



# THE GOLDFINCH



A CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1998

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME BY MIKE KERWIN

**W**elcome to the 26th year of the Howard County Bird Club. As your new president my objectives for the coming year are to assist in continuing all the activities we are currently involved in, increase our membership, and to foster an environment in which young people are welcome in all of our activities.

Last year was a great year for the club, thank you Maud Banks for leading us through our 25th anniversary year. I think most club members spent some time during the year reflecting on the club's accomplishments and the joy we have had observing and celebrating the wonders and beauty of nature. Lets all work toward making are next 25 years just as fun.

This year as in the past we have a full agenda planned. We will sponsor and club members will lead numerous walks in and around the county, monthly programs are planned September through next May, the book store will be open at all meetings, and we will participate in bird counts and tally rallies in the fall, winter and spring. Last, but not least, don't miss the annual bird seed sale and our pot luck dinner with accompanying slide show. I'm sure I have missed something so watch for all the programs and details of them in the "Goldfinch."

We invite all birders from novice to expert to join us in our activities this year. Ask a friend to join you!

### TOO MANY DEER

BY BOB SOLEM

**B**oth the State of Maryland and Howard County have produced reports on the problems of overproduction of deer, destruction of habitat caused by deer browsing, injuries to humans caused by deer-automobile collisions, suffering caused by Lyme disease, and reduction in the biodiversity and impact on other species (such as birds). Significant changes have occurred across Maryland's landscape in recent years. Among the most dramatic of these changes is the resurgence of white-tailed deer. Extremely rare at the turn of this century, deer populations in Maryland have not only rebounded, but now number more than at any other time in their history. The story of this recovery is certainly one of a successful conservation effort, but also the story of an adaptable animal favorably exploiting changes in habitat brought about by agricultural changes and the land use patterns associated with sprawl development.

Deer thrive on habitat conditions created by sprawl development as new roads, housing and related enterprises fragment forests and farms, creating "edge" habitats that provide plenty of food and ample shelter. Changes to the agricultural production practices have also increased availability of nutritious foods for deer. Concurrently, fragmentation, along with changing social habits, have reduced hunting opportunities,

(Continued on page 4)

### 1998-1999

#### CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

President:  
**Mike Kerwin**  
Vice President:  
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### CAPE MAY FIELD TRIP

BY DARIUS ECKER

**J**oin us on Saturday, September 26 for a one-day field trip to Cape May, New Jersey.

We'll meet at Rt. 32 and Broken Land Parkway Park and Ride Lot (car parking area), rain or shine, at 5:45 am and leave at 6:00 am to carpool to Lewes, Delaware to catch the 8:40 am ferry to Cape May. The 70 minute ferry ride is usually good for a Northern Gannet or two, some scoters and if we're lucky a Peregrine Falcon flyover. We'll spend the day birding two of Cape May's hot spots, Cape May Point State Park (great for hawkwatching) and the Nature Conservancy's South Cape May Meadows, (good for shorebirds). We'll have a picnic lunch, please bring your own food and drink. We'll also visit Cape May Bird Observatory's Book Store on Lake Drive. After a full day of birding you can catch the 5:00 pm ferry back to Lewes, and complete the drive back to Columbia to get home around 9:00 pm. **One way fare for the ferry is \$20.00 for a single vehicle and the driver. Each additional passenger is \$6.50.** Some of you may want to stay overnight and bird Sunday morning on your own.

**Due to the logistics and timing involved in this trip we are asking anyone interested to pre-register. Please call Darius & Paula at 410-312-9165 or e-mail [darius@abs.net](mailto:darius@abs.net) for pre-registration and to receive further instructions regarding this field trip.**

# SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 1998

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Spring brought neither rarities nor large numbers of expected migrants. Many long-time field observers complained of low numbers, late arrivals, and the absence of the more unusual species. Extended rain in early to mid-May raised lake and reservoir levels reducing shorebird habitat, but the rain and chilly winds did not seem to bring down large numbers of migrants.

A few **Common Loons** were noted. Countywide, 13 were found on 5/9 May Count (MAYCT). **Pied-billed Grebes** peaked with 7 at Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) 3/4 (DE) with the last 2 departing Centennial Park (CENPK) 4/19 (KS). Two **Horned Grebes**, seen on a Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) field trip at LKELK 5/3, were the last of the season (DE+). A **Double-crested Cormorant** stayed around until 5/26 at Brighton Dam (BRDAM) (J&RS). The lone **Great Egret** this spring spent 4/20 (MC) & 4/21 (HZ) at Vantage Point (VANPT) in the company of the nesting **Great Blue Herons** (MC). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** was noted at Gateway (GATWY) 5/14 (J&RS). The first **Green Heron** returned 4/3 to a pond at Montgomery Run (MNTRN) (NM). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were not seen often or consistently, but there were 4 sightings including 1 on 4/22 Lake Kittamaquidi (LKKIT) (HZ) and 1 on 5/20 LKELK (DE). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was observed briefly at dusk at Wilde Lake (WILLK) 5/4 (HZ,DJ). On 4/30 a **Glossy Ibis** flew across Rt. 32 north of Clarksville heading southwest (DH). The bird may have stayed in the area for weeks, for one was reportedly seen in a damp field at BRDAM Rd. & Ten Oaks Rd from 5/11-15 (fide MW).

One **Snow Goose** was spotted with Canadas 3/3 on Rt. 29 north of the reservoir (DE). The only **Tundra Swan** flock was heard the night of 3/17 MNTRN (NM). Duck numbers were generally low. Birders on the 4/11 HCBC trip to Univ. MD Central Farm (UMDCF) were treated to the sight of 2 pairs of **Blue-winged Teal** (BO+). A **Green-winged Teal** 3/13-3/22 (JC) and a **Northern Shoveler** 3/14 (JS,JC) to 3/22 (JC,CS) at the shallow west end of CENPK proved accommodating. The **Canvasback** maximum was 5 on 3/2 WILLK (HZ). Normally, large flocks of **Ring-necked Ducks** are expected in the Piedmont, but 60 on 3/6 at Cissel's (CISSL) on Jennings Chapel Rd. (MW) was the only flock of more than a dozen. **Buffleheads** are usually present dur-

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 301-725-6037. 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.

ing early spring. Maximum flock size was 16 on 3/16 (CISSL) (MW). One lingering female spotted on a pond at Gorman Rd. & Rt. 1 5/7 (RO) was still present 5/13 (J&RS). This season **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported from WILLK, LKELK, and CENPK and were seen by many observers (m. obs). **Ruddy Ducks** topped out at a modest 15 on 3/4 CENPK (JC).

The **Bald Eagle** nest on Triadelphia Reservoir was successful again. WSSC personnel reported that 1 young fledged (BP). Two **Northern Harriers** were noted: 3/13 Stanford Blvd. (JC) and 4/15 WILLK (C&PN). Two **Wild Turkeys** were heard 5/9 at Henryton (HENPV) (D&PE, JM). **American Coots** wintered locally; 1 stayed until 5/14 LKELK (DE). With high water levels shorebirds were hard to find. A **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared sporadically at CENPK from 4/11 on (HZ), but most other species were more elusive. The single best shorebird report was 5/9 CISSL when MW had the following assortment: 12 **Solitary**, 8 **Spotted**, & 6 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, along with 1 **Greater** and 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**. **Common Snipe** were not widely noted. Wet swales at UMDCF held a maximum of 18 on 4/11 (BO+), well below the dozens present some years. At least 3 **American Woodcocks** were still performing courtship flights 4/12 at GATWY (KS,DE,HZ).

The only **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 7 on 4/15 CENPK (BO). Most of the **Caspian Terns** seen were singles. Perhaps the high water prevented them from loafing on local lakes. The largest flock observed (24) was crammed on a tiny sandbar at LKKIT 4/21 (HZ,DJ).

No **Black-billed Cuckoos** were detected. The earliest **Chimney Swift** was 4/12 CENPK (DE,HZ). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared at Talbot's Landing (TALDG) 4/24 (J&RG) & another was seen the same day at Hallmark (HALMK) (WEB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared in an area with a number of large dead trees on Manahan Dr. (MANHN) and stayed 4/12 & 13 (BO+).

Flycatchers, in general, were late. Although the first **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was reported 5/2 WILLK (C&PN), many observers did not see the species until mid-

May. **Willow Flycatchers** were not found on MAYCT, and no **Least**, **Alder**, or **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were located this spring. The first **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen at Timberleigh (TIMBR) 4/29 (DN). Two **Eastern Kingbirds** put in an appearance on 4/18 WILLK (HZ,DOd).

Two **White-eyed Vireos** were at CENPK 4/19 (KS). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen 4/7 LKELK (DE) and the last (5) 5/9 MAYCT. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was spotted 5/2 LKELK (DE). The first **Red-eyed Vireos** were at Daniels (DANPV) (JS,NM) & Gwynn Acres Path (GWACP) 4/26 (JS).

The HCBC trip 4/11 UMDCF located a **Horned Lark** in one of the fields (BO+). A **Tree Swallow** pushed into the area 3/23 CENPK (JC). Two **Barn Swallows** also arrived in March (3/31) Triad. Mill Rd. (MW). The weather may have been a factor in the low numbers of **Bank Swallows** seen. All reports were in a one week period (5/6-5/13 LKELK, DE) with a high of 2 on the latter date. Most observers missed them.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** wintered. The last reported were 4 on MAYCT. A pair of **White-breasted Nuthatches** raised a brood in a nest box at TIMBR (DN). The end of March marked the departure of **Brown Creepers** (HALMK, 3/24, WEB), **Winter Wrens** (Stevens Rd., 3/31, J&RS), and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** (Sandchain, SNDCH, 3/29, J&TDC). The latest **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was noted 5/4 LKELK (DE). An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at GWACP 4/2 (J&RS).

Thrushes succeeded in being even more elusive than usual. The latest **Hermit Thrushes** were at Cypressmede and Dunloggin (DUNLG) 4/26 (KS). **Veeries** began to arrive 5/9 MAYCT (21). No **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were found. A few **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported between 5/8 DUNLG (KS) and 5/24 WILLK (DOd). The first **Wood Thrushes** (5) showed up at Schooley Mill Park (SLMLP) 4/25 (NM).

**Gray Catbirds** were perceived as arriving later than usual with the first 3/31 LKELK (DE); some observers mentioned that it was mid-April before they saw one. A **Brown Thrasher** was singing at Meadowbrook (MDBRK) 4/3 (KS). **Cedar Waxwings** were present and widely seen.

(Continued on page 9)

## A GREAT GRAY DAY BY DAVE HARVEY

Maureen and I were visiting Saskatchewan to see our friend Harvey Lane, who lives in Saskatoon, and to do some serious birding for a week. This was the culmination of my first birding goal, to bird in all 50 U.S. states and all 10 Canadian provinces. I had finished the fifty states last year when Maureen and I visited Alaska. This was now the final province. Anything above and beyond a birding list would be gravy. Harvey Lane had set us up with birding information on the province and on our first full day there, 23 May 1998, he hooked us up with some local (Saskatoon) birders who were doing a bird count on the southern edge of Saskatoon. It was a great day and fulfilled all our expectations. We picked up Harvey at 6:30 am at his house where he was busy scoping out a Merlin. He then directed us to Beaver Creek Natural Area where we would meet up with the others. As we got out of the car, Maureen flushed a pair of Gray Partridge. It was a great start to what would turn out to be a great day. We even did our part, as Maureen and I found a pair of birds worthy of the local rare bird alert line, a male and female Eastern Bluebird. The biggest moment of the day was when one of the local birders, Pat Bullman, mentioned to Harvey that a mutual friend of theirs knew the location of a Great Gray Owl nest near her cottage up north. That evening Harvey got all the details on the nest and we changed our itinerary for the next day. We had planned to go to Prince Albert National Park in search of warblers and more northerly species. We felt that a chance at Great Gray Owl was worth passing up the park since we felt the new area, Turtle Lake, would probably be pretty good for warblers also since it was in a forest belt of Lodgepole Pine and White Spruce.

The next day, Sunday, 24 May, we left the hotel in Saskatoon about 4:30 am with Harvey Lane (driving his van), Jerry Whitworth (visitor from St. Catherines, Ont.), Pat Bullman (Saskatoon), Maureen, and myself. About 7:30 am driving north on highway 4 just before the sign for Moose Country Campground, Maureen screamed, "Oh my God, I just saw something on the fence post, I think it was a Great Gray Owl." Harvey turned the van around and drove down the shoulder of the highway to the area where Maureen had her sighting.



*"There, sitting on the fence post, was the most majestic bird I had ever seen."*

There, sitting on the fence post, was the most majestic bird I had ever seen. It was a gray day with about 70% cloud cover and some light sprinkles; however this Great Gray made my day as bright as it could ever have been. The bird, about 30 feet away, was huge. My initial view was of the back of the bird. The thickness of the head and neck, not to mention their length in proportion to the body, gave the appearance of a huge hood. The wings were held out from the body very slightly and hung down breaking the normal contours of a perched bird. This pose seemed very strange and since it was maintained for the 15 minutes that we observed the bird, it did not appear to be a random pose. When the owl spun its head around to stare at us, it was with an aloofness that seemed to say "stay where you are and I will allow this imposition." The roundness of the face was fuller than any other owl I have ever seen. The lined

facial disks create the impression of large circles emanating outward from the tiny, but intense, yellow eyes. The black chin spot, bordered by white patches, give an air of aristocracy.

About two hours later we found the Great Gray nest. The nest had two youngsters in it and was guarded by an adult who was perched mid-way up in a nearby tree. The adult called the entire time we were in the area. The call was a deep, single 'who', spaced about 45 seconds apart. These birds were observed in the scope, a Kowa with a 60X zoom for about 5 minutes from a distance of about 100 feet.

It turned out not to be a very good day for the warblers and even though we had been wrong about the warblers in this area, no one seemed to care. The experience of these two sightings was *unforgettable!!!*

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particularly in Maryland's growing suburban areas. Improved habitat conditions resulting in increased reproduction, coupled with below normal mortality, have caused deer numbers to grow to an estimated current statewide population in excess of 250,000 animals. This population growth has resulted in many more opportunities to see or hunt deer. High deer numbers also yield less desirable results in the form of increased vehicle collisions with deer, more damage to agricultural crops and ornamental vegetation, increased transmission of Lyme disease, and degradation of natural ecosystems.

Two things were clear as a result of the public meetings held throughout the state: deer population numbers are too high in many sections of the state, and enhanced management action will be required to avert even greater negative impacts than those already being experienced. Only in far western Maryland is the deer population currently stable. The Maryland management plan is designed to stabilize deer population numbers throughout the state, then gradually adjust populations (in most cases downward) to bring them into acceptable ranges for the social and environmental conditions of a particular area. While data specific to deer are not available, it is known that in 1991, 1.4 million state residents participated in non-consumptive activities such as observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife in Maryland, within one mile of their home. In Maryland, people participating in activities farther than one mile from home numbered 662,000, of which 404,000 were state residents and 259,000 were from out of state. The total expenditures for equipment and trip-related expenses for non-consumptive, wildlife-related recreation in Maryland in 1991 was \$269.7 million (U.S. Department of the Interior et. al., 1993). Since deer are one of the favorite types of wildlife among this group it can be assumed that some undetermined but significant portion of those expenditures were deer related.

A recent University of Maryland study found that 92% of all Maryland farmers suffered deer-related crop damage in 1996. The total economic loss was estimated at approximately \$38 million. During 1996, DNR staff responded to 1,571 agricultural damage complaints. In 1996 a total of 8,320 deer were reported taken via deer management permits to control deer damage, compared to 1992, when 2,960 deer were taken via special deer management permits.

During the past eight years the reported number of deer-vehicle collisions in Maryland has doubled; many other deer that are struck by cars go unreported. In a recent

survey conducted by DNR, 12% of Central Maryland respondents reported striking a deer with a vehicle during the prior 12 months. Of those persons who reported being involved with a deer-vehicle collision, 75% said that damage to their vehicle was in excess of \$500. Although no statistics are available regarding the combined property damage and personal injury loss resulting from deer-vehicle collisions, the number for property damage alone is conservatively estimated to be in excess of \$9.7 million annually.

Damage to non-agricultural plants ranges from destruction of valuable tree plantings and landscaping to loss of natural forest stands and detrimental impacts on Maryland's native flora and fauna. Deer can have devastating effects upon the few examples of undisturbed native ecosystems in the state, which remain as small pockets within Maryland's fragmented suburban and agricultural landscapes.

Another danger that deer pose to wild places may come from their unwitting alliance with another, even more dangerous threat to North America's vanishing native ecosystems: exotic species. Exotic species are foreign plants and animals which are imported (purposefully or by accident) from places other than Maryland. Natural ecosystems are threatened by thousands of ~~these exotic species, and deer browsing in~~ creases the threat that they will persist, because preferred deer foods are generally native plants allowing the invading plants to overwhelm the grazed habitat. In addition, over-used deer trails cause soil disturbance, clearing the way for exotic species that prefer disturbed habitat to become established deep in the woods.

There is also a public health concern regarding white-tailed deer because they are one of the hosts for the ticks responsible for the spread of Lyme disease, an arthritic disease that can be contracted by humans. Studies suggest that high deer densities lead to an increase in the incidence of Lyme's disease, and that significant tick populations do not occur in the absence of deer. During the past ten years the reported number of Lyme disease cases in Maryland has increased from 12 to 423.

There is an increasing amount of literature on the ecological impact of large deer herds on forest ecosystems. *The Wildlife Society Bulletin* 25(2) [Summer 1997] devoted nearly 600 pages to the subject of deer overabundance. The Howard County Deer Task Force saw articles from that publication detailing how white-tailed deer negatively affect forest regeneration, biodiversity and a variety of plants and animals which are dependent on the forest habitats within

which deer are proliferating. Some of these impacts (such as the suppression of tree regeneration) may have impacts which will last for decades. Supplemental winter feeding actually caused localized increases in browse damage because deer were concentrated around feeding stations, while feeding on natural browse was not reduced by the availability of supplemental food.

Currently there are no hard data on the ecological effects of deer in Howard County nor any quantitative data on herd size or density. Qualitative evidence, such as browse lines, agricultural damage, and reports of deer sightings are abundant but do not yield sufficient information for the establishment of management decisions which satisfactorily address all the concerns of Howard County residents. But there is an on-going study of deer "exclosures" (with fencing of sufficient height to keep deer out and keep them from browsing) and a report of a survey of large wooded properties to provide estimates of deer density in these tracts. The areas to be surveyed are Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks properties; the methodology is Forward Looking Infra-Red radar.

Montgomery County performed a study of forest ecosystems of the MNCPPC properties and found that in areas where deer have been free to browse, there are no seedlings in the 8-60" size range. There is a shift in species composition towards those species which deer tend not to eat (specifically spicebush and pawpaw) which have become the dominant species in the forest understory. Deer are stripping bark off trees in some locations, which indicates a dearth of food for the animals; stripping the bark, of course, is fatal to the trees. Some Montgomery County parks now have a "denuded understory," and the fate of threatened and endangered species has become a serious concern. Browsing has stressed many woody plants by repeatedly removing buds and tender new growth.

When Chan Robbins returned to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area after several years absence to replot the survey markers used in his breeding bird survey, he commented "There's no understory!" In contrast the rich array of vegetation of years before, the understory before him consisted primarily of spicebush, brambles and Japanese honeysuckle.

Denuding the understory in extensive forests will have an effect on neotropical birds in Howard County that next on the ground or in the low understory, such as Veery, Black-and-White Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler.



# HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

SEPTEMBER 1, 1998 - AUGUST 31, 1999 MEMBERSHIP



NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ABOVE INFORMATION CHANGED FROM LAST YEAR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: *Howard County Chapter - MOS*

IMPORTANT: (CHECK ONE)

I WISH MY ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER TO APPEAR IN THE STATEWIDE MOS DIRECTORY.

I WISH MY ADDRESS, BUT NOT MY PHONE NUMBER TO APPEAR IN THE STATEWIDE MOS DIRECTORY.

MAIL TO TREASURER: *Shiras Guion*  
8007 Martown Road  
Laurel, MD 20723  
(301) 490-0444

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

NEW MEMBER OR  RENEWAL  
HOUSEHOLD (ONE ADDRESS) .....  \$ 22.50

NUMBER OF: ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_  
JUNIORS (UNDER AGE 18) \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL.....  \$ 15.00

JUNIOR (UNDER AGE 18, NO ADULT IS MEMBER).....  \$ 9.00

SUSTAINING (PER PERSON).....  \$ 45.00

LIFE (PLUS ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES) .....  \$400.00

HOWARD Co. CHAPTER DUES (IF LIFE, OR MEMBER OF ANOTHER MOS CHAPTER).....  \$ 5.00

NAME OF PRIMARY CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONNAIRE - (PLEASE COMPLETE EACH YEAR)

WHAT LOCATIONS WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN GOING ON OUR FIELD TRIPS?

WHAT PAST TRIPS HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST?

WHICH HOWARD COUNTY BIRDS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE HOWARD COUNTY RARE BIRD ALERT NETWORK?(PLEASE CHECK ONLY IF THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE YOU WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND BIRDS WHEN NOTIFIED) LOCAL CALLS ONLY.

CONTACT ME AT  HOME ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BEST TIME OF THE DAY TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_

I CAN TELEPHONE OTHERS

DELETE MY NAME FROM THE RARE BIRD ALERT LIST

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRD CLUB TO THE FOLLOWING NON-MEMBER:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

### I WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

#### SURVEYS AND COUNTS

- MAY BIRD COUNT  WILDFLOWERS & PLANTS
- FALL BIRD COUNT  BUTTERFLIES
- MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

#### HELP COMPILE BIRD LISTS FOR PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- HOWARD COUNTY PARKS. WHICH? \_\_\_\_\_
- COLUMBIA LAKES. WHICH? \_\_\_\_\_
- OTHER? \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

- MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- HOST/HOUSTESS AT A MEETING
- PROVIDE BAKED GOODS
- HELP WITH POTLUCK OR SPECIAL EVENTS
- STAFF CLUB EXHIBITS AT SHOWS & FAIRS
- PUBLICITY & INFORMATION DISPLAYS
- PREPARE SPECIAL MAILINGS FOR STATE MOS

#### CLUB ACTIVITIES

#### FIELD TRIPS:

- HELP PLAN  SERVE AS TRIP LEADER

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

- GIVE TALKS IN SCHOOLS OR TO GROUPS

#### PROGRAMS:

- HELP PLAN
- I HAVE SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ME

#### BOOKSTORE:

- ASSIST WITH SALES OR INVENTORY

#### NEWSLETTER:

- CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES  HELP WITH MAILING

#### CONSERVATION:

- PHONE OR WRITE LETTERS TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS
- WORK WITH CLUB MEMBERS AS ISSUES ARISE

#### BOOST BLUEBIRDS (AND OTHER CAVITY NESTERS):

- MONITOR A BOX
- START A TRAIL
- I HAVE A BOX/TRAIL

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Common Loon @  
 Pied-billed Grebe @  
 Double-crested Cormorant  
 American Bittern \*  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Great Egret  
 Snowy Egret \*  
 Little Blue Heron  
 Cattle Egret\*  
 Green Heron  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron \*  
 Glossy Ibis \*  
 Mute Swan  
 Canada Goose  
 Wood Duck  
 Green-winged Teal  
 American Black Duck  
 Mallard  
 Northern Pintail \*  
 Blue-winged Teal  
 Northern Shoveler @  
 Gadwall\*  
 American Wigeon  
 Ruddy Duck \*  
 Black Vulture  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Osprey  
 Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]  
 Northern Harrier  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
 Cooper's Hawk  
*accipiter species*  
 Red-shouldered Hawk  
 Broad-winged Hawk  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 American Kestrel  
 Merlin \*  
 Peregrine Falcon \*  
 Ring-necked Pheasant \*  
 Wild Turkey \*  
 Northern Bobwhite \*  
 Sora \*  
 American Coot @  
 Black-bellied Plover \*  
 American Golden-Plover \*\*  
 Semipalmated Plover \*  
 Killdeer  
 Greater Yellowlegs  
 Lesser Yellowlegs  
 Solitary Sandpiper  
 Spotted Sandpiper  
 Sanderling \*\*  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper \*  
 Least Sandpiper  
 Pectoral Sandpiper  
 Dunlin \*\*  
 Short-billed Dowitcher \*  
 Common Snipe \*  
 American Woodcock \*  
 Laughing Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 Herring Gull  
 Great Black-backed Gull @  
*gull species*  
 Caspian Tern  
 Forster's Tern \*\*  
 Black Tern \*  
 Rock Dove  
 Mourning Dove  
 Black-billed Cuckoo  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
 Eastern Screech-Owl  
 Great Horned Owl  
 Barred Owl

Common Nighthawk  
 Chimney Swift  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 Belted Kingfisher  
 Red-headed Woodpecker \*  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker @  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Northern Flicker  
 Pileated Woodpecker  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher \*  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher \*\*  
 Acadian Flycatcher \*  
 Least Flycatcher \*  
*Empidonax species*  
 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 species*  
 Carolina Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch \*  
 White-breasted 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 @  
 Philadelphia Vireo \*  
 Red-eyed Vireo  
 Blue-winged Warbler @  
 Tennessee Warbler  
 Nashville Warbler  
 Northern Parula  
 Yellow Warbler @  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler  
 Magnolia Warbler  
 Cape May Warbler  
 Blk.-thrted. Blue Warbler  
 Yel.-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler @  
 Blk.-thrted. Green Warbler  
 Blackburnian Warbler  
 Yellow-throated Warbler  
 Pine Warbler

Prairie Warbler  
 Palm Warbler @  
 Bay-breasted Warbler  
 Blackpoll Warbler  
 Cerulean Warbler @  
 Black-&-white Warbler  
 American Redstart  
 Prothonotary Warbler \*  
 Worm-eating Warbler @  
 Ovenbird  
 Northern Waterthrush  
 Louisiana Waterthrush @  
 Kentucky Warbler @  
 Connecticut Warbler \*\*  
 Mourning Warbler \*\*  
 Common Yellowthroat  
 Hooded Warbler  
 Wilson's Warbler  
 Canada Warbler  
 Yellow-breasted Chat  
*warbler species*  
 Summer Tanager \*\*  
 Scarlet Tanager  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
 Blue Grosbeak  
 Indigo Bunting  
 Rufous-sided Towhee  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Field Sparrow  
 Vesper Sparrow \*  
 Savannah Sparrow \*  
 Grasshopper Sparrow @  
 Song Sparrow  
 Lincoln's Sparrow \*\*  
 Swamp Sparrow @  
 White-throated Sparrow @  
*sparrow species*  
 Dark-eyed Junco @  
 Bobolink  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Eastern Meadowlark  
 Common Grackle  
 Brown-headed Cowbird  
*blackbird species*  
 Baltimore Oriole  
 Purple Finch \*  
 House Finch  
 American Goldfinch  
 House Sparrow  
**Write-ins: \*\* (use back if necessary)**

\* May require write-up or oral amplification  
 \*\* Will require write-up  
 @ Early or late date, be sure of observation.

Howard County Fall Count - (Back) Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Area No. \_\_\_\_\_ Sub-Area \_\_\_\_\_ Area Coord. \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental information:**

Time Start: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time Stop: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hours on Foot: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hours by Car: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hours by Boat: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hours by Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours Feeder Watching: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours Stationary: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours "Owling": \_\_\_\_\_

**List Type (circle):**

Regular      Night-birds  
Feeder      Stationary

Miles on Foot: \_\_\_\_\_  
Miles by Car: \_\_\_\_\_  
Miles by Boat: \_\_\_\_\_  
Miles other: \_\_\_\_\_

Miles "Owling": \_\_\_\_\_

**Weather:**

	Temp.	%Clouds	Wind#	Precip.
Dawn	_____	_____	_____	_____
AM	_____	_____	_____	_____
Noon	_____	_____	_____	_____
PM	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dusk	_____	_____	_____	_____

#Speed and Direction (e.g. NW 10, S5)  
General Remarks on Weather:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Party Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Party Members (alphabetically):**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>

**Night Birds:**

Pied-billed Grebe@ \_\_\_\_\_  
American Bittern \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Sora \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Eastern Screech Owl \_\_\_\_\_  
Great Horned Owl \_\_\_\_\_  
Barr'd Owl \_\_\_\_\_  
Veery \_\_\_\_\_  
Swainson's Thrush \_\_\_\_\_  
Wood Thrush \_\_\_\_\_  
Northern Mockingbird \_\_\_\_\_  
Yellow-breasted Chat \_\_\_\_\_

**Night-bird Write-ins:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Comments and Extra Write-ins \*\* (need to be documented):**

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Sub-Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Sub-Area Description:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

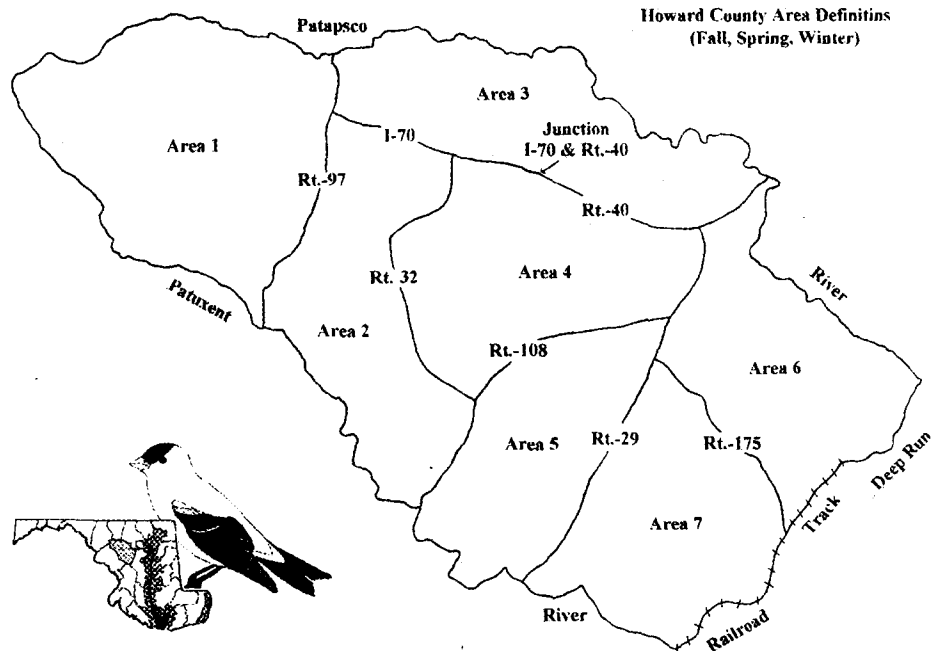


# FIFTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT

BY MIKE McCLURE AND 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 19. **Mike McClure 410-531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat 410-531-2417** are the county co-coordinators. Prior years have tentatively set a range of 130-135 species of birds identified on the count. Will the range be expanded? Spend the day with us and be the first to know! Birders of all skill levels are encouraged 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 areas, as shown in the diagram, which are used for all annual counts. A fall season tally sheet for 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 Spring 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: **Area 1. Mark Wallace 301-725-6370; Area 2. Paul Zucker (H):301-279-7896, or (W):410-792-6000, Ext. 4971; Area 3. Darius and Paula Ecker 410-312-9165; Area 4. Bill and Karan Blum 301-776-8311; Area 5. Doug**



**Odermatt 410-992-1812; Area 6. Mary-Jo Betts 301-596-5859; and Area 7. Eva Sunell 410-995-0029.** You may call an area or county coordinator to volunteer, or check at the September meeting.

**Martha and Don 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 15 to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

(Continued from page 2)

The largest flocks were 3/24 WILLK 80 (HZ), 3/25 Sanner Rd. 120 (WE), and 5/21 LKELK where 188 were in a mulberry tree sampling unripe fruit (DE;MB).

Few field observers spoke enthusiastically about the warbler migration. Although all local breeders were tallied, some migrant species were noted only once or twice. Sometimes all individuals of a species were seen within a few days. Cape May, Orange-crowned, and Mourning were not reported.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** arrived along the Middle Patuxent at Kinder Rd. (MPKIN) 5/3 (JS). The first **Golden-winged Warbler** showed up on MANHN 5/8 (BO), and the last 5/14 LKELK (DE). A single **Tennessee Warbler** 5/9 SLMLP (NM) marked the arrival of this species which was last noted 5/13 LKELK (DE). A **Nashville Warbler** arrived 4/30 MANHN (BO); the species was last seen 5/13 MPKIN (JS) & LKELK (DE). Two **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were seen on a field trip 5/6 GWACP (JS+); the last was present at SLMLP 5/14 (JS). **Magnolia Warblers** were noted for a month, but numbers were low. Arrival was 4/26 SLMLP (DE,BO+), departure 5/26 Hammond Village (HAMVL) (JS), with a countywide high of

11 on MAYCT. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were one of the widely reported species. Four arrived 5/2 LKELK (DE) and the latest was seen on 5/24 WILLK (DOD). MAYCT observers 5/9 tallied 131. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** lingered until 5/21 LKELK (DE). No single observer report of more than 30 was received. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at HENPV 4/22 (NM) and the latest were at Hunt Ridge (CS) and SNDCH (J&TDC) on 5/23. **Blackburnian Warblers** did not appear until 5/11 LKELK (2) (DE) and stayed until 5/28 HAMVL (JS) & LKELK (DE). **Palm Warbler** numbers were low with 3 the maximum on 4/19 DANPV (NM) and 4/11 UMDCF (BO+). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were scarce with 3 arriving 5/9 MANHN (HS) and the last departing 5/28 LKELK (DE). Although the first **Blackpoll Warbler** put in an early appearance 4/30 MANHN (BO), the species peaked, as usual, in late May. The last (8) were at LKELK 5/28 (DE). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were present in Patuxent River St. Pk. (PATRP) 4/29 (JSh). **Black-and-white Warblers** were still wandering locally 5/12 at LKELK (DE) & 5/24 at WILLK (DOD) where they do not breed. Although the first **American Redstart** was spotted 4/26

HENPV (NM), they were still migrating in early June as is typical.

**Prothonotary Warblers** made a good showing though no evidence of breeding was seen. The earliest was a male at Font Hill Wetlands Park 4/30 (NP,JS+) and the last 5/28 LKELK (JS) where 1 was also present 5/15 (DE). The first **Worm-eating Warbler** arrived at DANPV (where they nest) on 4/19 (NM). An **Ovenbird** appeared at HALMK 4/18 (Web). Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were in PATRP 3/28 (JSh). A **Northern Waterthrush** put in an appearance on 5/2 LKELK (DE); the last one was noted on 5/21 MPKIN (JS). A **Kentucky Warbler** appeared 4/30 MANHN (BO) and a **Hooded Warbler** 4/19 DANPV (NM). **Wilson's Warblers** were scarce with 1 on 5/8 WILLK (HZ), none on MAYCT, & the last 5/17 SLMLP (DOI). **Canada Warblers** were detected during a few days in late May, from 2 on 5/21 MPKIN (JS) to singles 5/24 at WILLK (DOD) & in the Middle Patuxent Env. Area (TF+).

**Scarlet Tanagers** were first noted at TIMBR 5/1 (DN) and were widely reported. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** arrived 4/24 TALDG (J&RG) and stayed until

(Continued on page 12)

# SUMMARY OF 1998 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

BY PAUL A. ZUCKER

The 1998 Howard County May Count was held on May 9, 1998 from 5:30 am to 8:45 pm. There was a great turnout with 69 observers (tied with 1994 for the record). They split into 35 parties and tallied almost 17000 individual birds (the lowest total since 1993). The total species count was relatively low at 136, which is the fourth lowest total in the last 15 counts. Although the total party hours (185 by foot and 21 by car) were down slightly from the last few years, they were still higher than in eight of the past fifteen counts. Thus in spite of a large number of observers and a moderate number of party hours, there was still a low species count.

The most notable sightings were (with number of times seen in the last fifteen counts including this year): American Wigeon (5), Ruddy Duck (4), Wild Turkey (3), Herring Gull (4), and Caspian Tern (4). Only eight species had high counts compared to the last 15 years: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose (no surprise

here), Semipalmated Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Rough-winged Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Prairie Warbler. Last year, in contrast, had thirteen high counts including eight species of warbler.

This year was the first time in the 25 years I have records that the Ring-necked Pheasant was not found, and the second time that the Bobwhite was not seen. A large number of other species usually seen were lacking this year: Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Least Flycatcher, Cape May Warbler, Black-burnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Canada Warbler. Unusually low in numbers were the Eastern Meadowlark and the Common Grackle. The preceding cool weather along with the reduced numbers (or absence) of late arriving species contributed to the impression that the migration was "behind schedule."

Special thanks go to the Randles for hosting yet another great tally rally and to Chuck

Stirrat for helping with the numerical tabulations and for producing special checklists for use in the field and for the tallies. The efforts of the participants and area coordinators are also appreciated: Maud Banks, Mary Jo Betts, Karan and Bill Blum, Carl Brudin III, Joe Byrnes, Marty Chestern, Lisa Colangelo, Jane and Dennis Coskren, Ward Ebert, Paula and Darius Ecker, Zack Essner, Carol Garza, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Edwin Gould, Maureen and Dave Harvey, Kevin Heffeman, Jane Heim, John Hoffman, David Holyoke, Diane Johns, Mike Kerwin (area 1), Julie and Dave Kubitsky, Robyn Landry, Mike Leumas, Dennis Luck, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina and Mike McClure (area 4), Elaine and Jeff Metter, Barry Miller, Erich Neupert, Carol and Paul Newman, Doug Odermatt (area 5), Richard Orr, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott (area 6), Jeremy Pearse, Anita Picco, Susan and Ron Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, Ann Marie Raterman, Kurt Schwarz, Susan Setterberg, Craig Sholley, Skip Skipton, Romayne Smith, Jo and Bob Solem (area 7), Hank Stanton, Pat Stewart, Chuck Stirrat (area 3), Tom Strikwerda, Eva Sunell, David Thompson, Robin Todd, Mark Wallace, Helen Zeichner, and Sherry and Paul Zucker (area 2 and county compiler).

## HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 9, 1998

SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL
COMMON LOON	13	BARRED OWL	3	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	197	HOODED WARBLER	9
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	16	COMMON Nighthawk	3	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	145	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	11
GREAT BLUE HERON	63	CHIMNEY SWIFT	655	VEERY	21	SCARLET Tanager	95
GREEN HERON	18	RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	13	SWAINSON'S THRUSH	3	EASTERN TOWHEE	162
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON	2	BELTED KINGFISHER	27	HERMIT THRUSH	3	CHIPPING SPARROW	80
BLACK VULTURE	53	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	175	WOOD THRUSH	342	FIELD SPARROW	95
TURKEY VULTURE	189	DOWNY WOODPECKER	65	AMERICAN ROBIN	585	SAVANNAH SPARROW	10
CANADA GOOSE	544	HAIRY WOODPECKER	25	GRAY CATBIRD	610	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	54
MUTE SWAN	1	NORTHERN FLICKER	68	NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	160	SONG SPARROW	215
WOOD DUCK	44	PILEATED WOODPECKER	23	BROWN THRASHER	22	SWAMP SPARROW	21
AMERICAN WIGEON	1	EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	10	EUROPEAN STARLING	1142	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	150
MALLARD	144	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	30	CEDAR WAXWING	253	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	11
BUFFLEHEAD	1	EASTERN PHOEBE	61	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	12	NORTHERN CARDINAL	652
RUDDY DUCK	2	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	26	TENNESSEE WARBLER	1	ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	23
OSPREY	9	EASTERN KINGBIRD	127	NASHVILLE WARBLER	2	BLUE GROSBEAK	5
BALD EAGLE	2	WHITE-EYED VIREO	80	NORTHERN PARULA	145	INDIGO BUNTING	92
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	3	BLUE-HEADED VIREO	5	YELLOW WARBLER	143	BOBOLINK	358
COOPER'S HAWK	1	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	16	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	6	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	785
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	30	WARBLING VIREO	1	MAGNOLIA WARBLER	11	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	9
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	2	RED-EYED VIREO	264	BLK.-THRTD. BLUE WARBLER	131	COMMON GRACKLE	497
RED-TAILED HAWK	21	BLUE JAY	330	YEL.-RUMPED (MYRTLE) WARBLER	252	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	225
AMERICAN KESTREL	11	AMERICAN CROW	495	BLK.-THRTD. GREEN WARBLER	21	ORCHARD ORIOLE	54
WILD TURKEY	2	FISH CROW	22	YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER	1	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	104
KILLDEER	35	GROW SPECIES	451	PINE WARBLER	3	HOUSE FINCH	218
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	2	PURPLE MARTIN	21	PRAIRIE WARBLER	61	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	457
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	5	TREE SWALLOW	247	BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	3	HOUSE SPARROW	255
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	47	N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	91	BLACKPOLL WARBLER	37		
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	33	BANK SWALLOW	1	CERULEAN WARBLER	8	TOTAL	16,814
SEMPIPALMATED SANDPIPER	8	BARN SWALLOW	520	BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	91	START	5:30AM
COMMON SNIPE	2	CLIFF SWALLOW	82	AMERICAN REDSTART	101	STOP	8:45PM
RING-BILLED GULL	10	CAROLINA CHICKADEE	307	PROTHONOTARY WARBLER	1	FOOT HOURS	184.8
HERRING GULL	1	TUFTED TITMOUSE	337	WORM-EATING WARBLER	27	CAR HOURS	20.7
CASPIAN TERN	1	RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	4	OVENBIRD	194	FOOT MILES	135.2
ROCK DOVE	327	WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	66	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	12	CAR MILES	236.8
MOURNING DOVE	331	CAROLINA WREN	223	LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	19	FEEDER HOURS	1.5
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	2	HOUSE WREN	115	KENTUCKY WARBLER	44	PARTICIPANTS	70
EASTERN SCREECH OWL	2	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	32	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	359	PARTIES (REG,OWL,FEED)	35

## 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 10, Thursday "Desert and Tropical Birds of Queensland Australia," by Dr. David Messersmith. NOTE: For this first fall meeting, wear a T-shirt or a sweatshirt showing where you've birded or a favorite conservation cause.
- October 8, Thursday "Impact and Management of the Introduced Mute Swan in Maryland," by Larry Hindman of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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 6, Sunday **Butterfly Search at Centennial Park** - Meet at 9:30 am at the west end parking lot. **Leader: Richard Smith.** Will cancel if overcast. Call leader at 410-997-7439 for more information.
- September 15, Tuesday **Habitat Walk at Daniels** - Meet at 9:00 am at the large parking lot on Daniels Rd. **Leaders: Bob and Jo Solem.** We'll be looking for all that is flora, fauna and feathered. Call leaders at 301-725-5037 for more information.
- September 19, Saturday **Fifth Annual Fall Count** - See details on the page 9 of this newsletter.
- September 20, Sunday **Birding and Hawkwatching** - Meet at 8:00 am at Font Hill Park. **Leader: Mike Kerwin.** What could be a more perfect combination. We'll have a 1 hour bird walk then sit and watch for hawk flyovers. Bring a chair, snack and beverages. Call Bonnie for more information.
- September 26, Saturday **All Day Trip to Cape May** - See details on the front page of this newsletter.
- October 3, Saturday **Route 100 Environs** - Meet at 8:00 am at the Route 100 park and ride. **Leader: Kurt Schwarz.** Heavy walking through fields in search of sparrows and other field/marshy species. Be prepared for ticks. Call Bonnie for more information.
- October 4, Sunday **Hugg-Thomas** - Meet at 8:00 am in the Hugg-Thomas parking lot. **Leader: Dave Harvey.** Fall migrants and sparrows probable. Paths may be muddy. Call leader at 410-795-3117 for more information.
- October 13, Tuesday **Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake** - Meet at 9:00 am at the boat dock. **Leader: Helen Zeichner.** Look for waterfowl and woodland birds. Call leader at 410-730-3695 for more information.
- October 17, Saturday **Schooley Mill Park** - Meet at 8:00 am at the upper parking lot. **Leader: Jane Coskren.** Look for woodland birds and flyovers. Paths may be muddy. Call Bonnie for more information.
- October 18, Sunday **Geology of Howard County** - Meet at 1:00 pm at the Route 108 park and ride. **Leader: Dennis Coskren.** Join Dennis for his second annual tour of Howard County geological hotspots. Guaranteed to be informative, fascinating, and fun. Call Bonnie for more information.
- October 24, Saturday **Mt. Pleasant** - Meet at 8:00 am at Mt. Pleasant. **Leader: Darius Ecker.** We'll search the fields for sparrows and the skies for flyovers. Possibly muddy walking. Call leader at 410-312-9165 for more information.
- October 31, Saturday **Annual Seed Sale** - Details will be mailed to you separately.
- November 1, 8, 15, 22 Sunday **Sundays at Centennial Park Walks** - Meet at 8:00 am at the west end parking lot. **Leaders: TBA.** Walk the paved path around the lake. Call Bonnie for more information.
- November 28, Saturday **Snow Bunting Search at Sandy Point State Park** - Meet at 7:30 am at the Route 32 and Broken Land Parkway park and ride (car parking). **Leader: Darius Ecker.** Will this make three successful years? Join us to find out. Call leader at 410-312-9165 for more information.

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 24, Thursday To be announced.

October 22, Thursday To be announced.

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1998 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL IS DUE SEPTEMBER 25, 1998.** 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 e-mail to Paulae2156@aol.com. Also, please visit the club's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.abs.net~darius/birding.html>.

# HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society  
6007 FLYWHEEL COURT  
COLUMBIA, MD 21044

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VICE PRESIDENT'S WELCOME  
SPRING BIRD RECORDS  
A GREAT GRAY DAY  
1998-1999 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
FALL COUNT ANNOUNCEMENT AND CHECKLIST  
MAY COUNT SUMMARY  
PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

## CONSERVATION COLUMN BY BOB SOLEM

Have you ever wondered what kind of pollutants are discharged into the air and water in our area? There is now a web site provided by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) that can answer your questions. (The URL is <http://www.scorecard.org>). This Internet service provided by EDF allows one to enter a zip code and see a map highlighting local sources of pollution, the name and address of the source, a report with details of the kinds and quantities of pollutants, and information on the health effects of the various polluting chemicals. The web site has up-to-date rankings based on pollution loads and health hazards for 17,000 manufacturing facilities across the country. It identifies the individual chemicals involved, highlights the top-ranked hazards, and shows multi-year emission trends.

By bringing up local street maps on the computer screen, the user can see the location of every facility reporting chemical emissions to air or water. A click on that spot on the map produces a report on the facility, including its rankings compared with all others in the same state and throughout the country. They can get information on how to prevent pollution, find

names of groups already active in their area that they can contact or join, and (since this is the modern mass communication age) send a letter by fax (for free, without every leaving the computer screen!!) to the company involved. You can also send e-mail directly to the head of EPA. If lobbyists can do it for pay, why can't the ordinary citizen use similar facilities like this to notify appropriate authorities about their concerns?

(Continued from page 9)

5/20 TIMBR (DN). As sometimes happens during extended rainy periods, this species began showing up at feeders—a treat for watchers tired of House Finches, Northern Cardinals, and Mourning Doves. Indigo Buntings were also reported at feeders.

This was not a notable spring for unusual sparrow species or high counts of the more common types. A Chipping Sparrow finally appeared 3/26 TALDG (J&RG). MAYCT turned up 10 Savannah Sparrows and 54 Grasshopper Sparrows. The 26 Grasshopper Sparrows at GATWY (ES,MB) were at an expected location; the 23 at Rt. 1 & Gorman Rd. were a pleasant surprise (RO). Fox Sparrows were seen between 3/2 SLMLP (MC,HZ) and 3/26

TALDG (J&RG) with the peak day 3/14 MDBRK 4-6 (KS), CENPK 2 (KS), and SNDCH 1 (J&TDC). Despite searches by several individuals, the only Lincoln's Sparrow was found on 4/25 SLMLP (NM).

A total of 358 Bobolinks were tallied 5/9 MAYCT with a flock of 70 at Mt. Pleasant (CS,JB) and 50 CISSL (MW). Rusty Blackbirds were elusive. Fourteen were reported 3/11 VANPT (HZ,MC) and 6 on 3/31 LKELK (DE). Two Orchard Orioles appeared on 4/25 SLMLP (NM) and 1 Baltimore Oriole 5/2 LKELK (DE).

Purple Finches wandered through the area making brief visits to feeders from 3/9 HAMVL 1(JS) to 5/10 WILLK 1 (HZ), with a maximum of 2 birds 5/3 SNDCH (J&TDC). The only other irruptive reported was a single Pine Siskin 3/27 at a West Friendship thistle feeder (R&MC).

Observers: MB - Maud Banks, JB - Joe Byrnes, MC - Martha Chestern, JC - Jane Coskren, TDC - T.Dennis Coskren, R&MC - Ralph & Marge Cullison, WE - Wes Earp, WEB - Ward Ebert, DE - Darius Ecker, PE - Paula Ecker, TF - Tom Franklin, J&RG - Jane & Ralph Geuder, DH - Dave Harvey, DJ - Diane Johns, NM - Nancy Magnusson, JM - Jeff Metter, DN - Diane Nagengast, C&PN - Carol & Paul Newman, DOD - Doug Odermatt, DOI - Daryl Olson, RO - Richard Orr, BO - Bonnie Ott, BP - Bart Pitts, NP - Norma Petersen, KS - Kurt Schwarz, JSH - Jay Sheppard, JS - Jo Solem, RS - Robert Solem, CS - Chuck Starrat, HS - Hank Stanton, ES - Eva Sunell, MW - Mark Wallace, HZ - Helen Zeichner, MAYCT - May Count.

