

Howard.

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



** CELEBRATING 20 YEARS - HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB **

At the October meeting, the club celebrated it's TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY. There was a wonderful cake decorated with the club's logo, the American Goldfinch, and, as club president Jo Solem explained it, what would be an unusual sighting in Howard County, a flamingo. Punch was served and there was plenty of time to look at the exhibits which detailed some of the club's history.

The highlight of the evening was the lecture by Chandler Robbins. Chan presented an extremely interesting discussion on forest fragmentation. For Howard County residents, the information was of particular interest because many of the studies by Chan have been done in Howard and adjoining counties and are reflective of the changes witnessed by those who have lived here for a number of years. He has conducted research activities involving birds from the Patuxent Research Center for over 45 years. He was instrumental in establishing the techniques used in the Breeding Bird Atlas study and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for his work. He is also co-author of The Birds of North America.

Studies show that the northern Piedmont area, which runs through the state of Maryland, has shown more serious declines in bird populations than anywhere else in the United States. Urbanization occurring in the area has reduced and fragmented forests. It is believed that, at one time, the entire state of Maryland was forested with the exception of an area around Hagerstown. As forested areas get smaller and become more isolated, the likelihood of finding breeding populations declines. We still have breeding birds of course, but the population types have changed over time. Chan's work has also taken him to Central America where he has been studying bird populations in the Rio Bravo area of Belize and Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala. Efforts are underway to preserve areas in both these countries. Earlier this year the Bird Club donated \$5,000 to purchase and protect rainforest in the Sierra de las Minas. We were treated to some wonderful slides of birds from that area. Chan has asked that his honorarium be donated to a rainforest project selected by the club.

We thank all the club members who helped to make the anniversary celebration a fun evening for the more than 70 people who attended. Eileen Clegg arranged for the cake, Jane Farrell provided the punch, Marty Chestam set up the displays, Michele Wright managed the bookstore and Bob Solem photographed the event.

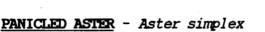
BOARD DESIGNATES NEW AWARD AND DONATION

The Board of Directors announced a new award at the October meeting. Named the "Goldfinch Award," it goes to the birder (and you don't have to be a club member) who finds the bird of the year. The selection, which will be made by a committee of non-Howard County residents, will be based not only on the rarity of the find, but also the effort the birder makes in sharing the find with other. The award will be presented in late February or early March at the annual pot luck dinner.

The board voted to donate \$1000 to the Maryland Parks Foundation, a group which rehabilitates birds and does educational programs. The donation will also be presented at the annual potluck dinner.



by Georgia Morris and Bob Solem



FAMILY - Composite or Daisy (Compositae)

HABITAT - Damp meadows, thickets, open areas.

HOWARD COUNTY BLOOMING SEASON - Mid-August to late November.

HOWARD COUNTY LOCATIONS - Several places along the Patapsco River, Lake Elkhorn, Rockburn Park, Schooley Mill Park, Savage Park, Cedar Lane Park, and Cypressmede Park.

PLANT - 2' to 6' high on a tall leafy stem, forming dense colonies spread by underground root system.

FLOWERS - 3/4" to 1" across with 20 to 40 white, sometimes lavender female ray flowers and numerous golden yellow male disk flowers in a loose cluster atop the plant.

FRUIT - Numerous tiny hairy achenes.

LEAVES - Short stalked to sometimes clasping, narrowly-linear, lance-shaped leaves. The leaves are entire or few toothed; lower leaves are 3" to 6" long, upper leaves 1" to 3".

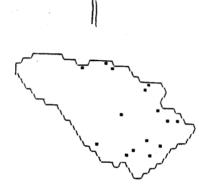
SPECIAL INFORMATION - In terms of small white daisy-like flowers, the fleabanes of summer give way to the asters of autumn. Asters (the name means star) were once used in a snakebite remedy. The Panicled Aster is only one of Howard County's 15 asters. In addition to softening the fall landscape, they provide food for birds and caterpillars.

BLUEBIRD HANDBOOK FOR HOWARD COUNTY MARYLAND

The Bluebird Handbook for Howard County Maryland by Joanne K. Solem and Mark D. Wallace has been published. This 28-page booklet will serve as a ready reference for current trail monitors as well as a guide for those who are just beginning to aid bluebirds and other native cavity nesters. Material covered includes a Howard county bluebird calendar, a box construction diagram, tips for monitoring boxes, predator control, plantings and winter feeding, record keeping, explanation of courtship behavior, and more.

The Board of Directors authorized this publication during the Bird Club's twentieth anniversary year. It is dedicated to the memory of Frances J. Ehlers and Joseph H. Suess, two experienced bluebirders who were instrumental in fostering the club's extensive cavity nester program. The Bluebird Handbook sells for \$2.00 and is available at any meeting or at the seed sales from the club's bookstore.

Mark Wallace, who chairs the bluebird program, said survey forms for the 1992 breeding season will have been mailed by the end of October. If you had successful nestings of bluebirds, chickadees, titmice, or other native cavity nesters during 1992 and do not receive a summary sheet by November 10, please call Mark at (301) 725-6370 and leave your name and address so he can send you a form. The results of this countywide survey (which include the "Bluebirds in the Parks" program coordinated by Bill Eckert) and the names of the cooperators are published in this newsletter in the spring.







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 pm. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 pm. Club bookstore opens at 7:30 pm.

Nov 12 Thursday "Secret Life of Rails" - Greg Kearns. Greg returns by popular demand and this time will talk about one of his favorite subjects--the rails he has long studied at Jug Bay.

Dec 10 Thursday "Approaches to Bird Art" - John Taylor. John is Maryland's best known bird artist. His recently published book of his works and articles will be available at the bookstore. This is a great opportunity to get a personally autographed copy for your library.

Field Trips meet as described for each trip. Carpooling is encouraged; riders share the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for the field 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 three participants. Questions? Call the trip leader or Field Trip Chair, Bonnie Ott (410) 461-3361.

- Nov 1, 8 CENTENNIAL WEEKLY BIRD WALKS 8:00 to 11:00 am. Four leaders. Look for Sundays migrating waterfowl, songbirds and sparrows. Scopes will be available.

 Meet at parking lot at west end of park. Co-sponsored with Howard County Recreation and Parks.
- Nov 12 CASUAL BIRD WALK at WILDE LAKE 8:30 to 11:00 am. Leaderless walk around Thursday Wilde Lake. Meet at boat dock. Waterfowl will be on the move.
- Nov 21 WATERFOWL WALK 8:00 am (half day). Visit the Columbia lakes to search for Saturday migrating waterfowl. Meet at Centennial concession stand.
- Nov 27 CASUAL BIRD WALK at CENTENNIAL PARK 8:30 to 11:00 am. Leaderless walk Friday around the lake. Meet at west end parking lot.
- Dec 26 TRIADELPHIA CHRISTMAS COUNT Count for part or all of the day. Areas are saturday assigned in western Howard and eastern Montgomery counties. To volunteer, contact Norm Saunders, (301) 989-9035 or (202) 606-5723. A small fee is charged which helps defray the cost of publication of results.

There are no club field trips planned for the month of December, if you can't stand to be without a birding experience for this length of time, why not call another bird club member and meet for a casual trip at the site of your choice?

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 1992, 7:30 pm at Longfellow Elementary School. There will be no board meeting in December.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1993 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due December 1, 1992. Call or mail to Susan Setterberg, 9445 Clocktower Lane, Columbia, MD 21046; Phone (301)498-4734. Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders.

1992 Howard County May Count Summary

by Paul Zucker

The 1992 Howard County May Count was conducted from 3:45 am until 9:00 pm on May 9. This year was the fifth year the count was held on the second Saturday in May, and May 9 is almost the earliest the second Saturday can occur. There was a total of 53 participants in 25 field parties. The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the tally sheet (next page). As in previous years, this count had a very good turnout and reasonably good coverage of the county. A total of 151 species were identified (third highest total in the last nineteen years), and 16,905 individual birds were tallied. Most of the day was cloudy and cool with temperatures in the 50's. There were occasional sunny periods and occasional periods of heavy overcast. Some people experienced showers around noon.



The unusual sightings were the Glossy Ibis (Cleggs), Herring Gull (Ott), Caspian Tern (Magnusson), Horned Lark (Holmes), Willow Flycatcher (Farrell/Solem), Mourning Warbler (Osenton),

Brewsters's Warbler (Magnusson), and Lincoln's Sparrow (Ott, Osenton, Magnusson). The Snow Goose which appears to be resident on Centennial Lake was new for the count. The Lesser Yellowlegs and Hermit Thrush were missed on this count although seen the majority of years. High counts were tallied for the following species; Great-blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Ring-Billed Gull, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Solitary Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Northern Cardinal, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Several species had lower numbers on this count than on any other of the last five counts (those held during the second week in May): yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, and Indigo Bunting. A few species had more than in the last five years: Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Purple Finch. These variations are probably the result of the early placement of the count date during the second week in May.

Participation of the following birders is greatly appreciated: Connie Bockstie, Maud Banks, Joe Byrnes, Marty Chestem, Andrew and Eileen and John Clegg, Phil Davis, Peggy



Erbe, Jane Farrell, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Richard Giannola, Kevin Heffernan, Ann Higgins, Jim and Joan and Liz Holloway, David Holmes, Anu and Marcia Krishnamoorthy, Dave and Julie Kubitsky, Marge Kupiec, Mike Leumas, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina and Mike McClure, Doug Odermatt, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Susan Probst, Karan Repsher, Nan Rhinelander, Chandler Robbins, Steve Schrader, Susan Setterberg, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, Tom Strikwerda, Eva Sunell, Linda Tripi, Greg Van Nostrand, Mark Wallace, Don Waugh, Carol and Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, Gregg Zuberbier, and Sherry and Paul Zucker (compiler). Thanks also go the Randles for hosting the tally rally.

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HOWARD
county HOWARD
SOLITARY VIRED 143
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO SO
RED-EYED VIREO 262
SOLDEN-WINGED LIMBLER
TENNESSEE WARBLER 6
NORTHERN PARULA 72 YELLOW WARBLER 156
CHESTHUT-SIDED WARBLER 44 MAGNOLIA WARBLER 7
CAPE MAY WARBLER 3 BLKTHRTD. BLUE WARBLER 42
MYRTLE WARBLER 380
BLKTHRTD. GREEN WARBLER 53 BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER 76
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER 2
PRAIRIE WARBLER 36 PALM WARBLER 2
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER 3
BLACKPOLL WARBLER CERULEAN WARBLER 4
BLACK & WHITE WARBLER 43 AMERICAN REDSTART 58
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER
OVENBIRD /S/ NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH //
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH 33
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT 364
HOODED WARBLER 42 WILSON'S WARBLER 4
CANADA WARBLER YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT 38
SUMMER TANAGER - NONE
NORTHERN CARDINAL 207
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK 13 BLUE GROSBEAK 3
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE 183
CHIPPING SPARROW 35 FIELD SPARROW 27
VESPER SPARROW
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW
SONG SPARROW 210 SWAMP SPARROW 23
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW 229
DARK-EYED JUNCO
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD 6/3
EASTERN MEADOWLARK 28 RUSTY BLACKBIRD
BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE COMMON GRACKLE 659
BROWN-HEADED COUBIRD 268
ORCHARD ORIOLE 34 BALTIMORE ORIOLE 71
PURPLE FINCH 370
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH 565
Unitation species on Rack! Many need
FLYCATCHER(2), RED-BREASTED
DETAILS! SNAW GOOSE, WILLOW FLYCATCHER(2), RED-BREASTED Weather: NUTHATCH MOVENING WARR. Temp. XClouds Wind* Precip.
AM 50'S 75-100 Tight None.
The state of the s
Dusk
*Speed <u>and</u> Direction (e.g. HW10, S5)

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS



HOWARD COUNTY FAIR BIRD CLUB PARTICIPATION: Thanks goes to all the club members who helped to educate the public on the bird life of Howard County and the work of the bird club at the Howard County Fair by setting up or sitting with the Ιf display. you haven't participated in this activity in the past, you might want to consider doing so. It's lots of fun listening to fair goers stories about their bird encounters and watching the children admire the club bird collection. Volunteers included: Maud & Harry Banks; Andrew, Eileen & John Clegg; Peggy Erbe; Jane & Ralph Geuder; Dave & Maureen Harvey; Anu & Marci Krishnamoorthy; Mike Leumas; Mancy Magnusson; Mike & Grazina McClure; Georgia Morris; Jo Solem; Eva Sumell; Mark Wallace; Don & Martha Waugh; and Michele Wright.



November has some work days for the state sanctuaries. You can help out either November 7 or 8 at Irish Grove. Those who have participated in the past have found the time to be well spent with good company and good food. For details, call Martha Chestem, (410) 730-1527.

Immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron Reported at Lake Elkhorn: On Sunday, July 12, 1992, while leading a bird walk from the Columbia Wild Bird Center to Lake Elkhorn, Phil and Barbara Davis found an

immature night heron at the northeast end of the lake in the "beaver-pond" section.

Comparison of the Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned immature night heron features identified this bird as a Yellow-crowned Night Heron. The bird had a gray cast to its head and neck (Blackcrowned is browner), a dark bill with a small amount of yellow at the base of the bill and loral area (Black-crowned would be a dark upper mandible and yellow lower mandible) and it had a more lanky posture lean. seen in the Black-crowned immature.

The bird was still in the pond area on the 19th of July and other birders had an opportunity to view it as well. According to Jo Solem, this is only the third sighting reported in Howard county. This record will promote the bird out of the hypothetical and into the accidental category. The sighting will be reported to American Birds and Maryland Birdlife.

Maryland

MOS 0017

Maryland Ornithological Society

MOS LICENSE PLATES: Several of our members sport MOS license plates on their cars. If you would like one too, they can be obtained for a fee of \$11.00. Call Jo Solem at (301) 725-5037 or talk to her at the regular monthly meetings to get an application form.

COUNTY SEEKS PART-TIME NATURE INTERPRETERS: The Howard County Department Recreation and Parks is currently seeking qualified individuals to lead parent/child and family nature programs at nursery schools at all county parks, especially Savage and Schooley Mill Parks. Programs primarily scheduled weekday mornings and on weekends.

Applicants should have experience leading nature programs with children, knowledge of natural and physical science, be an enthusiastic leader, and communicate well with the public. Hours are flexible. For more information, call (410) 313-7254.

BIRD DRAWING NEEDED FOR COLUMBIA LAKES CHECKLIST:



A drawing of a bird appropriate to one more of or the Columbia lakes is needed for the front of checklist being compiled for that The format area.

will be similar to that of the Centennial Park checklist (an 8 1/2" X 11" sheet folded into three sections). Of course, your work will be credited.

Please submit a good copy of your

drawing (other than a Great Blue Heron) in black ink on white paper. The original or a stat will be used for printing. Due date is January 1, 1993. Send submissions to Jane Farrell, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045.

BIRDS OF PREY MEET CLUB MEMBERS AT SEPTEMBER Bill Troutman from MEETING: the Maryland Department of Natural Resources brought variety of feathered friends to the September club meeting. was a rare treat to get a closeup view of a Mallard (yes, we know that is not a bird of prey), an Eastern Screech-Owl, a Redtailed Hawk, a first year Great Horned Owl, and a Turkey Vulture.

Bill's presentation was very entertaining and informative. What is the biggest killer of wildlife? Litter, says Bill. Those cigarette butts, pop tops from cans and chewing gum left by people look like food to many birds. When consumed, they lodge in the digestive tract of the bird, eventually causing death.

MOS CONVENTION: To afford you an opportunity to plan ahead for next year. . . the MOS convention will be June 4, 5, and 6, 1993, at Frostburg State College.

CONSERVATION REPORT Bob Solem

The previous newsletter restated the "third wave of environmentalism" adopted by this Club: "Gradually there has been a recognition that there is a need for a third stage of activity since we can no longer be effective solely by opposing environmental abuses.... This activity requires an expanded citizen awareness of the science and economics of environmental protection. Jobs, the rights of stockholders, the needs of agriculture, industry and consumers, therefore become part of the new environmental agenda." (see next page)

(CHERNAM RPM, CHINE) The "third wave" was first explained by Fred Krupp of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). That organization used the approach in California to show the power commission and electric utility that it was more cost effective (as well as environmentally more sound) to help consumers weatherproof their homes and make other improvements to use electricity more efficiently rather than build huge new nuclear power plants to satisfy the projected demand.

Now there is a movement that tries to sound like it has comparable objectives: The "wise use movement." This is a coalition of more than 400 groups which resulted from a 1988 conference in Reno. Some members are the American Forest Resource Alliance (which includes Weyerhauser and Boise-Cascade), American Mining Congress, American Petroleum Institute, American Property Rights Alliance, Blue Ribbon Coalition (which includes Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas, Shell Oil, Northwest Mining), Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, Heritage Foundation, James Watt's Mountain States Legal Foundation, National Association of Home Builders, National Cattlemen's Association, National Association (who have private holdings within national parks and wilderness areas), National Wetlands Coalition (whose members include oil companies), White House Council on Competitiveness, and the Oregon Lands Coalition (which wants to take the Spotted Owl off the endangered species list).

According to the Sierra Club, the agenda of this coalition includes opening up all public lands for the extraction of mineral and energy resources (including national parklands and wilderness areas) and the clear-cutting of all old-growth forests. There will also be a major effort to weaken the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, both of which will be coming before Congress for legislative reauthorization within the next year. Needless to say, the agenda of the "wise use movement" is a lot different than that espoused by the "third wave of environmentalism."

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