

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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*Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.*



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JUNE 1959

NUMBER 2

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COVER: American Bittern. Photograph by Dr. C. J. Stine

HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor

M A R Y L A N D B I R D L I F E

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## CURLEW SANDPIPER AT WEST OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

Samuel H. Dyke

On the morning of May 2, 1959, the tidal flat at West Ocean City was alive with shorebirds--Dunlins, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Willets, and Greater Yellowlegs. The tide was rising and flocks of shorebirds were trading back and forth from Sinepuxent Bay.

As a flock of Dunlins flew in, I spotted a bird of like size and coloration, but with a distinctly white rump. Its large, downcurved bill precluded its being a White-rumped Sandpiper. Knowing that many shorebirds seem to show a white rump as they twist and turn in flight, I followed the flock with my glasses, but had no difficulty in picking out the bird with the white rump--undoubtedly a Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*).

The flock settled on the flat, but as I searched for my bird they again flew, and were soon lost from sight. Again I had no trouble picking out the Curlew Sandpiper in flight. One would expect this species to be in the striking adult plumage at this time of year, but a Curlew Sandpiper that I saw at Tuckerton, New Jersey, on May 22, 1954, could not be distinguished from Dunlins by coloration alone.

This report adds the Curlew Sandpiper to the Maryland hypothetical list until such time as a specimen or diagnostic photograph can be taken.

309 Princeton Avenue, Salisbury

## REPORT OF STATE-WIDE BIRD COUNT, MAY 2, 1959

Compiled by Chandler S. Robbins

For the fifth consecutive year, the day of the State-wide Bird Count was disappointing to those who hoped to find a heavy surge of migration. Maryland lay in the center of a high pressure system, and subnormal temperatures prevailed throughout the Southeast, restricting migration. Temperatures in the early morning were as low as 41° at Denton and 45° at Laurel, but they climbed to the upper seventies by mid-afternoon. Although the wind was not from a direction favorable for active migration, wind speed remained light throughout the morning, greatly facilitating observations. Afternoon winds were primarily from a southerly quadrant and rose to between 5 and 15 m.p.h. in most areas. Skies were partly overcast, but no precipitation was reported.

Nocturnal migration was negligible at both ends of the day, as attested by the very small number of migrant thrushes on those lists that started well before dawn and continued after dark. Diurnal migration, likewise, was at a minimum for this season of the year. Note that the Sharp-shinned Hawk almost went unrecorded and that only two observers found more than a single Broad-wing. The transient swallows (Tree, Bank, and/or Cliff, depending upon which section of the State is referred to) were scarce in most areas, or absent altogether. In fact, the only conspicuous land-bird transient was the Blue Jay; the total count for this species nearly reached last year's high figure of 1,763, and the birds were more evenly distributed in 1959. The two areas that included 67% of the 1958 Blue Jays had only 28% of the 1959 total.

In comparison with past years, the present count rates as the best in number of areas covered (26), total party-hours (417½), number of individuals counted (42,744), and number of species identified (218). The number of participants was 123, barely more than last year but short of the previous record. For the first time, every county west of Chesapeake Bay was represented--a noteworthy accomplishment. Only Cecil, Kent, Dorchester and Somerset Counties on the Eastern Shore had no observers reporting.

As usual, the Ocean City list contained many species not found anywhere else. Of 20 species in this category, 11 were shorebirds and all except the Swainson's Warbler were marsh or water birds. The Palmers list had 6 species not found by any other party: 2 herons, 3 ducks and a shrike. Gibson Island observers found the only Bonaparte's Gulls, Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Wilson's Warbler. The Allegany County parties recorded the only Pigeon Hawk, Bewick's Wren, and Turkeys. Participants at Emmitsburg, Carroll County, Patuxent Refuge, Annapolis, Wye Mills, Caroline County and St. Michaels also noted one or two species not found elsewhere. Two species and one hybrid were found on the State-wide Bird Count for the first time: Curlew Sandpiper at Ocean City (see details on page 51), Cattle Egret near Romancoke on Kent Island, and Lawrence's Warbler in Caroline County.

Table 1. State-wide Bird Count, May 2, 1959

Species	1 Gar	2 All	3 Was	4 Emm	5 Fre	6 Car	7 Har	8 Whi	9 Rav	10 Lut	11 Rol	12 PPk	13 How	14 Uni	15 Sen	16 Pat	17 Gre	18 Ced	19 Gib	20 Ann	21 Cal	22 Pal	23 Wye	24 Car	25 Stm	26 Ooc	TOT	
Common Loon				1				127													1	3			2	3	151	
Horned Grebe		1												2			1					12					16	
Pied-billed Grebe																8					1						10	
Gannet																										2	2	
Double-cr. Cormorant																						500			1	157	658	
Great Blue Heron					1							3					1		8	2	2	17	2	1	8	3	48	
Green Heron										1			2	1	1	5	12				1			1	6	8	44	
Little Blue Heron																						9					9	
Cattle Egret																							1				1	
Common Egret																						11					11	
Snowy Egret																						1				9	10	
Black-cr. Nt. Heron			1	1																							2	
Am. Bittern		3			1											5											9	
Whistling Swan																						2			5		7	
Canada Goose									7							8	1						100	39	80	4	239	
Brant																										25	25	
Mallard		21	2	8									2		17	12	5		13							6	86	
Black Duck		2								2					8		14		12	14		11	10	11	9	4	97	
Am. Widgeon																						4					4	
Blue-winged Teal		1												3	7										2	2	16	
Shoveller																						2					2	
Wood Duck		4	5	12				2			14		4	1	10	21	8			2					2		85	
Greater Scaup																	1					150				4	155	
Lesser Scaup			1	1												1	1		3			45					52	
Bufflehead			1																			7					8	
Oldsquaw																						6					6	
White-winged Scoter																1									5	20	25	
Hooded Merganser																									2		3	
Common Merganser			1	1																							22	
Red-br. Merganser								77																			77	
Turkey Vulture		19	21	6	5	13		23	10	9		4	51	12	5	8	5	15	5	5	51	5	34	164	42	30	542	
Black Vulture																						12	3	2			22	
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1			1																			2	
Cooper's Hawk																	2		1								3	
Red-tailed Hawk													4		1	1					2			1	5		14	
Red-shouldered Hawk			2			1		2					1		6		6				1			2			21	
Broad-winged Hawk		1	1	1				8					3		1	1	1				3	3		1	1		16	
Bald Eagle									1																		14	
Marsh Hawk																										1	1	
Osprey				2	1	1		6		1			2								4	29	41	6	5	7	8	113
Pigeon Hawk		1																									1	
Sparrow Hawk			1		1	1		4					1					1	3			2		3		1	19	
Ruffed Grouse		2	17	2	2																						23	



June 1959

MARTLAND BIRDLIFE

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Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	TOT	
	Gar	All	Was	Emm	Fre	Car	Har	Whi	Rav	Lut	RoI	PPk	How	Uni	Sen	Pat	Gre	Ced	Gib	Ann	Cal	Pal	Wye	Car	Stm	OcC		
Great Horned Owl		1																						2	4	8		
Barred Owl				2	2								2	2		3	1						2			14		
Chuck-will's-widow																						2			15	17		
Whip-poor-will			6	3	4		1		1				30	2		7	11		14			11	6	2		98		
Common Nighthawk			2	3																				4	1	1	11	
Chimney Swift	1	18	30	30	93	7		22		35		12	211	8	4	19	52	35	63	5	70	13		117	62	50	957	
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird		1					2	1				1							5	2	1		10	1		24		
Belted Kingfisher		6	2	2	1	1		1	2			1	3				4		10	1	1	2	2	7	1	1	48	
Yel-shaft. Flicker	9	9	2	10	5		1	5	5	4	3	6	7	2	2	4	30	9	14	4	20	4	1	12	6	4	178	
Pileated Woodpecker			2														2				1				1		8	
Red-bellied Woodpecker			5	4	9	1	2	13	2	1	4	1	13	4	2	14	28	18	14	4	7	2	6	24	15	2	195	
Red-headed Woodpecker		4		2			3	1			1						1		1						1		14	
Yel-bellied Sapsucker		1					3																				4	
Hairy Woodpecker		4	1				2	4			1	2		2	1	4				1	2				5		37	
Downy Woodpecker	1	21	6	6	4	1	4	14	4	3	5	1	7	10	5	4	23	1	1	1	7	3	2	16	9	1	160	
Eastern Kingbird			2	4	2	3	2	13	2	2	1	6	25	5	3	10	11	3	16	4	4	7	11	48	2	6	192	
Gt. Crested Flycatcher		3	8	5	1			9	2			1	8	8	4	8	3		11	2	3	1	3	22	27	2	131	
Eastern Phoebe		10	7	4	11		4	6	2	1	2	4	13	4	6	1	9			1				10	2	4	101	
Acadian Flycatcher				1								1	1		4	5	2		3	1	1			5	2		32	
Least Flycatcher												1	1		1												3	
E. Wood Pewee	2	3	1	1	1			5			1						11		1	1			1	6	3		26	
Horned Lark				6	1		4						1		2	1				3				9	5	6	54	
Tree Swallow								72					3			4	3		1		6	22		28	3	4	146	
Bank Swallow			1					5				12									30	12			3		63	
Rough-winged Swallow		2	8	7	2			1				15	12		4	4	4		55	8	15		2	23		8	170	
Barn Swallow	16	19	40		6	10	1	52	20	8			133	50	10	16	23	16	150	37	129	73	11	186	38	21	1065	
Cliff Swallow				16									1	2													19	
Purple Martin		25	100		13	50		18			10		3	40		3	26		30		39	39	10	107	13	20	546	
Blue Jay		12	5	8	25	51	200	15	158	10	22	100	20	362	100	39	44	123	32	300	27	12	3	3	48	7	1726	
Common Crow	9	24	24	20	65	3	6	23	15	12	15	12	82	20	6	18	57	10	60	9	42	26	30	116	66	10	780	
Fish Crow				10				1				1				3	1		17	2	4		2	5	10	4	60	
Black-cap. Chickadee		35	1																								36	
Carolina Chickadee			15	12	15	5	5	15	7	5	2	6	10	4	3	12	29	65	16	1	13	5	7	55	7	4	318	
Tufted Titmouse	4	42	14	12	14	3	8	8	4	2	5	5	40	6	5	37	89	12	75	11	18	7	2	53	11	4	491	
White-br. Nuthatch	1			1			1		2	1	1	1		8					1		1						18	
Brown-headed Nuthatch																										5		5
Brown Creeper																1											1	
House Wren		3	6	17	10	25	12	6	7		4	1	1	27	15	2	4	13		50	2	9	2	10	6	2	234	
Bewick's Wren			1																								1	
Carolina Wren	1	8	10	6	12	2	2	4	4	1		2	20	1	9	2	10	2	150	2	10	3	3	24	11	2	301	
Long-bill Marsh Wren																											6	
Short-bill Marsh Wren																			4						2		4	
Mockingbird		16	15	10	10	5	9	13	2	5	4	6	49	6	10	12	44	4	95	21	60	11		60	14	4	485	
Catbird	2	28	18	30	43	2	10	9	4	10	11	80	39	3	8	16	62	5	100	25	24	2	3	51	22	4	611	
Brown Thrasher	5	12	8	20	24	6	3	11		2	5	3	30	8	1	10	31	1	150	9	7	4		69	7	2	428	

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	TOT	
	Gar	All	Was	Emm	Fre	Gar	Har	Whi	Rav	Lut	Rot	PPK	How	Uni	Sen	Pat	Gre	Ced	Gib	Ann	Cal	Pal	Wye	Gar	Stem	Occ		
Robin	18	24	61	30	84	12	19	26	25	19		30	105	6	30	14	117	12	70	37	35	35	2	189	13	6	1240	
Wood Thrush	4	47	29	40	29	3	9	30	4	4	6	6	77	14	11	20	36	30	50	22	17	1	3	54	27	2	579	
Hermit Thrush					1		1	1			3								1	1					2	1	10	
Swainson's Thrush												1													1		2	
Gray-cheeked Thrush																				1					1		1	
Veery								5			2		3			2	1		1						1		15	
Eastern Bluebird	2	6	2	6	3	2		2					6	6	1	1	2	2	7	2	4	3	4	31	4	2	98	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	14	7	2	6	4		29	1			3	29	4	18	17	56	2	7		5			26	7	3	244	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1	6	4					1						2	2		4								20	
Water Pipit				12																				9			21	
Cedar Waxwing		10		3	3		50	22						10	61	7	43		40	37	26	18		11			341	
Loggerhead Shrike																						1					1	
Starling	4	347	67	50	117	5	18	148	15	43		50	273	16	30	28	436	9	60	40	100	19	25	262	18	40	2220	
White-eyed Vireo				2	1	3		11	1		1	1	6		3	7	5		21	5	9		1	30	9	3	124	
Yellow-throated Vireo		1	2		1	2		1	2				9	4	3	14	4	7	1		2			5	4		62	
Solitary Vireo			2	3							1								4								11	
Red-eyed Vireo		52	6	6	1	4	1	27		1	1	12	28	2	10	41	92	50	25	1	27		1	31	29	6	454	
Warbling Vireo			10		2						1		1						1						2	1	18	
Black-&-white Warbler		9	3	3	2		1	10	2	1	1	1	16	2	1	18	33	2	21	3	10			20	18	1	178	
Prothonotary Warbler				1												9	2								2	1	6	27
Swainson's Warbler																											1	
Worm-eating Warbler		1	6			6		1	2						2	2				1						4	25	
Golden-winged Warbler	3	32		1				2					5	1	1	1					1						46	
Blue-winged Warbler				5				1						1	1	1	1		1	2	5			5	11	2	36	
Lawrence's Warbler																									1		1	
Nashville Warbler		2		2									1	8		4				1						1	19	
Parula Warbler	1	5	2	1		4		8	4			20	18		19	23	43	24	75	1	24	4		12	23	7	318	
Yellow Warbler	6	40	12	4	2		2	8	1	2	4	3	17	2	2	3	4		9	2	3	2		15	4	2	149	
Magnolia Warbler																	1										4	
Cape May Warbler				2				1			1				1												5	
Blk-thr. Blue Warbler			1	6		1		15		2	1			1		6				3	1	1		3	5		46	
Myrtle Warbler			2	40	9	5	6	67	5	31	4	50	79	35	16	38	92	50	105	3	13		31	117	265	6	1069	
Blk-thr. Green Warbler	7	1	1	10				21	9		1		1	3		10	2	2	4	1					1	1	75	
Cerulean Warbler			3					15	1						1		1										21	
Blackburnian Warbler			1					8			1		1			3	1		1		4				1		21	
Yellow-thrtd. Warbler																				5					7	1	16	
Chest-sided Warbler		13		2	1			1	2				2	1	1		1		2	2	10						39	
Blackpoll Warbler															1		1								1		3	
Pine Warbler		1														4				4		1	2		22	4	44	
Prairie Warbler			10			1		2	8	8		2	13	1	5	17	10	12	29	1	7	5	1	26	5	5	168	
Palm Warbler						1																					1	
Ovenbird	10	8	5	4		6		20		1	2	10	16	2		29	56	40	11	3	3			9	5	3	243	
No. Waterthrush		2	2	2				2								3				1	1				3	3	20	
La. Waterthrush		3	4	1				11	2		1	4	11	1	8	3	12					2			5	2	75	
Kentucky Warbler				2				1				6	9			6	1		2		2			13	9	6	57	



Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	TOT
	Gar	All	Was	Sm	Fre	Car	Har	Whl	Rav	Lut	Roll	PKk	How	Uni	Sen	Pat	Gre	Ced	Gib	Ann	Cal	Pal	Wye	Car	Stm	Ooc	TOT
Yellowthroat	4	19	2	20	4	12	6	12	30	1	6	20	45	10	7	49	41	3	55	37	21		3	56	27	11	501
Yellow-breasted Chat		4	1	5	11	2		12	15	2	6	10	1	1	2		9	29	1		4	3	2	16	9	1	146
Hooded Warbler				15		2		4	1		2	1	13			23	20	3	95		9	1		1		2	192
Wilson's Warbler															1					2							1
Canada Warbler				1								1															5
Am. Redstart		17	7	10	4	6					2	20	23	2	28	37	72	15	15	1	14			5	6	4	288
House Sparrow	28	222	111	50	24	4	6	9		45			111	6	5	9	46	5	70	48	75	34	25	400	42	50	1425
Boblink													5														10
Eastern Meadowlark	16	27	31	30	37	15	6	18	5	4			153	30	6	13	28	18	16	15	30	17	28	123	24	12	702
Redwinged Blackbird	31	87	93	30	26	7	29	237	30	12	4		224	20	22	179	177	3	500	88	111	31	108	303	175	20	2547
Orchard Oriole			2	2			1	2		1			9	1	1	1	2		2		4	1		14	3		46
Baltimore Oriole	1	11	13	5	7		1	1		2	4	9	18	1	6	1	5		3	5			1	11	4		109
Rusty Blackbird																1	6										7
Boat-tailed Grackle																											50
Common Grackle	1	56	137	30	134	12	17	49	10	20		20	207	15	28	60	168	30	300	39	275	100	115	547	425	50	2845
Brown-headed Cowbird	16	69	13	30	66	12	16	39	9	16	2	6	51	60	20	30	47	8	150	49	63	15	9	150	92	20	1058
Scarlet Tanager	2	5	1	5	2	1	4	12	2			2	11	4	4	17	15	6	12	3	15	1	1	21	6	5	156
Summer Tanager															1					1				5	3	1	12
Cardinal	6	68	30	30	41	4	27	57	25	8	10	30	76	12	21	22	85	12	100	45	54	23	15	167	119	25	1112
Rose-br. Grosbeak	6	4		2				1			1	2	3		1		1		3								24
Blue Grosbeak								1																17	6		24
Indigo Bunting		9	3		3		4						2	4	2	4	2			2	6	3		2	1	1	48
Purple Finch	1	13	1	6	1			25				4			1					1							53
Pine Siskin																5	4										9
Am. Goldfinch	3	184	29	50	108	31	17	283	35	4		12	201	40	150	212	110	14	300	4	51	2	32	130	115	10	2127
Rufous-sided Towhee	20	37	17	40	27	4	13	22	12	3	8	4	74	14	6	46	78	17	380	25	43	27		86	100	10	1113
Savannah Sparrow													6	2			6								3	2	6
Grasshopper Sparrow			4	10		4		6			1		43	6	4	1	1								15	3	100
Henslow's Sparrow													8	1											3		12
Sharp-tailed Sparrow																											1
Seaside Sparrow																										4	4
Vesper Sparrow	3	2	3	30	1	4							15	2							1			9			70
Slate-colored Junco		1										4		1													6
Chipping Sparrow	4	30	7	10	4	3		21		5	2		37	12	4	13	14	22	41	11	32	10	4	95	135	2	518
Field Sparrow	12	21	15	20	10	2	2	29	15	4	1	2	48	12	4	16	30	1	4	11	35		14	69	46	4	427
White-crown Sparrow	4	7	2	5	19						1		1	3											8	2	52
White-thr. Sparrow	3	22	23	60	28		22	23	20	2	20	50	38	25	16	117	94	20	195	19	32	15	169	117	10	1140	
Fox Sparrow																									2		2
Lincoln Sparrow				1																							1
Swamp Sparrow				6	1	1		1			1	1		4		1	1		2	1	5			6	2	2	35
Song Sparrow	10	36	23	20	49	6	6	41	15	4	10	20	73	6	10	10	26	1	120	45	19		2	39	17	10	618
TOTAL SPECIES	44	91	90	98	77	60	49	96	54	53	61	55	96	81	81	110	103	51	113	90	87	78	51	112	127	116	218
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	308		1128		1281		580		423		510		3584		770		3006		4775		2058		697		3142		4,774
PARTY HOURS	6	26	40	13	27	3	8	16	8	4	7	5	15½	6	7½	11	33	5	48	9	25	10	3	56	19	6½	417½

High Counts

One does not expect to find many counts worthy of special mention on a day when weather conditions are unfavorable for migration. A few participants, nevertheless, broke previous spring records for their respective areas of the State: 127 Common Loons migrating over Perry Hall; 500 Double-crested Cormorants at Palmers; 77 Red-breasted Mergansers over White Marsh; 17 Ruffed Grouse and 37 Turkeys in Allegany County; 600 Dunlins at Ocean City; 9 Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Greenbelt, 8 at St. Michaels, and 6 in Howard County; 8 Screech Owls at St. Michaels; 30 Whip-poor-wills in Howard County; 10 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Caroline County; 80 Catbirds in Patapsco State Park; 150 Brown Thrashers at Gibson Island, 69 in Caroline County, and 30 in Howard County; 9 Prothonotary Warblers at Seneca and 8 in Caroline County; 6 Worm-eating Warblers in Carroll County; 32 Golden-winged Warblers in Allegany County; 11 Blue-winged Warblers at St. Michaels; 15 Cerulean Warblers at Perry Hall; 17 Blue Grosbeaks at St. Michaels; and 380 Rufous-sided Towhees at Gibson Island.

More areas appear in the tabular summary than in any past year. The total number of party-hours represented is 10% greater than last year and 8% higher than the previous record in 1957. Consequently we should expect many of the totals in the final column of Table 1 to exceed the totals of previous years. In 1958 the totals for 32 species were higher than in any of the 10 previous years. In 1959 52 species had the highest totals in the 12 years of the State-wide count. Twenty-one of these were water birds, 6 were woodpeckers, 8 were warblers (mostly summer-resident species) and the others were from 15 other families. Some of the more impressive totals were 85 Wood Ducks, 503 Mourning Doves, 57 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 195 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 135 Crested Flycatchers, 428 Brown Thrashers, 244 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 192 Hooded Warblers, and 1,113 Rufous-sided Towhees.

"Disaster Species"

A year ago (MARYLAND BIRDLIFE 14 (2): 45) we showed the drastic reduction in five species of common songbirds that resulted from severe winter weather early in 1958. We may now re-examine the status of these same five species by comparing the 1957, 1958 and 1959 counts in twelve areas that were covered in all three years. The Kent Island area, which was used in the 1958 comparison, had to be omitted because no count was made there in 1959; this necessitated an adjustment from the figures that were published last year. The areas used in Table 2 below are identified by the following numbers in Table 1: 2, 3, 4, 9, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26.

In 1958 these species had decreased in all except two or three areas, had increased in one or two areas, and remained constant in the others. In 1959, on the other hand, all except the bluebird had increased in more than half of the twelve areas. The actual figures recorded each year have not been corrected for differences in coverage, but the percentage changes in the last pair of columns have been so corrected. A brief

Table 2. Population changes in "disaster species"

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. of Areas with Increase</u>		<u>Total Birds</u>			<u>Percent Change from 1957</u>	
	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Killdeer	1	8	137	72	104	- 51%	- 16%
Eastern Phoebe	2	7	115	43	57	- 65%	- 38%
House Wren	1	7	186	80	140	- 60%	- 17%
Carolina Wren	2	9	262	150	249	- 47%	+ 5%
Eastern Bluebird	1	6	254	85	70	- 69%	- 70%
Party-hours			305 $\frac{1}{2}$	330	276	+ 8%	- 10%

study of these final columns will show that all except the Eastern Bluebird are recovering rapidly from the disaster.

#### Résumé of Coverage

The total number of species and individuals for each of the 26 areas in Table 1 will be found at the end of that table, together with the number of party-hours of field work. Other details of coverage for all areas covered on May 2 are given below. Each area has been given a number to facilitate reference to the table.

1. Garrett County. Grantsville area. Observers: Daniel Folk and Irwin E. Miller. Compiler: Mrs. Gordon Taylor.

2. Allegany County. Five parties: (1) East end of county along Potomac River by canoe and on foot; 10 hours, Kendrick Y. Hodgdon. (2) Flintstone Creek area; 6 hours on foot, Mrs. C. Gordon Taylor (compiler). (3) C. & O Canal east from Oldtown; 4 hours on foot, Herbert C. Heineman. (4) C & O Canal west from Oldtown; 3 hours on foot, Charlotte Richardson. (5) Rocky Gap area; 3 hours on foot, observers together--Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Webster, Edgar W. Reynolds, William M. Leeson, Margaret Baker, Pan Minke, Daniel Folk, John F. Workmeister, Lillian Myers, C. Ray Sine.

3. Washington County. Howard Dean, Alice Mallonee, Elizabeth Koliopoulos, Sue C. Stauffer, John Stauffer, R. S. Stauffer (compiler).

4. Emmitsburg, northern Frederick County. 5:15 a.m. to 9 p.m. William Meredith, Ralph Joly, Ruth Richards, John Richards (compiler).

5. Frederick County (central). Three parties: (1) William Shirey (4:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) and Charles Mullican (5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). (2) Myersville; 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  hours, Sterling W. Edwards. (3) Reich's Ford and Monrovia Meadow; 2:30 to 5 p.m., Mabel Hoyler, Hazel White, Sarah Quinn.

6. Carroll County. Ten observers in 1 party; 3 hours, 20 miles by car, Dr. and Mrs. Elmer G. Worthley (compilers).

7. Harford County. Observers working separately. Dr. Caroline tum Suden, Evelyn M. Gregory, Margaret R. Gatchell, Jane D. Smith, Grace Wright, Mrs. C. L. Buckner.

8. White Marsh and Perry Hall, Baltimore County. Two parties on foot for 8 hours each. White Marsh (between Joppa Rd. and Old Phila. Rd.); C. Douglas Hackman (compiler) and Paul H. Brookes. One-half square mile at Perry Hall; Hank Kaestner (compiler) and Reed Kaestner.

9. Loch Raven, Baltimore County. C. Haven Kolb, Jr.

10. Lutherville (2 hours on foot) and Loch Raven. Observers together. Mrs. John Murison, Mrs. Shirley Geddes.

11. Lake Roland, Baltimore County, and Cylburn Wildflower Preserve, Baltimore. Alice Kaestner.

12. Patapsco State Park, Baltimore and Howard Counties. Five hours between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Irving E. Hampe.

13. Howard County. 4 miles on foot, 145 by car; 1 party, Chandler S. Robbins (compiler), Ted Stiles, Stuart B. Robbins.

14. Unity and Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery County. Stony Broke Farm (5 hours) and Pretty Penny Farm and Brighton Dam (1 hour). Seth H. Low.

15. Seneca area, Montgomery County. Kensington to Pennyfield, Violet's Lock and Seneca Swamp. 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Katherine Goodpasture (compiler), Dr. E. W. Goodpasture, Margaret Donald.

16. Patuxent Research Refuge, Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Counties. Eleven hours between 5 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Robert E. Stewart.

17. Greenbelt, Prince Georges County. Including parts of Beltsville, Berwyn and Bladensburg. Three parties, 4 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; 38 party-miles on foot, 86 by car. David Bridge (compiler), Ronald Feller, Vernon and Melvin Kleen.

18. Cedarville State Forest, Prince Georges and Charles Counties. 3500 acres, predominantly pine and mixed hardwoods. Six miles by car, 1 on foot; 5 hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Hans and Dorothy Krimm.

19. Gibson Island, Anne Arundel County. Same area as in 9 past years. Observers on foot in 4 parties, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. C. Buchanan, R. Dwight, Mrs. R. Henderson, Judge and Mrs. W. L. Henderson (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. J. Kidd, Mrs. J. Lewis, Mrs. J. Markell, Jr., Mrs. G. Tappan, Mr. and Mrs. A. Varrieur, Miss M. McLean.

20. Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. Sandy Point State Park (3 observers in 1 party; 4 party-hours on foot, 2 by car; 2 party-miles on foot, 26 by car) and head of South River and elsewhere (6 observers in 2 parties; 2 party-hours on foot, 1 by car; 20 party-miles by car). Robert Cornell, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hall, Donald Hall, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard (compilers).

21. Calvert County. Three parties: (1) 12 party-hours; 5 miles on foot, 35 by car, Harold and Hal Weirenga. (2) Solomons; 8 hours, Pan Minke. (3) Plum Point; 12 to 5 p.m.; 40 minutes and 20 miles by car, the rest on foot. John H. Fales.

22. Palmers, St. Marys County. Two parties: (1) Leonardtown; 8 to 12 a.m., James S. Duke. (2) Colton's Point and Blackstone Island area; 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. James M. Banagan.

23. Wye Mills, Talbot and Queen Annes County. Kent Island and "Bird Haven." Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lubbert.

24. Caroline County. Twenty observers in 12 parties, 3:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; 49 party-hours on foot, 7 by car; 24 party-miles on foot, 241 by car. Annabelle, Della Mae, Elsie and Irene Bilbrough, Margarete Butenschoen, A. J., Roberta B. and Robert Fletcher (compilers), Mrs. Nick Harrison, Marvin W. and Naomi W. Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Mary Virginia and Terry Moore, Ethel Poore, Tom Robbins, Salome Somers, L. Jay and Jacquelin Smith, A. May Thompson.

25. St. Michaels, Talbot County. 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., 1 party until 4 p.m.; 15 miles on foot, 172 by car. Richard L. Kleen, Harry Armistead.

26. Ocean City, Worcester and Wicomico Counties, including Pocomoke Swamp at Willards, and South Point. 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 4 miles on foot, 80 miles by car. Samuel H. Dyke.

27. Broadwater Point, Churchton, Anne Arundel County. 154 individuals of 31 species seen from her home by Friel Sanders, who was confined by a cast.

28. Woodside, Silver Spring, Montgomery County. 209 individuals of 33 species, 8 to 9:30 a.m. John H. Fales.

#### WILLET AND COMMON GALLINULE IN GARRETT COUNTY

Gordon Knight and George A. Hall

On April 26, 1959 we observed a Willet (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus) on the small lake at Mountain Lake Park, Garrett County, Maryland. When first seen the bird was feeding in deep water which concealed its legs, but the general grayish color and the heavy black bill were readily observable through the binoculars and spotting scope. As we approached more closely the bird flushed and gave us an excellent view of the black and white wing pattern, which confirmed our previous identification. After flying about for a while it returned to its original location and began to preen. There had been a few Lesser Yellowlegs present in the vicinity but these had flown as we approached.

As far as we can ascertain, this is the first record for this species for the Allegheny Mountain region of Maryland. Stewart and Robbins in Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, p. 145 (1958) list the Willet from only tidewater localities. The only other record for this species in the Allegheny Mountains is apparently one seen by W. R. DeGarmo on May 1, 1952 at Stony River Reservoir, Grant County, West Virginia (about 20 airline miles from Mountain Lake Park) (The Redstart 19: 64, 1952).

On the same day we observed a Common Gallinule (Gallinula chloropus) on the lake at Herrington Manor in Swallow Falls State Park, Garrett County. This bird was in the general company of Lesser Scaup and American Widgeons. The Common Gallinule is not listed from the Allegheny Mountain Region of Maryland by Stewart and Robbins (loc. cit., 132).

West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.

## THE PRESIDENT REPORTS

I would like to express at the outset my gratitude to each of you for my reelection to the Presidency. I shall do my utmost to fulfill properly the functions of this office and carry out such actions necessary to establish greater rapport between local chapters and the state organization as well as further our cause of conservation and preservation of natural areas.

In each subsequent issue of MARYLAND BIRDLIFE it is my intention to report to you in summary fashion any events or meetings of committees pertinent to the welfare of our organization--or in lieu of this, some personal natural history experience or conviction.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

The conclave at Ocean City, Maryland, from May 8 to May 10 was an outstanding success. A success in turnout (about 150 members attended), in species observed (156), in companionship enjoyed, and in business conducted.

The early morning junket to the Pocomoke Swamp, most northern of our true southern swamps, was most edifying under the capable leadership of our editor, Chan Robbins, co-author of Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. The botanical highlights of this same area were once again pointed out by our personable luminary, Dr. Elmer Worthley, recently returned from his explorations in Antarctica. Dr. Worthley, with his extensive ecological knowledge, expressed lucidly the relationship of the indicator plants of this acid swamp with the avifauna.

Several innovations in the field trip line occurred this year, namely those to Mills Island (to observe Cattle Egrets, Glossy Ibises, and other long-legged waders in this excellent heronry); Assawoman Wildlife Refuge (a new Delaware wildlife sanctuary); and Assateague Island (to observe birds of the barrier beach). All were well received, thanks to the leadership of members Dyke, Wilson, Meanley, Fletcher, Barry and Edwards.

The boat trips down Sinepuxent Bay along the marshes and to various islands had undoubtedly the best attendance (in spite of increased prices) and served as an excellent condensed refresher course in shore-bird identification. Those of us who saw the bevy of American Oyster-catchers banking in unison over the sundrenched sand spits will tuck the memory away in the subconscious to be resurrected and relived at leisure. And who will forget, among those who heard, the calls of the Chuck-will's-widows, Whip-poor-wills, Gray Tree Frogs and Fowler's Toads at dusk--songs of spring on the Del-Mar-Va.

The lecture, "Birth of a Florida Key," by Mr. Henry Briggs was one of the finest ecological and human interest type natural history films it has been our pleasure to see.

Writing of Mr. Briggs' talk, brings to mind an incident that was best left unmentioned at the time but in retrospect has humorous connotations.

Duke Hampe, knowing of my interest in reptiles, had delivered to me a non-poisonous black-phased Hognosed Snake he found near the banding site. Being somewhat late for the evening meal, I took the snake in its cloth bag to the dining room. You will recall that shortly after dinner Mr. Briggs was introduced and the room was darkened. About twenty minutes later my daughter, Debbie, came creeping up to where I was seated and whispered that she had checked the sack and the snake was loose! My first reaction was to make an announcement, but after deliberation I decided the ensuing pandemonium might ruin the continuity of the lecture. While the reels were being changed, I informed Mr. Briggs that if he heard a scream from the audience it would be due to an escaped snake crawling over an unsuspecting foot. Mr. Briggs' comment was that being a showman he hoped if it did occur it would coincide with the Diamond-backed Rattler sequence in his film. Fortunately no screams were forthcoming. I searched without success later in the evening, and hearing nothing more of the ophidian must conclude it made good its escape through a hazardous terrain infested with bird watchers. Perhaps the kitchen personnel could shed some light on the matter.

#### THE BUSINESS MEETINGS

Committee reports were given and action taken on several important measures at the general member meeting.

Mrs. J. E. M. Wood reported signing of modified hawk and owl protective legislation by Governor Tawes. The Sanctuary Committee was empowered to take an option on a 100-acre tract of land investigated in Harford County providing it was suitable to our needs and that a title could be obtained free and clear of all incumbrances. Final concurrence or disapproval is to be made by the executive council or trustees.\*

The life membership category was increased from \$75 to \$100, payable in four equal annual installments. A motion made by Dr. Worthley that one-third be retained by the local club, one-third directed to the state, and one-third to the sanctuary fund was defeated.

A proposal to change the name of the organization was made and the matter was referred to the Board of Trustees via motion duly seconded. The matter is still pending since the Board did not make any decision at its meeting.

Perhaps the most important action taken at the Board of Trustees meeting was the creation of a State By-laws Committee to study the inconsistencies between local chapters and the state organization. The Baltimore Chapter is currently doing a bang-up job of studying the By-laws under the direction of President Seth Low and Chairman Homer Rizner,

\*This tract was subsequently disapproved.

their objective being to suggest certain revisions so that the By-laws will legally express and carry out present wishes of the membership with respect to future operations of both the State Society and the Local Chapters. These revisions will be presented to the Trustees, Chapter Presidents, and to the State By-laws Committee for perusal and study; and ultimately in the fall another general meeting will be called to ratify these important measures.

Many members feel that it is important to have another general meeting in addition to that at the convention, inasmuch as the field trips during the convention preclude sufficient time for a proper meeting.

All of the above matters should be thoroughly ventilated by the Local Chapters at their next meeting, so that intelligent proposals can be brought to the floor at the general meeting. In the interim, write to me about any item of business you consider important.

The complete minutes of both meetings will be made available to each trustee and chapter president after review by our legal advisor, Mr. Burgess.

Ibis seeing you.

Respectfully,

C. J. Stine, President

#### COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

##### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Mr. Sterling Edwards  
Mr. T. S. Carswell  
Mr. E. H. Burgess  
Mrs. D. F. Miner  
Mr. Homer Rizner, Chairman

##### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. J. E. M. Wood, Chairman  
Dr. Hans Krimm  
Dr. J. T. B. Ambler

##### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Charles Stine, President  
Cdr. Edward P. Wilson  
Mr. Sterling Edwards  
Dr. Elmer G. Worthley  
Mr. T. S. Carswell

##### PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Miss Dorothy Rice

##### FINANCE COMMITTEE \*

Mr. Percy Jones  
Mr. Richard L. Kleen  
Mr. Carl Long

##### NOMINATING COMMITTEE \*

Mrs. T. H. Henry  
Mrs. Basil Gregory  
Mr. Owen Fang  
Mr. William Leeson

##### SANCTUARY COMMITTEE \*

Mr. Seth H. Low  
Cdr. Edward P. Wilson  
Dr. Elmer G. Worthley  
Mr. Charles Mullican  
Mr. A. J. Fletcher

##### STATE COORDINATOR

Mr. Chandler S. Robbins

\* Chairman not yet selected





JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1959

Chandler S. Robbins

This three-month period might well be chalked off as "normal." Weatherwise it was relatively uneventful--in marked contrast to the same three months of 1958. Birdwise it revealed nothing spectacular. The cold weather in December had efficiently pared down the list of potential half-hardy winterers; and after a brief respite in the first week of January a renewed flow of frigid air engulfed us. Waterfowl were forced out of most of the upper Bay, as ice conditions became the worst in many years for so early in the season.

Conditions moderated during February, especially during the second week, when blackbirds began responding to the migratory urge. According to local meteorological averages, which were 1 to 3 degrees above normal during March, we might have expected early arrivals from the South. However, owing to peculiarities in atmospheric circulation to the south of us, the Carolinas quite consistently experienced subnormal mercury readings and adverse winds; so the birds we were expecting on the basis of Maryland weather were not receiving the external stimulation that is so necessary to initiate premature migratory movement.

Migration tables. The earliest arrival dates reported this year for 18 species of common, early spring migrants are summarized by counties in Table 1. Observers who contributed reports used in this table were: Allegheny County--Pan Minke, Richard Douglass, Billie Taylor; Frederick County--S. W. Edwards, Ruth L. Hoffman; Baltimore County--Erana Lubbert, Mrs. Albert Walker, Douglas Hackman, Alice and Hank Kaestner; Montgomery County--Katherine A. Goodpasture, Lucille V. Smith, S. W. Edwards, Seth H. Low, John H. Fales; Prince Georges County--David Bridge, Ronald Feller, Robert E. Stewart, John H. Fales, Brooke Meanley, Chandler S. Robbins; Anne Arundel County--Vera Henderson, Elise Tappan, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Friel Sanders, Elizabeth Slater; Kent & Queen Annes Counties--Daniel D. Gibaon, Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson, Mrs. Edmund Mendinhall, Clark G. Webster, Terry Moore, Erana Lubbert; Caroline County--Roberta Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Terry Moore, Virgil Turner; Lower Eastern Shore (Talbot and Dorchester Cos.)--Erana Lubbert, Robert E. Stewart, Charles Kaczynski.

Grebes. For the first time since the spring of 1958 there was a general influx of Red-necked Grebes throughout Piedmont Maryland.

Numbers reached a peak of 23 birds at Triadelphia Reservoir on Mar. 13 (Seth H. Low and Robert E. Stewart); the highest previous count for the State was 8 birds at Ocean City on the 1955 Christmas Count. Only small numbers were found elsewhere: 2 at the Marshall Dierssen Refuge near Seneca on Mar. 15 (S. W. Edwards); 3 at Loch Raven on Mar. 31 (Hank Kaestner); and 2 at Coon Dam just across the Pennsylvania line from Cumberland on Apr. 5 (Pan Minke and Allegany Bird Club). On Mar. 26, Robert E. Stewart recorded the arrival of 2 summer resident Pied-billed Grebes on 2 Patuxent Refuge ponds. Although the date in itself is not unusual, this is the first time the actual arrival date of summering individuals has been observed.

Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1959

	<u>Alle</u>	<u>Fred</u>	<u>Balt</u>	<u>Mont</u>	<u>Pr.G</u>	<u>Anne</u>	<u>K&amp;QA</u>	<u>Caro</u>	<u>LES</u>
Canada Goose	--	3/ 5	--	3/ 9	3/14	3/ 9	--	--	--
Wood Duck	--	--	--	3/13	2/22	3/30	--	2/18	--
Osprey	--	--	4/21	3/30	4/ 1	3/20	3/ 8	3/14	--
Killdeer	--	4/ 1	--	3/15	2/22	--	--	--	--
Mourning Dove	--	2/24	--	2/17	2/16	2/16	--	--	--
Yel-shaft. Flicker	3/29	3/20	--	3/30	3/10	--	--	--	3/14
Eastern Phoebe	3/28	3/21	4/15	3/14	3/ 9	3/15	3/23	3/20	3/27
Purple Martin	3/28	--	4/15	3/27	3/25	4/12	3/24	3/15	3/24
Brown Thrasher	4/25	4/ 9	4/14	4/ 3	3/29	4/ 7	4/ 3	--	4/ 4
Robin	2/28	--	2/28	--	2/26	2/28	3/ 8	--	2/ 7
Eastern Bluebird	--	3/ 8	4/18	3/30	3/18	--	--	--	--
Myrtle Warbler	--	--	4/18	3/15	3/21	3/14	3/26	3/26	--
Pine Warbler	3/29	--	--	--	3/22	--	3/ 5	3/26	--
Redwing	3/29	3/ 3	2/28	2/12	2/27	2/14	--	--	--
Rufous-sid Towhee	4/10	--	--	3/11	3/25	3/22	--	--	--
Chipping Sparrow	--	--	4/ 7	4/ 2	3/30	--	--	3/25	--
Fox Sparrow	--	3/13	3/24	3/11	3/ 9	--	--	2/23	--

Cormorants, Egrets. No cormorants were sighted during the period, but we wish to call attention to a locality error in the previous issue; the Oct. 25, 1958 date should refer to Seneca, not Triadelphia Reservoir. The lack of resident observers in the vicinity of the tidewater heronries has resulted in poor knowledge of the spring migration period of nesting herons and egrets. Stewart and Kaczynski broke the earliest State arrival date for the Snowy Egret on Mar. 24 when they counted 5 at Rumbley and 1 at Deal Island, all in Somerset County. A Common Egret at Gibson Island on Mar. 31 was a "terrific record" for the upper Bay (Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Tappan).

Geese. Blue and Snow Geese were present throughout the period in numbers of 15 to 20 each at the Sanctuary Pond at Remington Farms near Chestertown. However, after finding 52 Blues there on Mar. 18, Dan Gibson and Mary Paschall returned to make a thorough tally of all the Blue Geese in the area on Mar. 19. They obtained a total of 122 Blues and 46 Snows! Both counts were record-breakers for the County; and the Blue Goose figure is not only the highest for Maryland but one of the few 3-figure totals for the entire Atlantic coast.

Ducks. The Gibson Island observers had a European Widgeon under observation at the gate house from Feb. 25 through Mar. 13. On Mar. 27 at Kent Island, Stewart watched 9 male American Widgeon pursuing a female in courtship flight--the first time this performance has been reported from Maryland, where the species does not nest. Seventy Buffleheads on the same date was a respectable number for that locality. At Greenbelt Lake, Bridge and Feller identified 6 species of diving ducks. Their best day was Mar. 14, when 115 Ring-necks, 4 Redheads, 5 Common Goldeneyes and 6 Hooded Mergansers were present. The rarity in this family was a female Harlequin Duck that apparently traded back and forth between the inlets at Ocean City and Indian River. At Ocean City it was spotted on Feb. 23 by Ernest Baldwin and Jerry Mersereau.

Shorebirds. Woodcock arrived in Talbot County near Queen Anne on Feb. 16; they reached a peak of 10 birds on Mar. 5, and had entirely disappeared by the 20th (Terry Moore). The American Oystercatcher has seldom been found along the Maryland coast earlier than the month of May. So the sighting of two individuals on Assateague Island on Mar. 14 was most surprising (Daniel D. Gibson, Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson).

Gulls. The Great Black-backed Gull continued to make news. Two were discovered on Jan. 30 at Choptank, Caroline County--the first record of this species in the Eastern Shore's only "inland" county (Marvin Hewitt). As many as 12 were viewed at Broadwater Point in Anne Arundel County on Feb. 8 (Friel Sanders and Elizabeth Slater).

Owls. Five species of owls (no Saw-whet!) were listed during the period. The most interesting was a banded Long-eared Owl found caught in a fence at Centerville on Jan. 6. This bird had been banded at Scarborough, Ont., two months earlier by Robert Taylor. At Beltsville, 2 Screech Owls fell down a chimney Jan. 20 (related to Feller and Bridge).

Woodpeckers. Another Calvert County location for the Pileated Woodpecker was revealed on Feb. 22, when the Misses Slater and Sanders found one along Stokley Road. Red-headed Woodpeckers wintered in Talbot County, and at Gibson Island (2), Greenbelt, and Seneca.

Nuthatches, Thrashers. In an "off" year for Red-breasts it is encouraging to have the report of a single individual at Greenbelt among a list of 50 wintering species of birds with population estimates for each. Messrs. Feller and Bridge are to be congratulated for this type of a winter survey, which permits the study of population changes from year to year. Two Red-breasts wintered on Gibson Island. A Brown Thrasher that first appeared at the Robbins' Laurel feeder Dec. 15 was last retrapped Mar. 28, the day before the first spring bird arrived.

Thrushes, Waxwings. So few Hermit Thrushes were brought to our notice after the close of the Christmas Count period that they all can be enumerated: Plum Point and Beltsville, Jan. 24; Greenbelt, Mar. 10; Gibson Island, 2 Mar. 22; Denton, Mar. 25 and 31. Cedar Waxwings were found erratically over most of Maryland, with the dates not falling into any particular pattern. At Gibson Island, where they remained throughout the period, they exceeded 250 on Feb. 8 (Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Tappan).

Warblers, Blackbirds and Orioles. Two Western Palm Warblers were under the surveillance of Bridge and Feller in the Piedmont west of Beltsville, where these insect-eating birds managed to survive the winter. They were last noted on Mar. 25. An unprecedented migration of Redwings exceeding 10,000 per day passed due north over Gibson Island on Mar. 4, 5, and 6; only a few grackles and cowbirds were present in these flocks (Mesdames Henderson and Tappan). The winter of 1958-59 must be considered a "poor" one for Baltimore Orioles in the Free State. Even the popular Howard feeder in Annapolis was deserted by this species. Ruth Richards entertained one at Emmitsburg on Jan. 3 and 4, but it didn't show the same appreciation for her banquet table that the Christmas Counters do--and was not seen after the latter date.

Finches and Sparrows. Evening Grosbeaks were observed only at Denton (Mrs. M. E. Chambers), Laurel (Robbinses), and Grantsville (Dan Folk); and Pine Siskins only at Palmers (James Banagan) and Annapolis (Howards). Eighteen Lapland Longspurs were studied at Sandy Point State Park on Jan. 11 by a party of 12 from the Takoma Park Nature Society led by Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Thomsen and Hilda Smith. Although further efforts to locate these birds failed, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard found 11 Snow Buntings there on the two next days. On Jan. 28, 3 Snow Buntings caught the attention of Friel Sanders and Elizabeth Slater near Sunderland in Calvert County.

Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, May 12, 1958 to May 10, 1959

RECEIPTS:

Net proceeds from 1958	
annual meeting	\$ 70.50
Dues	819.00
Helen B. Miller Scholarship	<u>100.00</u>
Total Receipts	989.50
Balance, May 12, 1958	<u>592.69</u>
	1,582.19
Disbursements	<u>1,266.47</u>
Balance, May 10, 1959	\$ 315.72

SANCTUARY FUND:

Balance, May 12, 1958	\$ 1,207.28
Life memberships	175.00
Contributions	25.25
Book Store	6.50
Interest	<u>30.29</u>
Balance, May 10, 1959	<u>1,444.32</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Natural History	
Society honorarium	\$ 75.00
National Audubon Soc.	10.00
Helen B. Miller Scholar.	100.00
Helen B. Miller Memorial	100.00
Sanctuary Committee	19.64
1959 Convention expenses	148.55
Maryland Birdlife (incl.	
13yr. index & memb. list)	626.20
Miscellaneous overhead	<u>187.08</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>1,266.47</u>

Edward P. Wilson  
Treasurer



# JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

## OUR TRIP TO BAND BIRDS

Mrs. Taylor's Fifth Grade

It all started the day we were reading the story, "The Birds That Earned A Home" by Constance M. McCullough. The story about how a band of gulls saved the crops of the early Utah settlers had one paragraph that said, "Did you see that there were metal bands on the legs of some of the gulls? These men learn by banding some of the gulls just where they go for winter and whether the same gulls come back the next summer."

We asked, "How do men band birds?"

Mrs. Taylor said, "I know a student at State Teachers College, here in Frostburg, who has a license to band birds. Let's ask her to tell us about some of her experiences."



Pan Minke bands a Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pan Minke, the student, came to our classroom with her equipment: a nylon net, pliers, and metal bands of different sizes. When she had finished answering our questions Mary Brode said, "I wish we could see you really band a bird."

Mrs. Taylor said, "Miss Minke, I think we could get permission to go on a field trip, if you could get excused from classes."

As soon as Miss Minke sent word that she could go, we began to plan. Everyone wanted to go up Gypsy Trail by Sand Spring Run and cook hamburgers on hobo stoves, using buddy burners for heat. We decided to have baked beans, potato chips, celery and carrot strips, milk and somores too.

It took several days to plan and to make the hobo stoves and buddy burners. We also selected committees for the different jobs. We set up standards of behavior called, "How To Keep Safe and Happy." We invited our mothers. Four decided to go with us. One mother was to bring her car and haul the food.

At last the big day arrived, May 12! Miss Minke left at nine-thirty with three boys to put up the net. We got there at eleven o'clock and set up camp. Lunch was delicious! Hamburgers never tasted better!

Lunch over, we started to really explore the woods.

We tried to find the net. We were looking right at it but did not see it. Miss Minke had to point it out to us.

We were so surprised! No wonder birds fly into it!

We identified thirty-two birds. We touched one. Miss Minke took it out of the net. It was a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Some of the kids took pictures of Miss Minke banding it. She said that it was the first Rose-breasted Grosbeak that she had ever banded. It was our first time to be that close to one. Its coloring was beautiful. Especially the rose-red on the breast and under the wings.

We stopped to look at wildflowers. The violets, spring beauties, buttercups, dogwood, and honeysuckles were beautiful.

Some kids found a dragonfly. They brought it back to school and we studied about it.

We found a small salamander too. We put it in the jar with the two we had in our room. This morning it was missing. What do you think happened to it?

We had a wonderful time in the woods yesterday. It is fun to have school outdoors.

Beall Elementary School, Frostburg

## OUR TRIP

Rickie Willetts

Tuesday, our class went on a hike. We had lots of fun. We cooked our hamburgers on hobo stoves.

Miss Minke, who bands birds, brought her net and put it up. We caught a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. I took a picture of it being banded.

We saw many other birds. Here is the list: Chimney Swift, Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Kingbird, Phoebe, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Redstart, House Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Mrs. Taylor's Fifth Grade, Frostburg



Boys enjoying hamburgers they cooked on hobo-stoves

## A WONDERFUL TRIP

Kay Reed

Yesterday we went on a trip. I had a wonderful time. We went up Gypsy Trail and camped. We made hamburgers all by ourselves. They were delicious.

After we ate we sang songs. We sang "If You're Happy and You Know It," and we really were.

Miss Minke and two boys went to look at the net. They came back with a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We watched while Miss Minke banded it.

Next we went on a nature walk. We found many things and saw many birds. We came back to our campsite and made somores. They were good, too.

Then we cleaned up and came back to school. We got back just in time for it poured down rain.

Mrs. Taylor's Fifth Grade, Frostburg

# COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 5-27 "OPERATION RECOVERY" at Ocean City. Intensive bird banding and migration study throughout this period. Banders, moon watchers, bird weighers, and bird counters are needed. Those who stay for a week or more will be shown such rarities as the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo. Participants who can help for only 1 or 2 days are urged to watch the weather forecasts and arrive immediately after passage of a cold front. For details contact Mrs. Gladys Cole, Valley 3-2650 or Hamilton 6-0190.
- Sept. 11 BALTIMORE monthly meeting. Pratt Library, 8 P.M. Dr. Worthley, "Antarctic Trip".
- Sept. 12-13 ALLEGANY evening meeting, 8 P.M. 615 Louisiana Ave.
- Sept. 13 Woods' Picnic, Annapolis. Meet Sandy Point Park 9 A.M. Bean soup and coffee at 101 Old Crossing Lane, Annapolis.
- Sept. 19-20 Annual Statewide Hawk Count. Watch from any ridge-top in western or central Maryland, from any commanding position along the Fall Line, or from Bay-shore or coastal locations. Keep counts of each species by one-half hour intervals, 8 to 4, Standard Time. All-day counts preferred, but please report all short-period watches also--even if no hawks are observed. Obtain report forms from and return them to Chandler Robbins, Patuxent Refuge, Laurel, Md. within 4 or 5 days of this period.
- Sept. 19 BALTIMORE walk at Cylburn Park 7 A.M. Leader: Dr. R.K. Burns
- Sept. 23 ALLEGANY monthly meeting, Board of Education, 7:30 P.M. Speaker: Mr. Bill Leeson, "Fall Flowers and Coloration".
- Sept. 25 CAROLINE meeting, Camp Mordela, 8 P.M. "Bird Nests" by Mrs. Percy Scudder.
- Sept. 25 TALBOT monthly meeting at Easton Library, 8 P.M.
- Sept. 26 BALTIMORE trip to Upper Loch Raven for fall migrants. Meet Hutzler's parking lot, Towson, 7 A.M. Leader: Mr. Buchanan.
- Sept. 27 Talbot breakfast, migration hike to Tilghman's Island.
- Oct. 3 BALTIMORE walk at Cylburn Park 7 A.M. Leader: Mrs. Cole.
- Oct. 7 KENT COUNTY monthly meeting. Meet 8 P.M., Washington College.
- Oct. 9 BALTIMORE dinner meeting at Rodgers Forge Evangelical Church, Stevenson Lane, Towson. Make reservations with Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner, DR.7-8990.
- Oct. 11 BALTIMORE trip to Remington Farms. Meet Sam Smith Park, 6:30 A.M. Reservations not later than Oct. 3rd.
- Oct. 12 TALBOT Audubon Screen Tour lecture. "Penguin Summer" by Olin Pettingill. Fox's Theatre, 8 P.M.
- Oct. 17 BALTIMORE walk at Cylburn Park, 7 A.M. Leader: Mr. Buchanan.
- Oct. 17-18 BALTIMORE trip to Hawk Mountain. Phone HO.7-3788 for details.
- Oct. 18 ALLEGANY field trip to C&O Canal. Meet Millstone on Rt. 51, at 2 P.M.
- Oct. 21 ALLEGANY monthly meeting at Board of Education, 7:30 P.M. Slides from Hawk Mountain.
- Oct. 21 BALTIMORE seminar on "Conservation", Pratt Library, 8 P.M.
- Oct. 23 TALBOT monthly meeting at Easton Library, 8 P.M.
- Oct. 24 CAROLINE field trip to Hoopers Island.
- Oct. 24 BALTIMORE trip C&O Canal. Meet Edmondson Village parking lot 7 A.M. Leader: Mr. & Mrs. Hans Krimm.
- Oct. 25 BALTIMORE trip to Liberty Dam. Meet Gwynn Oak Junc., 7 A.M.
- Oct. 25 TALBOT breakfast, migration hike to Tilghman Island.
- Oct. 28 BALTIMORE seminar on "Conservation". Pratt Library, 8 P.M.
- Oct. 31 BALTIMORE bird walk Cylburn, 7 A.M. Leader: Hank Kaestner.