



THE GOLDFINCH



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME BY DON WAUGH

Welcome to the 28th year of the Howard County Bird Club, the 56th year of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the first year of the 21st century. We hope all current members sign on for another year of good birding. We don't want to lose a single one of you. In fact, we would like to see more of you at monthly programs, bird counts, seed sales, and field walks.

Last year we had very good attendance at all of our programs, and as a result, we had more fun, learned more about birds, and made more friends and birding partners.

This year we will continue with excellent programs and interesting activities that we hope you will enjoy. However, the more you actively participate in the club's activities the more benefit you will receive. Those members who work on club projects will make more friends and have even more fun.

To keep our club active and effective we need a continuing flow of new members. I encourage each of you to make an effort to interest new people in joining the Bird Club. While our membership is strong now, it requires continual efforts to keep it high.

Let's get together on Thursday, September 14th at 7:30 p.m. for our first program of the year at the Longfellow Elementary School. We're looking forward to seeing you and meeting the friends you bring.

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN CLEGG BY JO SOLEM

Former Howard Bird Club President John Clegg died unexpectedly of a heart attack at age 52 in late July while on a business trip abroad. His loss will be felt keenly, not only by his family and friends, but by the community groups for which he worked so generously.

John and his wife, Eileen, long shared an interest in birds; his first birding trip was his honeymoon, which was spent in Alaska with a tour which ended on the Pribilof Islands in spartan circumstances. As might be expected, the Cleggs became members of the Bird Club almost as soon as they arrived in Columbia in 1976.

John was a strong supporter of Bird Club activities, especially its conservation projects. His keen eyes were an asset on field trips and bird counts, while his calm personality and sense of humor made him a pleasant birding companion. Many long-time members remember him accompanied on field trips by his son, Andrew. Family weekends at Cape May and Chincoteague were favorites while longer trips

to Florida and areas of the West always featured natural history, helping Andrew develop a sense of wonder for the natural world.

John's leadership qualities were well recognized, for he was elected to various club offices: president (1978-79 and 1985-87), vice-president (1977-78), and state director (1979-80). Ever since the Bird Club initiated seed sales, John was an

essential part of their success. He helped load seed and always carted extra bags home for people who were unable to make their pickup. In the late 1970's, he helped build the initial storage cases for the club's specimen collection.

Few birders enjoy writing supporting details for unusual species. John was no exception. At tallies, he was often heard to remark half-jokingly, "If I have to write it up, I didn't see it." (Presumably he bent that rule when he and Dave Harvey found two Upland Sandpipers in a pasture on Simpson Road on May Count 1985.)

The Bird Club extends its deepest sympathy to Eileen and Andrew. For those who knew and shared John's friendship, birding fellowship, and commitment to conservation, his memory will long remain bright.

(The Howard County Bird Club is honored to be designated by John's family as one of the organizations to which memorial contributions can be made.)

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SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 2000

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Spring brought extremes of temperature and periods of unsettled windy weather that were a combination of late winter, spring, and mid-summer; in other words, a typical Howard County spring. As might be expected, these changes produced some early migrants, delayed others, and dropped in enough unusual species to keep active field birders busy. Disappointingly, there were no major migrant fallouts; however, most birders could name at least one special bird seen this season. The dates in this summary are only as accurate as the contributing observers make them. Sightings from almost 75 people were incorporated into these spring records, although not all are listed. Cheers for all who forward their records!

Common Loons were seen for much of the period with a high of 28 on 4/10 at Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) (J&TDC). **Pied-billed Grebes** remained until nearly the end of April reaching a high of 12 at Centennial Park (CENPK) 4/7 (KS). All **Horned Grebe** reports were singles from the bird on 3/12 on Wilde Lake (WILLK) (JM;JS) to 1 at CENPK 4/7 (BL;BO;KS). **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers continue to increase with 70 on 4/29 over GWACP (KS), 40 on TRIRS 4/10 (J&TDC), and 20 at CENPK 4/21 (KS;HZ).

The **Great Blue Herons** at Vantage Point built 10 nests this spring, but the success rate appears to have been low. As of early June, only four young were visible, two nests were on the ground, and two were deserted (MC). Numerous eggshells were scattered below the nest trees appearing to indicate that there were many more eggs laid than young produced. It is possible that climbing predators were a major problem since, in previous years, the area beneath the nests has retained standing water until late spring. This year that portion of the floodplain seems to have been drained. In early May, two, three, and finally four Great Blue Heron nests appeared at the north end of Lake Kittamaquundi (LKKIT) (m.obs.) Were these the pairs from the downed and deserted nests re-nesting a few hundred yards from the original site? It will be interesting to see if these later nests are successful. Scattered reports of **Great Egrets** began with 1 on 3/18 at the University of MD Central

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.

Farm (UMDCF) (M&GM). An im. **Little Blue Heron** was found at Plum Tree Path (PLTRP) wetland 4/29 (KS). The first **Black-crowned Night-Heron** sighting was 1 over Manahan Dr. (MANHN) 4/4 (BO). D&JO had 3 in area 5 on 5/13 (MAYCT). One of the special spring sightings was an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** in the Patapsco River in downtown Ellicott City 5/27 (SPe,KB0).

Snow Geese were detected just twice this season: 3/1 UMDCF. 1 wh (BO,JS,HZ) and 3/4 Fulton Pond (FULPD), 1 bl (JM). Major **Canada Goose** migration took place the first week of March. On 3/1 at UMDCF, BO,JS,HZ had 4055 in 41 flocks between 8 and 10:15 a.m. On the same day, 1500 were seen in the early a.m. at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (JHAPL) (JWi). On 3/7, 2 flocks totaling more than 400 geese were going north over Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) (SN). **Tundra Swans** also moved in early March with 192 in 3 flocks on 3/1 at UMDCF (BO,JS,HZ) and 300 on 3/6 at JHAPL (DH,NM,CS,JWi).

There were 8-10 **Wood Duck** eggs in a box on Hall Shop Rd. 5/3 (MW). Above Daniels on the Patapsco (DANPV) 5/22, a female **Wood Duck** and her 4 ducklings attracted the attention of a **Bald Eagle** who made two unsuccessful passes over them (TR). **Gadwalls** were present at several locations during March with a high of 6 on 3/19 UMDCF (M&GM). **American Black Duck** numbers were low with a maximum of 35 on 3/4 on TRIRS (JM). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** showed up 3/30 at Warfield's Pond Park (WARPP) (KT) & 1 appeared at CENPK on the same date (NP). The high was 9 on 4/4 at CENPK (BO) The only spring **Northern Shovelers** were 3 present on the Daisy Rd ponds for a few days beginning 3/27 (J&RS, KT). A pair of **Northern Pintails** frequented CENPK between 3/22 (BL) & 4/19 (M&GM), with several sightings of the pair at WILLK during the intervening period. **Green-winged Teal** were seen sporadically from 3/5 CENPK (KS) to 5/13 UMDCF (M&GM,JT). The high on 4/9

was 13 at UMDCF (M&GM). **Canvasbacks** left on 3/31 (MANHN) 1 (BO). (Almost all Canvasback sightings this season were single birds.) One male **Red-head** was noted on 3/12 WILLK (JM) and was last seen 3/24 (m.obs.) As in spring 1999, **Ring-necked Duck** numbers were low with a high of 70 on 3/5 WILLK (BO). Twenty **Lesser Scaup** were spotted 3/1 at Cissel's (CISSL) on Jennings Chapel Rd. (MW); the last was reported 5/7 from LKELK (BO+). The only **Oldsquaw** so far in 2000 was a late bird first noted 5/26 CENPK (BO). It was still present in June There was some question as to whether it might have suffered oil damage as some observers noted that it spent an unusual amount of time preening. **Buffleheads** were scarce and numbers low with a high of 3 on 4/18 CENPK (BO). A lone **Common Goldeneye** was at CENPK 4/18 (JMa). The **Black Swan** which appeared at CENPK 4/5 (J&TDC;KS) and was last seen 4/9 (JC) was a free-flying bird, but certainly escaped from someone's waterfowl collection. **Hooded Merganser** numbers were low and reports few with a maximum of 5 on 3/8 at CENPK (HZ). Spring **Common Mergansers** peaked at 203 on TRIRS on 3/4 (JM) with the last 7 seen from Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 3/19 (CS). The only **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 2 at CENPK 4/18 (JMa). **Ruddy Ducks** lingered until 5/13: 1 at CENPK (KH,AMR) and 1 at CISSL's (MW). The high was 20 on 3/19 (CENPK) (JC).

The earliest **Osprey** was spotted 3/12 CENPK (J&TDC) and the latest were 3 on 5/13 by 3 parties. WSSC officers were unable to be certain of the outcome of the **Bald Eagle** nest on TRIRS as no young bird was seen outside the nest. Both adult eagles were seen at the nest 3/10 (EH,HZ). Seven eagle sightings were made away from the reservoirs. **Northern Harriers** were noted until 5/14 UMDCF (M&GM). The last **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was seen over Rts 100 & 103 on 5/31 (R&JG). DN on 3/12 at Timberleigh (TIMBR) had a

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memorable experience with a pair of accipiters. She watched two Sharp-shinned Hawks attack a flock of Mourning Doves. At one point, the hawks dashed past her almost at arm's length, intent on their prey. Soon there was an explosion of feathers--the chase was over. **Red-shouldered Hawks** must have found plentiful prey in the vicinity of LKELK where three pairs appear to have nested. An occupied nest was located on the south side of the lake, another active nest was noted near the tot lot on the north side, and adults were seen carrying prey items east of Fore Bay Pond (m.obs.) The first **Broad-winged Hawks** were recorded on 4/22 with 1 on Hallmark Rd. (HALMK) (WEb) and 50 (which was the seasonal high) on MANHN (BO). **Merlins** are known for their aggressive nature so it was not surprising that two of the three reports involved chases. On 3/20 near Dayton, WE watched a Merlin pursue an American Kestrel. He said, although the kestrel may have escaped, at one point only a few inches separated the two birds. In the second case, a Merlin was seen chasing a **Barn Swallow** 4/25 at LKELK (JC). The only **Peregrine Falcon** reported was 4/29 UMDCF (BO,JS). It was one of nine species of raptors seen at the farm that morning.

Wild Turkeys were well-reported this spring. WSSC officers had birds at the north end of TRIRS with Officer Frye observing some young birds. Turkeys were seen or heard between Hipsley Mill and Howard Chapel Rds on 4/16 & 18 (AG); 1 was also at Big Branch (BIGBR) 5/6 (AG). The latest was on Cavey Lane 5/28 (L&LH). The lone **Virginia Rail** sighting, which was at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPENA), was rather unusual. CR described it as follows: "This bird was apparently roosting in a dense shrub about 100 yards from the Middle Patuxent River and I startled it when I walked by. I heard a great thrashing of wings and stopped to see what was happening. The rail finally emerged about 6 feet from me at eye level and flew toward the river with long legs dangling." A **Sora** was located 4/15 UMDCF (NM,JS) & it (or another) was present 4/29 (BO,JS). **American Coots** peaked at 18 on 3/27 at CENPK (JC). One of the most exciting sightings of the season was that of a **Sandhill Crane** 4/29 climbing on a thermal over UMDCF (BO,JS). This

may not be typical behavior for this species, but it allowed a longer than usual period of observation before the bird headed off to the northwest.

This spring the best shorebird habitat existed at UMDCF. Among the species or numbers observed there were these: 5/11 1 **Semipalmated Plover** (RC,BO,JS); 4/29 24 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (BO,JS); 5/13 1 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (M&GM,JT). 5/4 28 **Least Sandpipers** (BO,JS,+); 4/15 1 **Pectoral Sandpiper** (NM,JS); 5/11 **Dunlin** (RC,BO,JS) and 3/26 100 **Common Snipe** (BO). Other good shorebird records were 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/27 at FULPD (J&TDC); 5 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/1 LKELK (JM); a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/12 & 16 at WILLK (CN); and a **Dunlin** which arrived at CENPK in the rain 4/17 (KS) and stayed until 4/22 (NP). Fortunately, the location allowed it to be seen by many birders. It was the first time since 1995 that **Dunlins** had been detected in the county; that year two were also seen in spring. Although habitat for **American Woodcock** is shrinking at Gateway (GATWY) with recent rapid development of that business park, three were still seen the evening of the Big Day 5/6--the final species for the day.

The only **Laughing Gulls** were a flock of 12 on 4/23 over LKELK (JC). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen for a month beginning with the 16 on 3/30 TRIRS (EH) and ending with 1 on 4/28 over the pond at the Woodstock post office (MK). The high was 28 on 4/1 TRIRS (JC,JS). A single **Great Black-backed Gull** was at CENPK 3/19 during a field trip (JC+). It was the only report of this species this season. Oh, how we miss an active landfill! **Caspian Terns** were spotted with some regularity over local lakes and reservoirs from 1 on 4/5 CENPK (BL; KS) to 6 on 4/30 LKELK (BO) with a high on 4/10 of 23 at TRIRS (JS). One **Forster's Tern** made a brief appearance 4/27 over LKELK (J&TDC).

Black-billed Cuckoo reports were few: 5/5 TIMBR (DN) & 5/13 CISSL (MW). All three resident species of owls were found, including a **Great Horned Owl** nest 4/12 at CENPK (GA). The first two **Common Nighthawks** were spotted 5/1 HALMK (WEb) with migration continuing until 5/18 at LKELK where DE found a perched bird. All reports were 1 or 2 birds. Finding a reliable location for **Whip-poor-wills** in the county was a

highlight of the season. On 5/12 JSh located at least three calling along Hipsley Mill Rd. between Annapolis Rock Rd. and the Patuxent River. Birds were heard through the end of the period. Hipsley Mill Rd. is narrow without wide shoulders, so exercise extreme caution whether driving slowly or walking at dusk. Do not use tapes or attempt to chase birds. Field Trip Chair Bonnie Ott can provide advice. If you are interested in going on an outing to hear **Whip-poor-wills** next spring, call her at 410-461-3361.

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported on 4/21 from 2 locations: HALMK (AMEb) & Wynfield (WYNFD) (RC). There were just 2 **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings, both on 5/3: SLMLP (DOI) & MANHN (BO). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** stuck around until 4/23 with 1 im. at CENPK (KS). The earliest **Willow Flycatcher** was heard at CENPK 5/8 (GA). Meadowbrook (MDBRK) is proving to be an excellent location for **Willows** with a high of 5 on 5/14 (BO,HZ). Also, on the same date an **Alder Flycatcher** was heard at MDBRK (BO). There were four **Least Flycatcher** reports this spring with the first an extremely early bird seen and heard at WILLK 4/16 (CN). The last sighting was at WILLK on 5/13 (CN+). **Great Crested Flycatchers** spread over HOWCO on 4/29 as four records from different locations attest (JC,DE,ES,KS).

Blue-headed Vireos were first seen 4/3 at LKELK (RC) lingering until 5/13 when 5 were reported by 2 parties. The lone report of a spring **Horned Lark** was 4/8 UMDCF (BO+). Swallow migration may have peaked 4/23 when M&GM counted 400 swallows over UMDCF with 60% **Barns**, 30% **Trees**, & 10% **Rough-wingeds**. At least 100 **Tree Swallows** were tabulated 4/9 LKELK (JC) & again on 4/22 CENPK (J&TDC). The only two **Bank Swallow** sightings were 4/26 CENPK (JS) & 4/29 UMDCF (BO,JS). The first **Cliff Swallows** were at BRDAM-6 on 4/9 (RSu).

A **Carolina Chickadee** with a pure white tail was seen at the David Force WMA (DFWMA) 3/15 & 18 (BO+). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present in small numbers. Some continued into spring after spending the winter, while others appeared in migration. The last two were present in King's Contrivance 5/16

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(D&LS). A pair of **White-breasted Nuthatches** initiated nesting at Dunloggin Ct. (DNLGN) 3/23 (KS). By 5/14 there were 4 nestlings near fledging. On 3/25 a nuthatch was observed carrying a dead leaf into a natural cavity along the Gwynn Acres Path (GWACP) (BO). The last **Brown Creeper** was found 4/20 at Henryton, PVSP (HENPV) (RC). **House Wrens** arrived on 4/14 at DNLGN (KS) as well as along Marriottsville Rd. (CF). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were not particularly numerous with a high of 23 on 4/24 DANPV (RC). An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted along the Patapsco at Marriottsville, PVSP (MARPV) 3/31 (RC). There were two reports of early **Veerys**: 4 on 4/20 on Mt. Albert Rd. (M&GM) & 1 on 4/22 Middle Patuxent River at Cedar Lane (JM). The single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** detected was on a field trip to RKBPR 5/28 (BO+). One of the season's highlights was a **Bicknell's Thrush** (a new county record)! It was located on 5/13 in the MPENA by CR who heard it sing. **Swainson's Thrushes** arrived early with 1 heard 4/22 at SLMLP (DOI); they were last seen 5/28 DNLGN (KS). **Wood Thrushes** appeared on 4/22 at SLMLP (DOI) & DNLGN (KS). The first **Brown Thrasher** sighting was 4/1 at MDBRK (BO). The last **American Pipit** was 5/13 (D&PE) in area 3 on MAYCT. **Cedar Waxwings** appeared in numbers in all spring months: 3/13 JHAPL 130 (NM), 4/6 Allview (ALLVW) 200 (ES), and 5/18 LKELK 108 (DE).

For the most part, warbler numbers were low. The only **Golden-winged Warbler** reported was seen after a hail storm 4/21 on Carroll Mill Rd (SF). LKELK was the hot spot for **Tennessee Warblers** with reports from 4/28 (DE) to 5/17 (DE). The first **Nashville Warbler** arrived 5/1 SLMPK (JS) and the final records were by two parties on 5/13. **Northern Parulas** were detected on 4/8 at two locations, both by J&TDC: MARPV & Eden Brook. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were present from 4/29 LKELK (DE) to 5/14 (HENPV) (CS), with a high of 5 on 5/6 LKELK (DE). Spring's only **Cape May Warbler** was spotted at LKELK 4/30 (DE). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** peaked 4/26 at LKELK with 125 (J&TDC). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** put in an early appearance 4/8 at MARPV (TDC). The earliest **Black-**

burnian Warbler was at DANPV 5/2 (BO+) and the latest 5/14 WILLK (BO,HZ). **Yellow-throated Warblers** showed up at MARPV, a traditional site, 4/7 (RC) while a late wanderer appeared at MANHN 5/25 (BO). A **Pine Warbler** was singing along Kindler Rd, Middle Patuxent River (KINMP) 3/8 (JS). The one that appeared 3/9 on MANHN ate peanuts & sunflower chips at a feeder (BO). **Palm Warbler** numbers were low with a high of 5 at MDBRK 4/1 (BO,EH). The western sub-species sightings were 2 on 4/22 (DOI) & 1 at Font Hill Wetland Park 5/2 (JS). **Blackpoll Warblers** were last heard 5/30 DNLGN (KS). The first **Cerulean Warbler** arrived 5/1 in Hammond Village (JS). **Prothonotary Warblers** are at the edge of their breeding range so they are never common. Generally, the last week of April and the first week of May are the best times to look for them. This year there were a half dozen records. The most interesting was a male which showed up in ALLVW and was seen intermittently from 5/4-5/21. It sang and investigated cavities and nesting boxes in the floodplain of the Little Patuxent River (which would be possible nesting habitat if the bird could have managed to find a stray female). It was last seen in early June (ES). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard at DANPV 4/24 (DF). Both an **Ovenbird** and a **Northern Waterthrush** showed up 4/21 at HALMK for first spring records (WEB). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** begin migrating earlier than Northerns. The initial Louisiana this year was heard at HENPV 3/30 (MJB, EH, BO,JS). The earliest **Common Yellowthroat** was detected at DFWMA 4/14 (MWR). **Wilson's Warblers** were seen in a one week window from 5/7 WILLK (HZ) & LKELK (BO) to 5/13: MPENA 2 (CR) & KINMP 1 (J&RS). **Yellow-breasted Chats** announced their arrival in 3 locations on 5/4. The only hybrid warbler reported this spring was a **Brewster's Warbler** 5/5 SLMLP (RC), the first since 1997.

American Tree Sparrows barely managed to make it into this reporting period with 1 on 3/1 UMDCF (BO,JS,HZ). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was 3/16 MANHN (BO). The high was 21 on 4/17 at WYNFD (RC). The lone **Vesper Sparrow** was 4/15 at Mt. Pleasant (MTPLT) (BO). **Savannah Sparrows** peaked 4/15 with 50 at both UMDCF (NM,JS) & MTPLT (BO). The

last ones noted were the 19 on 5/13 MAYCT, of which 15 were on UMDCF (M&GM,JT). The first **Grasshopper Sparrow** was recorded at CLARK's on Roxbury Rd 4/15 (MW). The latest **Fox Sparrows** were 2 on 4/1 MDBRK (EH,BO), while the high for the season was 6 at MTPLT 3/12 (BO+). **Song Sparrow** numbers were modest with a high of 24 on 3/9 BIGBR (JS). SLMLP was the location for **Lincoln's Sparrows** (perhaps a single bird) which was reported from 5/6 (NM,BO,JS+) to 5/15 (VofN). **Swamp Sparrows** lingered until 5/6 at Alpha Ridge Park where 1 was added to the Big Day tally. The last **White-throated Sparrows** were 2 on 5/13: SLMLP (NM) & UMDCF (M&GM,JT). The last 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** were also spotted on 5/13: Belmont (DK,SP+) & MDBRK (BL+), while 30 at CLARK's on 4/12 was the high (MW). The latest **Dark-eyed Junco** lingered until 5/6 HALMK (WEB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen for almost a month: 4/16 TIMBR (DN) (1) to 5/13 MAYCT (4). A **Blue Grosbeak** arrived in Hammond Village on a chilly, wet 4/25, which perhaps explains its presence at a feeder (J&RS); another was at a feeder 4/30 in ALLVW (ES). An **Indigo Bunting** was seen at CENPK 4/26 (BO). RC had 4 at his feeders 5/3 WYNFD. Six **Bobolinks** showed up 4/29 at UMDCF (BO,JS). The only large flock reported was 60 on 5/9 at MDBRK (BO+). Twelve **Eastern Meadowlarks** at MTPLT 3/12 was a nice count (BO+). One **Rusty Blackbird** lingered until 5/6 at GWACP (NM,BO,JS+), with a high of 25 on 3/25 at the same location (J&RS). Four **Orchard Orioles** showed up on an extremely early 4/9 at WARPP (KT). [Remember the **Black-throated Green Warbler** on 4/8?] The male **Baltimore Oriole** which wintered west of Ellicott City was last seen 3/30 (K&DB).

There were 4 **Purple Finch** reports in March and 7 in April with a high of 5 birds on 4/27 at Talbot's Landing (R&JG). The same observers also had the last one on 5/7. This spring there were **Pine Siskin** reports in all three months: 3/6-8 & 4/29 WYNFD 1 (RC); 4/26-27 MANHN 3 (BO), and 5/14 WILLK 1 (HZ). BO also hosted a female **Evening Grosbeak** 4/22 on MANHN. Since sightings of this species in the county have been so infrequent for more than a decade, the many

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birders who were able to add this bird to their lists were glad it stayed for a day.

Observers whose sightings are shown with initials: **GA** - Glenn Austin, **MJB** - Mary-Jo Betts, **KBo** - Ken Board, **K&DB** - Karla & David Brezinski, **MC** - Martha Chestem, **JC** - Jane Coskren, **TDC** - T. Dennis Coskren, **RC** - Ralph Cullison, III, **WE** - Wes Earp, **AMEb** - Ann Marie Ebert, **WEB** - Ward Ebert, **DE** - Darius Ecker, **PE** - Paula Ecker, **DF** - David Farner, **CF** - Cathy Franklin, **SF** - Sandra French, **AG** - Aelred Geis, **R&JG** - Ralph & Jane Geuder, **DH** - Dave Harvey, **KH** - Kevin Hefferman, **EH** - Emmalyn Holdridge, **L&LH** - Lynn & Linda Holley, **MK** - Mike Kerwin, **DK** - Dave Kubitsky, **BL** - Brigitte Lund, **NM** - Nancy Magnusson, **JM** - John Maloney, **JMa** - Joel Martin, **M&GM** - Mike & Grazina McClure, **DN** - Diane Nagengast, **SN** - Sue Neri, **CN** - Carol Newman, **D&JO** - Doug & Joanne Odermatt, **DOI** - Daryl Olson, **BO** - Bonnie Ott, **SPe** - Sherry Peruzzi, **NP** - Norma Petersen, **SP** - Suzanne Probst, **AMR** - Ann Marie Raterman, **TR** - Tim Ray, **CR** - Chandler Robbins, **KS** - Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** - Jay Sheppard, **JS** - Jo Solem, **RS** - Robert Solem, **D&LS** - Dan & Linda Southworth, **CS** - Chuck Stirrat, **ES** - Eva Sunell, **RSu** - Rick Sussman, **JT** - Jackie Telford, **KT** - Kate Tufts, **MW** - Mark Wallace, **JWI** - Jim Wilkerson, **MWR** - Michele Wright, **HZ** - Helen Zeichner, **MAYCT** - May Count, **VofN** - Voice of the Naturalist, *im.* - immature, *m.obs.* - many observers.

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Kestrel (tied), Rock Dove, Northern Flicker, Barn Swallow, American Robin, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow (only 2 found), Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark (only 4), and Common Grackle. The meadowlark, pheasant, and Bobwhite have been in steady decline over many years, probably as a result of the sub-urbanization of Howard county.

Very 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: **Andy Aguilera**, **Mary Jo Betts**, **Karan and Bill Blum**, **Joe Byrnes**, **Marty Chestem**, **Lisa Colangelo**, **Diane Depuy**, **Ward Ebert**, **Paula and Darius Ecker**, **Tracy Eve**, **Carol Garza**, **Jane and Ralph Geuder**, **Edwin Gould**, **Maureen and Dave Harvey**, **Kevin Hefferman**, **Jane Helm**, **Ann Higgins**, **Emy Holdridge**, **Linda and Lynn Holley**, **Tina Katsampis**, **Dave Kubitsky**, **Kathleen LaGreca**, **Larry Line**, **Brigitte Lund**, **Nancy Magnusson**, **John Maloney**, **Grazina and Mike McClure** (area 4), **Diane Mecham**, **Elayne and Jeff Metter**, **Rebekah and Colin Mulchansingh**, **Carol Newman**, **Jeanne and Doug Odermatt** (area 5),

Peter Osenton, **Bonnie Ott** (area 6), **Karla Pearce**, **Anita Picco**, **Susan and Ron Polniaszek**, **Suzanne Probst**, **Ann Marie Raterman**, **Nanine Rhinelander**, **Chan Robbins**, **Gary Roberts**, **Susan Setterberg**, **Silvia and Jay Silverman**, **Jo and Bob Solem** (area 7), **Hank Stanton**, **Chuck Stirrat** (area 3), **Tom Strikwerda**, **Jackie Telford**, **Robin and Will Tress**, **Kate Tufts**, **Marilyn Veek**, **Mark Wallace**, **Dave Wilusz**, **Michele Wright**, **Helen Zeichner**, and **Sherry and Paul Zucker** (area 2 and county compiler).

(Continued from page 10)

dragonflies that have been found here.

There is also a list of common wildflowers and weeds of Howard County, not to mention links to a number of places you may want to visit.

So tell all of your friends to visit the club web page at www.howardbirds.org.

(Continued from page 10)

MCPA, mecoprog (MCP), MSMA, oryzalin, pendimethalin, and trichlorfon.

This is just a sampling of the information that is available from the Rachel Carson Council. For more information, see their web page on pesticides at <http://members.aol.com/rccouncil/ourpage/basic.htm> or write to them at 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

SPRING FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
BY BONNIE OTT

Twenty field trips were scheduled this spring season and a great number of species were tallied. Gwynn Acres is a reliable spot for Rusty Blackbird and we were not disappointed. Ten birds were found with great views of them feeding on the flooded woodland floor. The first Centennial Park walk found 50 species, among them the elusive Bonaparte's Gull. The University of Md Farm has increasingly good shorebird habitat and 50 snipe were present. Savannah Sparrows were there again in good numbers. We traveled out of the county to Horsehead Wetlands Sanctuary. Sixty-four species were found there with a wide variety of waterfowl.

Migration began to intensify toward the end of April and Lake Elkhorn came through as usual with Caspian Tern, Great Egret and Broad-winged Hawk. Some of the first diverse numbers of warblers were present at Daniels with 10 species found there. The Big Day was a hit and those that made it from dawn to dusk totaled 111 species ending with displaying Woodcock. Henryton Road again hosted thrushes with Veery, Wood and Swainsons found there. At Rockburn Branch park we found an assortment of breeding birds with Hooded, Kentucky, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-wing, Chat and Yellow Warblers.

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR THANKS
BY SUZANNE PROBST

The Howard County Bird Club had another successful year with a booth at the Howard County Fair. Fairgoers' attention was attracted by the brand new, redesigned and very professional looking displays. There were new discovery boxes to draw the attention of kids of all ages. Thanks to everyone who participated in the events, including Don and Martha Waugh, Ralph and Jane Geuder, Jeff and Elayne Metter, Paula and Darius Ecker, Jeff Friedhoffer, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Tom Strikwerda, Dave Holyoke, Marty Chestem, Kurt Schwarz and Chuck Stirrat. Thanks to Paula and Darius Ecker for assistance with setting up of the display on the Friday night before the fair and to Dave Holyoke for removing the display Sunday morning after the fair.

2000-2001
CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Don Waugh

Vice President:

Kurt Schwarz

Secretary:

Chuck Stirrat

Treasurer:

Emy Holdridge

Chapter Directors (two year term):

Carol Garza (first year)

Dave Holyoke (second year)

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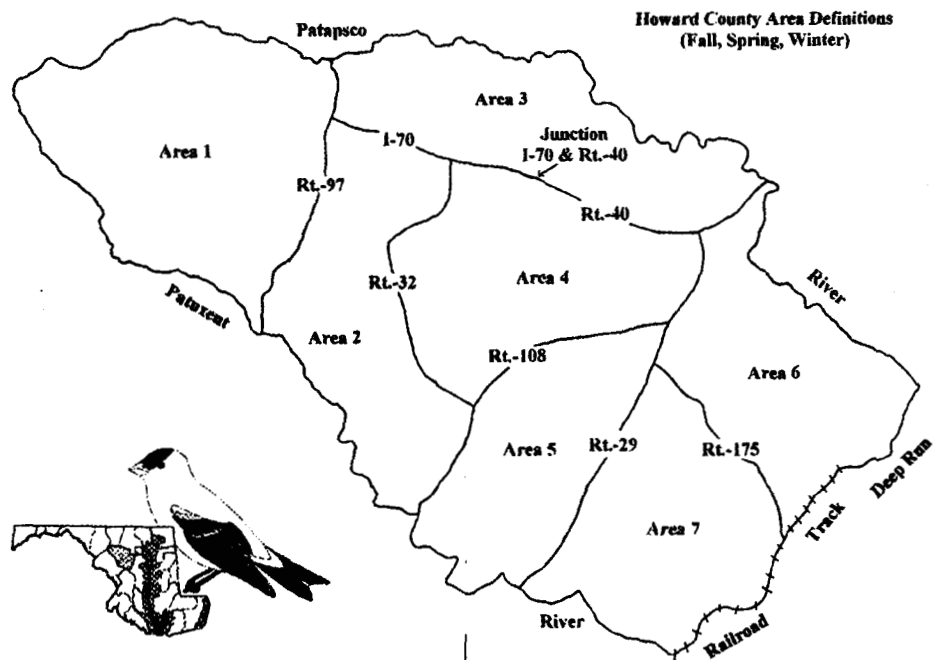
Darius Ecker

SEVENTH 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 16. Mike McClure 410-531-2780 and Chuck Stirrat 410-531-2417 are the county co-ordinators. Prior years have set a range of 130-135 species of birds identified on the count. Will this fall count be as good? 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 (shown below) 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.

The following area coordinators have been named: Area 1. Mark Wallace 301-725-6370; Area 2. Paul Zucker (H):301-279-7896, or (W):443-778-4971; Area 3.



Darius & Paula Ecker 410-312-9165; Area 4. Bill & Karan Blum 410-489-9197; Area 5. Nancy Magnusson 410-480-0342; Area 6. Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361; 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 Sept. 15, to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

SUMMARY OF 2000 HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT

BY PAUL A. ZUCKER

The 2000 Howard County May Count was held on May 13, 2000 from 4:30 AM to 8:40 PM. In most regards this was a rather ordinary count. The total species count of 141 was an average result, and the party hours (119 by foot, 13 by car, 7 by owling, and 3 at feeders) were also typical. Neither the number of parties (34) nor the total number of birds (over 14000) was unusual. There were, however, two aspects in which this count was extraordinary. The 71 participants constituted the largest turnout yet, and no one will forget the extremely hot weather. The whole day was muggy with the afternoon temperature in the county reaching 95 degrees. Both the counters and the birds had to slow down.

The most notable sighting was a first ever Bicknell's Thrush, which was found and identified by Chan Robbins. The Virginia Rail was seen only once before in 1994, and the Green-winged Teal was spotted for the first time since 1982. Other unusual sightings (recorded fewer than five times in the previous 15 counts) were Ruddy Duck, American Coot, and Semipalmated Plover. Nine species had high counts (since at least 1974): Black-crowned Night Heron, Black Vulture, Canada Goose (no surprise here), Belted Kingfisher (tied), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Blackpoll Warbler (157 tallied!). The large number of blackpolls and the small number of

yellow-rumps seem to indicate that the migration was past its peak by the time of the count. Many of the participants had the impression that other migrating warbler species were hard to come by, yet the county-wide totals were typical.

There were also some notable misses and low counts. This was the third year in a row that the Ring-necked Pheasant was not found, and the Northern Bobwhite has now been missed three out of the last four years. Both of these species were regularly seen before 1997. Other unusual misses were Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Swamp Sparrow. Among the regularly occurring species, twelve had low counts (compared to the last 15): American

(Continued on page 5)

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 13, 2000

SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL	SPECIES	TOTAL
COMMON LOON	2	COMMON NIGHTHAWK	2	HERMIT THRUSH	1	FIELD SPARROW	66
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	8	CHIMNEY SWIFT	166	WOOD THRUSH	486	SAVANNAH SPARROW	19
GREAT BLUE HERON	47	RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	27	AMERICAN ROBIN	392	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	5
GREEN HERON	29	BELTED KINGFISHER	27	GRAY CATBIRD	523	SONG SPARROW	115
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON	3	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	312	NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	197	LINCOLN'S SPARROW	2
BLACK VULTURE	77	DOWNY WOODPECKER	92	BROWN THRASHER	23	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	2
TURKEY VULTURE	111	HAIRY WOODPECKER	31	EUROPEAN STARLING	521	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	2
CANADA GOOSE	557	NRTHRN (Y/LW-SH'D) FLICKER	54	AMERICAN PIPIT	1	NORTHERN CARDINAL	833
MUTE SWAN	2	PILEATED WOODPECKER	25	CEDAR WAXWING	427	ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK	4
WOOD DUCK	23	EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	182	BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	17	BLUE GROSBEAK	6
MALLARD	160	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER	216	TENNESSEE WARBLER	3	INDIGO BUNTING	236
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	2	WILLOW FLYCATCHER	8	NASHVILLE WARBLER	2	BOBOLINK	46
RUDDY DUCK	2	LEAST FLYCATCHER	1	NORTHERN PARULA	134	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	410
OSPREY	3	EASTERN PHOEBE	67	YELLOW WARBLER	126	EASTERN MEADOWLARK	4
BALD EAGLE	1	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	57	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	16	COMMON GRACKLE	376
NORTHERN HARRIER	2	EASTERN KINGBIRD	84	MAGNOLIA WARBLER	35	BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	166
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	3	WHITE-EYED VIREO	103	BLK.-THRTD. BLUE WARBLER	29	ORCHARD ORIOLE	39
COOPER'S HAWK	5	BLUE-HEADED VIREO	5	YEL.-RUMPED(MYRTLE) WARBLER	12	BALTIMORE ORIOLE	139
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	26	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO	13	BLK.-THRTD. GREEN WARBLER	12	HOUSE FINCH	149
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	3	WARBLING VIREO	23	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	3	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	413
RED-TAILED HAWK	11	RED-EYED VIREO	548	YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER	3	HOUSE SPARROW	214
AMERICAN KESTREL	4	BLUE JAY	323	PINE WARBLER	8		
VIRGINIA RAIL	1	AMERICAN CROW	504	PRAIRIE WARBLER	29	TOTAL BIRDS	14258
AMERICAN COOT	1	FISH CROW	29	BLACKPOLL WARBLER	157		
SEMPALMATED PLOVER	1	CROW SPECIES	206	CERULEAN WARBLER	9	TOTAL SPECIES	141
KILLDEER	37	PURPLE MARTIN	26	BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	45		
GREATER YELLOWLEGS	5	TREE SWALLOW	75	AMERICAN REDSTART	51	START TIME	4:30 AM
LESSER YELLOWLEGS	7	N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	40	WORM-EATING WARBLER	26	STOP TIME	8:40 PM
SOLITARY SANDPIPER	22	CLIFF SWALLOW	100	OVENBIRD	203		
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	33	BARN SWALLOW	218	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	12	FOOT HOURS	199.2
SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER	1	CAROLINA CHICKADEE	312	LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH	34	CAR HOURS	12.7
LEAST SANDPIPER	15	TUFTED TITMOUSE	415	KENTUCKY WARBLER	46	FOOT MILES	162.8
RING-BILLED GULL	1	WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH	60	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	287	CAR MILES	201.6
ROCK DOVE	88	CAROLINA WREN	163	HOODED WARBLER	21	FEEDER HOURS	3
MOURNING DOVE	337	HOUSE WREN	87	WILSON'S WARBLER	3	HOURS OWLING	1
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	1	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER	227	CANADA WARBLER	7	MILES OWLING	7
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	8	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	137	YELLOW-BREADED CHAT	41		
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL	1	VEERY	32	SCARLET Tanager	124	OBSERVERS	71
GREAT HORNED OWL	2	BICKNELL'S THRUSH	1	EASTERN TOWHEE	177	TOTAL PARTIES	34
BARRED OWL	8	SWAINSON'S THRUSH	24	CHIPPING SPARROW	95		

Howard County Totals

Howard County Winter Bird Count - February 5, 2000									Howard County Winter Bird Count - February 5, 2000								
Species / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	Species / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Pied-billed Grebe		2					5	7	White-breasted Nuthatch	33	27	33	18	48	15	24	198
Great Blue Heron		3	4	2	3		3	15	Brown Creeper	1		1		2	1	1	6
Black Vulture	17	23	37	19	15	30		141	Carolina Wren	23	10	18	15	17	16	29	128
Turkey Vulture	30	39	39	42	21	61	13	245	Winter Wren	2		5		1	2		10
Snow Goose		1						1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	5	2		1		1	10
Canada Goose	1	5,655	1	700	3	128	1,100	7,588	Ruby-crowned Kinglet						1		1
Mute Swan					2			2	Eastern Bluebird	153	71	32	38	11	2	10	317
Tundra Swan		5						5	Hermit Thrush	8	6	3	3	3	3	4	30
Wood Duck	2							2	American Robin	51	109	14	22	53	11	88	348
Gadwall	2	11	3					16	Northern Mockingbird	55	56	61	34	29	53	64	352
American Wigeon	15	15						30	Brown Thrasher							3	3
American Black Duck		105	2					107	European Starling	573	250	776	471	184	428	880	3,562
Mallard	144	534	66	149	56	104	154	1,207	American Pipit			3					3
Blue-winged Teal		1						1	Cedar Waxwing	13	31	32	1	10		52	139
Northern Pintail		5						5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	1	1	3	4	4	3	22
Canvasback		1		6			2	9	Eastern Towhee	2	2	1	1	1		2	9
Redhead		4		1			8	13	American Tree Sparrow	10	1	23	5			1	40
Ring-necked Duck	12	77		21			17	127	Field Sparrow	1	29	97	29	2		3	161
Lesser Scaup				2				2	Savannah Sparrow	1	3	6	56				66
Bufflehead				2				2	Fox Sparrow		2		3	3	4	3	15
Hooded Merganser		4	1	5			10	20	Song Sparrow	41	123	78	85	10	14	142	493
Common Merganser		1					1	2	Swamp Sparrow		3						3
Red-breasted Merganser							1	1	White-throated Sparrow	180	145	249	98	77	101	170	1,020
Ruddy Duck		13		36				49	White-crowned Sparrow	33	125	9			1		168
Bald Eagle [ad/munk]		2						2	Sparrow species		3						3
Northern Harrier		2		1				3	Dark-eyed Junco	274	115	265	276	58	66	154	1,208
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	2	2		8	5	23	Northern Cardinal	148	176	114	89	104	113	234	978
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	1	1	2		2	9	Red-winged Blackbird		1	118	45	5	50	175	394
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	6	7	5	2	8	7	46	Common Grackle	57	92	703	381	29	365	298	1,925
Red-tailed Hawk	14	22	27	10	2	8	10	93	Brown-headed Cowbird	2		2	1		94	16	115
Rough-legged Hawk			1					1	Blackbird species		23	243	213		175	3,329	3,779
burio species								1	Purple Finch	3	4	1	6			1	15
American Kestrel	3	2	2	1		1	3	12	House Finch	99	132	104	136	71	55	217	814
American Coot		3		9				18	American Goldfinch	139	55	60	53	15	16	42	380
Killdeer							2	2	House Sparrow	101	65	89	127	136	57	184	759
Ring-billed Gull	15	19	66	77	93	111	85	466	Area Total Birds:	3,606	9,236	5,352	4,138	1,672	2,670	8,193	34,867
Herring Gull		3	121			10		134	Area Total Species:	58	73	62	59	48	49	62	90
Great Black-backed Gull			1					1	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
gull species			3		1	5	16	24	Supplemental Data								
Rock Dove	65	28	96	177	12	65	7	450	Time Start:	6:50 a	6:45 a	6:45 a	7:05 a	7:00 a	7:30 a	6:45 a	6:45 a
Mourning Dove	119	154	121	62	59	54	160	729	Time Stop:	5:50 p	5:40 p	5:00 p	4:50 p	6:15 p	5:15 p	5:35 p	6:15 p
Eastern Screech-Owl		1						1	Hours on Foot:	27.3	27.6	28.8	22.3	27.0	15.0	21.3	169.3
Great Horned Owl							1	1	Hours by Car:	9.0	7.0	12.5	6.2	5	33.5	13.0	81.7
Barred Owl	1	2	1				1	5	Miles on Foot:	10.0	21.5	18.6	16.0	22.5	15.3	19.0	122.9
Belted Kingfisher	5	3	4		1		1	14	Miles by Car:	143.5	105.0	137.4	67.1	8.0	48.0	114.8	623.8
Red-bellied Woodpecker	51	31	33	22	38	17	19	211	Hours Feeder Watching:	7.0	5.8	1.0	5.9	16.0	9.5	8.0	53.2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	1	6	4	2	1	3	20	Hours Stationary:	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0				6.0
Downy Woodpecker	22	25	26	21	22	27	21	164	Hours "Owling":		2.5						2.5
Hairy Woodpecker	6	1	2	2	7	1	2	21	Miles "Owling":		26.0						26.0
Northern Flicker	13	21	16	11	13	10	11	95	Tot. Field Obs. in Area:	10	10	13	13	11	12	9	77
Pileated Woodpecker	4	6	3	1	4	6	1	25	Tot. Field Parties in Area:	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	39
Eastern Phoebe								1	Tot. Feederwatchers:	2	3		5	10	5	6	31
Blue Jay	81	55	93	56	63	45	72	465	Tot. Feederwatch Parties:	2	3		4	7	4	5	25
American Crow	274	453	418	92	82	123	84	1,526	Total Observers in Area:	12	10	13	17	19	13	14	98
Fish Crow	55	5	57	1	3	5	5	131	Total Party-Hrs (Reg.):	36.3	34.6	41.3	28.5	27.5	48.5	34.3	251.0
crow species	391	110	666	292	81	84	218	1,773	Total Party-Hrs (Feeder):	7.0	5.8	1.0	5.9	16.0	9.5	8.0	53.2
Horned Lark	85		50	20				155	Tot. Party-Hrs (Station'y):	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0				6.0
Carolina Chickadee	69	63	112	56	117	63	109	589	Total Party-Hrs (Owling):		2.5						2.5
Tufted Titmouse	81	47	115	61	114	45	114	577	Total Party-Hours:	45.3	44.9	43.3	35.4	43.5	58.0	42.3	312.7
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	2				1	3	7	Area Code:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals

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.

September 14, Thursday "Patuxent Wildlife Research Center: Sixty years of Research and Management," by Matt Perry.

October 12, Thursday "Birds of Eastern Australia and Papua New Guinea," by Dave Harvey.

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. The page numbers refer to the book "Birding Howard County" which gives maps and directions. All trip lengths are approximate. FOR INFORMATION, CALL BONNIE OTT, at 410-461-3361 or e-mail at bott@erols.com.

✓ September 3rd Sunday, Butterflies through Binoculars. 2 hours. Leader: Dick Smith. Meet at 9:30 at the 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. Call leader for info 410-997-7439.

September 11, Monday, Weekday Walk at Centennial Park. 3 hours. Meet at 8:30 at West end lot. Easy walk around the lake to see if migrants are moving. Facilities available. Pg. 5 Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

✓ Sept 16, Saturday, Fall Count. See details on page ? of this newsletter.

✓ September 17, Sunday, Migrants at Rockburn Park. 1/2 day. Leader: Bonnie Ott. Meet at 7:30 at Park office off Landing Rd. Moderate/difficult walking through varied habitats of field and woodland for fall warblers, migrant hawks and other flyovers. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. Pg 9. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

September 22-24, Friday-Sunday, Cape May Weekend. 3 day trip. Leaders Darius Ecker and Jeff Friedhoffer. This will be a three day extravaganza of birding and fun. We will take the ferry from Lewes De. on Friday morning. We will stay in Cape May and bird, bird, bird! Call Jeff Friedhoffer for info and to reserve a spot. More details to come! 410-997-5366.

September 27, Wednesday, Weekday Walk at Gwynn Acres. 2 hours. Meet at Old Columbia and Ram's Horn Rd at 8:30. Walk the paved woodland path along the stream for fall migrants. No facilities. Pg. 24 Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

September 30, Saturday, Fall Migration at Schooley Mill Park. 1/2 day. Meet at upper lot at 8:00. Leader: Daryl Olsen. Walk this varied habitat of field and woodlands for fall migrants. Great place for flyovers. Paths may be muddy and facilities available. Pg. 19. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

October 1, Sunday, Confusing Fall Warblers at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. 3 hours. Meet at Board of Education building on Rt 108 at 7:30 to carpool to Trotter Rd. Leader: David Holmes. Walk through the woodlands and along the river for fall migrants. Paths may be muddy. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

✓ October 3, Tuesday, Font Hill Weekday Walk. 2 hours. Meet at sign on Font Hill Drive at 8:30. Walk this little gem of a wetland park to look for swamp sparrows and other fall migrants. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

✓ October 7, Saturday, Sparrow Extravaganza at Mt. Pleasant. 1/2 day. Meet at shed at 7:00 a.m. Be prepared for a long difficult walk to search for 10 (or more?) species of sparrows. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

✓ October 8, Sunday, Spectacular Sparrows at the University of Maryland Central Farm. 1/2 day. Meet at farm lot at 7:00. This will be a two part walk. The first leg will be very wet and you will need high boots, then we will change footwear for the latter dry half. Difficult and long walking. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

October 14, Saturday, Hawk Watch at Meadowbrook. All day. Meet at Route 100 park and ride at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Ralph Geuder. Bring a chair and sustenance to sit and watch the hawks fly. Feel free to bring boots for a foray into the wetland area. Come for a little while or for the day. Fast food and grocery store within a few minutes drive of the P & R. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

October ^{22 Sunday} 21, Saturday, The BIG SIT. All day. Leader: Kurt Schwarz. Meet at the south side of the wildlife end at Centennial Park. Join us for as little or as long as you like. We will spend the day in our 17 foot circle and count as many species as possible. Bring a chair and sustenance. Facilities available. Pg. 5. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

✓ October 25, Wednesday, Weekday Walk at David Force. 2 hours. Meet at sign on Pebble Beach drive. Walk this mixed habitat of woodlands and fields. Paths may be muddy. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

✓ October 28, Saturday Seed Sale. Details will be mailed to you.

October 29, Sunday, Meadowbrook Park 3 hours. Leader: Kurt Schwarz. Meet at Long Gate park and ride. Walk this wetland and field area. Boots a must! No facilities. Call Bonnie for info 410-461 3361.

November 5, 12, 19, 26, Sunday, Sesquicentennial Walks. Details TBA.

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

✓ September 28, Thursday, Bonnie Ott, 8664 Manahan Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21043, 410-461-3361.

✓ October 26, Thursday, Dave Holyoke 3557 Conchita Dr., Ellicott City, MD 21042, 410-531-1355.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2000 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL IS DUE SEPTEMBER 22, 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 World Wide Web at <http://www.howardbirds.org>.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS
NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CONSERVATION COLUMN BY BOB SOLEM

A cephate	Ethoprop
Bendiocarb	Fenamiphos
Benomyl	Isazophos
Chloroneb	Propoxur
Chlorpyrifos	Trichlorfon
Diazinon	

What do all of these have in common?

They are all pesticides used on lawns. All of them are toxic to very toxic to birds. So what are the alternatives?

We all should be aware of just what these chemicals are. In some cases, chemical treatment is the indicated method, but we have to be aware of just what the chemicals are used for, what the benefits are, and (more importantly) what the drawbacks are.

As listed in the Rachel Carson Council *Basic Guide to Pesticides*, there are 18 major lawn care pesticides: atrazine, benefin, carbaryl, chlorothalonil, chlorpyrifos, 2,4-D, DCPA, diazinon, dicamba, glyphosate, iprodione, isofenphos,

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NEW WEB PAGE ADDRESS, NEW FEATURES BY BOB SOLEM

Use our new and simpler web address (URL) to see what the Howard County Bird Club is doing. The new URL is <http://www.howardbirds.org/>.

You will see all of the familiar features plus a host of new ones. Special news and information on field trips, programs, and other events is right up at the top of the page, just a mouse click away. Do your friends and neighbors want to attend programs but can't find Longfellow Elementary School? There is now a map that can be accessed from the page showing programs.

Do you use the *Field Checklist of Birds of Howard County*? This is in a new format that should be easier to use.

Want more information about the butterflies and dragonflies of Howard County or the dragonflies of Maryland? This information is in a new format, and there is a link to maps showing what counties in Maryland you can find the

(Continued on page 5)

BIRDER'S EXCHANGE BY JANE GEUDER

This joint program of the Manomet Center and the American Birding Association provides donated optical equipment, field guides and related resources to conservation workers in the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Travelers to the Americas serve as couriers for the donated resources. More information will be available at one of our fall meetings. Be thinking of any supplies you could donate!

EDITOR'S NOTE

I erroneously neglected to include the results of the Howard County Winter Bird Count from February 5, 2000 in the May/June Newsletter. I have included it in this issue. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

