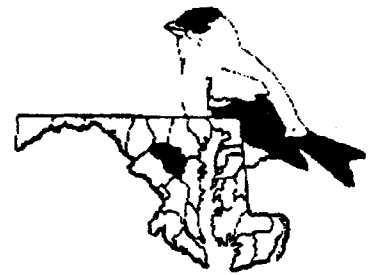




Howard

*A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society*



May-June 1994, Volume 22, No. 5

IT REALLY IS AN EARED GREBE! by Jane H. Farrell

With the opening of Centennial Lake, I started birding a body of water with consistency and began to see grebes regularly during migration. Pied-billed Grebes are the most common grebes in Howard County and are reasonably easy to distinguish from other grebes. In addition to Pied-billed Grebes, we have Horned Grebes. When Horned Grebes migrate through Howard County, their plumage varies considerably. Some are almost completely in basic (nonbreeding) plumage, while others are also almost completely in alternate (breeding) plumage. Differentiating between Horned and Eared Grebes is an identification problem. I spent considerable amounts of birding time trying to turn Horned Grebes into Eared Grebes. I finally learned about plumage variations in migrating Horned Grebes, realized the low probability of finding an Eared Grebe in inland Maryland, and gave up this fruitless pursuit.

On March 30, 1994, at approximately 6 pm, after I had walked around Centennial Lake, I saw a dark diving bird in the middle of the lake between the wildlife end of the lake and the concession stand. It moved fairly rapidly toward the dam end of the lake. I observed the bird for a while until it disappeared behind the island by the concession stand. My sightings convinced me that I had a problem bird, and I went to my car to get my scope. Despite diligent tries, I could not turn this bird into a Horned Grebe. I watched the bird until dark and was convinced that I had an Eared Grebe. My find was confirmed by others at 5:30 am the following morning. On the days following, through at least April 4, 1994, the grebe was very cooperative, staying close to shore. It could usually be seen without a scope and was the subject of many photographs. This was the first documented record of an Eared Grebe in Howard County.

HOWARD COUNTY HAS TWO MOS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Michele Wright and Penny Gow Zimring were recently advised that each had won a scholarship from the state MOS for a week at an Audubon camp. Michele, who is a park naturalist for Howard County Dept of Recreation and Parks, won a Helen Miller Scholarship and anticipates attending an ecology camp in Maine. Penny teaches at Dunloggin and is looking forward to attending camp in Wyoming. She received the Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship.

PACKETS FOR NEW MEMBERS MAILED

In order to introduce newer members to Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) and Howard County Bird Club activities, the local board recently put together an informational packet. During the latter half of April, packets were mailed to anyone who had joined the chapter within the last three years.

The material consists of a welcome from the president, a membership card, an MOS decal, and a copy of the "Checklist of the Birds of Howard County." An information sheet lists current officers, annual activities, chapter publications, and some recommended references, along with a map of the monthly meeting site.

Since current membership directories and the most recent newsletter have been mailed to all members, these items were not included in the initial mailing, but they will be added for anyone who joins after May 1. Members who were not eligible to receive a packet in the mail may pick one up at any meeting.

1993 -- A GOOD YEAR -- BUT NO RECORD by Jane Farrell

Comparing the 15 year compilation of annual Howard County lists with the 1993 Howard County Year List points to the amazing consistency in birding Howard. In 1993, we identified 222 species; 173 of these species have been identified every year for the last 15 years, and 197 of these species have been recorded in each of the last five years! Beginning with 1988, our year totals have been 222, 224, 222, 224, 225, and 222, respectively. With this kind of consistency, it is hard to have an extraordinary year. Yet, there were highlights: Surf Scoters identified on Centennial Lake (one in the Spring and one in the Fall) for the first recorded sighting since 1958; Connecticut and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Upland and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, all with multiple sightings; Northern Goshawk; and Short-eared Owl. We also have five 1993 sightings with the Records Committee for verification. If these records are accepted, it would be a new high total for a year.

Last year I asked for a Connecticut Warbler and some northern invasion species; we saw Connecticut Warblers and a few fortunate birders saw a Northern Goshawk and Evening Grosbeaks. This year I want shorebirds--lots of species in accessible locations, some rails and sparrows, and Golden-winged Warblers. 1994 has already been better for northern invasion species, but I want more. Search for these birds, share with others, and, if you find an unusual species, activate the Howard County Rare Bird Alert by calling Bea Newkirk on (301) 498-1902.

ADDENDUM: 1992, remove Western Sandpiper (compiler error), new total 225. 1988, add Sharp-tailed Sparrow (accepted by the Records Committee), new total 222. 1987, remove Dickcissel (record withdrawn), new total 215. 1982, remove Short-eared Owl, add Northern Saw-whet Owl (compiler error), same total 217.

Thanks to the following members who submitted their complete 1993 lists: Burton Alexander, John Blaisdell, Connie Bockstie, Rod Burley, Jane Farrell, Dave Harvey, Mike Kerwin, Nancy Magnusson, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Sue Probst, Jo Solem, and Eva Sunell. Data from special counts and season reports compiled by David Holmes, Jo Solem, and Paul Zucker provided some species that might have been missed. Bob Ringler provided technical expertise, and Bob Solem produced the computerized 15 year compilation. Individuals who submitted their 1993 annual lists will receive a copy of the 15 year compilation. Others may request it by sending a stamped, self-addressed long envelope to Jane Farrell, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045.

1993 HOWARD COUNTY LIST

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Common Loon | Red-breasted Merganser | Ring-billed Gull | Eastern Kingbird | White-eyed Vireo |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Ruddy Duck | Herring Gull | Horned Lark | Solitary Vireo |
| Horned Grebe | Black Vulture | Iceland Gull | Purple Martin | Yellow-throated Vireo |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Turkey Vulture | Lesser Black-backed Gull | Tree Swallow | Warbling Vireo |
| American Bittern | Osprey | Glaucous Gull | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Philadelphia Vireo |
| Great Blue Heron | Bald Eagle | Great Black-backed Gull | Bank Swallow | Red-eyed Vireo |
| Great Egret | Northern Harrier | Caspian Tern | Cliff Swallow | Blue-winged Warbler |
| Snowy Egret | Sharp-shinned Hawk | Common Tern | Barn Swallow | Tennessee Warbler |
| Little Blue Heron | Cooper's Hawk | Forster's Tern | Blue Jay | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Cattle Egret | Northern Goshawk | Black Tern | American Crow | Nashville Warbler |
| Green Heron | Red-shouldered Hawk | Rock Dove | Fish Crow | Northern Parula |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Broad-winged Hawk | Mourning Dove | Carolina Chickadee | Yellow Warbler |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | Red-tailed Hawk | Black-billed Cuckoo | Tufted Titmouse | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| Glossy Ibis | Golden Eagle | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Red-breasted Nuthatch | Magnolia Warbler |
| Tundra Swan | American Kestrel | Eastern Screech-Owl | White-breasted Nuthatch | Cape May Warbler |
| Mute Swan | Merlin | Great Horned Owl | Brown Creeper | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| Snow Goose | Peregrine Falcon | Barred Owl | Carolina Wren | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Canada Goose | Ring-necked Pheasant | Short-eared Owl | House Wren | Black-throated Green Warbler |
| Wood Duck | Wild Turkey | Common Nighthawk | Winter Wren | Blackburnian Warbler |
| Green-winged Teal | Northern Bobwhite | Whip-poor-will | Marsh Wren | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| American Black Duck | Virginia Rail | Chimney Swift | Golden-crowned Kinglet | Pine Warbler |
| Hallard | American Coot | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Prairie Warbler |
| Northern Pintail | Lesser Golden-Plover | Belted Kingfisher | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Palm Warbler |
| Blue-winged Teal | Killdeer | Red-headed Woodpecker | Eastern Bluebird | Bay-breasted Warbler |
| Northern Shoveler | Greater Yellowlegs | Red-bellied Woodpecker | Veery | Blackpoll Warbler |
| Gadwall | Lesser Yellowlegs | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Downy-cheeked Thrush | Cerulean Warbler |
| American Wigeon | Solitary Sandpiper | Hairy Woodpecker | Swainson's Thrush | Black-and-white Warbler |
| Canvasback | Spotted Sandpiper | Northern Flicker | Hermit Thrush | American Redstart |
| Redhead | Upland Sandpiper | Pileated Woodpecker | Wood Thrush | Prothonotary Warbler |
| Ring-necked Duck | Semipalmated Sandpiper | Eastern Wood-Peevee | American Robin | Worm-eating Warbler |
| Lesser Scaup | Least Sandpiper | Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | Gray Catbird | Ovenbird |
| Oldsquaw | Pectoral Sandpiper | Acadian Flycatcher | Northern Mockingbird | Northern Waterthrush |
| Surf Scoter | Buff-breasted Sandpiper | Willow Flycatcher | Brown Thrasher | Louisiana Waterthrush |
| Common Goldeneye | Common Snipe | Least Flycatcher | American Pipit | Kentucky Warbler |
| Bufflehead | American Woodcock | Eastern Phoebe | Cedar Waxwing | Connecticut Warbler |
| Hooded Merganser | Laughing Gull | Great Crested Flycatcher | European Starling | |
| Common Merganser | Bonaparte's Gull | | | |

Hourning 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
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow

Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Rusty Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird

Orchard Oriole
Northern Oriole
Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
House Sparrow

Winter Bird Records: Dec 1, 1993 - Feb 28, 1994

by Joanne Solem

This article details county highlights of the summary that was forwarded to *Maryland Birdlife* and *American Birds*. To request a copy of a form on which to record sightings, call 301-725-5037. Those observers who submit seasonal sightings will receive a copy of the county compilation. Observers are referred to by initial; names appear at the end of the article. Locations are written out the first time used; thereafter they are abbreviated. If species are mentioned which you are anxious to see, call Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361 and let her know.

Although Red-necked Grebes were widely reported in Maryland during February, Howard County could manage only a single sighting when PO found one in the open water behind Rocky Gorge dam on 2/27. The cold weather in January and February covered lakes, ponds, and reservoirs with ice. A few openings remained which were usually heavily used by waterfowl. The only visible water on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) held 150 Tundra Swans on 2/5 (JF,JS). Among the thousands of Canada Geese that now winter in the county, a few Snow Geese can often be found. The fields near the pond at Fulton had one white phase and two blue phase birds on 12/4 & 1/16 (JF,JS). On 2/18 there was one of each color at the same location (BO,HZ).

The opening in the ice at Centennial Park (CENPK) was closely watched whenever weather conditions allowed access to the park. Among species seen were Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser. The two species at that location that attracted the most attention were a male Redhead on 12/15 (CB) and four pairs on 1/12 (CB) and a male Red-breasted Merganser on 2/25 (CB,BO,HZ). The only Oldsquaw of the season was noted on TRIRS on 12/4 (JF,JS). Five White-winged Scoters at the same location on 1/8 were the first winter county record (PO). Fourteen Gadwalls were on a pond on Triadelphia Mill Road on 12/9 (MW). On the same date he had 21 Buffleheads and 60 Hooded Mergansers on a pond on Waterford Farm. A windy day brought down 363 Ring-necked Ducks and 30 Canvasbacks which rested in a cove at Brown's Bridge on T. Duckett Reservoir 2/26 (JF,JS).

The best raptor news was the presence of an immature Northern Goshawk at Centennial Park for much of the winter (m.obs.). Although the bird was seen by many birders, it often required hours of waiting or repeated trips before it was sighted. If all the birds in and around the hole in the ice suddenly took wing, it usually meant that the goshawk was flying through. An adult goshawk had flown over CB's head at Centennial on 12/16, but that individual did not stay. The Bald Eagles are again nesting on TRIRS.

Ring-necked Pheasants are scarce so two on 2/5 was a pleasant surprise. PO had a male on Sharp Road and EG had a female west of Murray Hill & Vollmerhausen Roads. A flock of five Wild Turkeys frequented the Clark's yard east of Clarksville from mid December to around 1/10. As many as three American Coots were seen at CENPK from 12/31 on (BO).

Shorebirds are always in short supply in the Piedmont in winter. On 12/18 JF & JS had a flock of 32 Killdeer at the milk plant in southern Howard County. By late Feb they were again being widely seen with six at Fulton on 2/18 (BO,HZ) and five on Gorman Road on 2/20 (JW). A few Common Snipe wintered.

The severe winter brought thoughts of white-winged gulls, but it was not a particularly outstanding season. The statewide gull count on 1/29 found NM & JF at Alpha Ridge landfill (ALPHA) where they logged two first winter Icelanders, three adult Lesser Black-backs plus the expected Herrings, Ring-bills, and Great Black-backs. On Midwinter Count 2/5 GS & RC found three Lesser Black-backs at ALPHA. PO had a second winter Glaucous Gull at CENPK on 1/15. Bonaparte's Gulls were noted three times: three at CENPK on 12/26 (JF,BO), one on 1/15 (JF), and six on TRIRS 1/8 (PO,JS).

The only migrant owl found was a Long-eared that BO flushed from a tangle at CENPK 1/30 when she paid attention to scolding chickadees.

Red-headed Woodpeckers took advantage of an excellent acorn crop in the vicinity of the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDCF) and wintered. At least one adult and one immature were relocated by a number of observers after BO's initial discovery. MK also had one adult in western Howard County on 2/5. Several large flocks of **Horned Larks** were located in freshly manured fields. On 1/16 PO had 100 at Fulton and 71 in fields at Roxbury & Triadelphia Roads. On 2/5 D&MH found 350 in their Midwinter Count territory, the largest number on Underwood Road, and on 2/18 BO & HZ located 30-40 after patient searching ½ mile west of US 29 on MD 216.

Sightings of **Black-capped Chickadees** are not frequent. Details were submitted for a bird that appeared at D&PE's feeder on Crazy Quilt Court 1/17 on the east side of Columbia. If accepted, this would be the first sighting in almost a decade. Wintering **Marsh Wrens** have been recorded occasionally in the Piedmont, though not in this county. On 1/11 CB & BO flushed one from cattails in the Plum Tree Path area for this season's first county record.

Fifteen **Eastern Bluebirds** were observed on 1/30 at Schooley Mill Park (SLMLP)(JB). BS reported 10-12 bluebirds roosting together in a single nest box during the extremely cold nights of mid January. They arrived between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Both **Gray Catbirds** and **Brown Thrashers** attempted to winter. One, possibly two, catbirds were seen at CENPK during the period (JF,BO,HZ); another was spotted at SLMLP on 12/18 (NM). NM had a thrasher at SLMLP on 1/29 and CB had another at PLTRP on 2/17.

American Pipits were noted at diverse locations including 50 at Gateway Business Park on 1/14 (JW), 30 on 1/5 at UMDCF (HZ), 60 on 1/14 at UMDCF (BO), and four on the milk plant on 2/20 (JW). Other than a few scattered **Yellow-rumped Warbler** reports, the only other warblers were two **Common Yellowthroats** observed along Hammond Branch near I-95 on 12/18 (JF,JS).

American Tree Sparrows were widely reported with 20 the largest number on 1/13 at Mt. Pleasant (BO,JS,RC). **Chipping Sparrows** were seen during the winter period: two on 12/2 at Mt. Pleasant (BO,JS,SS), one in North Laurel on 12/5 (PO), and one in Elkridge on 2/5 (AT). Fifteen **Savannah Sparrows** on 12/2 at Mt. Pleasant were the largest winter group (BO,JS,SS). **Fox Sparrows** always winter in the county in small numbers. The three in CENPK on 1/10 (HZ) and 1/16 (BO) were certainly winter residents. Migration became apparent when the two that had shown up on 2/25 on Mt. Albert Road (CENPK) were seen on 2/27. **Song Sparrows** were still migrating on 12/2 when 50+ were observed at Mt. Pleasant (BO,JS,SS). The last **Lincoln's Sparrow** was spotted by BO on 12/3 at UMDCF. On the same date and location, she had 14 **Eastern Meadowlarks**.

Winter irruptives were major news this winter. These are species that live far north of us and come south unpredictably. During most winters there are at least a scattering of reports of **Pine Siskins**, **Purple Finches** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** which was also the case this year. **Evening Grosbeaks** did not come to this area. **Redpolls** were the big news--mostly **Commons** with the possibility of at least one **Hoary**. The MDDCRC will be wrestling with redpoll taxonomy as it evaluates a number of Maryland records. Obviously not everyone reported redpoll sightings, but the following people did which provides a good overview of the timing, location, and numbers of this invasion. Generally only a few were reported from any one location, but the largest flock (19) was on 1/30 (CS). January reports included one on 1/10 (BO); three 1/14, 1/16 & 2/5 (D&PE); one 1/14 (W&SE); three 1/15 (PD); six 1/17 (A&KH); one 1/15 (SS); six 1/18 (G&MM); one 1/20 (JK); five 1/20 (HS); one 1/22 (PO); two 1/23 (DW), one 1/23 (RM); one 1/22 (CS); one 1/26 (JS); four 1/22 (MF); and nine 1/29 (JF). February sightings included several on Midwinter Count on 2/5; one 2/7 (WEB); six 2/29 (GL); two 2/12 & 2/16 (BO); and almost daily visits at a Wilde Lake feeder from 2/8 at least through the first week of March with a high of 11 on 2/9 (HZ).

The following records have been submitted to the MDDCRC: **Brewer's Blackbird** on 1/17 and a possible **Hoary Redpoll** on 1/15.

Winter observers cited above: John Blaisdell (JB), Connie Bookstie (CB), Randy Crook (RC), Ralph Cullison (RC), Phil Davis (PD), Wes & Susan Earp (W&SE), Ward Ebert (WEB), Darius & Paula Ecker (D&PE), Jane Farrell (JF), Madilyn Fletcher (MF), Edwin Gould (EG), Anne & Ken Hart (A&KH), Dave & Maureen Harvey (D&MH), Joyce Kelly (JK), Mike Kerwin (MK), Georgia Lyhus (GL), Nancy Magnusson (NM), Grazina & Mike McClure (G&MM), Rosamond Munro (RM), Peter Osenton (PO), Bonnie Ott (BO), Gene Scarpulla (GS), Susan Setterberg (SS), Boyd Smith (BS), Jo Selen (JS), Hank Stanton (HS), Chuck Stirrat (CS), Amy Thornton (AT), Ben Wallace (BW), Mark Wallace (MW), Jim Wilkinson (JW), Helen Zeichner (HZ), many observers (n.obs.)

Records for spring sightings (March, April and May) are due June 3, 1994. Mail to BIRD RECORDS, 10617 Grae Loch Road, Laurel, MD 20723.

HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT 5 February 1993⁴

by David Holmes & Joanne Solem

Your answers will be kept in strictest confidence but please do tell either our compiler or organizer just how many virgins you sent to the weather gods for our count day. Conditions were absolutely ideal for everything except vultures. So, our vulture count was the lowest since 1986 (our first year) but we found new high count totals for 18 species and two additional "high ties". In the middle of this, our worst winter in years, we enjoyed a day with no wind, moderate overcast so the birds kept active and we could find them, and moderate temperatures (40's). It was wonderful!

More superlatives: number of species - 94 (previous high - 92), number of individual birds - 109,992 (previous high - 105,412), hours on foot - almost 220 (previous high 179), but interestingly, the miles on foot total was average for the last six years. Perhaps the notation on the field sheet " $\frac{1}{2}$ hour stuck in ice" is the best explanation. The THREE new species for the count included one expectable (Horned Grebe - three on Rocky Gorge Reservoir), and two really quality birds (Northern Goshawk and Long-eared Owl - both around Centennial Lake). Fifteen species were found in just under high count numbers with two additional ties for second high counts. The other notable second high was number of observers, 80 in the field and an additional 24 at feeders. This is an impressive effort!

Last year we looked at five possibly declining species. Did the declines continue? Herring Gulls were slightly down. House Sparrows, Rock Doves, and Red-shouldered Hawks produced third highest counts and American Tree Sparrows were one of the second high species. Tree sparrows have shown very consistent long term declines in most of the country though, so our "good" showing may well have been produced by more severe weather further north. The increasing species this year included the permanent residents: Canada Geese, woodpeckers, and feeder birds such as chickadees, titmice, and House Finches. Is it habitat, adaptability, or coverage that gives these results?

What a difference a month makes! Once again, comparisons (the two counts' party hours were amazingly similar) with the Triadelphia Christmas Bird Count (18 Dec.) suggest either lots of out migration or die-off between counts. Winter hadn't hit yet by the time of the Christmas count so they listed 7 Phoebes, 1 House and 27 Winter Wrens, 9 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 Common Yellowthroats, and a Chipping Sparrow; all species our Midwinter Count missed completely. The rest of their towhee and sparrow individual totals were from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 times our numbers. Their Carolina Wrens set a record at well over double ours. Their 50 Hermit Thrushes also set a record (we had 5). BUT, we had Common Redpolls, 3 Pine Siskins, American Pipits and Rusty Blackbirds, and (thanks to Dave Harvey's suggesting to a farmer that he really ought to be spreading some manure shortly before we counted) 350 Horned Larks all appearing on our count and missing Triadelphia completely. Our tree sparrow total was $\frac{1}{2}$ times theirs. I'd love to see some similar Christmas-Midwinter comparisons from central Northern and South Carolina because they may suggest whether these fairly consistent differences are indeed "late" migration or just a part of the normal astronomical mortality rate in populations of small birds.

Am I thrilled over our record number of individuals? Here's how it happened - then you tell me: 60,000 blackbirds, 9,000 of both European Starlings and Canada Geese, 8,000 gulls, 5,000 crows - that's 91,000 birds - 83% of our total individuals. Seven more species topped 1,000 and three came close adding 14,158 birds. So, 20.2% of our species comprised 96% of our individuals. What will the species diversity fanatics do with this information? Do you realize that this is still less than half the human population of Howard County? And isn't it interesting that all our attention focuses on the single goshawk rather than the reasons our environment is supporting 60,000 blackbirds!

Last year's paragraph of kudos could be repeated almost exactly for this account. You observers did marvelously - both at our feeders and in the field. The area leaders (see the observer list and welcome to Jim Wilkinson who took over Area 7 this year), Mike McClure for a huge amount of work on the raptor information, and Hal and Zelda Simon for continuing their tally rally tradition; all you people make this count possible and useful. An article in a major journal is beginning to fly through my brain - and after our 10th count next year, we should have a data set to take seriously. See you in May, in fall?, on Triadelphia and again next midwinter.

OBSERVERS: **AREA 1:** MARK WALLACE, Joseph Byrnes, Bob Davis, Mike Kerwin, Rick Sussman, Robin Todd; **AREA 2:** NANCY MAGNUSSON, Val Barnes, Ward Ebert, David Henderson, Peter Osenton, Tom Strikwerda, Paul & Sherry Zucker, *Feeder watchers* - William A. Kidwill, Skip Skipton, Romyne Smith; **AREA 3:** MAUREEN & DAVE HARVEY, Brent & Mary Byers, Richard & Randy Crook, Ralph Cullison, Dan Haft, Elliot Kirschbaum, Art Rogers, Steve Sanford, Gene Scarpulla, Nancy Smith, Will & Robin Tress, *Feeder watchers* - R.W. Handwork, Dave Kirkwood; **AREA 4:** MIKE MCCLURE, Bob & Mary Jo Betts, Bill Blum, Darius & Paula Ecker, Kim Gross, Mike Leumas, Grazina McClure, Jim McGibney, Karan Repsher, Chuck Stirrat, *Feeder watchers* - (Ralph) & Tom Cullison, Georgia Eacker, James Resau, *Arranged "poaching"* - Bonnie Ott; **AREA 5:** GREG VAN MOSTRAND, Burton Alexander, Guy Barnard, Doug Chamblin, Marty Chestem, John & Eileen Clegg, Peggy Erbe, Adam Gu, Andy Halleck, Jeff Hatfield, Doug Odermatt, Nanine Rhinelander, Cynthia Sibrel, Christine Simoes, Paul Sturm, Helen Zeichner, *Feeder watchers* - Ellen & Hal Bryson, Ward Ebert, John Greer, Dennis Luck, Rosamond Munro; **AREA 6:** BONNIE OTT, Connie Bockstie, Jane & Ralph Geuder, David Kubitsky, Marjorie Kupiec, Brigitte & Robert Lund, Sue Probst, Hank Stanton, Cathy Williamson, *Feeder watchers* - William Brandenstein, Alex Donovan, Jr., Sharon Femrite, (Ralph Geuder), Robert B. Linder, Amy Thornton; **AREA 7:** JIM WILKINSON, Maud Banks, Phil Davis, Jane Farrell, Edwin Gould, Cathy Jones, Georgia Morris, Jo Solem, Eva Sunell, Don Waugh, Carol Wilkinson, *Feeder watchers* - (Bob & Mary Jo Betts), Ron Cotterman, (Paula Ecker), Jim & Claudia Medwin, Bea Newkirk, Bob Solem. (Area Leaders names are in CAPITALS. Names in parentheses under feeder watchers were also listed as field observers.)

Following are the species and total counts for the day:

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|--------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|-------|
| Horned Grebe | 3 | Northern Goshawk | 1 | Downy Woodpecker | 272 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | 36 |
| Great Blue Heron | 3 | accipiter sp. | 2 | Hairy Woodpecker | 39 | Northern Cardinal | 1175 |
| Tundra Swan | 99 | Red-shouldered Hawk | 68 | Northern Flicker | 81 | Rufous-sided Towhee | 27 |
| Mute Swan | 2 | Red-tailed Hawk | 60 | Pileated Woodpecker | 32 | American Tree Sparrow | 59 |
| Snow Goose | 1 | buteo sp. | 1 | Horned Lark | 350 | Field Sparrow | 80 |
| Canada Goose | 8783 | American Kestrel | 33 | Blue Jay | 957 | Savannah Sparrow | 5 |
| Wood Duck | 4 | Ring-necked Pheasant | 2 | American Crow | 2809 | Fox Sparrow | 6 |
| Green-winged Teal | 2 | American Coot | 3 | Fish Crow | 94 | Song Sparrow | 296 |
| American Black Duck | 158 | Killdeer | 4 | crow sp. | 2052 | Swamp Sparrow | 12 |
| Hallard | 1225 | Common Snipe | 5 | Carolina Chickadee | 961 | White-throated Sparrow | 1301 |
| Northern Pintail | 4 | Ring-billed Gull | 6170 | Tufted Titmouse | 713 | White-crowned Sparrow | 56 |
| American Wigeon | 23 | Herring Gull | 1049 | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 9 | Dark-eyed Junco | 1466 |
| Canvasback | 17 | Lesser Black-backed Gull | 3 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 166 | Red-winged Blackbird | 17093 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 96 | Great Bl.-backed Gull | 29 | Brown Creeper | 46 | Eastern Meadowlark | 4 |
| Lesser Scaup | 1 | gull sp. | 625 | Carolina Wren | 212 | Rusty Blackbird | 4 |
| Common Goldeneye | 2 | Rock Dove | 2108 | Golden-crowned Kinglet | 54 | Common Grackle | 29523 |
| Buffihead | 10 | Mourning Dove | 1728 | Eastern Bluebird | 268 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 1070 |
| Hooded Merganser | 15 | Eastern Screech-Owl | 3 | Hermit Thrush | 5 | blackbird sp. | 11430 |
| Common Merganser | 7 | Great Horned Owl | 9 | American Robin | 298 | Purple Finch | 2 |
| Black Vulture | 50 | Barred Owl | 9 | Gray Catbird | 3 | House Finch | 2272 |
| Turkey Vulture | 129 | Long-eared Owl | 1 | Northern Mockingbird | 389 | Common Redpoll | 24 |
| Bald Eagle | 2 | Belted Kingfisher | 12 | Brown Thrasher | 1 | Pine Siskin | 3 |
| Northern Harrier | 8 | Red-headed Woodpecker | 3 | Water Pipit | 5 | American Goldfinch | 422 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 20 | Red-bellied Woodpecker | 267 | Cedar Waxwing | 460 | House Sparrow | 965 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 7 | Yel-bellied Sapsucker | 5 | European Starling | 8236 | | |

Total Species: 94 Total Individuals: 109,992

Party hours on foot - 219.75; Party hours by car - 69.67; Party hours owling - 10.25; Party hours at feeders - 47.28
 Party miles on foot - 157.93; Party miles by car - 696.3; Party miles owling - 67

CONSERVATION REPORT by Bob Solem



Focus, the newsletter of the World Wildlife Fund, has information on temperate rain forests, most of which are in a narrow coastal band from the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state north to British Columbia and southeast Alaska. The following is quoted from *Focus*:

"Temperate rain forests are the world's most productive forests. Tropical forests boast a far greater variety of species, but an average plot in the Pacific Northwest temperate rain forest contains more than twice as much plant matter, or "biomass," as even the most productive tropical rain forests. These forests--and the rivers and streams they sustain--provide habitat to thousands of species, including many of the region's threatened and endangered fish and wildlife. The original distribution of temperate rain forests was 76 million acres, or the size of the state of Wisconsin--less than 4% of the world's current tropical rain forest distribution. The European temperate rain forest is mainly gone. In the Pacific Northwestern United States, only a fraction of the original temperate rain forest remains intact.

"What about the timber industry's assertion that, thanks to their replanting efforts, there really isn't a deforestation problem? Strictly speaking, the problem in temperate forests often is not deforestation, but the conversion of forests to tree plantations. Tree plantations are "fiber farms" that are highly effective at meeting timber production goals. The genetic variability of the natural forest system is lost, as is the forest's ability to adapt to changing climate. Because they are so uniform, tree plantations also lack the

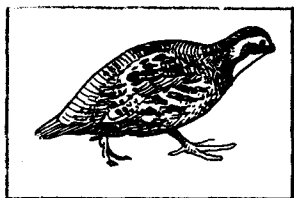
structural complexity that is so important in an old-growth forest. Simplifying these forests reduces their capacity to support wildlife. A messy forest--with snags (dead standing trees), logs on the ground, and broken tops--provides important niches for diversity of species."

May Count - Saturday, May 14, 1994

Since 1948, the Maryland Ornithological Society has conducted an annual May Count. Everyone is urged to join in; no matter your skill level. Identification is only part of being successful; you have to spot the bird first, so every pair of eyes helps. And, it is great fun. The compiler for Howard County is Paul Zucker. Call him at (301) 279-7896 (Home) or (301) 953-5000 x 4971 (Office) to participate in the count. Paul will pair you up with someone else if you'd like, based on your skill level, and assign you an area to cover. Special requests are honored whenever possible.



HOW IT WORKS: The county has been divided into seven areas (as for the Winter Count), each with an area coordinator. The area coordinators will assemble the parties and combine their results after the count. All parties however must make sure their day lists are delivered to the tally rally. Leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and time, names and addresses of the participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. Observers within talking or shouting distance of each other are considered 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 the other for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, then the total is $1\frac{1}{2}$ party hours. All birds (including, ugh, Starlings, and House Sparrows) must be counted. Large flocks can be estimated. If you see something exciting outside your assigned area, make a note of the time, direction of flight, and location. The sighting can be reported to the area coordinator for that sector at the tally; and the bird may be added to the count if we are assured double counting did not take place.



UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS: Any species not previously recorded in the county or listed on the checklist needs to be documented. Acceptable documentation includes the name of the person making the identification, names of all others who saw the bird, when and where it was seen, lighting conditions, optics used, behavior of the bird, time period observed, field marks, etc. Sometimes sketches help. Some examples of what is considered unusual are: Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Green-winged

Teal, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Greater or Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Sora, American Coot, Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Barn Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chuck-will's-widow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Loggerhead Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, American Tree Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, or Rusty Blackbird.

THE TALLY DINNER!! Everyone who participates in the count is welcome to attend the tally pot luck. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements with your area leader or the compiler to turn in or phone in results during the count day or early that evening. Call Jan Randle at (410) 531-6296 to let her know the number of people coming from your party and your choice of food to share. (Non-cooks & all day counters can ask Jan for alternative suggestions.) Dinner usually begins between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. The tally will begin at 8 pm. The Randles live in Braeburn which is on the west side of Cedar Lane in the section north of MD 32 and south of the stoplights at Owen Brown and Freetown Roads. The entrance road to the area is Braeburn Road, turn right on Lochridge and continue to first house on left after Hillbrook Drive (6424 Lochridge Road).

- 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-BREADED MERGANSER _____
- RUDDY DUCK _____
- BLACK VULTURE _____
- TURKEY VULTURE _____
- OSPREY _____
- BALD EAGLE [ad/ir/unk] _____ / _____ / _____
- NORTHERN HARRIER _____
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK _____
- COOPER'S HAWK _____
- RED-SHOULDERED HAWK _____
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK _____
- RED-TAILED HAWK _____
- 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 SNIPE _____
- 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 _____
- ROCK DOVE _____
- 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-BREADED 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 _____
- AMERICAN 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-BREADED 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-BREADED CHAT _____
- SUMMER TANAGER _____
- SCARLET TANAGER _____
- NORTHERN CARDINAL _____
- ROSE-BREADED 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!

| Weather: | Temp. | %Clouds | Wind* | Precip. |
|----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| Dawn | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| AM | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Noon | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| PM | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Dusk | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

*Speed and Direction (e.g. NW10, S5)

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

 Hours Feeder Watching: _____

 Hours "Stationary": _____

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

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

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1994
NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due
AUGUST 1, 1994. Call or mail
to Susan Setterberg, (301)
498-4734, 9445 Clocktower Ln,
Columbia, MD 21046-1818.

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.

May 12 Thursday "Bird Feeder Studies in Howard County" - Dr. Aelred Geis. Some club members may remember looking for banded House Finches at their feeders a couple years ago as part of Dr. Geis's feeder studies. Dr. Geis will discuss his studies and provide useful information about the best seed and feeding times for your backyard feeding stations. (This program was previously scheduled for February but was canceled due to bad weather.)

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.

May 1 Sunday HUGG-THOMAS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - Meet at 7:00 am at Grempler Realty on Little Patuxent Parkway to carpool to site. Possible owls and early migrants. Leaders: Dave & Maureen Harvey (410) 795-3117. (Note: The day was incorrectly listed as Saturday for this trip in the last newsletter.)

May 7 Saturday DANIELS AREA OF PATAPSCO STATE PARK - Meet at 8:00 am at the Camel Trail parking lot. Walk along the river for warblers and other migrants. Possible Prothonotary Warbler. Leaders: Richard and Randy ~~Cook~~ (410) 747-0399.

May 9 Monday WILDE LAKE - Meet at boat dock at 8:30 am. Call Bonnie for more information.

May 14 Saturday MIGRATORY BIRD DAY & MAY COUNT DAY - For additional information on May Count, see page 7 in this newsletter.

May 25 Wednesday CENTENNIAL PARK - Meet at 8:30 am at west end lot off Centennial Lane. Call Bonnie for more information.

May 28 Saturday MOUNTAIN LAURELS AT HENRYTON ROAD BRIDGE - Meet at 9:30 am at west end lot of Centennial Park (off Centennial Lane) to carpool to location. Walk to see Mountain Laurel and wildflowers. Leader: Bob Solem (301) 725-5037.

June 11 Saturday EVENING WALK AT GWYNN ACRES - Meet at 7 pm on Old Columbia Road at Rams Horn Row to walk the paved path for Wood Thrushes, Veerys and possible Barred Owls. Bring a flashlight. Call Bonnie for more information.

July 17 Sunday HERON & EGRET SEARCH - Meet at 7 am at Centennial Park west end lot off Centennial Lane to search Columbia waters for wading birds. Call Bonnie for more information.

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, May 26, 1994, 7:30 pm at Longfellow Elementary School. The May meeting will be a joint meeting of the incoming and outgoing board members.

FALL COUNT BEING PLANNED - After much consideration, and the volunteering of Mike McClure to head up the project, it was decided the club would start a Fall Count this year. Mike will be assisted in the venture by Chuck Stirrat. For those of you who are thinking, "Oh no, fall warblers!" never fear, some consideration is being given to a "warbler species" category on the list. Possible date is the second Saturday in September, so pencil it in on your calendar now. Details will be provided in the September-October newsletter. MOS is considering starting a state-wide count in 1995. If you want to volunteer, get details, or stake out a territory now, call Mike (410) 531-2780 or Chuck (410) 531-2417.

1993 BLUEBIRD PROGRAM RESULTS by Mark Wallace

Information was received from a record 260 monitors who monitored 1282 boxes. The results indicate record numbers of young fledged for nearly everything except Carolina Wrens. However, after making adjustments for the increase in boxes in 1993 over 1992, one finds the box use by bluebirds has fallen 18%. This decrease is because of higher than normal population losses due to severe late winter weather notably the March 13th storm and the slow changing of the habitat in favor of other competitive species. Of the boxes used, 226 fledged only one clutch, 94 fledged two clutches and only 6 boxes fledged three clutches. Interestingly, the 700 total nesting attempts for 1993 were only shy 16 of 1992's record.

The earliest bluebird nesting activity in 1993 started around the first week of March but it was not until April 11 that the earliest known eggs were laid; about 5 days later than the average start. Nesting activity continued until at least September 16 when the last reported clutch fledged just a day shy of the record.

Eleven of the 27 adult bluebirds reported lost were killed by cats, 5 were victims of the winter weather and 4 were killed by House Sparrows. The main causes of the 199 young lost were House Sparrows (60), unknown (27), and snakes (25). The principal causes of the 607 eggs lost were unknown (119), infertile or addled (103) and House Sparrows (98).

Results from the last six years for the county are shown for comparative purposes:

| | Boxes Monitored | Total Used | Eggs Laid | Eggs Lost | Eggs Hatched | Young Lost | Young Fledged | Young Banded |
|------|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1988 | 636 | 425 | 2405 | 586 | 1813 | 256 | 1563 | 778 |
| 1989 | 713 | 334 | 2383 | 606 | 1777 | 262 | 1515 | 838 |
| 1990 | 763 | 426 | 2260 | 469 | 1791 | 292 | 1499 | 776 |
| 1991 | 750 | 385 | 2109 | 508 | 1601 | 167 | 1434 | 782 |
| 1992 | 1047 | 517 | 2491 | 647 | 1845 | 341 | 1503 | 571 |
| 1993 | 1202 | 496 | 2434 | 607 | 1848 | 199 | 1648 | 639 |



Number of young fledged of other species:

| | Carolina Chickadee | Tufted Titmouse | House Wren | Carolina Wren | Tree Swallow | Purple* Martin |
|------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1988 | 59 | 30 | 184 | 6 | 22 | - |
| 1989 | 30 | 12 | 193 | 3 | 18 | 45 |
| 1990 | 72 | 25 | 333 | 11 | 14 | 105 |
| 1991 | 48 | 18 | 491 | 45 | 51 | 149 |
| 1992 | 111 | 19 | 620 | 23 | 68 | 142 |
| 1993 | 114 | 53 | 886 | 8 | 92 | 238 |

* Other boxes

On June 4, at a Glenelg box some boys had found what they thought was a dead mother bluebird. To save the young birds, they removed the nest plus four young, bringing them home. Hank Stanton got a call from the mother who informed us of the event and indicated the father had returned the nest and young to the box. When Hank arrived on the scene, he immediately observed the male of the pair enter the box with a large caterpillar and leave empty-billed. Shortly thereafter, he observed the "dead" female enter with a bug. A check of the young revealed they all seemed healthy. All four were observed, after fledging, in a nearby oak tree.

For the first time reported, Great Crested Flycatchers fledged young out of two bluebird boxes with enlarged entrances (Nagergast) and out of a martin house (Wallace). Tufted Titmice, House Wrens and Tree Swallows all showed real increases in the number of fledglings produced.

Trails fledging the largest number of bluebirds were: Wallace trails (387 boxes) fledged 476, Stanton trails (194 boxes) fledged 281, Howard County Parks Trails (63 boxes) fledged 81, Bogdan trail (25 boxes) fledged 58, Robbins trail (42 boxes) fledged 49, Kubitsky trail (23 boxes) fledged 38, Erwin trail (4 boxes) fledged 33, Cope trail (19 boxes) fledged 26.

Thanks to the following individuals who cooperated in the county-wide bluebird program: James & Vee Abe, William E. Adams, Greg & Renee Anderson, Julie Anthony, Dan Ashby, Bill Aylesworth, Leslie & Sam Bailey, William Ballentine, Dan Barnes, Richard Baumgardner, Brian Becker, Dorsey Bell, Paul Belz, Raymond & Sally Bernier, Paul Blanchard, Robert Bogdan, Lanny Booth, Monika Botsai, Nevada Brannon, Frank & Nadine Bready, Marilyn Brinkley, Rick & Nan Brokaw, Allen & Estell Brown, Gisela Brown, Sandy Brown, Carl Brudin, Adam Bulharowski, Susan R. Buswell, Kathleen Cahill, John & Ermina Cameron, Cindy Carmichael, Raymond & Judy Carper, Nancy & Mike Cattone, John & Eileen Clegg, Pam & Dale Cockran, Jack & Ann Cole, Kathy Colston, Florence Conroy, Regina Cope, Craig & Colette Crandall, Doug Creswell, Ralph Cullison, Ethyl Demino, Susan Dodd, Leonard Dolbert, Kitty Karp, Wesley & Susan Karp, John & Dorothy Easter, John & Debbie Erwin, T.O. Evans, Gina Falin, Wendy Feaga, Wayne & Joanie Fenwick, Rosemary Fisher, Herb Fox, John & Emily Frasier, Richard & Joanne Freas, Sonny & Shirley Freeland, Sandra French, Glenn Fulmer, Sarah Funkhouser, Karen Fuselier, Steve Galata, Barbara & Len Ganbin, Arthur Gebhart, Ralph & Jane Gender, Evelyn B. Gilbert, Cory Glennon, Frank Gomez, John & Corrine Gorzo, Lee & Carol Grant, Judy Habib, Mary Hall, Bob Harris, Nancy & Guy Hawkins, James Heller, Lawrence & Marilyn Hill, Bill & Gayle Hill, Patricia & Tam & John Hirt, Bob & Margye Hixson, Paul Hogue, Carroll Holt, Linore Holt, Eugene & Naomi Hostetler, Phil Hover, Howard County Dept. of Rec. & Parks, Dorothea Howard, Erle Howard, Albert Iager, Howard L. Iager, John Iglehart, Clifton E. Jackson, Jr., Patricia Jackson, Harry Jones, Helen Jordan, Chris & Tim Keeseey, Tim Keller, Hugh & Sandy Kendall, Michael Kerwin, Elaine Kielman, Dave Kirkwood, Janette Knill, Wayne Kramer, Gary & Tammy Kramer, Ray Kruha, Dave Kubitsky, Paula Laniado, Tom Lausch, Beverly & Larry Lesko, Marie Lohr, Margaret Lord, Michael & Jennifer Lucas, Mike & Bonnie Luepkes, Sara Lustbader, John & Jack Lutes, Barry Maddox, Lorraine Malinowski, Mark Marden, Mary & Joseph Marilley, Marsha Marshall, Judy McBride, John McClure, Grazina & Mike McClure, Linda & James McGehee, Debbie McGrann, Markie McKenna, Joann Miles, Charles Miller, Cindy Miller, Marie Miller, Chuck Montague, Rosamond Munro, John Murphy, John Muskovac, Diane Nagergast, Lou & Fred Neighoff, Bob Nelson, Bill & Margaret Nelson, Bea Newkirk, Roy & Bobbie Newman, Jim Nichols, Turner & Janet Nichols, Sharlet Nicodemus, Barbra & Fred Nuss, Ron & Janet Oaks, John Olow, Tim Orman, Bonnie Ott, Lou Palmieri, Donald Parlette, Walt Patterson, Robert & Nancy Pearre, Reynold & Nancy Penn, Ed Peters, Karl Peters, Jan Petrides, Sheri Petro, Kim & Richard Potember, Daniel Powell, Ed & Nancy Pugh, Meriam & Dean Reed, Rondie Reeser, Frank Reilly, Chris Reisinger, Margaret Rennels, James Resau, Robert & Dorothy & Michelle Richute, Rosamond Ridgeley, Eleanor Robbins, Hilde Rodgers, Mary Roiser, Rick & Burnadette Rolfe, Michele & Morton Rubin, Max Ruger, Jim Russel, Margaret & John Schmidt, Fred Schwaner, Elizabeth Scott, Leroy Sealing, Margaret Sears, Phil Serafinas, Mary Shea, Raymond & Elizabeth Shenk, Mary Simonsen, William Sines, Skip Skipton, Boyd & Edna Smith, Carolyn Smith, Keith Smith, Charene Snyder, Hank Stanton, Chuck Stevens, Chuck Stirrat, Lynn Strandquist, RE Stremel, Shane Stroup, Ralph Stup, Susan Sullivan, William & Welda Theis, Andre & Vera Thomann, Jan & Dot Titherington, Rose & Susanne Townsend, Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp (Bob Parks), Ann Trayham, Norman & Helen Tyson, Ron Upchurch, Maarten & Pam Van Hemert, Mark Wallace, Ken Walton, Randy & Margaret Walton, Kathy & Tom Wardrop, Myron & Pam Weiner, Felix Westwood, Al White, Wild Bird Center, Lisa & Colin Willett, Jim & Gladys Wilson, Donna Winterling, Mary Jane Wright, Michele Wright, P.H. Wright, Youlanda, Roger & Carol Young, Peter Zerhusen and Penny Zimring. Also, thanks to Don & Judy Proia, Chuck & Denise Sharpe, and Maria Thorton for use of their phones.

The *Bluebird in the Parks* program, which the Bird Club co-sponsors with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, produced 81 bluebirds from 18 of the 63 boxes in 16 park locations. Park data is included in the tables above. The following individuals monitored in the parks in 1993: ~~Jack Adams, Lonnie Canley, Julie Dunlap, Susan Karp, Sharon Fenrite, Clifford Gross, Mary Ellen & Kristen Hux, Kiebusch-Steinitz Family, Mike Meyerhoff, Sandy Meyerhoff, Sue Muller, Phil Norman, Kirsten M. Saxe, Sally Smith, Don Tharpe, Melanie Waters, Charles Williams Family, Michele Wright.~~

If you would like to help monitor boxes, establish a trail in the county, or report the location of a nest box, contact me, Mark Wallace, at (301) 725-6370. Leave a message and I will get back to you.

1993-1994 Sustaining Members & Donations

We wish to thank all those whose donations and sustaining memberships enabled the club to further worthwhile projects such as rainforest preservation, subscription donations to our libraries, preservation of bird specimens for education, etc. They include donations from Maud Banks, Lois C. Carleton, Martha Chestem, Eileen & John Clegg, Phil & Barbara Davis, Jane Farrell, Alice Fazekas, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Nancy Magnusson, Ellen Ratner (for taxidermy), Susan Setterberg, Tom Strikwerda, Bob & Jo Solem, and Erika Wilson & Claudia Wilds (honorary to MD Chapter of The Nature Conservancy). Sustaining members include: Margo Garner, Patricia Jackson, Marjorie Mountjoy and Elise Seay. Seed sale donations for rainforest were contributed by: Jill Barger, Connie Bockstie, Monika & Rod Botsai, Jane Farrell, Tina Glorioso, Pat Hirt, Lorraine Horn, Pat Jackson, Joyce Kelly, David & Julie Kubitsky, Margaret Lord, Don & Frances Wahrgang, Bea Newkirk, Karan Repsher, Rosamond Ridgeley, Cornelia Skipton, Romayne Smith, Chuck Stirrat, Tom Strikwerda, Bob & Jo Solem, Eva Sunell, Helen Thompson, Ralph Vanderlipp, Michele Wright, and Helen Zeichner.



MORE THANK YOUS - As I finish my second year as editor of the newsletter, I continue to have fun pulling all the information together and challenging my computer skills. But none of it would be possible for me without the help of a great many people. A big thanks to all the contributors who provide the substance for this publication. And thanks to Bob & Jo Solem and Marty Chestem who make up the mailing team, labeling and sorting and delivering to the post office. Thanks to Dave Kirkwood who never minds my rather late night deliveries of the finished product for printing by his company, Croatoan Publishing. And, thanks to Kim Gross who found a way to convert the logo to a computer graphic for me. - Susan M. Setterberg

