



SUMMARY OF THE 1996 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT BY MIKE McCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

The third annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on September 21, 1996. The impressions many had of a very slow day are borne out by the low tally results. The number of field counters and parties was slightly less than last year (51 participants in 24 field parties). The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the accompanying tally sheet, with the party-hours and miles being roughly 20% less than last year. The days efforts recorded a total of 130 species, down from the prior two years (133 and 135). The total of individual birds tallied to 21,615 down from 26,643 on last year's count. The weather was good, with the day basically clear with temperatures in the high-70's. Just as last year, the rain held off until evening, just in time for the tally rally.

The accompanying table presents the count data for the county and the 7 areas that are now used for all three of the county counts. The confusing fall warblers were present in good numbers with 28 species of warbler identified. These again included a Connecticut Warbler. New warblers this year were Golden-winged, Orange-crowned, and a Brewster's hybrid. Also new were Black-billed Cuckoo, Horned Lark, Marsh Wren, American Pipit, Solitary Vireo, and Lincoln's, and Savannah Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Other species of note were Least Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Philadelphia Vireo. Eight migrant warblers observed on at least one of the previous two Fall Counts were absent this year: Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, Cerulean, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning, and Hooded.

This year the individual bird totals



were dominated by four species: Broad-winged Hawk (3812 sightings), Blue Jay (1189), European Starling (2466) and Common Grackle (2597). These four species accounted for nearly half of the total birds observed.

The field checklist continues to be developed and tailored to Howard County in the Fall, identifying species that require differing levels of support based on the historical database for the frequency of occurrence at this time in the county. As a result some species not normally requiring write-ups were identified for documentation or extra support. Thanks to all those

who provided written or additional details for these species. Our hope is to refine this checklist as additional data becomes available. Your feedback on this approach and interest in similar modifications to the lists for May and Winter counts would be appreciated by the authors.

Thanks to all participants and those who acted as area coordinators for the count: Maud Banks, Lorraine Baugher, Mary-Jo Betts, Bill and Karan Blum (Area 4), Marty Chestern (Area 5), T. Dennis Coskren, Randy Crook (Area 3), Ward Ebert, Darius and Paula Ecker, Jane Farrell, Ed Gould, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Mike Kerwin, Mike Leumas, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina and Mike McClure (County Co-coordinator), Elayne and Jeff Metter, Carol Newman, Paul Newman, Chris, Nick and Bonnie Ott (Area 6), Joe Picard, Anita Picco, Ann Marie Raterman, Frank Reilly, Chan Robbins, Clyde Robinette, Murray Schrounboer, Susan Setterberg, Romayne Smith, Bob and Jo Solem, Hank Stanton, Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator), Tom Strikwerda, Paul Sturm, Eva Sunell (Area 7), Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace (Area 1), Don and Martha Waugh, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner, and Paul Zucker (Area 2). A very special thanks to Don and Martha Waugh who hosted the evening tally rally.

Previous years we have had help from Georgia and Tennessee. Our only out-of-state visitor was Sue Setterberg, who for the last two years has come from New Jersey, her new home. This third Fall count was a great success with many "birding" tales related at the tally rally. Most commonly heard was "it's 3:00PM and I haven't found a House Sparrow". (How low have we stooped?)

Plan now to join us next year when the count will again be held on the third Saturday of September, the 20th, which is the second latest date the count can occur.

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HOWARD COUNTY FALL BIRD COUNT - September 21, 1996

Species & Codes / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	Species & Codes / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	
Pied-billed Grebe @ B							1	1	European Starling A	495	35	305	119	310	110	1,092	2,466	
Double-crested Cormorant B	2	1			2		5	10	White-eyed Vireo A			2	1	4			3	10
Great Blue Heron A	3	2	2	1	5	1	10	24	Solitary Vireo B			2	1	1			4	4
Great Egret B							3	3	Yellow-throated Vireo B	2		1					4	4
Green Heron A				2	1		6	9	Philadelphian Vireo * C					1	1		2	2
Blk-crowned Night-Hero * C					1		1	2	Red-eyed Vireo A	8	9	10	2	5	16	12	62	62
Mute Swan A				2				2	Blue-winged Warbler @ B	1							1	1
Canada Goose A	253	7	95	46	192	84	181	858	Golden-winged Warbler ** C					1			1	1
Wood Duck B	2		3		3			8	Brewer's Warbler (2nd) B									
American Black Duck B				5				5	Tennessee Warbler B	1			1				2	2
Mallard A	42		5	87	32	14	111	291	Orange-crowned Warbler ** C						1		1	1
Blue-winged Teal B	2							2	Nashville Warbler B				1				2	3
Black Vulture A	14		85	2		3	1	105	Northern Parula A	3	2	3	1	5			14	14
Turkey Vulture A	30	8	151	36	13	4	16	258	Yellow Warbler @ A	2							2	2
Osprey B	3	3	1				3	10	Chestnut-sided Warbler A			4		14	5	1	24	24
Bald Eagle [ed/inv/und] B							1	1	Magnolia Warbler A	5	6	5	5	15	26	11	73	73
Northern Harrier B			1					1	Blk-thrt'd. Blue Warbler A	2		5	2	4	5	4	22	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk B	2		13	2	1	3	2	23	Blk-thrt'd. Green Warbler B	8	4	19		22	14	5	72	72
Cooper's Hawk B		1	1			1	1	4	Blackburnian Warbler B	2	1	1	1	4	2		11	11
Cooper's Hawk B				4				4	Yellow-throated Warbler B	1		1					2	2
Red-shouldered Hawk A	2	3	2	2	6	3	8	26	Pine Warbler B			1	1				4	5
Broad-winged Hawk B	6	2018	128	16	527	1	1116	3,812	Prairie Warbler A			1		2			3	3
Red-tailed Hawk A	1	1	2				4	8	Palm Warbler @ A	2							2	2
American Kestrel A	2		7	1	1	1	8	20	Bay-breasted Warbler B								1	1
Killdeer A	51		8	23	4		5	91	Black-&white Warbler A	2	3	4	1	8	14	9	41	41
Solitary Sandpiper B				1				1	American Redstart A	3	3	6	1	9	4	3	29	29
Least Sandpiper B								1	Worm-eating Warbler @ B								1	1
Laughing Gull B			42	5			16	63	Ovenbird A		1						1	2
Ring-billed Gull A			639	12	4	11	4	670	Northern Waterthrush B					1			1	1
Herring Gull A			71		1		1	73	Kentucky Warbler @ A							1	1	1
Gull species B			153	25	6	6	10	206	Connecticut Warbler ** C	2							2	2
Caspian Tern B					3			3	Common Yellowthroat A	5	2	19	4	24	9	8	71	71
Rock Dove A	125		171	28	4	21	63	412	Wilson's Warbler B			1					1	1
Mourning Dove A	31	6	112	23	66	49	75	362	Canada Warbler B			1		1	2		4	4
Black-billed Cuckoo B				2				2	Yellow-breasted Chat A				1				1	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo A			3		2	5	1	11	Warbler species B	11	15	10	10		43	26	119	119
Eastern Screech-Owl B					1			1	Scarlet Tanager A	1		6		1			9	9
Great Horned Owl B			1		4			5	Northern Cardinal A	35	15	52	86	78	81	135	482	482
Barred Owl B		1	2		3		1	7	Rose-breasted Grosbeak B	1				7			8	8
Common Nighthawk B		1			2		4	7	Blue Grosbeak B			2					2	2
Chimney Swift A	28	6	40	68	118	43	186	489	Indigo Bunting A	5		41	1	3	4	9	63	63
Ruby-throated Hummingbird B					4	2	8	14	Eastern Towhee A	1	2	6	3	15	6	15	48	48
Belted Kingfisher A	3	2	2	1	4		9	21	Chipping Sparrow A	5	2	1					8	8
Red-bellied Woodpecker A	21	13	24	16	26	21	34	155	Field Sparrow A			15		6	17	40	78	78
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker @ B							1	1	Savannah Sparrow * B							5	5	5
Downy Woodpecker A	12	8	21	20	29	23	17	130	Song Sparrow A	8		15	8	14	11	29	85	85
Hairy Woodpecker A	5	3	5	1	3	4	5	26	Lincoln's Sparrow ** C					3			3	3
Northern Flicker A	3	7	21	17	22	27	27	124	White-throated Sparrow @ A					1			1	1
Pileated Woodpecker A	1	2	5	2		7	4	21	Sparrow species B								2	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee A	5	4	8		6	5	2	30	Dark-eyed Junco @ A						1		1	1
Acadian Flycatcher * A				1		1		2	Red-winged Blackbird A				1	22	8	321	352	352
Acadian Flycatcher B		1			1		2	11	Common Grackle A	1,511		4	4	72	106	900	2,597	2,597
Eastern Phoebe A	5		11	12	4	1	10	43	Brown-headed Cowbird A	35	2	9	2	1		4	53	53
Great Crested Flycatcher @ A	1		2	1				4	Blackbird species B				237			260	437	437
Eastern Kingbird @ A					1			1	Baltimore Oriole B							4	4	4
Horned Lark * C	11							11	House Finch A	45	7	6	19	117	72	82	348	348
Tree Swallow A	20						1	21	American Goldfinch A	14	2	50	90	51	40	61	308	308
Barn Swallow A	6				5		15	26	House Sparrow A	25		27	8	76	16	15	167	167
Blue Jay A	68	66	260	157	248	129	261	1,189	Area Total Birds:	3,345	2,448	3,346	1,938	2,924	1,534	6,080	21,615	21,615
American Crow A	48	31	210	114	146	121	116	786	Area Total Species:	76	50	80	69	84	67	89	130	130
Blue crow A			32	7	5		2	46	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	
crow species	130	3	117	277	18		110	655	Supplemental Data									
Carolina Chickadee A	41	31	52	48	60	59	87	378	Time Start:	6:30 a	7:00 a	4:00 a	6:45 a	4:30 a	6:45 a	6:30 a	4:00 a	
Tufted Titmouse A	27	24	47	38	40	48	75	299	Time Stop:	7:50 p	3:00 p	6:00 p	5:00 p	6:00 p	3:00 p	6:00 p	7:50 p	
White-breasted Nuthatch A	11	8	7	8	11	7	12	64	Hours on Foot:	15.0	7.6	16.0	19.3	31.0	18.5	30.5	137.9	
Carolina Wren A	4	9	16	18	13	22	38	120	Hours by Car:	5.0	.4	6.5	1.0	.5	1.3	7.5	22.2	
House Wren A	1		3	4	7	6	7	28	Hours Other:								1.9	1.9
Marsh Wren * C			1				1	2	Miles on Foot:	12.0	6.0	16.5	11.0	22.5	12.0	20.6	100.6	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet @ A	2	1			1	2		6	Miles by Car:	29.0	15.0	50.0	17.0	12.0	27.5	53.0	203.5	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher A	1				5	5	2	13	Miles Other:								2.5	2.5
Eastern Bluebird A	16	8	13	2	22	9	11	81	Hours Stationary:			2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	8.0	
Veery B	1						1	2	Hours "Owling":			2.0		1.5			3.5	
Swainson's Thrush B			6			1	1	8	Miles "Owling":			4.0		7.0			11.0	
Wood Thrush A	4	2	4		1	1	5	17	Total Observers in Area:	2	3	11	9	7	8	11	51	
American Robin A	15	17	47	32	111	72	146	440	Total Parties in Area:	2	1	3	3	4	4	7	24	
Gray Catbird A	16	24	48	97	100	42	58	385	Total Party-Hours (Reg.):	20.0	8.0	22.5	20.3	31.5	19.8	39.9	162.0	
Northern Mockingbird A	15	10	11	28	57	34	79	234	Total Party-Hours (Stationary):			2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	8.0	
Brown Thrasher A		2	1		3	1	1	8	Total Party-Hours ("Owling"):			2.0		1.5			3.5	
American Pipit * C				3				3	Total Party-Hours:	20.0	8.0	26.5	20.3	35.0	21.8	41.9	173.5	
Cedar Waxwing A	8	3		28	69	17	86	211	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	

SUMMARY OF THE 1996 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

BY PAUL A. ZUCKER

The 1996 Howard County May Count was held on May 11, 1996 from 5 AM to 8:45 PM. There were 66 observers (second only to 1994) in 34 parties (second only to 1995) who tallied slightly over 19000 individual birds (surpassed only in 1994 and 1995). The total species count was an impressive 151 which places this year in a tie for the third highest total with 1992. The record was 154 reached in 1977 and 1984. This year's total was attained in spite of missing both kinds of Yellowlegs and Palm Warbler.

The most notable sightings were: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seen for the first time on the count (that is, since the beginning of my records in 1974). Great Egret and Ring-necked Duck, each seen for the second time. Other significant sightings included: Glossy Ibis, Marsh Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadel-

phia Vireo, Mourning Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Rusty Blackbird. Bald Eagles have been seen now for five years in a row.

A record low count of 3 was obtained for the Barred Owl, and 81 for the Carolina Wren was the lowest in 8 years. Fourteen species had high counts as compared to the last fifteen years: Double-crested Cormorant, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Canada Warbler. Our total party hours were slightly less than the past two years, which had even more high counts.

Special thanks go to the *Randies* for hosting yet another great tally rally and to *Chuck Strrat* for helping with the numerical tabula-

tions. The efforts of the participants and area coordinators are also appreciated: *Maud Banks, Mary-Jo Betts, Karan and Bill Blum, George Chase, Marty Chestam, Randy and Richard Crook, Phil Davis (area 1), Ward Ebert, Paula and Darius Ecker, Jane Farrell, Jeff Friedhoffer, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Rich Giannola, Edwin Gould, Maureen and Dave Harvey, Kevin Hoffmann, Jane Helm, Mike Kerwin, Anu and Marci Krishnamoorthy, Dave Kubitsky, Marjorie Kupiec, Robyn Landry, Mike Loumas, Brigitte and Bob Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina and Mike McClure (area 4), Elaine and Jeff Metter, Rosamond Munro, Erich Neupert, Doug Odenmatt (area 5), Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott (area 6), Joe Picard, Ron Polinaszek, Ann Marie Paterman, Frank Reilly, Ann Reinhart, Chandler Robbins, Susan Satterberg, Craig Sholley, Mike Smith, Romayne Smith, Jo and Bob Solem (area 7), Hank Stanton, Lisa Stevens, Chuck Strrat (area 3), Tom Strikwerda, Paul Sturm, Eva Sunell, Mark Wallace, Carol and Jim Willison, Michele Wright, Helen Zechner, and Sherry and Paul Zucker (area 2 and county compiler).*

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 11, 1996

SPECIES	COUNT	SPECIES	COUNT	SPECIES	COUNT	SPECIES	COUNT
COMMON LOON	13	RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	32	AMERICAN PIPIT	10	SCARLET Tanager	194
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	90	BELTED KINGFISHER	15	CEDAR WAXWING	749	NORTHERN CARDINAL	834
AMERICAN BITTERN	1	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	223	EUROPEAN STARLING	1171	ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK	32
GREAT BLUE HERON	26	DOWNY WOODPECKER	112	WHITE-EYED VIREO	166	BLUE GROSBEAK	7
GREAT EGRET	1	HAIKY WOODPECKER	23	SOLITARY VIREO	3	INDIGO BUNTING	253
GREEN HERON	31	NORTHERN FLICKER	89	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	28	EASTERN TOWHEE	210
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON	1	PILEATED WOODPECKER	36	WARBLING VIREO	8	CHIPPING SPARROW	116
GLOSSY IBIS	11	EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	144	PHILADELPHIA VIREO	1	FIELD SPARROW	101
MUTE SWAN	1	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	170	RED-EYED VIREO	526	SAVANNAH SPARROW	3
CANADA GOOSE	445	WILLOW FLYCATCHER	2	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	22	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	11
WOOD DUCK	33	LEAST FLYCATCHER	2	TENNESSEE WARBLER	7	SONG SPARROW	167
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	2		4	NASHVILLE WARBLER	5	LINCOLN'S SPARROW	5
MALLARD	187	EASTERN PHOEBE	41	NORTHERN PARULA	169	SWAMP SPARROW	5
RING-NECKED DUCK	2	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	49	YELLOW WARBLER	174	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	29
BLACK VULTURE	59	EASTERN KINGBIRD	174	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	38	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	16
TURKEY VULTURE	197	PURPLE MARTIN	52	MAGNOLIA WARBLER	61	BOBOLINK	161
OSPREY	7	TREE SWALLOW	74	CAPE MAY WARBLER	1	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	726
BALD EAGLE	1	N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	52	BLK.-THRTD. BLUE WARBLER	29	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	12
NORTHERN HARRIER	1	BANK SWALLOW	3	YEL.-RUMPED (MYRTLE) WARBLER	139	RUSTY BLACKBIRD	2
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	5	CLIFF SWALLOW	81	BLK.-THRTD. GREEN WARBLER	27	COMMON CRACKLE	777
COOPER'S HAWK	5	BARN SWALLOW	302	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	14	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	257
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	55	BLUE JAY	1147	YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER	3	ORCHARD ORIOLE	63
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	5	AMERICAN CROW	621	PINE WARBLER	3	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	131
RED-TAILED HAWK	44	FISH CROW	59	PRAIRIE WARBLER	49	HOUSE FINCH	272
AMERICAN KESTREL	15		402	BAY-BREADED WARBLER	26	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	429
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	5	CAROLINA CHICKADEE	268	BLACKPOLL WARBLER	70	HOUSE SPARROW	207
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	3	TUFTED TITMOUSE	397	CERULEAN WARBLER	8	WRITE-IN SPECIES	
KILLDEER	23	WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH	58	BLACK & WHITE WARBLER	40	YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	1
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	36	CAROLINA WREN	81	AMERICAN REDSTART	106	TOTAL	19,039
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	28	HOUSE WREN	124	PROTHONOTARY WARBLER	2	START	5:00AM
LEAST SANDPIPER	5	MARSH WREN	1	WORM-EATING WARBLER	27	STOP	8:45PM
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	1	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	4	OVENBIRD	211	FOOT HOURS	195.9
RING-BILLED GULL	32	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	289	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	18	CAR HOURS	20.6
ROCK DOVE	350	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	92	LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	39	OTHER HOURS	5.5
MOURNING DOVE	381	VEERY	33	KENTUCKY WARBLER	52	FOOT MILES	160.4
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	7	GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	1	MOURNING WARBLER	2	CAR MILES	255.2
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	12	SWAINSON'S THRUSH	39	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	348	OTHER MILES	10.0
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	1	WOOD THRUSH	421	HOODED WARBLER	33	OWLING HOURS	2.0
GREAT HORNED OWL	3	AMERICAN ROBIN	527	WILSON'S WARBLER	7	OWLING MILES	3.0
BARRED OWL	3	GRAY CATBIRD	652	CANADA WARBLER	36	FEEDER HOURS	0.8
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	7	NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	184	YELLOW-BREADED CHAT	34	PARTICIPANTS	66
CHIMNEY SWIFT	316	BROWN THRASHER	24	SUMMER Tanager	1	PARTIES (REG, OWL, FEED)	34

SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1996

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Relatively moderate summer temperatures did not translate into unusual sightings, partly perhaps because frequent rain kept lakes and reservoirs full.

Double-crested Cormorants were seen in early June with 1 flying over Gateway (GATWY) 6/6 (J&RS) & 7 over Daniels (DANPV) on an MOS convention trip lead by BO & JS (m.obs.). A **Great Blue Heron** was present at Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) from 6/25 thru 7/31 (JF). A **Great Egret** was noted at Brown's Bridge (BRNBR) 7/26 (JW); 2 were on Fore Bay Pond (FRBYP) at the southeast end of LKELK 7/26 (J&RS). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were spotted throughout the period: 1 ad. 6/7 Patapsco River & I-95 (BL); others were at LKELK including 1 ad. 7/17 (JW; JS) & 1 imm (JF); 7/23-24 1 ad. & 1 imm & 7/30 1 ad. (JF). **Green Heron** young were noted at US-29 & MD 100 in early July (BL) & on 7/22 at Wilde Lake (WILLK)(C&PN).

A pair of **Mute Swans** was reported from several ponds in the southern part of the county in early July (RM). They continue to frequent Fulton Pond (FULPD). **Canada Geese** had a productive season and could be seen in most parts of the county. By 6/9 there were at least 25 young on Centennial Lake (CENPK)(JF). **Wood Ducks** were reported from two locations 6/8 DANPV 1 female (F) with 12 young (BO, JS, m.obs.) and CENPK: 6/29 1 F (JF), 7/14 2 F with 5 young (JF, JS), 7/29 7 ad. & 1 F with 4 young (JF). The pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** was still reported on 6/9 (BO, JS, m.obs.), 6/19 & 6/26 (JF); the F only on 6/29 & 7/21 (JF).

An **Osprey** flew over Alpha Ridge Park (ALRGP) 6/8 (BO, JS, m.obs.). On 6/1 a **Bald Eagle** was spotted at Belmont in eastern Howard County (HOWCO)(DK, SP). A **Northern Harrier** was seen over the landfill from ALRGP by some members of a convention trip 6/8. A **Cooper's Hawk** was tallied 7/17 over Stanford Blvd. (STFBD) in east Columbia & 1 at I-95 & MD 100 on 7/25 (JW).

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) 725-5037. 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.

The same observer had 5 **American Kestrels** at GATWY 7/14.

Shorebird reports were limited, mostly due to lack of suitable habitat—for example, 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** circled CENPK 7/21 & finally left without finding a place to land (JF). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were counted at FULPD 7/21 (JF) & 7/26 (JW). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was present at FULPD 7/21 (JF) & 1 at FORBY 7/26 (JW). A **Least Sandpiper** at FULPD 7/21 (JF) and 3 there 7/26 (JW) were the only reports of that species. One **Pectoral Sandpiper**, also at FULPD, 7/21 (JF) was probably the highlight of the shorebird reports—definitely lackluster shorebirding!

The first **Laughing Gull** of the season was reported from STFBD 7/29 (JF). The only **Forster's Tern** so far this year was watched early in the morning of 6/17 at LKELK (DE).

~~Cuckoos were scarce with no Black-billed Cuckoos and only a handful of Yellow-billed Cuckoos reported.~~ Summer sightings of **Belted Kingfishers** were low. Was this a result of last winter's severe weather? **Barred Owls** were the topic of conversation in the Timberleigh neighborhood. During much of July, 2 birds attracted attention with hissing sounds. The typical call was heard only occasionally. People counted as many as 6 birds (DN).

A **Pileated Woodpecker** in Hopewell, east Columbia 7/19 was the first JW had seen in that location since moving there in 1991. **Willow Flycatchers** continue to do well in HOWCO with birds during the breeding season at CENPK, LKELK, ALRGP, and US-29 & MD 100, as well as other locations (JS).

Cedar Waxwings seemed to be more widespread than usual with reports from many locations. A nest was located at CENPK which was seen by a convention field trip 6/9 (BO, m.obs.). Near the end of July M&GM reported a family of waxwings on Mt. Albert Road with the adults feeding fledged young ripe wineberries.

Spring warbler migration continued to the very end of May. On 5/31 at least a dozen **Blackpoll Warblers** were heard at 3 sites (J&RS, NM); on 6/1 the same observers heard none. A nesting pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was located by JSt 6/9 at ALRGP (m.obs.); a pair was seen at BRNBR 7/21 (JF); and a pair was noted at Underwood Road & MD 99 on 7/16 (JW). The same observer had a **Vesper Sparrow** 6/26 on A.E. Mullinix Road. He also had 2 to 4 **Grasshopper Sparrows** at GATWY thru the period. A **Swamp Sparrow** on 6/5 among a flock of **House Sparrows** beneath a feeder in WILLK was reported by C&PN. This is an unusual date for this species.

A family of **Orchard Orioles** (2 ad. with 2 young) were watched at US-29 & MD 100 on 7/24 (BL, J&RS). Fifty **American Goldfinches** were counted at CENPK 6/29 (JF).

Special thanks to *Jane H. Farrell* who compiled the summer records in my absence. Thanks to all birders who submitted records. Observers cited by initials: *Darius Ecker (DE)*, *Jane Farrell (JF)*, *Dave Kubitsky (DK)*, *Brigitte Lund (BL)*, *Nancy Magnusson (NM)*, *Mike & Grazina McClure (M&GM)*, *Rosamond Munro (RM)*, *Diane Nagengast (DN)*, *Carol & Paul Newman (C&PN)*, *Bonnie Ott (BO)*, *Suzanne Probst (SP)*, *Joanne & Robert Solem (J&RS)*, *Jim Stasz (JSt)*, *Jim Wilkinson (JW)*, many observers (m.obs.).

BIRD CLUB DISPLAY AT HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

BY DARIUS ECKER

The Howard County Bird Club had a display in Exhibit Hall 2 at the Howard County Fair during the week of August 10-17. *Tom Strikwerda* coordinated the event with the Fair Board of Directors, and *Darius Ecker* coordinated prime-time booth coverage with volunteers from the club. *Darius and Paula Ecker* set up the display on Friday night before the fair, and dismantled the display on the last day of the fair.

Thanks to the following volunteers who

worked the booth: *Jane Farrell, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Liz Morris, Eva Sunell, Jeff and Elaine Matter, Richard and Randy Crook, Chuck Strrat, Helen Zeichner, Marty Chestem, and Don and Martha Waugh.*

Marty Chestem unveiled her newest creation, a trifold display of a variety of general information about the Howard County Bird Club. In addition, the always popular pictures of common Howard County birds and a box of fishing line, hooks, and other fishing materials was displayed. These items, potentially lethal

to birds, had been picked up by bird club members along the shores of local reservoirs and lakes during the past year. If you collect materials of this type, bring them to a meeting and we will add them to the display.

The touchable display, which included an intact box turtle shell was a hit with children. Anyone who has touchable items to grab children's interest is welcome to contribute them to next year's display.

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.

- ✓ **November 14, Thursday** **"Breeding Bird Atlas Findings: Surprises and Confirmations,"** by Kathy Klimkiewicz. Kathy is with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and she will share her knowledge of this interesting research.
- ✓ **December 12, Thursday** **"The Bald Eagle's Status in Maryland,"** by Glenn Therres. Glenn, of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will present us with a history of the recovery of the Bald Eagle population in Maryland.

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.

- November 3, 10, 17, and 24 Sundays** **November Sundays at Centennial Park** - Meet at 8:00 am at the west end parking lot to walk around the lake. Leaders: 11/3 - **Mike Kerwin**, 11/10 - **Burton Alexander**, 11/17 - **Maud Banks**, 11/24 - **Bonnie Ott**. Many different birds - ducks, gulls and woodland species possible. Call Bonnie if more information is needed.
- ✓ **November 16, Saturday** **Howard County Waterfowl** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Centennial Park concession stand for this half-day trip. 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 is needed.
- December 3, Tuesday** **Autumn Bird Records Due** - Mail to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, MD 20723.
- ✓ **December 21, Saturday** **Triadelphia Reservoir Christmas Bird Count** - See details elsewhere in this newsletter.
- February 1, Saturday** **Midwinter Count** - Mark your calendar. Details will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

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.

- ✓ **November 21, Thursday** **Mike Kerwin**, 10257 Bristol Channel, Ellicott City, MD 21042, phone (410) 461-2408.

December - NONE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1997 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due **NOVEMBER 29, 1996**. 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 or upload to the Electronic Goldfinch at (301) 596-2167. Also, please visit the club's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.abs.net/~dariuse/birding.html>.

RENEW, RENEW, RENEW

Don't forget, if you have not already done so, it is time to renew your membership. Please complete and return the membership application that was included in the last issue of the newsletter. If you need another copy of the application, contact **Paula and Darius Ecker**, (410) 312-9165.

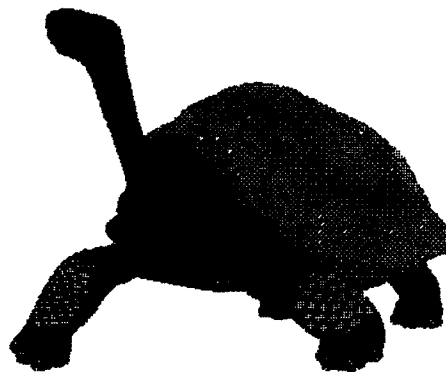
MOS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Maryland Ornithological Society annually awards ecology and ornithology tuition scholarships to Audubon camps. If you work with young people, you may wish to apply for a scholarship. Contact President **Maud Banks** (410) 381-3240 for additional information.

THE ULTIMATE FIELD TRIP BY JANE GEUDER

As requested, we have more information on the proposed Galapagos trip mentioned at several recent club meetings. Jane and Carolyn Cradler, another club member and biology teacher, have booked a 20 day tour for about \$2,700 from June 21 to July 10, 1997. Price includes transportation from BWI, all accommodations and most meals. In addition, to the one-week boat trip to the islands and a few cultural trips in and around Quito, included are five days at a private reserve in an undisturbed cloud forest. An optional Amazon extension of five days at \$465 could be arranged for anyone interested.

Call **Carolyn** at (410) 730-7816 for an itinerary and more information.



CONSERVATION COLUMN BY BOB SOLEM

The following is a press release from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

"President Clinton has formally submitted amendments to the U.S.-Canada Migratory Bird Convention to the U.S. Senate for ratification. The amendments, signed by the U.S. and Canada in December 1995, would provide fairness in the regulation of waterfowl harvests to Alaskan natives and Canada's Aboriginal peoples, and improve the management of birds that migrate between the two countries.

"In barring migratory bird hunting between March 10 and September 1, the original treaty failed to recognize the traditional harvests of migratory birds by northern peoples during spring and summer months. These harvests have gone on unabated for centuries and continue to this day, despite the 1916 treaty. In many cases, they are vital as a food source for northern people and an important part of their cultural tradition. These amendments recognize these ongoing harvests as legal and provide a process to establish a management regime through appropri-

ate regulations. Because no new harvests are being established, the Service expects the amendments to have little or no impact on the number of birds flying south. Under the amendments, exchanges and data collection among the United States, Canada, and Aboriginal and indigenous peoples will be increased, expanding the scientific base for migratory bird management. Were the migratory bird convention not amended, the U.S.-Canada treaty would probably have to be abroated because the Canadian constitution guarantees a legal harvest for Canadian aboriginal people.

"While the amendments provide for a legal spring and summer harvest for some far northern peoples, the Canadian and American Federal governments can in some circumstances require restrictions on this migratory bird harvest when appropriate to do so. In addition, the two countries will work with Aboriginal and indigenous peoples to manage their harvest of waterfowl using cooperative management bodies, an approach that has been successful with big game and other species in Canada."

TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT BY RICK SUSSMAN

The Triadelphia Reservoir Christmas Bird Count is being held from dawn to dusk this year on **Saturday, December 21**. The count circle straddles the Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoirs and covers southern Howard County and eastern Montgomery County, as well as small portion of Prince George's County. We will meet after the count at the Brookside Nature Center (Wheaton Regional Park) for a tally of the birds seen during the day. Birders of all levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to participate. For information on counting in Howard County contact **Jo Solem (301) 725-5037** or **Mark Wallace (301) 725-6370**. For information on this count or on the topic of Christmas Bird Counts, contact the count compiler, **Rick Sussman, at (301) 774-1185 (Ashton - Home)**.

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RECYCLED PAPER

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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