MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.



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COVER: White-throated Sparrow. Photograph by Stephen W. Simon HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor



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"OPERATION RECOVERY" AT OCEAN CITY

Gladys H. Cole

The Maryland Ornithological Society cooperated again this year with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service by running the Ocean City OPERATION RECOVERY station for four days in August and from Sept. 3 to October 3. John Weske banded 54 birds on the weekends of Aug. 6-7 and 27-28. Chan Robbins, Dr. Gordon Meade and Jim Meade set up nets on Sept. 3, and with Dr. and Mrs. John Kimmich of Haverford, Pa., manned the station until the arrival of Hurricane Donna, when the banders were evacuated to Berlin. Before the winds had subsided, many of the nets were back up. The station was in full operation (36 nets) for the rest of the period. Other banders were Mrs. Dorothy Mendinhall, Elizabeth Slater, Friel Sanders, Dr. R. K. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. George Ballentine, and Gladys Cole. Among the helpers were Mrs. John Bauer, Mrs. Philip Wagley, Betsy Schaffer, Hank Kaestner, Harry Armistead, Samuel H. Dyke, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Donnald, and Tommy Hearne.

The netting area has changed little from prior years, except that the young pines, shrubs, grasses and Phragmites are getting thicker in the bulldozed area that will some day be a continuation of Atlantic Avenue. Most of the old pines between Atlantic and Arctic Avenues are now dead, but they are still standing.

We banded a record total of 2,378 birds, and we weighed, measured, and examined almost all of them for fat condition. Species banded in the largest numbers were: Red-eyed Vireo 210, White-throated Sparrow 187, American Redstart 167, Catbird 134, Baltimore Oriole 127, Swainson's Thrush 123, Brown Thrasher 91, Yellow-breasted Chat 87, Black-throated Blue Warbler 84, Yellow-shafted Flicker 82, Bobolink 79, Brown Creeper 65, Yellowthroat 53, Northern Waterthrush 46, Ovenbird 44, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 39, Gray-cheeked Thrush 39, Cedar Waxwing 39, and Rufous-sided Towhee 39. Species of which only singles were netted were: Pigeon Hawk, Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Seaside, Chipping and Field Sparrows.

Because of the curious combination of a lack of a strong cold front during the period Sept. 4-30 and a superb one on the opening day of

October, our peak day for several of the "September" migrants actually came in October. For example: no more than 30 Red-eyed Vireos were banded on any September day, but 42 were banded on Oct. 1; 25 was the best one-day total for Swainson's Thrushes in September, but 31 were banded on Oct. 1; 7 was the best September total for Black-throated Blue Warblers, whereas 32 were banded on Oct. 1.

Thanks to the extra week of coverage, and especially to the big Oct. 1-2 influx, most species were banded in larger numbers than ever before at the Ocean City station. There were a few species, however, that we banded in both 1958 and 1959 that were not captured in 1960: Acadian Flycatcher, Mockingbird, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Goldfinch. Of those species that were banded all three years, the following were scarcest in 1960 (the figures after each bird are the 1958, 1959, and 1960 totals): Least Flycatcher, 22, 13, 11; Carolina Wren, 5, 5, 1; Swainson's Thrush, 186, 136, 123; Veery, 94, 26, 22; Black-and-white Warbler, 39, 54, 23; Northern Waterthrush, 52, 54, 46; Summer Tanager, 2, 2, 1; and Cardinal, 8, 11, 7.

The only species banded for the first time in 1960 were the Brown-headed Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Kentucky Warbler (previously at West Ocean City), Common Grackle, and Seaside Sparrow.

625 Valley Lane, Towson 4



Fig. 1. Elting Arnold, Carl Lubbert, Dick Cole, Jerry Fletcher and Chan Robbins setting nets at the Ocean City station in September 1955.

Photo by Stephen W. Simon

SERENDIPITY

Nancy D. Rowe

A report is requested by Chan So I'll do the best that I can: I saw "it" last May on the 25th day While at Cylburn with another bird fan*.

On the Bird Trail while casually walking No bird were we actually stalking, But what should descend but a real "dividend" Which would set any birder to gawking.

Large, black with some flashes of white It swooped to the ground in full sight, But most manifest was its scarlet red crest; What trademark could be more forthright?

With binoculars now elevated
One hundred feet seemed decimated.
Rotten log he was pecking, while "Pete" we were checking:
'Twas the spectacular, rare Pileated.

We observed it for several mimites as it searched for food in the decayed log beside the trail. It then flew to a nearby tree trunk. In both locations it presented perfect side views.

The day after the first episode, Dr. Robert Burns found an oblong hole about 20 feet high in a dead tree. It was "fresh and obviously made by a Pileated."

Dr. Elizabeth Fisher reported that, about two weeks later, she was startled into her observation of the Pileated Woodpecker by his assiduous "hammering on a dead limb above the Educational Trail," and had a good look at it.

We have not had any more reports so do not know whether it found a mate and remained, or moved on to another area. (We solicit any information leading to the whereabouts of this bird.)

However, it is encouraging to know that we still have within the City of Baltimore a forest old enough and untouched enough to attract this species and others of similar habitat. It challenges us to renew our enthusiasm for saving wild areas, remembering that small buffer zones between suburbs are just as important in their own way as are vast areas out in the country.

601 Stevenson Lane, Towson 4

^{*}Mrs. Robert A. Thompson

OUR BLUEBIRD'S SAD SUMMER

Bernice (Bunny) Long

"Bonnie Blue" we called her, and her mate "Boy Blue." He appeared just once as we reached home from Bull's Island, S. C., on April 24, 1960.

We assume, but as they are not banded, cannot verify, that they are the pair that nested in our bluebird box in past years. In 1958 they raised two young whose first flight we witnessed. In 1959 they had four tiny fledglings, not yet feathered, when the area was heavily sprayed with insecticide. Two days later three were dead, and the fourth very limp. However, the fourth lived, and joined its parents on the wires during late summer.

On April 25, 1960, we saw "Bonnie Blue" investigate the box (high on a stake out of reach of cats). She went in without hesitation as if familiar with the box.

April 26th, alone, she carried dried grasses to the box.

April 27th, she continued to build. Where is her mate?

April 29th, still she carried in bits of grass; always alone. Then —we were away.

May 24th, we peek in the box by lifting the hinged cover. Five clear, light blue, unblotched eggs are tucked in the nest at the back of the box.

Every day "Bonnie Blue" is in her box by the driveway. If startled by us or the car she flies out and lands on the power wires above.

June 8th, no change. "Bonnie Blue" still incubating; always alone. "Boy Blue" is never seen anywhere. In fact, no other bluebird is seen in our immediate vicinity all summer.

June 20th, we look in again. Four eggs lie close together on a freshly built nest—a rather high one.

June 21st. "B. B." still incubating.

June 22nd, "B. B." chased and bothered by our resident Mockingbirds.

July.--All through July "Bonnie Blue" is here--in and out of her nesting box. Occasionally she comes around the house to the bird bath. She sits on the wires constantly, flies down to the ground for insects, picks her feathers for mites. Starlings begin to pester her. They come at 6 a.m. or earlier, wake me with their chatter, sit on "Bonnie Blue's" house and excite her. She flutters her wings and protests in soft tones.

August .-- No change. "B. B." alone, sticks to her job.

Finally, in late August (I neglected to jot down the date), she disappears.

In September my husband opened the bluebird box to clean and prepare it for another year. There, far back in the box, we found a large, thick nest of grasses. On top were four blue eggs. Underneath the thin base of this high nest were eight—yes eight—perfect eggs tucked close together in a compact nest of soft, fine grasses.

Here is evidence that our "Bonnie Blue" laid three clutches of infertile eggs; five at first, then three beside them, and finally four on top—a full dozen in all.

A mighty unsuccessful summer for our Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis).

Beach Drive, Hillsmere Shores, Route 3, Annapolis

ROCK RUN SANCTUARY-PROGRESS REPORT

The enthusiastic response of M. O. S. members in visiting and helping to develop Rock Run Sanctuary has been most encouraging. By the end of November, visitors had passed the 500 mark! The majority of visiting members either worked on cleaning, repairing or painting parts of the house, laying out trails, identifying plants and animals, posting signs, or erecting bird feeders, or donated such things as building materials, furniture, dishes, tools, bird houses, bird seed, or paint.

The Sanctuary Log Book contains a record of most visitors and of the majority of the donated supplies, equipment, and services. You will find it interesting reading. The present report is largely a resume of progress as revealed by the Log Book. In this limited space we can mention only a few of the many people who have given so generously of their time and talents. For the most part, those whose names appear here spent many days working at or for the Sanctuary, and accomplished much more than the few things mentioned here.

Although we did not start paying rent until August 1, Mrs. Gladys Cole gave the Sanctuary House its initial sweeping and walked the boundary with the owner, Mr. J. Gilman Paul, on July 7. Later in the month, Mrs. Cole and others began to haul in bricks, lumber, and other building materials, and, as mentioned in the June issue of Maryland Birdlife (16: 45), Mr. Paul made some repairs to the House and constructed an elegant stone spring house from which he piped water to the Sanctuary House. The Robbins family began laying out a 25-acre census tract, subdivided into 2-acre plots—a tricky surveying job in such hilly terrain. July visitors: 45, representing Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Harford Chapters.

In August the privy was constructed, principally by Jerry Fletcher and Robert Butler. Dr. R. K. Burns began a big project of repairing rock retaining walls. Mrs. Basil M. Gregory and others cleared the tangle of

weeds from the front yard and revealed a lawn underneath. They also pruned shrubbery and started the big job of painting the house, inside and out. Mr. Paul loaned us a desk and a corner cupboard, and Shirley Geddes provided the first three chairs. Mrs. Cole banded a few of the breeding birds before they departed. August visitors: 80, with the following additional chapters represented: Caroline, Frederick, and Allegany.

During September the windows were puttied and washed, Mrs. Robert Kaestner made window curtains, and Mr. Kaestner installed curtain rods for them. Sanctuary signs were made by Dr. and Mrs. Hans Krimm, Dr, Betty Fisher, and Gladys Cole, and benches for the front porch by Sterling Edwards. Mr. Edwards also laid out the brick pattern for the ground floor and transported additional bricks. September visitors: 70.

October was indeed a busy month, especially for Harford members: Miss Joyce Knight donated bricks, Dr. and Mrs. Turner Smith made two huge suet feeders, and Mrs. Gregory continued her almost daily work trips. A large covered feeder given by Gladys Cole was installed by the Kaestners, and a most welcome chunk stove from an anonymous giver was hooked up by Jerry Fletcher to supply heat to the two main floors. Dr. Burns made a basement table, and Mrs. Geddes brought an oil lamp and silverware. October visitors: 145!

In November, Cdr. and Mrs. Edward Wilson spent many days and nights at the Sanctuary, patching and painting the basement walls and ceiling and doing much additional painting, and making a long chest-bench from materials donated by the Anne Arundel Chapter. Col. and Mrs. Richard Atwell brought a large pitcher and bowl and one of several rugs. Mr. Edwards put up a gate, and Dr. and Mrs. Smith brought basement furniture. Living room walls were adorned with a county map (Miss Jane Ewing), a large aerial photo of the Sanctuary and vicinity, and an up-to-date Sanctuary bird list. Additional bird feeders were supplied by Mrs. J. E. M. Wood and Mr. Kaestner. November visitors: 170! Soldier's Delight and Takoma Chapters were represented for the first time.

A Winter Bird-population Study will be conducted in the 25-acre census area; field maps of this area are available at the Sanctuary. Other plans for the winter and spring include erection of nesting boxes and construction of additional trails through the rest of the Sanctuary; labeling of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and other items of interest, especially along some of the nature trails; planting trees and shrubs to attract birds in areas designated for that purpose; building an outdoor fireplace; and expanding bird banding operations.

Because of the increasing demand for overnight reservations, and because Mrs. Richard Cole is more easily reached by phone than is Mrs. Gregory, members and groups of up to ten people who wish to spend the night at the Sanctuary are requested to communicate with Mrs. Cole, 625 Valley Lane, Towson 4 (Valley 3-2650). No reservations are required for daytime trips; members can borrow keys from either Mrs. Cole or Mrs. Gregory. Please be sure to sign the Log Book so you will "be counted."

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES AT NORTHEAST SCHOOL, CUMBERLAND

FEEDING STATIONS

The fifth and sixth grades of Northeast School have been studying birds. Miss Nan Livingstone has taught us a good many things about birds. She taught us to know a kind of bird when we saw or heard one. We have feeding stations in the back of our school. We have three suet sticks, a cardboard feeder, and a big plywood feeding station with a tar paper roof. We also have lots of ears of corn. We have been bringing food from home or getting left overs from the cafeteria. When winter comes, Mr. Minke, the Game Warden, brings corn to school for us. Our class thinks that feeding the birds is not only fun, but that we are helping wildlife.

Ronald Elkins. Grade 6

BIRDS

Feeding birds is lots of fun;
You can watch them come.
Some are black,
Some are white.
Some land like a kite.
Some like to eat corn,
Some sound like a horn.
I have a lot of fun with birds.
Do you?
Linda Shanholtz, Grade 5

THE BIRD

I saw a little bird that was in a tree.
He looked at me and said twee twee.
He sang a song
That wasn't very long.
He flew away,
And came back the next day.
Sharon Myers, Grade 5

BLUE JAY



BIRDS AT MY HOME

I have three feeders in a tree. I have a sust feeder which I made by drilling holes in a stick and putting an eye in it to hang it. I have an automatic feeder made from the rough slabs of bark, and I have an old bird house that I converted to a feeder. In my feeder I put all kinds of seed. In the sust stick I also put seed in the two top holes with the sust.

Charles Phillips, Grade 5

TAKING CARE OF THE BIRDS

We are taking care of the birds at our school. We feed them sunflower seeds, pearut butter, corn, suet, dried apples, pears, bread, and meat cracklings. We made one feeder out of a half-gallon milk carton. So far we have seen 487 birds at the bird feeders at Northeast School.

Edward Dickerhoof, Grade 5



CONSERVATION MEASURES IN CONGRESS

Elizabeth C. Wood

When Congress convenes in January we can be ready to let our Senators and Representatives know our opinion of measures we expect that they will consider. All of the conservation bills that failed to pass the 86th Congress have to be re-introduced and will be assigned new bill numbers.

Most of the following information came from "Conservation Report" and "Conservation News", which are distributed free by the National Wildlife Federation (1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.) to those who wish to write Congressmen. The Blatnik Pollution Bill was passed by the 86th Congress but vetoed by the President. Increased federal grants are needed to diminish pollution because many cities, towns, states, and companies do not take responsibility for their waste.

We hope for passage of the Wilderness Bill, which declares that present wilderness areas within our National Parks and National Forests have intrinsic value for future scientists and explorers. The bill has been considered and revised for years. If it is revised much more its whole meaning could be warped. It is time for action.

Ever since 1957, Congress has appropriated \$2.4 million annually for the U. S. Department of Agriculture to spend to match state funds and funds of individuals for spreading poisons to kill fire ants. Fire ants are not deadly, but only a nuisance; the poisons have comparatively little effect on the fire ants, but are lethal to higher animals and have killed many pets, farm animals, wild mammals, and lower animals. These poisons are extremely dangerous to people. Some deterioration products of the poisons are even more toxic to humans than the original poisons. A Chemical Pesticides Coordination Act to require consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state fish and game departments before any federal agency begins a chemical pesticides program was reported favorably by both Senate and House committees but was not passed.

The oceans are still being polluted by oil. A distressing number of ducks are killed each year, and the number increases. Late in the second session, Executive C, a treaty permitting the United States to accede to terms of the 1954 London Convention regulating oil dumping at sea was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations but was not even voted upon.

The chance to save certain natural areas is rapidly passing. A magnificent effort to save the last 3 miles of dunes on Lake Michigan was inspired by Senator Douglas, but it failed. Land which years ago the National Park Service recommended for park purchase has soured in price so that money that would have bought whole tracts at that time would now be grossly inadequate—even if the land had not already been altered for other uses.

Congress failed to pass measures that had been introduced to establish the Arctic Wildliff Range in Alaska, the Ice Age National Park, and the following seashore national parks: Padre Island, Texas; Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Point Reyes and Channel Island, California; Oregon Dunes and Sea Lion Caves, Oregon; Indiana Dunes; Cumberland Island, Georgia; Pictured Rocks, Grand Sable Dunes and Sleeping Bear Dunes, all in Michigan. One of the proposals to complete the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park (thus preserving the last complete old canal our nation owns) was passed by the Senate, but was defeated in the House.

Fortunately, the treaty between Canada and the United States permitting joint development of the Columbia River headwaters passed. Now Canada will not have to dam the Fraser River to secure adequate power, and the United States has the potential for adequate water power for years to come. Unfortunately, the bill to maintain the Salmon River as a fish sanctuary failed. If Chinook salmon in the world are to survive, no more high dams should be built in this region until ways are found to get parent fish upstream over them and fingerlings downstream. There is adequate power. Only selfish, porkbarrel projects looking only to a temporary job instead of to the consequences on fish species for all generations to come could dictate building such dams as Nez Perce, High Mountain Sheep, and Bruces Eddy. Yet millions of dollars have already been spent planning Bruces Eddy Dam (even though it has not been authorized by Congress). The Idaho Fish Commission and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have pointed out the dire consequences Bruces Eddy Dam would have on fish and on the large elk herd that winters in the valley. Power interests are now vigorously pressing the Federal Power Commission for licenses to build Nez Perce (which would block both the Snake and the Salmon Rivers) and High Mountain Sheep Dam.

When the Glen Canyon Dam was authorized by Congress in 1956 the law stated that Rainbow Bridge National Monument in Utah must be protected from water backing up. The 86th Congress broke this law by failing to appropriate funds for the barrier dam or to order the height of Glen Canyon Dam to be lower. Glen Canyon Dam is now under construction.

Other measures that failed were a bill establishing a national policy on Conservation and one to establish a Youth Conservation Corps.



THE SEASON--JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, 1960

Chandler S. Robbins

Except for the passage of Hurricane Donna on Sept. 12, we had featureless fall weather up to the close of the present period. Weather Bureau records show us that July was a degree or so cooler than normal and August a degree or so warmer than normal. The average temperatures for September showed an accentuation of the August warmth. During the month of August, 5 cold fronts swept across Maryland and 2 of these were followed by a temperature drop of 10° or more. In September, on the contrary, only 2 cold fronts reached our coast—a good strong one on Sept. 2 and a very weak one on Sept. 5. Lacking strong stimulus for migration, most of the September songbird migrants trickled through without being concentrated into conspicuous waves. Thus, the migration was a disappointment to many observers.

Table 1 gives a summary of first records of the fall migration records for those counties with the most active reporters. The following observers furnished the lion's share of the records in the table: Fred erick County-Joseph R. Jehl, S. W. Edwards, Pan Minke; Baltimore-Douglas Hackman, Betsy Schaffer, Hank Kaestner; Montgomery-Seth H. Low, John S. Weske, Lucille V. Smith; Prince Georges-David Bridge, Chandler S. Robbins, Ronald Feller, Melvin Kleen; Anne Arundel-Vera Honderson, Elise Tappan; Southern Md.—Calvert and St. Marys-John M. Fales, Vernon Kleen; Kent-Dorothy Hendinhall; Caroline-Marvin M. Hewitt, Carol Scudder, Jerry and Roberta Fletcher; Dorchester-Harry Armistead; Jorcester-Samuel H. Dyke, John S. Meske, Gladys H. Cole, Gordon and Jim Meade, Jack and Renee Kimmich, Chandler S. Hobbins.

In the following paragraphs dates or counts that supercede those published in <u>Birds of Maryland</u> are underscored.

Loons, Grebes. A Common Loon at Ocean City on Sept. 5 was three days ahead of the earliest fall record for Maryland (Robbins). A Fied-billed Grebe at Denton on July 23 furnished the first summer record of this species for Caroline County (Roberta Fletcher). In Dorchester County Harry Armistead found a Pied-bill at Bishop's Head on June 26; it is quite likely that a few pairs breed in Dorchester County, but we have no proof.

Cormorants. Mrs. W. L. Henderson reported a scarcity of summering Double-crested Cormorants in Chesapeake Bay this summer; although she did much sailing on the Bay she saw none between June 20 and Sept. 24. Samuel Dyke counted 36 at Ocean City on Aug. 6, but only 1 was seen flying over the Ocean City banding station in September. In Caroline County, where the species is uncommon, 9 were counted on Sept. 19 by Carol Scudder.

Herons. An account of nesting heron populations along the Maryland coast is being prepared by John Weske and David Bridge for publication in the March issue. In Chesapeake Bay, Great Blue Herons seemed to be nesting as usual on Popular Island (distant observations from a boat, Harry Armistead); and 13 Snowy Egrets were counted at Smith's Island on June 24 by the Hendersons. During the post-breeding wandering period, single Louisiana Herons were identified at Hooper's Island on Aug. 25 and at Elliott on Sept. 16; and 4 were noted at Blackwater Refuge on Aug. 4 (all by Armistead). The first Cattle Egret to be recorded at Blackwater Refuge was seen on Aug. 25 (Armistead), and 2 late ones (for Maryland) were studied at West Ocean City on Sept. 18 (Jim Meade and Armistead).

Ducks. Harry Armistead reported 2 pairs of early American Widgeon at Poplar Island on Sept. 3; on Sept. 7 he observed the first 7 Green-winged Teal at Blackwater Refuge. By Sept. 16 the Green-winged Teal had increased to 100, and other ducks at Blackwater numbered 100 Mallards, 75 Blacks, 170 Pintails, 70 Blue-winged Teal and 45 American Widgeon. On Aug. 31, Armistead estimated 250 Blue-winged Teal as they were flushed from the Elliott marsh by thunder claps. Although the above dates for fall arrivals of dabbling ducks are close to normal, observations of diving ducks during this same period represent either summer stragglers or exceptionally early fall arrivals: 16 Common Scoters near Sharp's Island on Aug. 26, and 5 White-winged Scoters at Poplar Island on Sept. 2 (Armistead). Thirty White-winged Scoters at Poplar Island on Sept. 24 tied the previous arrival date for this species (Hendersons).

Hawks. Douglas Hackman spent 87 hours watching hawk migration at White Marsh in September; his observations included part of each day except Sept. 5, 8-12, and 18. His three best days were Sept. 15 (216 hawks including 195 Broad-wings), Sept. 21 (87 including 14 Broad-wings), and Sept. 30 (72 including 12 Broad-wings). His monthly total of 122 Sparrow Hawks exceeded his previous high total for September. His August-September total of 52 Ospreys exceeded his previous high count for the entire fall migration period by 18 individuals (and at least 7 more were seen during October). On Sept. 21 he broke his high one-day count of Marsh Hawks when he counted 14; on several occasions he saw Marsh Hawks flying in groups of 3 or 4 individuals, in contrast to their usual inland habit of migrating singly. Mr. Hackman found Red-shouldered Hawks and

Table 1. Fall Arrival Dates, 1960

						,				
	Fred	Balt	Mont	Pr G	Anne	SoMd	Kent	Caro	Dorc	Worc
Canada Goose Solitary Sandpiper Caspian Tern Common Nighthawk Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	10/ 1 9/ 8 — 10/ 9	- 8/18	10/ 1 8/25 10/22	8/28 8/12	9/10	8/16	=	 9/12	7/30	10/ 1 8/21 8/ 6 9/15
Yellbell. Flycatcher Traill's Flycatcher Least Flycatcher Olive-sided Flycatcher Blue Jay	8/12	9/15		8/26 9/ 5 8/27 9/ 3 9/24	_		9/ 17 		9/24	9/3 9/3 9/3 9/15 10/1
Brown Creeper Winter Wren Hermit Thrush Swainson's Thrush Gray-cheeked Thrush	 10/ 9 9/ 7 9/12	10/ 1	10/ 2 10/ 2 10/23	10/1	9/14	 10/15	9/19 10/ 3 9/ 3 9/18	10/17	 9/ 3 9/ 7	9/3 9/26 10/1 9/3 9/15
Veery Ruby-crowned Kinglet Cedar Waxwing Solitary Vireo Black-&-white Warbler	9/ 7 9/16 8/24	9/26 9/15 —	9/24 10/ 1 	8/25 10/ 1 9/16 — —	 10/11 10/ 7 9/27			9/29	9/ 3 9/16 9/ 3 — 9/ 3	9/3 9/4 9/3 9/21 8/7
Nashville Warbler Magnolia Warbler Cape May Warbler Black-thr. Hlue Warb. Myrtle Warbler	=======================================	9/3 9/3 9/19	7/23 — 10/ 2	9/24 8/20		8/30 10/ 9	9/ 7 9/23 9/ 5 9/27 10/ 3	9/13 	9/16 9/3 9/16 9/3 9/24	9/ 3 9/ 3 9/ 3 9/ 3 9/29
Elack-thr. Green Warb. Blackburnian Warbler Chestnut-sided Warbler Bay-breasted Warbler Blackpoll Warbler	9/ 7 8/24	9/ 3 9/ 3 9/ 3	10/ 2	9/18 8/26 9/ 9 9/25		9/22 9/25	9/22 9/23		9/3 9/16 9/16 9/16 9/24	9/10 9/21 9/22 9/ 3 9/12
Northern Waterthrush Canada Warbler Bobolink Rose-breasted Grosbeak Purple Finch	8/ 8 8/24 — 10/16	9/15 9/15 9/15	8/14 9/23	7/31 8/16 7/15 9/16 9/4	9/20 10/23	9/11 8/29 —	9/ 4 8/20 9/14 11/ 7		8/25 9/16 9/16	8/ 6 8/27 8/28 9/ 8
Slate-colored Junco White-throated Sparrow Swamp Sparrow	10/2	9/22	10/ 2 10/ 1 10/ 2	9/24	9/21	10/3	9/24			9/27 9/24 9/29

Sharp-shinned Hawks extraordinarily scarce during September; 35 Red-shoulders in 1960 as compared with 155 in 1952; and 46 Sharp-shins in 1960 as compared with 386 in 1952. Total hours of observation in September 1960 totaled 87 as compared with 80 in 1952. An analysis of weather conditions on the days when observations were made in those two years may provide a clue as to why the 1960 counts were so much lower. Only 1 Bald Eagle was

spotted at White Marsh. Two migrating Bald Eagles, both adults, were sighted west of Laurel on Sept. 5 (B. C. Getchell). Hackman's arrival dates are always of interest because early transients cannot be distinguished from local nesters except by the most active observers in favored localities: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Aug. 24; Cooper's Hawk, Sept. 1; Redtailed Hawk, Sept. 2; Broad-winged Hawk, Aug. 16; Bald Eagle, Aug. 18; Marsh Hawk, Sept. 13 (late arrival); Osprey, Aug. 18; and Sparrow Hawk, Aug. 17. Arrival dates from Hooper's Island are: Cooper's Hawk, Aug. 25, and Pigeon Hawk, Sept. 16 (Armistead).

Shorebirds. A late American Cystercatcher was seen at West Ocean City on Sept. 25 (Armistead). Black-bellied Plovers were noted at Gibson Island (5th local record, Sept. 14) and at Barren Island, and on Sept. 27-28 at Ridgely for the first Caroline County record (Marvin Hewitt), The best count of Pectoral Sandpipers came from Ridgeley, Sept. 19 (Hewitt), and there were reports of a Whimbrel at Elliott on Sept. 16 (Armistead), a Marbled Godwit at Ocean City on Sept. 17 (Dyke), a Whiterumped Sandpiper at Tilghman on Sept. 4 (Dick Kleen), and 2 Willets at Sandy Point State Park on Sept. 14 (Robbins). On Sept. 24, 1957, the first Buff-breasted Sandpiper for Maryland was sighted by Sam Dyke (Maryland Birdlife 13: 72); and a year later another was photographed by Harold Wierenga. A flock of 3 was studied by Dyke and a dozen other observers at the golf driving range just west of the Ocean City bridge from Sept. 13 through Sept. 19, 1960, and 3 were watched on a golf course at Patuxent Maval Air Station on Sept. 6, 7, 8, and 12 (Vernon Kleen). Thus, within 3 years of the first report, the Buff-breast has occurred in 4 Maryland counties. Upland Plovers were heard migrating at night over the Ocean City banding station on Sept. 5, 10 (maximum of 4 birds), and 11.

Gulls and Terns. On Aug. 23 there were 2 Great Black-backed Gulls at Gibson Island (Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Tappan) and 3 at Sharp's Island; 3 days later there were 12 (10 of them adults) at Sharp's Island (Armistead). Six Laughing Gulls, rare in Caroline County, were seen at Denton on Sept. 18 (Roberta Fletcher). Armistead counted 92 Common Tern nests at Nelson's Island in Talbot County; he remarked that no Least Terms nested there this year. The coastal term colonies were studied by Bridge and Weske, who are preparing a report for the March issue. Samuel Dyke's remarkable observations of terms in Wicomico County during and immediately after the passage of Hurricane Donna were published in the September issue. In downtown Berlin, where Dr. and Mrs. John Kimmich, Jim Meade and Chandler Robbins sat out the hurricane, the only birds seen during passage of the broad "eye" of the storm were a few Black Skimmers, a Black Term and a Bobolink. The Ocean City bridge area and the inlet were checked as Route 50 was reopened to traffic (with the wind still blowing about 40 m.p.h. from the Northwest), but there was no evidence of storm-blown birds. At Concord, in inland Caroline County, a Royal Tern was closely observed and carefully described immediately after passage of the storm on Sept. 12 (Carol Scudder).

Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. Harry Armistead extended by 2 days the known period of occurrence of the Chuck-will's-widow in Mary-

land when he heard 1 on Hooper's Island on Sept. 3. Douglas Hackman noted an active migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on the morning of Sept. 15, when he counted 5 individuals flying southwestward at White Marsh. Yellow-shafted Flickers were migrating as early as Sept. 7 at Ocean City and Sept. 10 at Gibson Island. Two adult Pileated Woodpeckers and 1 young bird (the first young one ever reported in Caroline County) were seen repeatedly at Concord in July, August, and September (Carol Scudder). Single birds were listed from Smithville and Federalsburg by the same observer. As many as 3 adult Red-headed Woodpeckers, probably transients, were found at Hoopers Island on Sept. 16, and a Red-cockaded Woodpecker was still in its nesting area near Golden Hill on Sept. 17 (Armistead).

Flycatchers. For the first time since 1955, no Western Kingbird was reported in Maryland during the fall migration period. Empidonax flycatchers were reported from most of the netting stations. At Ocean City the Traill's was the most common member of this genus in September, with 22 individuals banded; the Yellow-bellied was next with 13, and the Least with 11. In most years the Least outnumbers the Yellow-bellied by a ratio of at least 2 to 1. A Least Flycatcher identified at Federick on Aug. 12 is the earliest fall migrant on record for Maryland (Joseph R. Jehl).

Swallows. Rough-winged, Bank, and Barn Swallows and Purple Martins were migrating southward along the Bay shore at "Damsite", north of Tolchester, on July 10 (Mendinhalls, Robbinses). The Tree Swallow migration was in full swing there by Aug. 23, when more than 500 were estimated; on Aug. 30 there were more than 1,500 Tree Swallows, and on the next day the estimate exceeded 2,500 (Mrs. Edward Mendinhall). An albino Barn Swallow was seen on July 25 at Choptank (Carol Scudder).

Jays, Ravens. Blue Jay migration was detected as early as Aug. 20, when small groups moved into Douglas Hackman's study area at White Marsh. Mr. Hackman summarized his Blue Jay observations as follows: "This year's was neither a long nor an intense migration as compared to other recent years. After the 1,516 peak on Sept. 25 the birds continued at the rate of about 100 per hours for four or five days. Then the flights rapidly declined in numbers during the next seven-day period, coming over at about 40 birds per hour. By Oct. 12, counts showed only scattered individuals. On the 12th, 45 birds were seen in 3 hours, in the morning." Mr. Armistead counted 160 Blue Jays in migration at Hooper's Island on Sept. 24the highest one-day count ever recorded on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The second coastal record for the State was made at the Ocean City banding station on Oct. 1, when at least 10 Blue Jays were heard repeatedly by Mrs. Gladys Cole and others. After a gap of 8 years D. Hackman identified his second Common Raven at White Marsh. He observed the bird at leisure as it alternately flapped and sailed, progressing southwestward. On the day before the raven observation Mr. Hackman recorded his 10,000th hawk over his property; from these figures you can make a rough estimate of your own chances of seeing a raven locally during your lifetime.

Nuthatches, Creepers. No Red-breasted Nuthatch was sighted in Maryland, nor was any White-breast observed on the Eastern Shore. A very early Brown Creeper was banded at Ocean City on Sept. 2 (Gordon Meade).

Thrushes, Kinglets. A Swainson's Thrush seen in Baltimore on Aug. 24 (Mrs. Hartha D. Schaffer) is the earliest State record except for the two published in Maryland Birdlife 14: 100. Hackman saw no Eastern Bluebird at White Marsh between July 17 and the close of the period. Armistead saw none on the Eastern Shore. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen at Ocean City on Sept. 4 is the earliest fall migrant on record for the State (Robbins, Gordon and Jim Meade).

Warblers. Warbler migration was first detected on July 23, when John Weske banded a Magnolia Warbler at Brookeville, 4 weeks ahead of the earliest fall record. From that date on, netting stations at Greenbelt (David Bridge, Ronald Feller), near Tolchester (Mrs. Edward Mendinhall), and at Ocean City, singly or in combination, kept almost continuous contact with the warbler migration for a 4-month period. Much of the value of these systematic records will not be realized until the daily records have been examined in detail and studied in relation to weather conditions. In the meantime, some of the by-products of the netting operations, supplemented by a few sight observations, may be of interest. Early migrants detected: Prothonotary Warbler banded at Brookeville on Aug. 20, and Vorm-eating Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush banded there on July 23 (Weske); Washville Warbler seen at Lake Roland on Sept. 3 (Charles Buchanan), and banded at Ocean City on the Same day (Gordon and Jim Meade, Robbins) -- one day ahead of the State record. Female Black-throated Blue banded at Laurel, Aug. 20 (Robbins); Blackpoll Warbler seen at Libertytown on the record-early date of Aug. 24 (Jehl); Ovenbird banded at Ocean City on Aug. 6 (Weske); Northern Waterthrush banded at Greenbelt on July 31 (Bridge). High one-day counts were lacking because of the unusual absence of effective cold fronts from Sept. 2 to the end of the month. The only count worth mentioning was 13 Yellow-breasted Chats banded on Sept. 14 at Ocean City, tying the previous record.

Orioles, Grackles, Tanagers. Nine Orchard Grioles that seemed to have been blown northward by Hurricane Donna were seen at Concord, Sept. 12-15 (Carol Scudder). Harry Armistead counted 41 Boat-tailed Grackles at Hoopers Island on Sept. 16; this is a large number for that far north in the Bay. Douglas Hackman made an interesting observation late in the evening of Aug. 24, one day after passage of a cold front; while looking through a 30% telescope he spotted a migrating Scarlet Tanager, "flying extremely high." If observers would search the sky with telescopes just before dark on evenings when a heavy migration is expected, we could learn a great deal about the time of day when various birds begin migratory flight.

Grosbeaks, Sparrows. A most unusual summer record of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was obtained by Gordon Clark, who netted and banded a young male at Beltsville on July 6. The first nesting record of the Henslow's Sparrow in Caroline County was obtained on July 25 when Carol Scudder saw a young bird being fed. A Savannah Sparrow was seen at Hooper Island on the very early date of Sept. 7 (Armistead).

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COMING EVENTS

- Jan. 20 CAROLINE monthly meeting. Meet 8 p.m. at Health Dept., Denton.
- Jan. 20 TALBOT monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Easton Library.
- Jan. 22 SOLDIERS DELIGHT trip. Meet 2 p.m. Gwyn Brook Pond.
- Jan. 23 TALBOT ornithology seminar. Meet 13 Aurora St., Easton, 8 p.m.
- Jan. 29 BALTIMORE trip to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Meet parking lot, lower lab at Center. Leader: Mr. Frederick Schmid.
- Jan. 30 TALBOT ornithology seminar. Meet 13 Aurora St., Easton, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 2 FREDERICK monthly meeting. Meet C. Burr Artz Library, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 4 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland. Meet Lake & Roland Aves., 2:30 p.m. Covered dish supper to follow at Betty Fisher's.
- reb. 6 SOLDIERS DELICHT monthly meeting. Meet home of Mrs. Martin Larrabee, 1907 South Rd., Balto. 9, 8:30 p.m. Topic, "Moths and Butterflies."
- Feb. 8 BALTIMORE walk at Cylburn and Lake Roland. Meet 9 a.m. Cylburn Mansion. Leader: Mrs. Carl Lubbert.
- Feb. 10 BALTIMORE monthly meeting, Auditorium, Pratt Library, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 12 FREDERICK trip. Meet Baker Park, 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 TALBOT ornithology seminar. Meet 13 Aurora St., Easton, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 15 ALLEGANY monthly meeting, Board of Education, 7:30 p.m. Speaker Mrs. Lillian Frankhouser, "Bush Trip in Canada."
- Feb. 17 TALBOT monthly meeting, Easton Library, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 18-19 BALTIMORE trip to Ocean City, Elliott Island, Blackwater.
 Lodgings at Hastings House Saturday night. Members of all
 State Chapters are cordially invited. Leader: Mr. Seth Low.
 Meet Sam Smith Park, 7:30 a.m. or Sandy Point parking area at
 8:30 a.m.
- Feb. 19 TALBOT trip to Ocean City. Meet Easton Library, 8 a.m.
- Feb. 19 SOLDIERS DELIGHT trip to Leakin Park. Meet Owings Mills School, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 20 TALBOT ornithology seminar. Meet 13 Aurora St., Easton, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 22 BALTIMORE feeding station trip to Cylburn, Kaestners', Andrews' Coles'. Schaffers'. Meet Cylburn 8 a.m. Leader: Mrs. Francis
- Feb. 24 BALTIMORE sparrow seminar by Mr. Chandler Robbins. Meet at Cylburn Mansion, 8 p.m. 50¢ fee.
- Feb. 25 ANNE ARUNDEL trip to Blackwater, Wye Mills, Oxford. Meet 8 a.m. Dutch Mill, U.S. 50, near Bay Bridge.
- Feb. 27 TALBOT ornithology seminar. Meet 13 Aurora St., Easton, 8 p.m.
- Mar. 2 FREDERICK monthly meeting, C. Burr Artz Library, 8 p.m.
- Mar. 3 BALTIMORE monthly meeting, Pratt Library, 8 p.m.
- Mar. 4 BALTIMORE trip to Sandy Point. Leader: Mrs. J. E. M. Wood
- Mar. 6 SOLDIERS DELIGHT monthly meeting. Geology lecture at home of Mrs. John Martin, 138 S. Ritters Lane, Owings Mills.

- "Beyond the Shining BALTIMORE lecture by Mr. Hal Harrison. Mar. 10 Mountains" to be held at the Woodbourne Junior High School, 8 p.m. Contact Mrs. Robert Kaestner, DR.7-8990 for details.
- TALBOT ornithology seminar. Meet 13 Aurora St., Easton, 8 p.m. Mar. 13
- ALLEGANY monthly meeting, Board of Education, 7:30 p.m. Seminar Mar. 14 by William Leeson, "Food and Feeding Habits of Birds".
- CAROLINE monthly meeting at Health Dept., Denton, 8 p.m. Mar. 17
- Mar. 17 ANNE ARUNDEL monthly meeting.
- TALECT monthly meeting at Easton Library, 8 p.m. Mar. 17
- Mar. 18-19 FREDERICK trip to Rock Run Sanctuary.
- Mar. 19 SOLDIERS DELIGHT trip to Soldiers Delight. Meet Sight #1, 2p.m.
- Mar. 20
- TALBOT ornithology seminar. Meet 13 Aurora St., 8 p.m. TALBOT Audubon Screen Tour, Mt. Pleasant School, 8 p.m. Mar. 23
- SOLDIERS DELIGHT monthly meeting. Warbler Warm-up, with slides, Apr. 3 at home of Mrs. Edgar Poe, Academy Ave., Owings Mills.
- BALTIMORE walk Cylburn. Meet 7 9, 9 11 a.m. Leader: Mrs. Apr. 3 Lubbert.
- BALTIMORE walk at Lake Roland. Meet Lake & Roland Aves. 7:30 Apr. 5 a.m. Leader: Mrs. Kaestner.
- FREDERICK monthly meeting at C. Burr Artz Library, 8 p.m. Apr. 6
- ANNE ARUNDEL annual election of officers. Meet home of Capt. Apr. J. E. M. Wood.
- ALLEGANY trip to Lake Gordon. Meet Naves Crossroads, 2 p.m. Apr. 8
- BALTIMORE walk at Cylburn, 8-10, 10-12. Members of Kent, Talbot, Apr. and Caroline County Chapters invited to see Cylburn. Bird banding demonstration by Gladys Cole. Leader: Charles Buchanan.
- CAROLINE monthly meeting at home of Mrs. Poore, Greensboro, 8 p.m. Apr. 14
- Apr. 14 BALTIMORE monthly meeting. Election of officers.
- Apr. 15 BALTIMORE trip to Camp Wo-Me-To. Meet Hutzler parking lot, Towson, 7:30 a.m. Leader: Charles Buchanan.
- BALTIMORE trip to Patuxent Refuge. Meet at Refuge 8:30 a.m. Apr. 16
- Leader: Chan Robbins.
 TALBOT spring migrant hike. Meet Easton Library, 7:30 a.m. Apr. 16
- SOLDIERS DELIGHT trip to Hollofield. Meet 2 p.m. Owings Mills. Apr. 16

SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS FOR NEW MEMBERS

As a special service to beginning birders and people new to the Baltimore area, Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner (DR 7-8990) has kindly offered to take new members on Saturday morning field trips at Cylburn on days when no formal trip is scheduled there.

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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