



# THE GOLDFINCH



A CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2000

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

## SUMMARY OF THE 2000 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT

BY MIKE MCCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

The seventh annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 16, 2000. The count saw our third lowest record for species while at the same time setting a new low for individuals. The number of participants and parties (68 and 39) were up from last's (48 and 23). The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the tally sheet. The participants covered 30% more miles and spent 22% more hours counting than were recorded last year. While the coverage increased, the birds were not there to be counted. The day's efforts recorded 125 species compared to previous year's records (133 in '94, 135 in '95, 130 in '96, 113 in '97, 136 in '98 and 120 in '99). The total of individual birds tallied to 14,600 compared to prior years of 26,651, 26,643, 21,615, 22,781, 17,190, and 15,506.

Saturday's temperature ranged from the low 50's to the high 70's with variably intermittent light showers. The humidity was comfortable thanks to the recent passage of a cool front. Most areas were wet due to the normal to slightly above normal rainfall during the summer. But flooding was not the problem it was last year when in the 30 days preceding that count, the County received nearly 14 inches of rain thanks to Hurricanes Floyd and Dennis and the passage of a major weather front. Weather wise there should have been more birds around. Apparently we missed the presumed influx of birds that the cool front should have produced. Further, it's interesting to note that this year's total individuals tallied is 45% smaller than our best year and is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the number has decreased!

The accompanying table presents the count data. There were 26 fall warblers species identified compared to prior year's (30, 30, 29, 18, 29 & 21). The only new species added on the Fall Count was **Willow Flycatcher** (1 in area 2).

This year the individual bird totals were dominated by: European Starling (1472), American Crow (959), Canada Goose (944), Sharp-shinned Hawk (372, up from 29 in '99), and Broad-winged Hawk (985). These five species accounted for about 32% of the total birds observed. Blackbird numbers (588) were higher than last year's (251) but still low compared to the best year (4485).

Thanks to all participants and those who



acted as **area coordinators** for the count: *Maud Banks, Mary-Jo Betts, Bill and Karan Blum (Area 4), Marty Cierstem, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis and Jane Coskren, Ralph Cullison, Wes Earp, Ward Ebert, Darius and Paula Ecker (Area 3), Tracy Eve, Jeffrey Friedhofer, Edwin Gould, Shiras Guion, Aaron Haines, Dave and Maureen Harvey, Emy Holdrige, Dave Holyoke, Tina Katsampis, Linda Kroeger, Kathleen LaGreca, Dennis Luck, Bob and Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, Nancy Magnusson (Area 5), Grazina and Mike McClure (County Co-coordinator), Diane Mecham, Elayne and Jeff Metter, Kirk Nabors, Sue Neri, Bea Newkirk, Carol Newman, Doug and Jeanne Odermatt, Daryl Olson, Richard Orr, Bonnie Ott (Area 6), Anita Picco, Ron and Susan Polinaszek, Suzanne Probst, Clyde Robinette, Karen Salvini, Susan Setterberg, Jay and Silvia Silverman, Philip Smith, Romaine Smith, Bob and Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator), Tom Strikwerda, Eva Sunell (Area 7), Robin Todd, Dick and Kate Tufts, Marilyn Veek, Mark Wallace (Area 1), Don Waugh, Jordan Wilkerson, Orrey Young, Sherry and Paul Zucker (Area 2).* A very special thanks to **Don and Martha Waugh** who hosted the evening tally rally.

This seventh fall count, as always, pro-

vided an enjoyable time in the field for the participants, and, of course, there was a fun-time at the tally rally. The event provided a great wrap-up for the day in spite of the recurring comment heard during the evening, "where are the birds?"

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and if possible attend the tally as well. Next year the fall count will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September, the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### MOS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MOS offers scholarships to attend summer ecology workshops which National Audubon holds at its camps in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming. Who is eligible? Do you work with young people as a teacher, camp counselors, park ranger, or student and intend to make nature education part of your career? Then these scholarships are designed for you. The scholarship grant covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ecology, conservation, and natural history.

Want more information? Call Eileen Clegg at 410-730-4362, the Howard County coordinator for the MOS Scholarship Committee. Applicants do not have to be a member of MOS, but they must be endorsed by a chapter or member of MOS. Call Eileen before Christmas if you are interested. Completed applications must be in the hands of the MOS Scholarship Committee Chair by Jan 30, 2000. Each member must submit

- a written statement in the form of a letter showing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our wild heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment;
  - two letters or recommendation from individuals (at least one of whom is an MOS member) who know the candidate's interests and activities;
  - a current resume.
- Applicants must be eighteen or older.

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## SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 2000

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Summer brought a few late migrating warblers, Great Blue Herons nesting at Lake Kittamaqundi, Wild Turkey and Northern Bobwhite sightings, a Belted Kingfisher nest which was NOT in a riverbank, and the county's first Red-breasted Nuthatch record.

Occasionally, a summer **Pied-billed Grebe** shows up in the county. One was spotted on 7/5 at Warfield's Pond Park (WARPP) by KT. A **Double-crested Cormorant** flew over Gateway (GATWY) on a club field trip 6/4 (BO).

The **Great Blue Heron** nests that appeared at Lake Kittamaqundi (LKKIT) in early May were watched by many observers. The last of the four nests was built in early June. One nest produced two young; the single young from the second nest was seen on nearby branches on 8/1; the third nest was unsuccessful, while the fourth was built in a location which prevented seeing the contents (MC). Having young fledge from this location is relatively unexpected because herons are usually easily disturbed during nesting. Although no nests were built adjacent to or above the path which encircles the lake, there is much activity in the vicinity of this downtown Columbia lake.

**Great Egrets** were seen at several locations: MC spotted two at LKKIT most evenings during late July and early August; SN had one at Fore Bay Pond (FORBY) near Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) 7/6-7/31 with two on 7/13; MW had one at CENPK 7/18, as did BO on 7/29. One made a brief appearance at the Johns Hopkins APL pond 7/19 (JWi). Four **Green Herons** were at FORBY 7/9, 7/11-13 (SN). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** appeared as usual at Wilde Lake (WILLK) during the summer: HZ & CN; KS on 7/2. One showed up at LKELK 6/13 (J&PF). SN spotted an adult at LKELK 7/11 & 7/16. An immature (im.) appeared at CENPK 7/3 (JC). An im. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was noted at 7:15 p.m. by TR & SR on 6/16 at Daniels just below the dam (DANPV). Twice in five minutes it grabbed a 3/4" long crayfish, then moved to the shore to eat it. SN had one at LKELK 7/22 (pointed out by an unidentified birder); on 7/29 the Pardoes had im. of both species at LKELK (*vide* SN).

The club field trip to DANPV 7/15 observed a female (f.) **Wood Duck** with a large brood (BO). The **Long-tailed Duck** (formerly called Oldsquaw) which had appeared at CENPK in late May was reported again on 6/3 (KS;JS) & 6/14 (JS). On 6/3, KS had a f. **Hooded Merganser** at CENPK.

Two **Blue Jays** chased a **Cooper's Hawk**

EACH SEASON HOWARD COUNTY BIRD SIGHTINGS ARE COMPILED AND SUBMITTED TO *MARYLAND BIRDLIFE* AND *FIELD NOTES*. BECAUSE BOTH PUBLICATIONS PROVIDE OVERVIEWS FOR LARGE AREAS, ONLY A FRACTION OF HOWARD COUNTY SIGHTINGS ARE PUBLISHED. THE RECORDS ARE NOT LOST, HOWEVER, FOR THEY ARE THE BASIS FOR COUNTY RECORDS. ALL RECORDS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED. ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO TURNS IN SEASONAL SIGHTINGS RECEIVES A COPY OF THE COUNTY COMPILATION. TO REQUEST A FORM ON WHICH TO LOG DATES, PLEASE CALL 301-725-5037. THE BOARD HAS REQUESTED THAT A DIGEST OF THE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS APPEAR IN THE NEWSLETTER. OBSERVERS ARE REFERRED TO BY THEIR INITIALS (SEE THE LIST AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE). LOCATIONS ARE WRITTEN OUT THE FIRST TIME CITED; THEREAFTER, ABBREVIATIONS ARE USED.

through a yard in Timberleigh (TIMBR) 6/19 (DN). One **American Kestrel** was fledged from inside the Howard Co. Rec. & Parks warehouse on Oakland Mills Rd. (BB).

**Wild Turkeys** were noted on Cavey Lane 6/6 (1) & 7/29 (2) (L&LH). A few **Northern Bobwhites** are hanging on in the county. On 6/9 J&RS had one north of Jackson Pond in Long Reach, Columbia. A f. appeared under feeders in West Friendship 7/23 (RC).

What a difference a year makes! In 1999 water levels were so low and exposed flats baked so hard under the summer sun that there was little shorebird habitat. This year water levels were so high that there was even less shorebird habitat. A **Killdeer** was noted at FORBY 7/3, 12, & 16 (SN). She also had a **Lesser Yellowlegs** on 7/12 (FORBY). There were two reports of **Solitary Sandpipers**: DANPV 7/20 (TR) & Univ. of MD Central Farm (UMDCF) 7/22 (JS). Two **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen: SN at FORBY 7/12 & HZ at WILLK 7/29. An **American Woodcock** was heard on 6/1 along Hipsley Mill Rd. (CS,D&MH). Three flew over observers on the same road 6/26 (GM).

A summer **Ring-billed Gull** appeared in the CVS parking lot on Rt. 40 west of Centennial Lane 7/18 & two were over the Long Gate Center 7/23 (BO). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was present in CENPK 6/30 (KS) & on a club field trip there 7/29 (BO). A yard on Harpers Farm Rd. hosted two adult and two fledgling **Eastern Screech-Owls** 7/12 (BO). DN had two **Great Horned Owls** at TIMBR 6/26. TR watched one perched in a tree with an opossum in its talons on 7/19 in the WILLK village of Columbia. "When it flew, it appeared to carry the opossum effortlessly." A pair of **Barred Owls** have nested in the vicinity of the parking lot at Howard Chapel Rd and the Patuxent River for at least 25 years. A fledged brood was present in early June (JSh). A club field trip to WILLK 6/10 watched a family of **Barred Owls** which included two downy "branchers." TR had one adult and two young along the Patuxent River about a mile upstream from Daniels on 6/25.

**Whip-poor-wills** were still calling in June at Hipsley Mill Rd: 6/1 (3) (CS,D&MH) & 6/5

(RC). GM & BC had two distant Whips at the same location 6/26. One of the most intriguing reports of the season was relayed by TR. At Cedar Lane Park on 6/7, he watched **Belted Kingfishers** entering an opening in an 8-10' mound of bulldozed dirt. Investigation showed a nest entrance about 7' above the ground. At least four young fledged between 6/27 & 6/29. The nest was about 1/8 mile from a 3-4' wide stream. SN counted four kingfishers at LKELK 6/30. On 6/8 & 6/13 ES had an adult **Hairy Woodpecker** feeding a fledgling in her Al-view yard.

TR found a **Willow Flycatcher** nest with eggs at Meadowbrook (MDBRK) on 7/2 (this is a later date than shown in the *Maryland Field List*). There were young on 7/7 & 7/16; the nest was empty 7/22. A **Willow Flycatcher** was noted at WARPP 6/26 & 7/27 (KT). A field trip to DANPV 7/13 reported watching an **Eastern Phoebe** family (BO). RF was fortunate to have a pair of **Great Crested Flycatchers** nest in a box in her yard on Frederick Rd, west of Marriottsville Rd. SN watched a pair of **Eastern Kingbirds** nest at FORBY 6/6-7/30. The only summer **Horned Lark** reported was one at Brendel's on Union Chapel Rd on 6/9 (WE). As usual, **Cliff Swallows** nested on Brighton Dam where 100+ were counted on 7/9 (KS).

Ranking as one of the best seasonal sightings was the county's first summer **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. The bird appeared intermittently at a feeder in Worthington between 7/4 & 7/18. Photographs and written descriptions provided a well-documented record (J&EM). Although photos were examined by experienced banders, it was not possible to definitely determine the age or sex without the bird in hand. Our thanks to David Holmes and Mary Gustafson for sharing their expertise and banding experience. Even if it had been possible to be sure that it was a juvenile, that would not have proven county nesting, for the nuthatch was able to fly well and could have come from some distance. Worthington, although a decades-old community with large landscaped conifers, has mostly mature decidu-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

ous trees—not a likely habitat for this species which is partial to spruce and fir forests. (Northern Carroll County had probable nesting during the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas.) **White-breasted Nuthatches** do nest in this county. DN had an adult in TIMBR feeding hulled sunflower seeds to two fledglings 6/9.

An **American Robin** was feeding a fledged **Brown-headed Cowbird** 7/6 at LKELK (JC). It is not often that one sees a bird this large raising a cowbird. TR had at least two **Cedar Waxwing** fledglings plus at least one adult at MDRK 7/7.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was spotted in LC's yard in West Friendship 6/25-6/28. ES noted a **Northern Parula** on 6/8 in her Allview yard which is adjacent to the Little Patuxent River floodplain. A club field trip to CENPK 7/29 still found a few **Yellow Warblers** (BO). The first of June brought a singing **Black-throated Green Warbler** to BO's yard near Ellicott City. A m. and a f. **Pine Warbler** at WARPP 6/26 were wandering from their usual habitat (KT). The last reported spring **Black-poll Warbler** was at CENPK 6/3 (BO). JS had an **American Redstart** at CENPK 6/14. The m. **Prothonotary Warbler** which had been seen in Allview intermittently during much of May was last seen 6/2, apparently unsuccessful in its quest for a mate. A probable fledgling **Louisiana Waterthrush** appeared on BO's deck near Ellicott City 7/3.

A club field trip to Gateway (GATWY) 6/4 located three pairs of **Blue Grosbeaks** (BO). ES had one at her feeder in Allview 6/11. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted at four locations: WE had them on 6/9 on the north side of Roxbury Rd & at the Montpelier Business Park (Rt 29 & Johns Hopkins Rd); the trip to GATWY 6/4 spotted or heard 8-10; & JS heard one or two at UMDCF 7/22.

Observers: **BB** - Brenda Belensky, **MC** - Martha Chestern, **LC** - Lisa Colangelo, **JC** - Jane Coskren, **RC** - Ralph Cullison, **WE** - Wes Earp, **RF** - Rosemary Fisher, **J&PF** - Jack & Peggy Fogarty, **D&MH** - Dave & Maureen Harvey, **L&LH** - Lynn & Linda Holley, **E&JM** - Elayne & Jeff Metter, **GM** - Gail Mackiernan, **DN** - Diane Nagengast, **SN** - Sue Neri, **BO** - Bonnie Ott, **SR** - Sam Ray, **TR** - Tim Ray, **KS** - Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** - Jay Sheppard, **JS** - Jo Solem, **RS** - Robert Solem, **CS** - Chuck Stirrat, **ES** - Eva Sunell, **KT** - Kate Tufts, **JWi** - Jordan Wilkerson, **MWr** - Michele Wright, **HZ** - Helen Zeichner.

## BIRDERS SURVIVE HART MILLER ISLAND

BY KATE TUFTS

**O**n Saturday, September 9th, a group of 15 intrepid birders, most from the Howard County Bird Club, embarked on a foray to the infamous Hart Miller Island. The day looked promising with a forecast of sunny skies, light winds and temperatures around 80 degrees. Even after the boat delivered the party to the island shortly after 7 AM, all looked well. Tall trees loomed to the north, wildflowers were in bloom and the skies were blue. Little did the group know how much the landscape would change when they crested the first hill.

Being good birders, the first thing the group noticed was a northern harrier hunting in the fields to the east. There were still fields at this point. The next thing the birders noticed was that the fields ended just ahead and there was nothing ahead except dirt as far as the eye could see. There was dry dusty dirt and pudding-thick mud. The island was starting to live up to its reputation. The group was in for a day of "extreme birding" with no shelter, no life-lines, no SUVs.

The birders, lead by Gene Scarpulla of the Hart Miller Island research team, covered 7 1/2

miles carrying scopes and backpacks. They traveled the dikes around the island and inspected each and every mud flat. Was it worth it? It certainly was considering that many in the group picked up three or four life birds and numerous state birds. Birds of special note included: Whimbrel, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone. A good mix of raptors was seen to include the Northern Harrier, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle and an unidentified accipiter.

By the time the boat was ready to take the group back to the mainland they had ticked off 65 species of birds and 16 species of butterflies. They were also dusty and more than a little tired. Would they do it again? Some are already dreaming of possible snow buntings and short-eared owls in the winter.

Hart Miller Island may not be for everyone, but all of the survivors of this adventure found it rewarding and certainly the basis for a good yarn to retell around the old campfire.



*The birders, lead by Gene Scarpulla of the Hart Miller Island research team, covered 7 1/2 miles carrying scopes and backpacks.*

## 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.

**November 9, Thursday, "Hart-Miller Island: A Brief History through Time," by Gene Scarpulla.** Learn some of the facts and sights that some of our members discovered on our field trip to Hart-Miller Island in September.

**December 14, Thursday, "Cuba: You Can't Get There from Here," by Hank Kaestner.** Hank and his brother, Peter, saw most of Cuba's endemic species on a recent trip there.

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, e-mail [bott@erols.com](mailto:bott@erols.com). Page numbers refer to Birding Howard County, Maryland by Joanne K. Solem

**November 5, Sunday** - Centennial Park (8:00 a.m. - 2-3 hours) Leader: Ralph Cullison. Meet at west end lot. Walk around the lake on the paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Facilities available Pg.5. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

**November 10, Friday** - Wilde Lake (8:30 a.m. - 1.5 hours) Leader: TBA. Meet at boat dock to walk along the lake and wooded path. No facilities. Pg. 47. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

**November 12, Sunday** - Centennial Park (8:00 a.m. - 2-3 hours) Leader TBA: Meet at west end lot. Walk around the lake on a paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Facilities available. Pg. 5. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

**November 19, Sunday** - Centennial Park (8:00 a.m. - 2-3 hours) Leader: Mike Kerwin. Meet at west end lot. Walk on paved path around the lake to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Facilities available. Pg. 5. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

**November 20, Monday** - Lake Elkhorn (8:30 a.m. - 2 hours) Leader: TBA. Meet at Broken Land Parkway lot. Walk around the lake on paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Pg. 43. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361

**November 26, Sunday** - Centennial Park (8:00 a.m. - 2-3 hours) Leader: TBA. Meet at west end lot. Walk around the lake on paved path to view waterfowl and woodland birds. Facilities available. Pg. 5. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

**December 2, Saturday** - Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. All day trip - Bald eagles and waterfowl. Call Bonnie to reserve a spot and work out carpooling arrangements. Plan to bring a lunch. Dress very warmly and bring scope if possible. Facilities available Call 410-461-3361

**January 1 2001, Monday** - New Year's Day - Leader: TBA. Our annual trip to wherever and possibly all over Howard county to tally as many birds as we can to begin the year 2001. A mid-day lunch stop at a local eating establishment and further afternoon birding for the die hards! Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

**January 13-15 2001 Saturday - Monday** (Martin Luther King 3 day weekend) Ocean City and environs - we are putting together a trip for the eastern shore. Call Bonnie for details and to reserve a spot.

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

**November 16, Thursday,** Jeff Friedhoffer, 10042 Mending Wall, Columbia, MD 21044, 410-997-5366  
Don Nargh's

**December, None**

**JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2001 NEWSLETTER MATERIAL is due NOVEMBER 24, 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](mailto:Paulae2156@aol.com).** Also, please visit the club's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.howardbirds.org>

### HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

When doing your Holiday shopping, why not consider a few purchases from the club's bookstore? If you have something in particular you are searching for, contact Ann Marie Raterman at 410-740-4224 and ask if she can get that perfect item for you.

### RENEW, RENEW, RENEW

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

### 2000 ANNUAL LISTS DUE

BY JANE COSKREN

A list of all the birds seen in the county during the 2000 calendar year is being compiled for the 22st consecutive year. Did we break any records this year? Only you can help us decide. Assemble your sightings for the year (even if the list was compiled in your neighborhood or your yard) and mail to **Jane Coskren, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia MD 21045 any time after December 31, but not later than March 3, 2000.** The length of the list isn't important, because your list may contain the bird that will make 2000 a year for the record books.

# HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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## CONSERVATION COLUMN BY BOB SOLEM

**W**hat are TMDLs?? That is a technical term concerning water pollution, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and (in our case), the Chesapeake Bay. TMDLs. (Total Maximum Daily Loads) are essentially a "pollution budget" for a waterway. It is an estimate of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and still meet its water quality standards with a margin of safety. Once the maximum load is calculated, it is allocated among different pollution sources. EPA has adopted controversial new rules that will require states to complete (and implement) cleanup plans for thousands of polluted rivers, lakes, and streams across the nation--including those that affect the Chesapeake Bay. In its new rules, EPA makes clear--for the first time--that it has the authority to develop TMDLs for interstate and boundary waters. The rules, which outline how cleanup plans should be developed and implemented, angered many influential polluters, so Congress in June attached a "rider" to a separate piece of legislation

prohibiting EPA from implementing the rule. Defying Congress, EPA finalized the rule July 11--two days before President Clinton signed the bill with the rider. *The rider still prohibits EPA from spending money to implement the rule before October 1, 2001, but states will have to begin planning to abide by the rule.*

**We already have the Chesapeake Bay Program, a multi-state agreement to reduce pollution in the Bay by 40%. What is new and different about TMDLs??** TMDLs are much like the Chesapeake Bay program's "tributary strategies," which set specific limits on the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Chesapeake from different rivers--but there are some key differences. TMDLs, under the new rules, have enforceable elements. The Bay program nutrient reductions are largely voluntary. Proponents of the Bay program approach say it is a more cost-effective and flexible way to control pollution--but the nutrient reduction would still fall short of what is

needed to meet water quality standards. Proponents of the TMDL approach like the fact that TMDLs have a specific goal--to meet water quality standards.

The Bay program, in its Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, embarked on a new cleanup effort that merges the TMDL endpoint of attaining water quality standards with the present voluntary cleanup approach. This is done by setting new water quality standards that define what a "clean Bay" is, then determining the new sediment and nutrient reductions that will be needed to achieve those standards by 2010. If the Bay program falls short, the TMDL process will kick in for the Chesapeake watershed in 2011.

*This article is based on information from "Bay Journal" 10(6):6-7. For more information, look at the issue online at <http://www.bayjournal.com/>; information about the parent organization, Alliance for Chesapeake Bay is at <http://www.acb-online>*

