Since 1948, the Maryland Ornithological Society has conducted an annual May Count. Everyone is urged to join in, no matter your skill level. Identification is only part of being successful; you have to spot the bird first, so every pair of eyes helps. And, it is great fun. The compiler for Howard County is Paul Zucker. Call him at 301-279-7898 (home) or 410-778-4571 (office) or at paulzucker@aps.ucla.edu to participate in the count. Pair up with anyone who’s interested, even if you’d like, based on your skill level, and assign you an area to cover. Special requests are honored whenever possible. Or, if you prefer, you may contact one of the following area coordinators (listed by area, see map in the January Goldfinch): (1) Michael Kearns 410-608-0268, (2) Paul Zucker 410-778-4571, (3) Chuck Sliter 410-531-2417, (4) Mike McClure 410-531-7280, (5) Doug O'Donnell 410-465-6553, (6) Donnie Ott 410-461-3381, or (7) Jo Soble 301-725-2537.

How It Works: The county has been divided into seven areas (as for the Winter Count), each with an area coordinator. The area coordinators will assemble the parties and combine their results for the count. All parties, however, must make sure their day lists are delivered to the tally rally. Leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and time, names and addresses of the participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. Observers within talking or shouting distance of each other are considered one observer. Observers spend an hour together on foot, that constitutes a party. However, if one member is separated from the other for 1/2 hour, then the total is 1 1/2 party hours. All birds (including, ugh, Starlings, and House Sparrows) must be counted. Large flocks can be estimated. If you see something exciting outside your assigned area, make a note of the time, direction of flight, and location. The sighting can be reported to the area coordinator for that sector at the tally, and the bird may be added to the count if we are assured double counting did not take place. Keep a separate count of the hours spent owl-watching and feeding. This year the state coordinator has requested that interested parties consider asking questionnaires about the habits in their individual count areas. This form is in the March/April Yellowthroat.

Unusual Sightings: Any species not previously recorded in the county or listed on the enclosed checklist needs to be documented. Acceptable documentation includes the name of the person making the identification, names of all others who saw the bird, and where and when it was seen, lighting conditions, optics used, behavior of the bird, time period observed, field marks, etc. Sometimes sketches help. Some examples of what is considered unusual are: Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, Yandra Swan, Snow Goose, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Black-winged Stilt, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Greater or Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Red-necked Duck, Laughing Gull, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Virginia Rail, Sara, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Red-footed Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, American Tree Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple Blackbird or Purple Finch.

The Tally Dinner: Everyone who participates in the count is welcome to attend the tally pot luck. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements with your area leader or the compiler to turn in or phone in results during the count day or early that evening. Call Jan Randles at 410-531-6286 to let her know the number of people coming from your party and your choice of food to share. Non-cooks and all day parties can ask Jan for alternative suggestions. Dinner usually begins between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. The tally will begin at 8 pm. The Randles live in Brandywine which is on the west side of Cedar Lane in the section north of MD 32 and south of the stoplights at Owen Brown and Frosttown Roads. The entrance road to the area is Brandywine Road, turn right on Lochridge and continue to first house on left after Hillbrook Drive, 6424 Lochridge Road.

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SMITHSONIAN'S NEIGHBORHOOD NESTWATCH

Have you ever wondered if the robin nesting in your front yard was there last year or if the phoebe nesting under your eave successfully raised young? Well, Dr. Peter P. Marra of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, MD is launching a project that guides you and your family through your own scientific research project that will answer these very important questions. The Smithsonian Neighborhood Nestwatch will provide you with an incredible scientific learning opportunity while at the same time gather important scientific data on the biology of migratory birds in urban/suburban landscapes. Neighborhood Nestwatch enables you, a Smithsonian Observer, the opportunity to monitor the reproductive success and survival of a nesting pair of migratory or resident birds (such as Carolina wrens, robins, catbirds or phoebes) in your neighborhood or even in your own backyard. You (and your family) will select a bird species that is nesting in your neighborhood. A SERC scientist, along with your help, will then catch the pair of birds, measure and band them with a unique color band combination, and then release them. Each observer will receive specialized training that will enable him or her to observe the pair, find their nests and record important scientific data. The following year, you search your neighborhood to determine if your color banded birds survived the long migration from the tropics or the wintering period. This experience will be like taking a course in field ornithology in your own backyard.

Don't miss this opportunity.
For more information on how to sign up Call 301-261-4190 (ext. 344) or e-mail: nestwatch@serc.si.edu.

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E-mail: marra@serc.si.edu
The 21st Annual Howard County List - Much Better, But Not a Terrific Year by Jane H. Coskren

We are on a rebound from the dismal annual lists of 1998 and 1997. The 1999 Howard Year List total of 226 was the best total since 1996. We found the first Howard County Red-throated Loon since 1991. Some other good finds were a Snowy Egret, a Black Scoter, a Common Moorhen, Upland Sandpipers, a Phalarope, a Whooper-owl, an Alder Flycatcher and a White-winged Crossbill. Two of the classiest birds—a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and a Dickcissel—were Cooperated by staying in accessible locations, so many birders got to see them.

However, the dry summer meant no wet edges; so we had no unusual shorebirds. No landfill meant no unusual gulls.

Let's hope for a really productive 2000. Find some birds and report them! Have fun! Share your finds by activating the Howard County Rare Bird Alert: call Bob Solem at 301-725-5037 or Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Thanks to the following members who submitted their complete 1999 lists: Mary-Jo Betts, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Ward Ebert, Nancy Magnusson, Diane Nagengast, Doug Obermann, Bonnie Ott, Kurt Schwarz, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, and Paul Zucker. Jo Solem's reports for the surveys captured many sightings not reported on individual lists, as did Jo Solem's, Paul Zucker's, Chuck Stirrat's, and Mike McClure's compulsations from special counts. Dennis Coskren helped compile the annual list.

Individuals who submitted their 1999 annual lists will receive the 21-year compilation. Others may obtain it by sending a stamped, self-addressed, long envelope to Jane Coskren, 6324 Sandichain Road, Columbia, MD 21045.


4th of July Butterfly Count by Roni Deeser

The 26th annual North American Butterfly Association will hold their 4th of July Butterfly Count this summer. These counts are conducted to track the butterfly populations of North America. Volunteer groups around North America select a count area with a 15-mile diameter and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies on that circle. These counts are conducted in designated butterfly habitats and areas open for public participation. They are usually held in the few weeks before or after the 4th of July. Counts have been held annually since 1975, when only 29 counts were held. In 1999, 346 counts were held in 44 states, 6 Canadian provinces, and 3 Mexican states.

The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) organizes the counts and publishes their annual reports. These reports provide important information about the geographical distributions and population sizes of the species counted. Comparisons of the results over the years monitor changes in butterfly populations and reveal effects of weather and habitat change on the different species.

We are looking for individuals eager to participate in butterfly counts in the Ellicott City/Columbia area. A training session on how to identify and record the butterflies will be offered before the counts are conducted. We hope to designate at least 2 sites, it depends on the number of volunteers. Each group will be led by an individual experienced in butterfly identification. The counts will be scheduled on a Saturday morning. Counts can also be done by individuals in their own backyard.

If you are interested in participating, or know of a nature center or butterfly club in the surrounding area already conducting counts, please let me know. We are in need of individuals to conduct the training session as well. Please check our NABA web site at: www.naba.org. For more information please contact Roni Reeser MG, Howard County 410-463-9472, E-mail: roniereeser@juno.com.

1999 Howard County List

Red-throated Loon
Common Loon
Bald-headed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
GREAT Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Black Vultures
Turkey Vulture
Snow Goose
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Tundra Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Ruddy Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Black Scoter
Oldsquaw
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Osprey
 Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Perigrine Falcon
Ring-billed Gull
White Tern
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
Virginia Rail
Sora
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Semipalmated Plover
Kildeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Upland Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Common Snipe
American Woodcock
Red-necked/Red Phalarope
Laughing Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Caspian Tern
Ferruginous Tern
Black Tern
Rocks
Montauk Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Eastern Kingbird
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Common Nighthawk
Whip-poor-will
Chinney 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 Kingbird
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Vermilion Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-tailed Hawk
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Climbing Chaffinch
House Wren
Winter Wren
Savannah Sparrow
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermil Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Blue-winged Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Cedar Waxwing
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prarie Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
 Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chats
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
American Pipit
Savannah Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Virginia Rail
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Nashville Warbler
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Rose-colored Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Cassin's Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Purple Finch
House Finch
White-winged Crossbill
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
House Sparrow
**WINTER BIRD RECORDS: DECEMBER 1, 1999 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2000**

By Joanne Solem

Moderate December weather continued into the new year; however, the last two weeks of January brought a dramatic change. An extended period of below-freezing temperatures froze most water sources. Heavy snowfall followed by a week of cold temperatures had a noticeable effect on the local bird population. For a detailed explanation of the effect of weather on the Howard County Midwinter Count (HCMC, February 5), see the article elsewhere in this newsletter. As always, the season brought pleasant surprises. A Dickcissel, spotted in early December, was detected until mid-January; a Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a yard for a few minutes in mid-December; a White-winged Crossbill made a camouflaged appearance at a feeder in early January; a Baltimore Oriole spent much of the winter eating fruit at a feeder; and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak established the county’s first winter record. This was not a major flight year for northern irruptives, but there were a few present.

No loons or Horned Grebes were reported. Five Pied-billed Grebes at Lake Elkhorn (LKEKL) 12/22 (J&TD) marked the season’s high.

Great Blue Herons returned to Vantage Point a few days later than last year, but by 2/29, 10 birds were standing on 7 nests (MC). Although some herons stayed in the county throughout the winter, the extensive ice forced the remaining birds to take advantage of all available food sources. One heron appeared regularly from 1/17 through 1/27 at a small heated ornamental fish pond in Timberleigh (TIMB). The owners estimated the bird’s consumption during that period to one to two dozen large fish (DN). Two other reports of vulturine activity were reported for 12/9 (77) and 12/18 (68) at Hallmark (WEB) and 12/12 (72) at Wilde Lake (WILK)(CN).

There were just two reports of Snow Geese: 11/27 at Meadowbrook (DBRKR) 1 w (BO) and 2/5 Traedehal Reservoir (TRRR) 1 b (NM). The first report of moulting Canada Geese were of flocks on 2/21 and 2/23 over Allview (ES). Midwinter Count turned up 7888 Canada Geese counted mostly in the early morning on holes in the ice on major lakes and reservoirs, but the large flocks dispersed. Small numbers of Trumpeter Swan were noted in all winter months from the 6 on 12/22 over Manahan Dr (MANHN) (BO) to those beginning to move north in late February: 2/27 River Rd, Patapsco Valley State Park (PV) 2 (RG&J). and the flock of 2/29 over Cissell’s (CISL). Lake Lebsch (LEBL). Although only one male Wood Duck was seen at Brighton Dam (BRDM) on 1/19 (HZ, EH), other sightings were the last week in February reflecting spring movement with a high of 9 on 2/26 at the Walt-Ann pond (M&GM). A Gadwall (mallard) was noted at Centennial Park (CENPK) on 12/31 (KS). There were from three other locations with a high of 11 on 2/5 at Rts 144/97 (P0Es). American Wigeon hit a high of 30 on 1/6 at Brendel’s on Union Chapel Rd (MW). A seasonal high of 180 American Black Ducks was noted on TRRS on 1/8 (J&TD). Mallards built to peak numbers in February with 219 counted at TRRS 2/5 (NM) and 250 at the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDFC) 2/19 (M&GM). HCMC turned up a Blue-winged Teal (m) on the quarry (D&DfE), a nice bird for the Piedmont in winter. Northern Pintails wandered to a few miles west of the county on 12/11 (M&WM). Four Redheads on 1/8 (HZ, EH) and a pair on 2/19 at LKEKL (SN). Five counted were at TRRS 2/5 (NM). A dozen Green-winged Teal (m) were at BRDM 1/23 resting on the edge of the ice (JS, HZ, EH).

A number of geese were present at the central lakes with a high of 9 at 2/20 at CENPK (5 KS). One at Wheatfield Pond on 12/16 was nice (KT) and 2 fat at UMDFC (IMa). There were scattered reports of Redheads with a high of 9 (4 f) on 1/9 at BRDM (HZ, EH). Ring-necked Duck numbers began growing in early February with 51 on 2/5 at Rts 144/97 (P0Es) and a high of 55 at CENPK on 2/21 (KS).

**Lesser Scaup** reached a modest high of 10 on 2/20 CENPK (9 KS, KD, JF). Oldsquaws are always a special species. The only one this season was at TRRS 12/18 (DN). Common Goldeneyes were present in HOWCO for 10 days during the winter from one on 12/31 at CENPK (1 f) and 1/c (KS). Hooded Merganser numbers were low with a high of 10 on 2/5 at Rocky gorge Dam (RkGD) (JCS). For at least part of the winter, Common Loons lived up to their name at TRRS. The high of 381 was counted on 12/31 (NM). There were still 296 on 1/12 (JS), but freeze-up moved almost all of them out. HCMC recorded just 21 (JCS/NM). The only Red-breasted Merganser reported this season was a female on 2/25 RkGD (JCS). Ruddy Ducks reached a peak seasonal high of 60 on 12/13 at LKEKL (J&TD).

In addition to the nesting pair of Bald Eagles on TRRS, other eagle sightings were as follows: some may have been the wandering Truls birds: 12/31, one ad over Savage (DE), also 12/31 one ad over Daniels, PV (DDAA), 1/2, one flying from WILLK to Lake Kittamaguinni (G&CO); and 1/3, one at BRNR (JMa). As usual, there were a few reports of Northern Harriers (M&GM/BO; H&CS). Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper’s Hawks were reported, most near lakes or in the vicinity of feeders. A Red-shouldered Hawk was depositing nesting material in a tree crotch on 2/27 in Dunlopolg (KS, KD). A Rough-legged Hawk again wintered at or near the Area Ridge landfill. It was seen 2/5 (RC) and again 2/6 (RC+). Three Merlin sightings could be attributed to one bird: 12/4 and 1/28 MANHN (BO) and 1/23 Rts 108 (Columbia) (JMa). A Peregrine Falcon was spotted 12/5 at Rts 103/Montgomery Rd (E&J); a second sighting was at LKEKL 2/15 (J&TD).

Fourteen American Coots at CENPK 1/30 marked the winter’s high (KS). Killdeer were widespread until mid-January. HCMC turned up just 2 (IJC). The only winter Common Snipe was spotted on a two area at Zemp’s on Rosbury Rd 12/18 (MW). American Woodcock were noted in two locations on 2/25: 2 at David Force Wildlife Management Area (KD) and 1 at Patuxent River State Park (JSH).

Two Bonaparte’s Gulls appeared briefly at LKEKL 12/18 (J&TD). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were identified at BRDM 1/1 (BO+), and one was still at that location 1/8 (J&TD).

Great Horned Owls were reported in all winter months (WEB, DN, KS). One Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in a pine stand on 1/9, and the Patuxent River on 12/15 (JSH, JS); 2 were there 12/18 (JS).

Yellow-billed Sapsuckers were present in good numbers with 4 on 12/18 at Schoele Mill Park (NM) and 20 on HCMC. One Eastern Phoebes on 2/5 in southern HOWCO was the only one reported for the season (IJS). A flock of 150+ Horned Larks was spotted 1/29 in a field at Old Frederick Rd/Underwood Rd (NM). A few Red-breasted Nuthatches stayed the winter. One in Kings Contrivance arrived in mid-January and was still present at a feeder the end of February (DEL). Seven were feuded on the HCMC. Carolina Wrens were usually heavily impacted by severe winter weather. This was certainly the case this year as the Triadelphia Christmas Count (12/18) tallied 522 for a record high, while the HCMC had 128, their third lowest total. Two Carolina Wrens weathered the cold and snow by spending nights in a garage in TIMB. In the morning when the birds began chirping, the garage was opened so they could leave (DN).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were low. There were three reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a hard bird to find in the county in winter (MC). Eastern Bluebirds numbered held up with 317 recorded on HCMC. An ample supply of fruit was a major factor in their presence. Thirty Hermit Thrushes on HCMC set a new high. There were 3 at CENPK on 1/12 (J&TD). Large flocks of American Robins appeared in early February with at least 100 and Howard Community College stripping Hawthorn or crabapple trees 2/6 (JW). Two Gray Catbirds were present at CENPK on 1/9 (KS). At least 1 of them was seen 1/8, 1/23, and 2/15 (J&TD). HCMC turned up 3 Brown Thrashers, all in the southeastern part of the county. (Continued on page 4)
The Goldfinch

Feeder in Dunlop/HF from 1/9 to at least 2/29 (C&DHB).

Almost every year we can count on a few winter finch sightings. This winter was no exception. They were seen in each of the winter months, some (but not all) at feeders. HCMC registered a modest 15. White-winged Crossbills are extremely few in HOWCO. One female was glimpsed at a feeder on Pine Ridge Dr on 1/9 (KD). Although the bird did not stay long a pinionograph was obtained. Few people would appreciate the quality of the photo, but it may be valuable for identification purposes. When verifying the sighting of a rare or infrequently observed bird, do not be concerned about the beauty of the composition or the quality of the lens. Something is better than nothing.


The Goldfinch

County (JC,ES,JM).

The largest American Pipit flock of the season was 82 on 1/9 on Hardy Rd (PO's). Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings were most often reported in February with 100+ on 2/27 WILK (KS). Yellow-rumped Warblers were found in all three months in small numbers. The largest countywide total on 2/5 was 22.

Eastern Towhees wintered in small numbers. The high for American Tree Sparrows was 18 on 1/23 MDRB (BO). The seasonal high count of Savannah Sparrows was 150+ at UMDCF 12/29 (NM). Enough of them stayed to reach a new high countywide total of 161 on 2/3. Two or three Fox Sparrows frequented a yard on Mt. Albert from at least 1/18 to 2/27 with birds of several different brown color variations present in differing combinations (M&GM). Five were spotted at MDRB 1/9 (PO's). Fox Sparrows are early migrants but are not uncommon expected in flocks of more than half a dozen. The 20 on 2/29 PATEP-HC was one observer all-time county high (JSH). A year ago a partial altitudinal White-throated Sparrow which appeared at WILK was reported occasionally as a Snow Bunting because of its white underparts. This was the first bird spotted at WILK again on 2/26 and 2/28 (HZ) it appears to have wintered in the same general area two successive years. Usually this kind of information can only be obtained by banding. White-crowned Sparrows wintered in good numbers, though in limited areas. Apparently Clark’s on Rosbury Rd has excellent habitat with 89 counted on 12/28 and 129 on 2/5 (MW).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak (m) that had been present at a West Friendship feeder since early November was last seen 1/16 (JMc). This was HOWCO’s first winter record for the species.

A Dickcissel was present at LKELK for more than a month from 12/9 (SA) through 1/19 (JMc). Generally, it was not an easy bird to see, spending much of its time skulking in dense cover on the north side of the lake near the dam or in shrubbery surrounding the pool below. It associated, as is typical, with a flock of several dozen House Sparrows. Originally thought to be a female, examination in good light enabled observers to detect some male traits. The upper breast which would make it a male. Because flocks of House Sparrows are frequently ignored by birders, it is possible that Dickcissels are not quite as unusual as infrequent records indicate. With the sighting of a Dickcissel in December as well as one on 3/6, 1999, became the first year since 1972 in which this species was recorded more than once in a year.

On 12/12 an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird along with two Red-winged Blackbirds visited a feeder north of Gorman Rd, but stayed less than 10 minutes (C&DH). A search of the area was made, but no other sightings of the day by birders, but the blackbird was not seen again. Three out of the four Rusty Blackbird reports were in February: 1/24 UMDCF 2 (JMc), 2/3 WILK 5 (CN), 2/12 Glenelg 6 (RSM), and PATRIP-HC 10 (JSH). Usually a Baltimore Oriole overwinters, it is not an uncommon species. This season an adult male ate fruit and posed for photographs at a

Club’s Mounted Bird Specimens Transferred to Department of Recreation and Parks

BY JOANNE SOLEM

In mid-February, Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) President Michael Kerwin signed a memo of understanding (MOU) with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks (HCDR&P) transferring the club’s mounted bird collection to the department. This significant step was precipitated by a federal change of policy. In mid-1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) advised the bird club that it was no longer eligible to possess mounted birds. It would have to make arrangements to transfer them to an agency/organization where the public would have access to the collection, with at least a portion of the collection on display.

When the collection was begun in the mid-1970s, the aim was to give the birds eventually to a Howard County nature center. When the USF&WS put its new policy into effect, HCDR&P proved receptive to receiving the collection and displaying a portion of it if the HCBC provided display cases. Fortunately, the county is working on plans to develop a nature center in the near future. Some HCBC members will continue to be able to borrow specimens for educational presentations. This includes members who have presented programs in the past who have been included on the list the USF&WS rejected.

The HCBC board approved the MOU, including the fact that the arrangement could be canceled by either party with 30 days notice. Those members who underwrote the costs of mounting individual birds in the last two decades are to be reimbursed for their significant contribution to the collection. The MOU provides that any improvements made in the HCBC wants mounted will be paid for by the club (or a donor). Since mounting is expensive and storage space is always a consideration, neither party will mount duplicates of species already in the collection which are still in good condition.

We thank HCDR&P for their sensitivity and enthusiasm in handling this cooperative venture. Especially appreciated were the efforts of Mark Raab and Brenda Bolenky who helped us find a workable solution on a tight schedule. Damon Butler is constructing rodent-proof shelving on which to store the boxes containing birds not on display. A number of bird club members deserve special thanks. Bob Soren made 10 new storage boxes for specimens that had had none and repaired and/or improved most of the existing boxes. Don Waugh examined the legal wording of the MOU. David Holmes verified the species of the two chickadee specimens using banding requirements. Larry Eberly and Jo Solem coordinated the project. We thank individuals who have stored specimens in the past (Michele Wright, Connie Bockstie, Mark Wallace and the Sorensen). We look forward to being able to see some of the fine specimens on display.
More than 40 exhausted birders gathered at the Waugh’s the evening of February 5, 2000 to tally the results of the Fifteenth Howard County Midwinter Count. Not since 1987 (the second year of the count) had counters faced a combination of crusted deep snow, brisk northwest winds, ice-covered lakes and rivers, and difficulty parking along roads. If there were an Order of Intrepid Birders, all 77 of the day’s field birders would have qualified. Because it was impossible to cover most areas in the usual fashion, special attention was paid to roadside habitats, more time was spent in fewer locations, and everyone operated in slow motion husbanding energy. Fortunately, the challenging conditions were not as detrimental to the final total as was feared. The weary birders were exhilarated to learn they had located 90 species. This tied the third highest total (1996) and was just four behind the all-time high of 94 (1994 and 1997). A superb effort!

The crusted snow averaged 6 to 12 inches, but in open areas drifts of several feet were common. Generally, in most locations the crust was not quite firm enough to hold a person for more than a second or two, but it was thick enough so that each step required an effort. Sue Probst (area 6) and Mark Wallace (area 1) used snowshoes to get around—an excellent idea! Especially in western Howard County, where much birding is always done from the roads, it was difficult or impossible to park or to pull off because of piles of plowed snow. Most ponds were completely frozen, and rivers were largely ice-covered except in rapids areas. There were a few openings on the two reservoirs, the quarry south of Brighton Dam Road was open, and there were holes of varying sizes on the county’s three large central lakes. The 21 species of waterfowl found in the limited open water was an excellent number—a major factor in boosting the total. The frozen lakes and ponds proved to be an advantage in counting Canada Geese. The majority of goose numbers used were those tallied on the two reservoirs and on Centennial Lake by birders counting in the early morning before the huge nighttime flocks dispersed to feed. The best duck was a Blue-winged Teal, a species which is seldom present in the Piedmont in winter. It had been tallied on only one previous midwinter count. Although there were no major flights of northern irruptives this past winter, a few Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches were welcome additions to the list, as was the Rough-legged Hawk wintering at the landfill.

Putting too much stock in all-time lows this year could be misleading. Pleasantly surprising, however, was the fact that this count set or tied (t) seven new highs: Fied-billed Grebe 7, Gadwall 16 (next highest was 4 in 1997 and 1999), Ruddy Duck 49, Hermit Thrush 30, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 20, Brown Thrasher 3 (t), and Savannah Sparrow 66. For some other species, the total was the second or third highest. Second highs included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Fox Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow; third highest were Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, and Field Sparrow.

Despite last year’s drought, fruit was plentiful which probably explained good numbers of American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, Brown Thrashers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and perhaps others. The sapsucker high of 20 was particularly intriguing because the second highest total (18) occurred in 1987—the other snow count! Redheads appeared for the fifth consecutive year after making their first appearance in 1996. The Horned Lark aggregate of 155 was the fourth highest. Since they are most easily seen against snow, that number is understandable, but where were the American Pipits? If their equally cryptic coloration is easier to spot against snow, why were just three located? The Savannah Sparrow high of 66 was substantially above the second highest 38 in 1998. Are our identification skills improving dramatically? Certainly favorable habitat is not increasing. Perhaps more of these sparrows than usual wintered locally as the Triadelphia Christmas Count (TCC) on December 18, 1999 had 120—a new high. One White-crowned Sparrow was reported at a feeder, but 167 others were found by field birders. This was second only to the 248 tallied in 1999 under much more favorable counting conditions.

A count in which birders are limited in their ability to cover areas is bound to produce new lows. Interestingly, a majority of the 12 species could not be linked to any one habitat: Common Merganser 2, American Kestrel 12 (t), Killdeer 2 (t), Ring-billed Gull 616, Herring Gull 192, Rock Dove 452, Eastern Screech-Owl 1 (t), Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 5 (t), Brown Creeper 6 (t), Golden-crowned Kinglet 10, and European Starling 3577.

Common Mergansers, which had numbered 296 on Triadelphia Reservoir as recently as January 12 (JS), plummeted to a countywide total of two on count day. Apparently, they moved out when the reservoirs froze almost completely. American Kestrels tied the low of 12 set in 1998 continuing their decline of the last four years. Killdeer apparently moved to areas where there was less snow cover. As expected, gulls continued their downward slide since 1997, now that Alpha Ridge landfill handles little trash. Although an all-time low count of Rock Doves and European Starlings could be a cause for rejoicing, it’s too soon to be optimistic. Counting conditions were likely a major factor in the low totals. Depressed owl numbers can’t be judged solely on the basis of limited owling efforts. One individual who did some owlning noted that she did not have success rouseing screechowls in several favorite or historic locations. A week of crusted snow may well have had a negative impact on owl populations judging from an incident Sue Probst and Dave Kubitsky were involved in on count day.

At Belmont, in the eastern part of the county, Sue and Dave found a Barred Owl face down on the snow, weak but still alive. So they immediately took it to rehabitator Judy Holzman (All Creatures Great and Small Wildlife) who began heroic measures to save the emaciated bird. Unfortunately, it died less than 24 hours later. We applaud Sue, Dave, and Judy’s efforts. How many other owls suffered a similar fate but were never found?

Three Swamp Sparrows were the second lowest total ever, just one above the two in 1996 and the four in 1987 (the best year for comparison). Carolina Wrens at 128 were at their third lowest point. In contrast, the TCC had a robust 522—an all-time high. 

Numbers of Great Blue Herons and Belted Kingfishers were certainly influenced by the high percentage of ice-covered water, but the impact was not as dramatic as might have been expected. Totals for both of these species fell in the mid range. There were no blackbird roosts located, and the only large flock (about

(Continued on page 6)
one feeder report was logged for T, 25 for H; miles on foot: T - 161.8, H - 122.9; miles by car: T - 392.7, H - 623.8, T - open water, 32 to 50 F, no snow cover; H - 70 to 100% frozen water, 28 to 36 F, 6 to 12 inches or more of crusty snow cover, several foot drifts in open areas. Waterfowl on the TCC were generally present in larger numbers with a few species that H did not have. Howard had a Rough-legged Hawk which T didn't have, and T had woodcock, snipe, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Long-eared Owl which H didn't have. Most surprising was that raptor numbers were very similar as the numbers in the table indicate. A few additional species comparison are shown.

The success of this count can be attributed to the cooperative efforts of many people. The area coordinators are the backbone of the survey: Mark Wallace, Nancy Magnusson, Maureen and Dave Harvey, Mike McClure, Doug Odermatt, Bonnie Ott, and Maud Banks. Chuck Stirrat efficiently and carefully computerizes the results—a major effort for which we are extremely grateful. Mike McClure deserves special thanks for summarizing raptor totals for the Raptor Society. The tally at the end of the day is always much anticipated. We appreciate immensely the gracious hospitality of Martha and Don Waugh who efficiently and cheerfully arrange a meal for the 40+ people who attend. Mary-Jo Betts, who organizes the count, and Jo Sollem, who compiles the results, thank the dozens of Howard County field birders and feeder watchers for a superior effort. We cannot overlook the fact that this count would not be as complete or as successful were it not for the enthusiastic and generous participation of individuals from Baltimore, Carroll, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties—and, this year, from Virginia. Some of these "friends of the Howard Chapter" have faithfully helped for more than a decade. We thank each and every one! Access to land is vital to a successful count. We gratefully acknowledge permission to survey the following parcels: WSSC land surrounding both reservoirs, Alpha Ridge landfill, Mt. Pleasant, Belmont, and many farms and individual parcels. Would you believe that of the 48 field people who participated in the snowy 1987 count, more than one-third (18) of them were still with us trudging through the snow for the 2000 count? Talk about intrepid! We look forward to next year’s Sixteenth Howard County Midwinter Count on February 3, 2001. Resolve to help in the field or at a feeder. Help to census the county’s wintering birds—share the agony and the ecstasy!

Participants during the 2000 Count were as follows: Ann L. Mark Wallace*,
Anne Bradford (F), Lisa Colangelo, Paul Jung, Mike Kerwin, Diane Nagengast (F), Daryl Olson, Jay Sheppard, Kate Tufts, Dave Weaver, Bill and Sue Wendell, Area 2: Nancy Magnusson*, Ward Ebert, David Henderson, Donald Henderson, Bill Kidwell (F), Peter Osenton, Ron and Susan Pohnlasek, Paul and Sherry Zuckcr, Area 3: Dave and Maureen Harvey, Ralph Cuillinon Ill, Karen Darcy, Darius and Paula Ecker, Lynn Holley, Elliott and Nancy Kirschbaum, Kurt Sechleman, and Robin Tress, Roxann Yeager, Area 4: Mike* and Grazzina McClure, Andy Aguilara, James Blanchard (F), Bill and Karen Blum, Dennis Cronan, Marge Cuillinon (F), Dianne Depuy, Georgia Ecker (F), Patsy Kannan (F), Mike Leumas, Jim McGlinney, Clyde Robinette, Philip Smith, Romayne Smith, Chuck Stirrat, Area 5: Doug* and Joanne Odermatt, John (F) and Martha Blaisdell (F), Ellen (F) and Hal Bryson (F), Marty Chestem, Jeff Fridlifher, Emmalyn Holdridge, Tina Katsapsis, Dennis Luck (F), Rosamond Munro (F), Carol Newman, Sherry Paruzzi (F), Chandler Robbins, Karen Salvini, Jordan Wilkerson, Helen Zeichner, Area 6: Bonnie Ott*, Mary-Jo Betts**, Connie Bockstale (F), Carol Garza, Jane and Ralph Guder, Jane Helm (F), Dave Kubitsky, Brigitte Lund, Elyane and Jeff Metter, Anita Picco, Suzanne Probst, Dave Wilusz, Area 7: Maud Banks*, Bob Betts, George Chase (F), Jane Costen, John Mauroan, John McKitterick, Sue Neri (F), Richard L. Orr, Bob (F) and Jo Sollem**, Linda Southward (F), Eva Sunell, Don Waugh, Sally Wechsler. Martha Waugh served as hostess for the tally rally.

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**Table: Comparison of Counts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>H</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharp-shinned Hawk</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper’s Hawk</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
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<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gray Catbird</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Thrasher</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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(F) Feeder count (if also counted in field don’t show the F)  
* Area Coordinator  
** County Co-coordinator
CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Meeting is canceled 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.


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 or e-mail at bott@erols.com. Page numbers refer to Birding Howard County, Maryland, by JoAnne K. Solem.

May 2, Tuesday. Weekday Walk at Daniels (2 hours) Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Camels Den Lot. Walk this woodland gravel path along the river to look for warblers. Easy walking. No facilities. Pg. 32 Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

May 6, Saturday. Howard County Lister's Trip (dawn to dusk) Leaders, Jo Solem and Bonnie Ott. Call to reserve your spot for our BIG DAY to search the county for as many species as possible. This will be a fast-paced trip with emphasis on listing as many birds as possible. There will be one short break during mid-day so folks can quit if desired. Bring plenty of nourishment to carry yourself through the day. Bring boots! Call Bonnie for the details 410-461-3361

May 7, Sunday. Lake Elkhorn (3 hours) Leader: Darius Ecker. Meet at Cradlerock lot at 7:00 a.m. Migration will be in full swing and a variety of woodland and water birds possible. Easy walking on paved path. No facilities. Pg. 43 Call Darius for info 410-312-9165

May 13, Saturday. May Count. Details are on Page 1 of this newsletter.

May 19-21, Friday-Sunday. MOS 2000 Annual Conference. Details were mailed to you by MOS.

May 25, Thursday. Weekday Walk at Alpha Ridge and Henryton (2 hours) Meet at Alpha Ridge park at 8:30 a.m. Possible Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Bluebirds. Facilities available, moderate walking. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-4461.

May 28, Sunday. Rockburn Park (1/2 day) 7:00 a.m. at Park office lot. Leader: Bonnie Ott. Moderate walking through this varied habitat to look for the breeding birds of Howard County. Hooded and Kentucky possible. Facilities available. Pg. 5. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

June 4, Saturday (Grasshopper Sparrow Search) 1/2 day. Leader: Bonnie Ott. 7:00 a.m. Rt 100 Park and Ride. We will carpool to wherever there are local sparrows. Moderate to difficult walking. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

June 10, Saturday (Evening walk at Wilde Lake) 2 hours. Leader: TBA 7:00 p.m. meet at boat dock. Walk along the lake and woodland path for cool dusk birding. Night Herons and others likely. Easy walking, no facilities. Flashlight recommended. Pg. 47, Call 410-461-3361.

June 25, Sunday (National Zoo) all day. Plan to carpool to the zoo to arrive just past dawn. We will spend the day touring the zoo and view the night heron colony. Club member Lisa Stevens has arranged a special private tour for us of behind the scenes activities in the bird house. This trip is limited to 20 people so call Bonnie to reserve a spot and get details. Call 410-461-3361.

July 15, Saturday (Evening walk at Daniels area of PatapSCO) 2 hours. Leader: TBA 7:00 p.m. meet at large lot. Walk the gravel path along the river to listen to dusk sounds. Will try for Screech Owls. Easy walking, no facilities. Pg. 32 Call 410-461-3361.

July 29, Saturday (See What's around trip) 1/2 day. Leader: TBA 7:00 a.m. meet at Rt 100 park and ride. We will carpool to whatever spot in the county has good birds! Plan for heat! Call 410-461-3361.

August 12, Saturday (Odorant Search) 3 hours. Leader: Richard Orr. Meet at 9:00 at Centennial park west end lot. Easy walking in search of dragonflies and other winged-wonders. Bring binoculars. Pg 5, facilities available Call 410-739-7290.

August 26, Saturday (Evening walk at Gwynn Acres) 2 hours. Leader: TBA Meet at Ram's Horn and Old Columbia at 7:00 p.m. Easy walking along the paved woodland path to listen for thrushes. Barred Owls possible. Bring flashlight, no facilities Pg 24 Call 410-461-3361.

September 3, Sunday (Butterflies through Binoculars) 2 hours. Leader: Dick Smith. Meet at 9:30 at west end of Centennial Park. Easy walking around the wildlife end of the lake to observe our local butterflies. Bring binoculars. Facilities available. Pg 5. Will cancel if raining or overcast 410-997-7459.

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.

May 25, Thursday. Kurt Schwarz, 9045 Dunloggin Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21042, 410-461-1643. This will be a joint meeting of outgoing and incoming board members.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2000 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL IS DUE JULY 28, 2000. 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 Web, at http://pages.prodigy.net/echerk/birding.htm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOOTH AT THE HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

The Howard County Bird Club needs volunteers to staff our booth at the Howard County Fair in August. This is an opportunity to meet and greet many neighbors who stop by our booth to find out what the Howard County Bird Club is all about. You hear many interesting stories from people, and everyone is impressed with our many informative displays.

If you have a few hours during the day or evening that you can donate to this worthy cause, please call Paula Ecker at 410-312-9165 or e-mail at Paulae2156@aol.com.

WINTER FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS BY BONNIE OTT

A full calendar of trips over the winter season garnered a variety of interesting sightings. The November Centennial Park walks were well attended by both birds and birders. The most interesting sightings were 5 PURPLE FINCHES feeding on berries, HERMIT THRUSH and YELLOW-BELTED SAPSUCKER. Flyover AMERICAN PIPISTREL, 7 FOX SPARROWS and lingering COMMON YELLOWTHROAT were also notable. Heading out to Sandy Point we found some goodies, on the water were COMMON LOON, OLD SQUAW and COMMON GOLDENEYE. A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH delighted the group. At Patuxent NWRC a NORTHERN PINTAIL and AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were nice finds.

The New Years day walk yielded a nice variety of waterfowl, GADWALL, GOLDEN-EYE, HOODED MERGANSER, CANVAS-BACK and BUFFLEHEAD were on Centennial. The AMERICAN TREE SPARROW search did find a few of that species along with singing FOX SPARROWS, WHITE-CROWN and FIELD. A cold blustery day at the landfill was worth braving the conditions to see the ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK perched in a tree. HORNY LARK, SAVANNAH and VULPH CROWNED SPARROWS were scattered throughout the fields. Wilde Lake came through again with a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH in the pines along the path. Topping it all off were a couple of flyover COMMON SNIPES, a dozen EASTERN MEADOWLARKS, NORTHERN HARRIER hunting low over the fields and AMERICAN KESTRELS at Mount Pleasant.
CONSERVATION COLUMN BY BOB SOLEM

Has it been five years already? The legal notice in the newspaper says, "In 1995 the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks ... developed a 20-year plan for the provision of public recreation and natural resource protection for Howard County." It is now time for a five-year update, and the document, "1999 Draft Howard County Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan for the provision of leisure activities in balance with the conservation of resources" is available in the Howard County libraries. What has the Dept. of Rec. & Parks done in those five years that is noteworthy?

"The Department has created the Natural Resource Division whose mission is to manage, protect and enhance the natural resources on all County-owned park lands by using an adaptive management approach. A goal of the Division is to manage these areas in a way that conserves their ecological integrity, while making them available to the public for recreation and educational use." This Division has eight staff positions, and the Department has "upgraded positions to a professional level requiring technical background in Resource Management." In addition, they "added the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area to our inventory, and developed a unique relationship with the MPEA foundation for research and environmental education."

But what about guarding the current park and open space properties? "Although these lands are protected from development, the Department has strengthened Recreation and Parks regulations to ensure long term protection of these areas from other detrimental activities such as encroachment. As the County continues to develop, the enforcement of these regulations is imperative to the protection of natural resources within the County." In English, this means that a number of park employees have enforcement authority and can give citations with fines for infractions of the law.

Land acquisitions are proposed for the period 2000-2010, many of which are for the "Howard County Greenway System." Features of a greenway system include, but are not limited to: wildlife and woodland corridors, migratory and nesting grounds, steep slopes, wetlands, floodplains, and other hydrologic features, areas of potential endangered plant and wildlife species, as well as areas that may provide archaeological resources. These proposed land acquisitions are also included in the Department's twenty year Capital Improvement Program.

- Greenway acquisition - Deep Run, Hammond Branch, Little Patuxent, Middle Patuxent, Patuxent River Basin, Cattail, Cabin Branch, and Long Corner Connector.
- Schooley Mill Park expansion.
- Land for community parks in Elkridge, Jessup, North Laurel, Clarksville/Brighton Dam, Fulton South, Fulton North, Clarksville, Route 108/Central Farm, Harding Road, Lennox, and Route 29/70.
- So there is a lot planned. The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board held a public meeting on April 19 for comments, but the Department still is working on the document.

BIRD FIELD CHECKLIST COMPLETED; BUTTERFLY CHECKLIST REVISED

In February 2000, two Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) checklists were completed. The Field Checklist of the Birds of Howard County, Maryland was mailed to all current members along with the 1999-2000 Directory in late February. It was compiled by the HCBC Records Committee and was based on 45 or more years of records. It is an update of the checklist compiled in 1993. All species currently accepted as Howard County records are included. Any species being considered by the state or county records committees will be added in future revisions. Besides showing seasonal occurrence and breeding records, field visitors will be aided by a column which indicates which species are not recorded annually in the county. The checklist was compiled by Martha Chestem, Jane Coskren, David Holmes and Jo Solem.

An updated version of The Butterflies of Howard County, Maryland has been produced by Richard H. Smith who compiled the original attractive and informative brochure in 1993. His successful format has since been copied by several other jurisdictions. The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks plans to enlarge its butterfly activities and will use this checklist in conjunction with its programs. If readers have a special interest in butterflies, Biologist Brenda Belensky of Rec. and Parks would like to hear from you. She can be contacted at her office at 410-313-4724 Monday through Friday. You can receive a copy of the revised butterfly checklist at any bird club meeting, or send a stamped, self-addressed 4x9 inch envelope to Jo Solem, 10617 Graloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723.