President's Welcome

by David A. Harvey

Welcome to the 23rd year of the Howard County Bird Club. We continue to spread the word about birds and the environment that all of us must share. Members continue to provide programs to local schools and community organizations. We also provide manned displays at several community events such as the Howard County Fair.

Many of our members are actively involved in various boards on the local and state levels. There are many opportunities to learn and help direct statewide policies which will protect and enhance the ecosystems around us that are so vital to our enjoyment and existence.

Field trips have taken us around the county and the state in search of birds, wildflowers, butterflies, and knowledge. Our club meetings this past year took us on visits to South America, while closer to home we learned about gulls, hawks, shrikes, and even dragonflies. At each of these events the Bird Club bookstore was available, providing people an opportunity to browse and buy desired material concerning the natural world.

We look forward to your company this year and hope you will join us and help share and provide the enjoyment and knowledge that our members are always seeking.

David A. Harvey

Your Suggestions Needed to Name Our Newsletter

The Board of Directors of the Howard County Bird Club needs your help. At the May meeting a decision was made that the newsletter needs an appropriate name. Your suggestions are sought, needed, and welcomed. The suggested names should compliment and coordinate with the existing MOS and Howard County logos. The Board of Directors of the Howard County Bird Club will review all entries and select the name.

Please submit your suggestions to Paula and Darius Ecker, 9270 Crazyquilt Court, Columbia, MD 21045, Phone (410) 312-9165, by February 21, 1996.

The new name for the newsletter will be effective with the September - October 1996 issue.

Inside This Issue Page

Fall Count Announced 2
May Count Results 2
Birding Guide Published 4
Spring Bird Records 5
Programs and Field Trips 8
Conservation Report 10

1995-1996 Club Board Members

President: David A. Harvey
Vice President: Maud Banks
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Chapter Directors (two year term):
   Elayne Metter (first year)
   Hank Stanton (second year)
State Directors:
   Jane Farrell
   Carol Newman
   Donald Waugh
   Paul Zucker
SECOND ANNUAL FALL COUNT
BY MIKE McCLURE & CHUCK STIRRAT

The Howard County Bird Club’s annual Fall Count, scheduled to be held each year on the third Saturday of September, will be held on September 16. Mike McClure (410) 531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat (410) 531-2417 are the county co-coordinators. Last year 133 species of birds were identified on the count and our goal is to exceed that total this year. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and invited to participate. Ask to be put with an experienced individual if you do not wish to have your own territory. Counts are a good way to learn and are great fun. The county is divided into seven sectors with the same areas used for the other annual counts as well. A new tally sheet tailored to the fall season and Howard County is included in this newsletter. Species that require a write-up include those identified with a double asterisk (**), as well as any write-ins. Others that may require a write-up or oral amplification (*), as well as those that are early or late dates (@), are indicated. Please note that as for the May count, a separate sheet is to be used for each type of count, i.e. regular, “owling”, feeder, or stationary (e.g. hawk watches).

The following area coordinators have been named: 1. Mark Wallace (301) 726-6370; 2. Paul Zucker (301) 270-7896 (H); (410) 792-8000, Ext. 4871 (W); 3. Richard and Randy Crook (410) 747-0399, 4. Bill and Karen Blum (301) 776-6311; 5. Marty Chestnut (410) 730-1827; 6. Bonnie Ort (410) 461-3381; 7. Eva Sneed (410) 935-5620. You may call an area or county coordinator to volunteer, or check at the September meeting.

Martha and Dan Waugh will host the tally rally at 9522 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD, (410) 381-8841. The pot luck dinner will be served at approximately 7:00 pm, call them by September 12 to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

SUMMARY OF 1995 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT
BY PAUL A. ZUKER

The 1995 Howard County May count was held on May 13, 1995 starting from 3:30 am and concluding at 9:00 pm. This was the eighth time the count was held on the second Saturday in May. There were a total of 63 participants in 44 parties, making it second only to last year in turnout and party hours. The total number of birds seen totalled approximately 21,280, which is the greatest number ever for this count. The species tally of 146 was more than we usually find, ranking this count fifth in the last 22 years and third in the last eight.

Notable sightings included: Great Egret, seen for the first time on this count; Pied-billed Grebe (third time in last 15 years); Red-breasted Merganser (third time in 15 years), American Coot (third time in 15 years); and Gray-cheeked Thrush (third time in 15 years). The Ring-necked Pheasant and Northern Bobwhite had small counts, continuing a recent trend, and the Whip-poor-will was missed again (having been seen only three times in the last ten years but regularly before that). Like last year, a large number (45) species had record high counts. Many of these topped last year’s record tallies, and many more came close to last year’s record counts. Of particular note were Common Nighthawk, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat whose tallies vastly exceeded any past total. The large number of record counts is probably attributable to a combination of the large turnout, the late date of the count, and the great weather. Warblers generally had large tallies, even though the Cape May and Yellow-throated were missed this year.

Participation of the following people is greatly appreciated: Burton Alexander, Maud Banks, Mary-Jo Betts, Karon and Bill Blum, Connie Bockstie, Frank Ceravolo, Marty Chestnut, Randy and Richard Crook, Phil Davis, Lauren Duff, Ward Ebert, Paula and Darus Eckler, Jane Farrell, Jane and Ralph Gelder, Rich Giannola, Edwin Gould, Maureen and Dave Harvey, Jane Hems, Cathy Jones, Mike Kervin, Anu and Marci Krishnamoorthy, Dave Kuribsky, Marjorie Kupiec, Mike Leumas, Dennis Luck, Brogiss and Bob Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Jennifer Mazur, Grazia and Mike McClure, Carol and Paul Newman, Doug Odermatt, Pete Oertgen, Bonnie Ott, Suzanne Probst, Ann Marie Rateman, Frank Ribly, Nanine Roerlnder, Chad Robins, Susan Settner, Jay and Noah Silverman, Michael Smith, Jo Solim, Hannah Stanton, Chuck Stirrat, Tom Steinverda, Eva Sneed, Robin Todd, Mark Wallace, Raphael Wallach, Michelle Wright, Helen Zemek, Sherry and Paul Zucker (complied). Special thanks go to the Randles for hosting another lovely tally rally and to Chuck Stirrat for helping with the numerical compilation.
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<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blackpoll Warbler</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[Participants] 63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Flycatcher</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cerulean Warbler</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[Parties (Reg, Owl, Feed)]</td>
<td>44</td>
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</table>

REG = REGULAR  NCT = NOCTURNAL  FDR = FEEDER  (*) = HIGH SPECIES COUNT
In June, the Howard County Bird Club published *Birding Howard County, Maryland* by Joanne K. Solem with illustrations by M. Suzanne Probst.

The 134 page spiral-bound book is a complete guide to finding birds in this county. The 6 x 9 inch volume is divided into four parts: 1. site guides for 29 of the best birding locations; 2. month by month birding tips over an entire year; 3. species accounts highlighting frequency of occurrence, habitats, and peak migration periods; and 4. the county checklist. The main sections are separated by handsome illustrations of locally occurring birds.

Chris Ludwig initiated a series of articles in the Bird Club’s newsletter in 1985 entitled “Birding Hot Spots in Howard County” which formed the basis for the first section of the book. When he moved to Virginia, the series continued with multiple authors. All contributors are credited at the end of each entry; a total of 31 club members shared authorship. Each site guide contains directions, most include a simple locator map, and all describe the best birds, seasons, and habitats. Because of Chris’s strong interest in botany as well as birds and Jo’s involvement with many aspects of natural history, she has retained and, in some cases added, references to plants, mammals, butterflies, etc. which might be of interest to observers.

“The Birding Year in Howard County” constitutes part two. It provides tips on what birds to expect month by month. This material was also published in the Bird Club’s newsletter and drew on a quarter century of the author’s personal records and the experiences of some of the county’s most active field birders.

Part three contains the species accounts which are brief descriptions of each species on the county bird checklist. Each entry indicates the ease of finding a species, general habitat in which it can be found, peak periods of occurrence, and sometimes specific sites where it has been seen consistently. For the more unusual species, specimen records, first county sightings, and high counts are often included. The species accounts and the checklist are based on county records dating to the early 1950’s or before. Hundreds of birders have contributed to this data base over the last 45 years.

Four appendices list county map and checklist sources, Latin names for herbaceous plants mentioned in the text, the American Birding Association’s Code of Ethics, and membership information for the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Howard County Bird Club.

*Birding Howard County, Maryland* is printed on recycled paper. It is available from the Bird Club’s bookstore at meetings and seed sales for $10.00 plus tax. It can also be obtained from the following area stores: the Nature Nook in Ellicott City, Wild Bird Centers in Columbia and Silver Spring, Cover to Cover Bookstore in the Owen Brown Center, and the Audubon Naturalist Bookstore in Chevy Chase. To purchase by mail send a check payable to Howard County Chapter MOS in the amount of $13.00 ($10.00, $0.50 tax, $2.50 postage and handling) to J. Solem, 10617 Gravelich Road, Laurel, MD 20723. The Howard County Bird Club receives all profits.
SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 1995
BY JOANNE SOLEM

Spring brings out more birders than any other season. Each year has its surprises and each season enables us to gain a better picture of the birdlife of this small county. Special thanks to the many contributors this spring.

No major flights of Common Loons were noted. The last one was reported from Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 5/29 (R&RC, CS). A Horned Grebe made an appearance at Centennial Park (CENPK) 3/8 (HZ, MC); 10 were seen on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 4/2 (JF, JS, PO). MC had a high of 19 Double-crested Cormorants 4/16 at TRIRS. At least 1 was still there 5/20 (NM).

American Bitterns are always elusive. Two appeared this spring: 1 at Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) 4/12 (MB) and 1 at Wilde Lake (WILLK) 5/5 (HZ). Great Egrets were reported twice from LKELK: 1 on 4/22 (JW) and 5 on 5/24 (DE). C&PN had 2 at WILLK 4/19. The Thomsons in Elkridge had the only Little Blue Heron 4/13-14. Two Cattle Egrets were discovered on May Count (MAYCT) 5/13: 1 at the new Alpha Ridge Park (D&PE) and 1 at the University of Md. Horse Center (MW, MK). JW found a Black-crowned Night-Heron at LKELK 4/19.

No large Tundra Swan flocks were reported. The Snow Goose (white phase) which had been on the lake at CENPK since 1991 was last noted 3/1 (CB). One blue and 2 white phase birds were seen at Fulton and Brown’s Bridge Road between 3/3-3/19 (JF, JS; MW; JW).

On a wildflower walk at Daniels (DANPV) on the early date of 4/30 RS & VN watched a female Wood Duck with 8 tiny young on the Patapsco River. R&RC had a late male Green-winged Teal at DANPV 5/6-7. Gadwalls are always hard to find. This spring 3 (2M) were seen on 3/3 at the Elliott Drive pond (ELLDP) (JF, JS) and the next day at a pond on MD 144 (HZ, MC). Redheads were another pleasant surprise. On 3/10 HZ & CB reported 6 (3M) at CENPK, the next day JF & TDC counted 11 (3M) there. MW had a high of 60 Ring-necked Ducks 3/13 at Waterford Farm on Jennings Chapel Road (JNGCH). The ELLDP produced an unusual 9 Greater Scaup 3/18 (JF) with 1 still until 3/19 seen by 2 field trips. Oldsquaws came through quickly. CENPK played host to as many as 1M, 2F on 4/1 (CB, HZ); by 4/2 just 1M remained (CB, BO, m.obs.). On 4/1 there were 15 on TRIRS (JF, JS; POs). HZ had a high of 29 Hooded Mergansers 3/6 on 1 of the Highland lakes. Most intriguing was that on 3/25 (JF, TDC) and 4/1 (JF, JS), at that same location, there was a single male in flocks of 22 and 27 respectively. The high Common Merganser count was 99 (85M) 3/3 at TRIRS (JF, JS). The less common Red-breasted Merganser peaked at 5 (2M) 3/11 at BRDAM (JS). The last one, a female, remained at CENPK till 5/13 (ML, MJB, AMR).

Each season Howard County bird sightings are compiled and submitted to Maryland Birdlife and Field Notes. Because both publications provide overviews for large areas, only a fraction of Howard County sightings are published. The records are not lost, however, for they are the basis for county records. All records are welcomed and appreciated. Any individual who turns in seasonal sightings receives a copy of the county compilation. To request a form on which to log dates, please call (301) 725-8037. The board has requested that a digest of the seasonal highlights appear in the newsletter. Observers are referred to by their initials (see the list at the end of the article). Locations are written out the first time cited; thereafter, abbreviations are used.

An early Osprey flew over BO’s home south of Ellicott City 3/31. The pair of nesting Bald Eagles on TRIRS was reported by WSSC to have 2 young. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were low this spring. One Merlin was seen east of Fulton 5/5 (JW) and a Peregrine Falcon identified at Pigtail (PIGLT) on TRIRS 4/17 (HZ, MC).

Wild Turkey reports are becoming more frequent. This spring AF had a hen in her yard on MD 32 north of MD 99 on 3/30 and R&RC had 1 at DANPV 5/6. Another was reported to BO from MD 32 east of Hall Shop Road on either 5/16 or 17. Rails were, as usual, scarce. A King Rail was heard at the marshy west end of CENPK 5/9 (JF). From 5/10-12 a Virginia Rail was heard at the same location (JS, HZ, MC; CB).

Shorebirds included Semipalmated Plovers on TRIRS from 1 at the north end 5/11 (NM) to 3 at PIGTL 5/17 (POs) and 5/18 (JS). Semipalmated Sandpipers made a good showing this spring with singles found in four locations: 5/6 PIGTL (MW), 5/11 north end of TRIRS (NM), 5/15 LKELK (JW), and 5/22 Gateway Business Park (GATWYX) (J&RS; JF). A nice concentration of 28 Least Sandpipers on TRIRS was tabulated by NM. This season produced the first two (Continued on page 6)
Spring Bird Records...

May Dunlin reports: 1 at Big Branch (BIGBR) on TRIRS 5/15 (JS) and 1 at GATWY 5/19-22 (JW, m. obs.). Common Snipe numbers were low this spring.

Four Laughing Gulls were reported 4/23 from TRIRS (JF, JS). Bonaparte’s Gull reports were concentrated in a 10 day period with a high of 147 on Lake Kittamaqundi (LKKIT) 4/6 (BO), 1 at CENPK 4/11 (CB), and 13 at TRIRS 4/16 (MC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now regular in the county and were seen from 3/4: Green Manor 1 (RR), Alpha Ridge landfill 1 (JS), and TRIRS 2 (JF, JS) to a late 2 on TRIRS 4/30 (JS). Caspian Tern migration began 4/9 with 2 at LKKIT (HZ) through 5/11 with 2 on Stanford Road (JF). The most spectacular concentration for this inland county was the 117 MC that had on TRIRS 4/10.

Cuckoos were seen and heard in small numbers with the earliest, by far, being the Black-billed P0s heard and seen 4/23 on Gorman Road (GORRD) west of I-95. On the same date and at the same place he had a “branching” Great Horned owl. Common Nighthawks made a good showing countywide 5/13 (MAYCT). Most arresting was the swirling kettle of 90 over Ducket Reservoir (JF, JS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted at three different locations: 1 at Schooley Mill Park (SLMLP) 4/23 was reported to JS; another near TRIRS 5/6 was reported to BO; and one was seen 5/10 and 19 (DN) at Timberleigh Way in the Woodbine area.

Willow Flycatchers were slow to return—the first was not reported until 5/13 (MAYCT)(JF, JS) in s.e. Howard Co (HOWCO). Least Flycatchers were spotted three times: 3/13 on GORRD (P0s) and 5/20 at RKBPR (DE) and SLMLP (NM). One Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted by D&PE at RKBPR 5/14. An Alder Flycatcher was seen and heard at SLMLP 5/18 (JS) and 5/20 (NM). The first Eastern Kingbird was spotted 4/19 at WILLK (HZ).

The Snow Goose (white phase) which had been on the lake at CENPK since 1991 was last noted 3/1. One blue and 2 white phase birds were seen at Fulton and Brown’s Bridge Road between 3/3-3/19.

The largest-ever March flock of Horned Larks was seen in the fields of MD 99 and Underwood Road (JF, TDC). Swallows were generally slow to arrive in any numbers; flocks never built beyond 50 of any species. Bank Swallows were so scarce there were a mere 3 reports totalling 9 birds: 1 at DANPV 4/30 (JS), 1 at LikelK 5/2 (JW), and 7 in western HOWCO 5/13 (MK). Considering the scrutiny local lakes and reservoirs receive, these low numbers are puzzling and perhaps a bit frightening. R&RC had the last Winter Wren at Mount Pleasant (MTPLT) on MD 99 and Woodstock Road 4/16.

Thrushes presented a few surprises. R&RC had an early Veery 4/15 which they had a chance to study carefully and JW had an early Swainson’s Thrush at LikelK 4/29. MAYCT (5/13) at Belmont in eastern HOWCO provided a treat for CB, DK & SP who had at least 12 Swainson’s Thrushes. Gray-cheeked Thrushes are infrequently reported so four sightings is definitely above average. 2 MAYCT reports included 1 at PIGTL (WE, P&SZ) and 1 at RKBPR (BO), 2 on 5/19 & 21 at LikelK (JW), and 1 singing at CENPK 5/23 (J&RS).

RG reported the first Wood Thrush at his home in east-central HOWCO 4/21. American Pipits were not seen in unusual numbers with a high of 36 at the University of Md. Central Farm (UMDCF) 5/7 (BO, JS).

Cedar Waxwings began showing up in numbers in May and were still flocking in early June.

A probable Philadelphia Vireo was reported from LikelK 5/10 (JW). Because of their rarity in spring in Maryland, notes are being forwarded to the editors of Maryland Birdlife.

The warbler migration was generally unexceptional. There were the expected comments of low numbers and scarcity of some species. BO reported the only Golden-winged Warbler 5/6 (RKBPR). She also had the only Orange-crowned Warbler on 5/11 at LKKIT. Her MAYCT day at RKBPR produced high counts of a number of species: Black-throated Blue 27, American Redstart 78, Northern Waterthrush 6, Kentucky 20, Hooded 15, and Yellow-breasted Chat 16. JW found 80 Yellow-rumped at LikelK 4/22; one month later JS.

(Continued on page 7)
had 17 Blackpolls there. WE had an extremely early Blackburnian in so. HOWCO 4/23. He not only heard and saw the bird but took careful notes which substantiated his sighting. Palm Warblers are usually present in good numbers in April. BO spotted a high of 25 at CENPK 4/10. There were 5 different Prothonotary reports: 2 birds at DANPV 4/30 (JS,WN), 1 at LKKIT 5/1 (MC), 2 pairs on 5/13 (POs) along the Patuxent River west of US 1, 1 on the same date at JNGCH (MW), and 1 at BIGBR 5/18 (JS). The first Louisiana Waterthrush often arrives in this county the first week in April. HZ and MC recorded one of the earliest-ever at SLMLP 4/1. DE provided excellent documentation of a Brewster's Warbler sighting 4/21 at LKELK.

A glimpse (or remembrance) of warbler watching decades ago occurred for this author on 5/11 between 12:15 and 1:00 p.m. Rain the previous evening and fog in the early morning produced nothing of note at PIGTL and SLMLP where I spent the morning. Upon arriving home (so, HOWCO) a little after noon, I found the trees alive with birds. On our half acre and in the adjoining yards, I counted 9 species of warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, Baltimore Oriole, and Indigo Bunting. The wave moved through by 1:00 p.m. This phenomenon was not limited to my vicinity. Discussion with individuals at the Bird Club meeting that evening indicated that people from Howard, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore counties had had similar experiences. Hank Kaestner, our speaker, noted that this was what migration used to be like.

There was a single male Summer Tanager seen at UMDCF 5/7 (BO,JS). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widely reported at feeders. This happens periodically, usually triggered by rainy weather conditions while they are migrating. JW found a Blue Grosbeak on 4/29 at SLMLP where they nest. An early Indigo Bunting showed up in the Woodbine area 4/26 (DN).

American Tree Sparrows were last reported from CENPK: 2 on 3/4 (HZ) and 1 on 3/11 (DE). Vesper Sparrows were seen in scattered locations during the first half of April: 4/6 LKKIT (MC,m.obs.), 4/9 Jeffers Hill in e. Columbia (JW), 4/12 a farm on Roxbury Road (ROXRD) (MW), and 6 at MTPLT 4/16 (R&RC). MW had an early Grasshopper Sparrow on 4/10 (ROXRD). Fox Sparrows were reported most of March, from 1 near Fulton 3/2 (RM) to 2 at RKBRP 3/28 (BO). Hogs of 3 were noted in Allview 3/10 (ES) and 4 in High Ridge (BN) on the same date. Lincoln's Sparrows were found countywide during much of May: singles on 5/3 Vantage Point (MC), 5/10 BRNBR (MC), 5/6 & 13 RKBRP (BO), 5/13 Patuxent River State Park (PDv), 5/16 DANPV (MC,HZ), and 5/18 SLMLP (JS). NM had the highs at SLMLP with 4 on 5/13 and 2 on 5/20. BO had a high of 14 White-crowned Sparrows at MTPLT 4/7, and 9 Swamp Sparrows at RKBRP 5/13.

Bobolink concentrations were low with 40 at UMDCF 5/7 (BO,JS) and 28 on 5/14 at MD 32 & MD 99 (D&PE). Rusty Blackbirds were seen during a brief period: 9 at Gwynn Acres Path 3/28 (BO) and 3 at UMDCF 4/4 (BO,JS). Orioles arrived in the county together on 4/22 with 1 Orchard at LKELK (JW) and 1 Baltimore at BRDAM (POs) plus 3 at Woodbine (DN).

Spring observers cited above: Maud Banks (MB), Mary-Jo Betts (MJB), Connie Bookstie (CB), Martha Chesten (MC), T. Dennis Coskren (TDC), Randy & Richard Crook (R&RC), Phil Davis (PD), Ward Ebert (WE), Darius Ecker (DE), Darius & Paula Ecker (D&PE), Jane Farrell (JF), Alice Fazekas (AF), Ralph Geuder (RG), Mike Kerwin (MK), Marci Krishnamoorthy (MK), Dave Kubitsky (DK), Mike Lemmas (ML), Nancy Magnusson (NM), Rosamond Munro (RM), Diane Nagengast (DN), Bea Newirk (BN), Carol & Paul Newman (C&PN), Vivian Newman (VN), William Newman (WN), Peter Osenton (POs), Bonnie Ott (BO), Suzanne Probst (SP), Ann Marie Raterman (AMR), Robert Ringler (RR), Jo Solem (JS), Jo & Robert Solem (J&RS), Chuck Stirrat (CS), Eva Sunell (ES), Mark Wallace (MW), Jim Wilkinson (JW), Michele Wright (MW), Helen Zechiner (HZ), Paul & Sherry Zucker (P&SZ), many observers (m.obs.).
CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

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.

September 14, Thursday  
“Northern Mockingbirds: The Natural History and Analysis of the Vocal and Breeding Patterns,” by Dr. Kim Derrickson. Dr. Derrickson, a Professor at Loyola College in Baltimore, will share the findings of his research of the last decade, including the expansion of the range of mockingbirds. NOTE: For this first fall meeting, wear a T-shirt or sweatshirt showing where you’ve birded or a favorite conservation cause.

October 12, Thursday  
“Sora Rails at Jug Bay,” by Greg Kearns. Greg is a naturalist at Patuxent River Park. He will talk about his ongoing research about soras at this location.

Field Trips meet as described for each trip. Carpooling is encouraged; riders share the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for the field trip with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow paths. NO pets.

Leaders may cancel due to inclement weather or fewer than three participants. FOR INFORMATION, CALL BONNIE OTT, at (410) 461-3361.

September 3, Sunday  
Butterfly Walk - Meet at 10:00 am at the west end lot of Centennial Park for this 1-2 hour walk. Leader: Richard Smith. Bring binoculars if you have them. Might find swallowtails, skippers, fritillaries and more. Trip cancelled if rainy or overcast. Call leader at (410) 997-7439 if more information needed.

September 9, Saturday  
“DVC” Search - Meet at 9:00 am at the Route 108 and 29 park and ride to carpooft to Henryton. Leader: Bob Solem. Join Bob to look for those “darn yellow composites”. Call leader at (301) 725-5037 if more information needed.

September 16, Saturday  
Second Annual Fall Count - See details elsewhere in this newsletter. Mike McClure (410) 531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat (410) 531-2417 are co-coordinators.

September 22, Friday  
Weekday Walk at Gwynn Acres - Meet at 9:00 am at Old Columbia Road and Rams Horn Row. Leader will be present. Walk a paved path through the woods to look for fall migrants. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

September 23, Saturday  
Buzzard’s Roost Farm - Meet at 8:00 am at the lower lot of Mt. Hebron High. Leader: Dave Kirkwood. Different habitats should bring a variety of species in this Howard County hot spot. Call leader at (410) 461-2510 if more information needed.

September 24, Sunday  
Confusing Fall Warblers - Meet at 8:00 am at the upper parking lot of Schooley Mill Park. Leader: David Holmes. Join David to sort out those little brown jobs. Paths may be muddy. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

September 30, Saturday  
Lake Elkhorn - Meet at 8:00 am at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot. Leader: Jim Wilkinson. Walk around the lake to find a wide variety of species on the water, in the woods, and at the marshy end. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

October 1, Sunday  
Rockburn Branch Park - Meet at 8:00 am at the park office off Landing Road. Leaders: Barbara and Phil Davis. Many species possible in woodland and field habitats. Paths may be muddy. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

(Continued on page 9)
CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 8)

October 15, Sunday
Mount Pleasant - Meet at 8:00 am at the Woodstock Post Office. Leaders: Richard and Randy Crook. Sparrows will be plentiful with eight or more species possible. Call leaders at (410) 747-0399 if more information needed.

October 17, Tuesday
Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn - Meet at 9:00 am at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot. Leader will be present. Walk around the lake in search of many species. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

October 21, Saturday
Annual Hawk Watch at Rockburn Branch Park - Meet at 9:30 am on the hill next to the tot lot. Leader: Ralph Gender. Bring a chair and lunch if you like. Sit and watch the hawks fly. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

October 21, Saturday
Fall Seed Sale - Look for details in the mail.

October 22, Sunday
University of Maryland Central Farm - Meet at 8:00 am at the Board of Education Building on Route 108. Leader: Mike McClure. Wear sturdy footwear to walk the fields of the farm in search of sparrows. Savannah and seven other species possible. Call leader at (410) 531-2780 if more information needed.

November 5, 12, 19, 26
Centennial Park Sunday Walks (co-sponsored with Howard County Recreation and Parks) - Meet at 8:00 am at the west end lot to walk around the lake. Leader will be present. Many different birds - ducks, gulls and woodland species. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

November 11, Saturday
Piney Run (Carroll County) - Meet at 7:00 am at the Route 108 and 29 park and ride. Leader: Burton Alexander. Wide variety of waterfowl possible. Call leader at (410) 381-5574 if more information needed.

November 13, Monday
Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake - Meet at 9:00 am at the boat dock. Leader will be present. Walk along the lake and check the woods for waterfowl and possible Winter Wren. Call Bonnie if more information needed.

November 25, Saturday
Howard County Waterfowl - Meet at 8:00 am at the Centennial Park concession stand. Leader: Jane Farrell. Will carpool to other ponds and lakes to search for ducks, mergansers and grebes. Call leader at (410) 381-7344 if more information needed.

Board of Directors meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

September 28, Thursday
Don Waugh, 9522 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD 21045, phone (410) 381-8841.

October 26, Thursday
Shiras Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, phone (301) 490-0444.

November 30, Thursday
Eileen Clegg, 6007 Flywheel Court, Columbia, MD 21044, phone (410) 730-4362.

December - NONE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1995 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due SEPTEMBER 22, 1995. Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Call or mail to Paula and Darius Ecker, 9270 Crazyquilt Court, Columbia, MD 21045, Phone (410) 312-9165.
CONSERVATION REPORT by Bob Solem

Thanks to the Rachel Carson Council News for the following on why we have a lot to fear from our elected representatives: “During a radio interview, Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R - 6th Dist, MD), asked the question, ‘why is there a need for flowers?’” In response, Cristal Fleming, co-author of Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area explained why we need flowers:

“Congressman Bartlett asks ‘why is there a need for flowers?’ Perhaps he thinks flowers are only decorative. Well, without flowers, he would not be able to eat a variety of food: no bread, no potatoes, no apples, grapes, peas or carrots. All of this food comes from seeds and seeds come only from flowers. Of course, no milk, no eggs, no steak or chicken either, since the animals that give us these foods need to eat flowering plants such as corn and wheat.

Without flowers, humans would subsist on mosses, pine needles, ferns, algae and fungi.

“In a world without flowers, we would have fewer medicines for human illnesses. Almost fifty percent of all medicinal drugs originate in wild plants. If Mr. Bartlett became sick with malaria, quinine would not be available to cure him. If he had cardiac failure, digoxin could not strengthen his heart. If his daughter had leukemia, the rosy periwinkle would not be here to increase her survival rate from 20% to 80%.

“Of course, without flowers, there would be no cotton or linen to make clothing, no hardwood for lumber or paper products. There would be no elm or oak trees to shade our homes and no grass to make green lawns. In fact, as civilization arose only when humans began to plant seeds, probably there would be no human culture at all without flowers.”

Now do you see why it is so important that we tell our representatives why we need strong environmental legislation? Send a letter today to the U. S. Senators and the Representative of your district, tell them that you are a voter in their district and insist on a strong Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act.

STATE-WIDE MOS MEMBERSHIP LIST

The MOS will be publishing a state-wide MOS membership list. Everyone who is a member of a chapter will have their name included in this directory. Additionally, you can have your address and telephone number, or your address and not your telephone number included in the directory. Please be sure to check the option you desire when completing the membership application.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
6007 Flywheel Court
Columbia, MD 21044

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
President’s Welcome
Fall Count Announced
May Count Results
Birding Guide Published
Spring Bird Records
Programs and Field Trips

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED