to the Columbia area again someday. Best wishes to you all and prayers for peace in the New Year.

JoAnne Moul

HUBER DONATES PRINT

Local artist Carla Huber recently donated a copy of her print of Lesser Scaup flying in snow over water to the Howard Chapter. The print won the 1990 Maryland Duck Stamp competition.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRDERS THANKED

An article entitled "Monitoring bird populations with Breeding Bird Survey and atlas data" by Chandler S. Robbins, Sam Droege & John R. Sauer was published in English in a Finnish journal in 1989. The principal means of monitoring avian species in North America since 1966 has been the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The authors show how Breeding Bird Atlas data for two time periods can also be used to calculate population trends and make comparisons with the BBS. They conclude that if coverage is intensive and consistent between time periods, atlas data may be useful for monitoring species that are not adequately sampled by the BBS. Acknowledgments included the following sentence: We thank members of the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, especially D.C. Dupree, J. Farrell, and J.K. Solem, for the intensive atlas coverage of their county and for their weekly updates during the 1987 nesting season.

BRING YOUR OWN MUG !!

In the spirit of conservation, there will be a voluntary "BRING YOUR OWN MUG" policy at all of our meetings. (Paper cups will still be provided.)

221 SPECIES FOR 1990 ANNUAL LIST

Jane Farrell



For the first time since 1985, we did not set a new Howard County record for bird species observed. Our total of 221 species (with one additional species being reviewed by the State MOS Records Committee) is hardly shabby and ties the second highest record year, 1988. This is an excellent showing for tiny Howard County.

Three species were recorded for the first time since the Howard County Bird Club began compiling annual lists in 1979: King Rail, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Henslow's Sparrow. The King Rails and Henslow's Sparrow were cooperative and were seen by many observers. A King Rail was reported by Wes Earp on his property in Clarksville on April 15, 1990 and was not relocated. Jon K. Boone discovered a King Rail at Schooley Mill Park on June 15, 1990 which was seen by many observers until July 14. Not to be outdone by his son, Jon E. Boone found a King Rail at Centennial on July 3, 1990 that was seen by persistent observers until July 18. Bonnie Ott found the Henslow's Sparrow at Rockburn Branch Park on April 28, 1990. It was located for May Count and observed by many until disappearing on May 12. Bonnie Ott's Orange-crowned Warbler made a cameo appearance on September 30, 1990 in her yard in Ellicott City, a lovely find.

As usual there were misses. Prominent among these were Redhead, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden-winged Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler. Let's try for these goodies and lots more in 1991!

Bird whistles are tooted for these members who submitted their complete 1990 lists: Burton J. Alexander, Connie Bockstie, Martha Chestem, Jane Farrell, Nancy Magnusson, Bonnie Ott, Katie Rogers, Jo Solem, Eva Sunell, Helen Zeichner, and Paul Zucker. Jo Solem's, Paul Zucker's and David Holmes' data from season reports and special counts captured some species that would otherwise be missing. David Holmes and Bob Ringler shared their technical expertise and provided guidance. Bob Solem produced the computerized 12-year compilation. Individuals who submitted their 1990 annual lists will receive a printout of the 12-year compilation. Other members may request it by contacting Jane Farrell at 381-7344 or by sending a stamped, self-addressed long envelope to 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045.

Addendum: Add Lark Sparrow to the 1988 list. It was accepted by the MOS Records Committee. This brings the 1988 total to 221 species.

Common Loon	Black-bellied Plover	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-throated Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Lesser Golden-Plover	Horned Lark	Pine Warbler
Horned Grebe	Semipalmated Plover	Purple Martin	Prairie Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Palm Warbler
American Bittern	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Bay-breasted Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Lesser Yellowlegs	Bank Swallow	Blackpoll Warbler
Great Egret	Solitary Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow	Cerulean Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	Black-and-white Warbler
Cattle Egret	Upland Sandpiper	Blue Jay	American Redstart
Green-backed Heron	Semipalmated Sandpiper	American Crow	Prothonotary Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Least Sandpiper	Fish Crow	Worm-eating Warbler
Glossy Ibis	Pectoral Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Ovenbird
Tundra Swan	Dunlin	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Waterthrush
Mute Swan	Short-billed Dowitcher	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Louisiana Waterthrush
Snow Goose	Common Snipe	White-breasted Nuthatch	Kentucky Warbler
Canada Goose	American Woodcock	Brown Creeper	Mourning Warbler
Wood Duck	Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	Common Yellowthroat
Green-winged Teal	Bonaparte's Gull	House Wren	Hooded Warbler
American Black Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Winter Wren	Wilson's Warbler
Hallard	Herring Gull	Marsh Wren	Canada Warbler
Northern Pintail	Thayer's Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Yellow-breasted Chat
Blue-winged Teal	Iceland Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Scarlet Tanager
Northern Shoveler	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Northern Cardinal
Gadwall	Glaucous Gull	Eastern Bluebird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
American Wigeon	Great Black-backed Gull	Veery	Blue Grosbeak
Canvasback	Caspian Tern	Gray-checked Thrush	Indigo Bunting
Ring-necked Duck	Forster's Tern	Swinson's Thrush	Rufous-sided Towhee
Greater Scaup	Black Tern	Hermit Thrush	American Tree Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Rock Dove	Wood Thrush	Chipping Sparrow
Oldsquaw	Mourning Dove	American Robin	Field Sparrow
Common Goldeneye	Black-billed Cuckoo	Gray Catbird	Vesper Sparrow
Bufflehead	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Northern Mockingbird	Savannah Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Eastern Screech-Owl	Brown Thrasher	Grasshopper Sparrow
Common Merganser	Great Horned Owl	American Pipit	Henslow's Sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Barred Owl	Cedar Waxwing	Fox Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Common Nighthawk	European Starling	Song Sparrow
Black Vulture	Whip-poor-will	White-eyed Vireo	Lincoln's Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Chimney Swift	Solitary Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Osprey	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Yellow-throated Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Belted Kingfisher	Warbling Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Red-headed Woodpecker	Philadelphia Vireo	Dark-eyed Junco
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Red-eyed Vireo	Bobolink
Cooper's Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Blue-winged Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Tennessee Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Broad-winged Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	Nashville Warbler	Common Grackle
American Kestrel	Pileated Woodpecker	Northern Parula	Brown-headed Cowbird
Merlin	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler	Orchard Oriole
Peregrine Falcon	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Northern Oriole
Ring-necked Pheasant	Acadian Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler	Purple Finch
Wild Turkey	Alder Flycatcher	Cape May Warbler	House Finch
Northern Bobwhite	Willow Flycatcher	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Pine Siskin
King Rail	Least Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	American Goldfinch
Virginia Rail	Eastern Phoebe	Black-throated Green Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Sora	Great Crested Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler	House Sparrow
American Coot			

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PRESENTED BETWEEN APRIL 6, 1990 AND MARCH 28, 1991

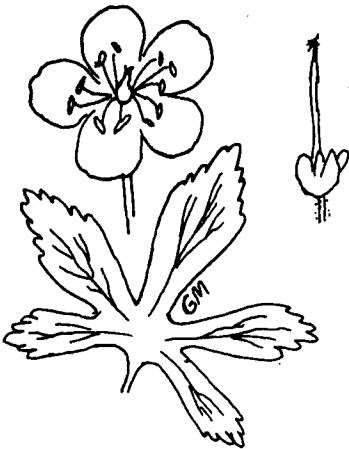
Each year the club's mounted specimens and slide programs are borrowed by many members and used for educational presentations and displays. This educational arm of the Bird Club reaches thousands of people each year in an effort to introduce them to the fascinating world of natural history. Any member may borrow specimens (call Jo Solem 725-5037); if you are a parent, consider making presentations to classes or clubs in which your children are enrolled. Reference material accompanying each box of specimens provides background information. A special note of recognition this year to Eileen Clegg who spoke to all the classes at Swansfield Elementary School over the course of three days! Individuals who used club materials for programs, displays, or personal study during the year included Cliff Edmunds, Jr., Kathy Griffin, Suzanne Probst, Jo Solem, Gina Somerlock, Jane Geuder, Bonnie Ott, Michele Wright, Eva Sunell, Helen Zeichner, Connie Bockstie, Judy Habib, Frankie Pardoe, Bill Bridgeland, Maud Banks, Ralph Geuder, Martha Chestem, Eileen Clegg, Carolyn Cradler, and Kevin Heffernan.

Groups to whom presentations were made or places where there were displays included the following: Scout Troop #122, Thunder Hill E.S. kindergarten, Glenelg Country School Earth Day 8th grade, Wilde Lake H.S. Environmental Awareness Day, Chipmunk Hour (Dept. Rec & Parks), Centennial H.S. biology classes & art students, Longfellow Garden Club, Clemens Crossing E.S. after school program, Cub Scout Pack #944 & another at Glen Mar Methodist Church, Centennial Lane E.S. ET school fair, Guilford E.S. 5th grade outdoor education, West Friendship E.S. 4th grade outdoor education, Park E.S. 1st grade, Howard County Fair, Centennial Park Chesapeake Bay Day, How. Co. Rec & Parks Nature Camps & weeks, Kinder Nature, Junior Ranger & Aquatic Camps, Cub Scout Pack #371, Cattail River Garden Club, Oakland Mills M.S. 6th grade outdoor education, Elkridge E.S. 5th grade science, Senior Citizens Meeting, Retired Mens Club at F. Bain Center, Mount Hebron Nursery School, Northfield E.S. kindergarten, Centennial H.S. display case, Cub Scouts on Grosvenor Drive, Hammond E.S. kindergartens, Patapsco M.S. 7th grade science classes, winter seed sale, Leisurefest at Columbia Mall, Middle Patuxent Nursery School, Nature in Winter at How. Comm. College, Cub Scouts at Worthington E.S., Swansfield E.S. K-5, Senior Satellite group at United Methodist Church, Environmental Ed. Center 5th grade Camp Schmidt, Steven's Forest E.S. 1st grade, and the Mary-Martha Guild.

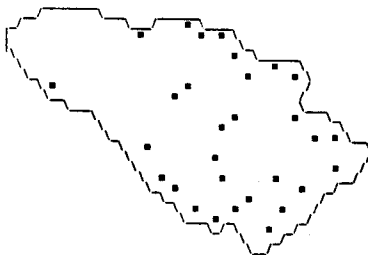
FLOWER FEATURE

WILD GERANIUM

Georgia Morris & Bob Solem



Geranium maculatum
Geranium, Willd



WILD GERANIUM - *Geranium maculatum*

FAMILY - Geranium (*Geraniaceae*, from Greek meaning crane)

HABITAT - Woods, shady roadsides.

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

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATIONS - Savage, Schooley Mill, Cedar Lane Parks; Lake Elkhorn; most sections of Patapsco Valley Park.

PLANT - 18" to 24" high, tall branching plant with hairy stems and leaves.

FLOWERS - 1½" across, with 5 sepals and 5 petals. A pale almost transparent rose-lavender color with a whitish center. The flower has 10 stamens with large anthers surrounding a pistil with 5 styles.

FRUIT - Rounded with 5 lobes elongated into a 1" long beak. When the fruit dries, the 5-parted fruit springs open and scatters the seeds with some force.

LEAVES - Deeply and palmately lobed. The flowers grow in a small group above a pair of leaves.

SPECIAL INFORMATION - Wild Geranium is in the same family but different genus from the domestic geraniums we know so well. It grows from thick tough underground rhizomes. The American Indians ground the rhizomes for medicinal purposes (as an astringent and styptic). The genus gets its name from the resemblance of the fruit to a crane's bill.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Bob Solem

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 establish significant new requirements for our region, made necessary by the high air pollution levels here. Maryland must expand its vehicle emission inspection program to include 1968 and later vehicles and increase the expenditure required to obtain a compliance waiver to \$450. Queen Anne's, Frederick, Charles, Calvert and Cecil Counties now are part of the area where emission inspections are required. Ozone emissions from new or expanded sources must be offset by reductions from existing sources to a greater extent than previously. Centrally-fueled fleets of over 10 cars must use clean-fueled vehicles (e.g., natural gas or electricity). Reformulated gasoline will be required in the Baltimore area, such as fuels oxygenated with ethanol. EPA will allocate emission "allowances" for acid rain compounds; this will affect three power generating plants by 1995 and all 11 major power plants in the state by 2000. Production of compounds depleting the ozone layer will stop; this will eventually affect refrigeration and air conditioning, which will need to use different refrigerants or technology.

Meanwhile, on the state scene, Program Open Space (POS) has been gutted by the governor and the state legislature. POS provided the funding to purchase important natural areas, additions to both state and county park holdings, and potential Bay-related acquisitions. Only one year ago the funding cap on POS was lifted. This year the 1991 legislature stripped about \$70 million from past, present and future allocations of POS funds. POS was a quality-of-life program funded by 1/2% state real estate transfer tax. To cut virtually all of the available funds for at least two years means that even though we continue to pay open space taxes for preservation, we can no longer believe the legislature when they tell us they intend that a portion of our taxes will actually fund open space preservation.

Locally, County Council Member Paul Farragut chaired a meeting of representatives from the purchasing departments of the library, Dept. of Education and the Community College with people from the Baltimore Regional Council of Governments, the State General Services Administration, the Northeast Waste Authority and the County Office of Management Services. He followed this with a memorandum to County Executive Charles Ecker requesting that the new Economic Development Director meet with the county recycling and purchasing personnel to help achieve the county's recycling goal; that a written county government policy regarding purchase of products made from preused (recycled) products be developed; and that the Dept. of Education begin specifications for construction contracts requiring use of products made from preused materials.

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HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

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