



Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

In Memoriam

Venkataramap "Kris" Krishnamoorthy (d. 1986)

Howard County MOS marks the recent passing of Dr. Venkataramap (better known as "Kris") Krishnamoorthy. He and his family, Marci and Anú, joined the club in 1974 and immediately became enthusiastic participants in many activities. At first Kris knew little about the natural world here, but his insatiable curiosity and quick mind soon gave him command of the local birds. Blessed with a good ear, it was not long before he recognized most of the county's birds by song as well as by sight. Bird behavior intrigued him long before it became a popularized branch of ornithology. His last major contribution to the chapter constituted a special edition of the newsletter (Feb. 1981) entitled "The Endless Fascination of Bird Watching" in which he provided clues and aids that observers could use to increase their enjoyment of watching bird activity. He concluded his introduction to the subject by suggesting that "listing or counting is a lot of fun, but trying to understand the many facets of birdlife is sublime."

Birds were only one of his interests as he investigated the flowers, amphibians, ferns, and grasses of the Middle Atlantic, as well as specialized ecological areas such as the New Jersey Pine Barrens, serpentine areas in Baltimore County, and the Great Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. His almost daily walks during his lunch hour led to many interesting observations as well as the first county active nesting records for the White-breasted Nuthatch and the Black-and-white Warbler.

Kris served the Howard County Bird Club in a number of capacities, most notably as treasurer and field trip chairman. He was an enthusiastic trip leader, a gifted naturalist, and an entertaining companion. We are grateful for what he shared with us. On behalf of the club, the board extends its sympathy to Marci and Anú. A suitable memorial is being considered and will be announced.

—Joanne Solem