

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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



Volume 20

MARCH 1964

Number 1

THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Maryland

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HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor



MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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THE ROCK RUN BREEDING BIRD CENSUS 1961-1963

C. Douglas Hackman

Soon after Rock Run Sanctuary was acquired several MOS members decided they would like to begin making studies of the various seasonal bird populations. To this end, late in the summer of 1960, thirty-one acres along the northern boundary were laid out in a grid system. The main grid lines, 295.2 feet apart, were run parallel (roughly east to west) to the northern boundary along Wilkinson Road. These main lines were intersected, at right angles, by lines every 295.2 feet to form a series of 2-acre squares. The grid lines were then cleared and the intersections marked with permanently numbered stakes.

As soon as the plants had acquired their distinctive leaves and flowers the first important step was taken to initiate the population studies. This first step consisted of a complete plant survey for the entire study area. The plant survey was accomplished by dividing the vegetation into three vertical zones: ground cover consisting of vines and small plants, understory consisting of small shrubs and bushes up to 15 feet in height, and overstory (canopy) consisting of the larger plants and trees. The plants in each of these three zones were then censused and their abundance recorded on a percentage basis. This plant survey was then used to define the habitat and to arrive at the descriptive title that is used for the area: Second-growth Hardwoods Overgrown with Honeysuckle. With the plant survey and the habitat description accomplished we were ready to begin our bird population studies.

Between the last week in May and the second week in July at least ten trips were taken through the study area during the morning hours when maximum bird activity could be anticipated. The same route was followed on each trip. On each of these trips a specially prepared map of the study area was used (Figure 1). Each time a singing bird was heard its location was noted on the map. If two birds sang simultaneously this was also noted. Birds that were observed, females, young birds or males that were not singing at the moment also were marked on the maps. Any nests that were found were recorded in their approximate locations. Various symbols (see Figure 1) were used to designate the particular activities the birds were engaged in. In addition to the symbols, field notations such as: "carrying food", "young birds calling",

or "two males fighting" were also used when necessary. Through the use of these symbols and notations it was possible to record the bird activity in a clear and concise manner.

In Figure 1, which is a somewhat idealized and greatly simplified and uncluttered version of an actual trip map, several things are apparent after only one trip through the area. Between markers F3 and F4, three Indigo Buntings are shown in simultaneous song which indicates that there may be three nests in this region. Two birds (Cardinal and Kentucky Warbler) definitely observed carrying food in the study area and a family of seven Carolina Chickadees near F5 are positive indications of nesting activity in progress. A remarkable feature of the map is the distribution of the Acadian Flycatchers along the northern boundary of the study area. This species prefers to nest in a moist, swampy area or near a stream and also prefers Beech trees. Those familiar with Rock Run Sanctuary will know that a small stream runs along the entire length of the northern boundary and that Beech is a common tree in this area but, until mapped out and studied this pattern followed by the Acadian Flycatchers is far from apparent.

The results from this one trip, however, while they may indicate to some degree what one may expect to find in the area, cannot be considered to be conclusive evidence of the presence or absence of any particular nesting species. One can never expect to get definitive or clear-cut results from one isolated observation. For this purpose a series of ten or more trips must be taken and a separate map completed for each trip. To eliminate the chance of bias trips are spaced several days apart and the maps from previous trips are never consulted.

After ten or more trips have been made the observer will have recorded between 75 and 90 percent of the birds actually present in the area. The effectiveness and efficiency of this system will, of course, depend to a great degree upon the skill and experience of the observer. The effectiveness will depend also, to a certain degree, upon the types of birds that are in the area. For the commoner and more vocal species, such as: Cardinal, American Redstart and Acadian Flycatcher, this type of study will be between 85 and 90 percent effective. For the more secretive species, such as the Worm-eating Warbler, however, the degree of efficiency may be as low as 40 percent. For the majority of species, however, a high degree of effectiveness can be anticipated.

Upon completion of the many trips the observer is ready to begin determining the number of territorial males in the study area. The territorial male is simply a male that has established and is defending a territory either by singing or by chasing other males of the same species. While the presence of a territorial male does not guarantee that there is a nest, it is assumed that for each singing male there is a female and, thus, a nest. The concept of territorial male relieves us of the necessity of engaging in time-consuming, and often fruitless, searches for nests and, at the same time, serves as an approximation of the number of nests to be found in the area.

The observer fills out a map for each of the species observed on the many field trips. A different color code is used to record the observations for each trip (e.g. Trip #1 - red, Trip #2 - blue, etc.). The same symbols that were employed on the original trip maps are transferred onto the maps for the individual species. After the data from three or four trips have been plotted definite patterns become apparent (Figure 2).

Figure 2 is a hypothetical species map for the Acadian Flycatcher. When compared with Figure 1 it may be seen that the patterns that were suggested on the first trip became quite pronounced as more trips were taken. Because different colors (which unfortunately cannot be seen here) were used for each trip the different birds stand out sharply as distinct entities. These small clusters of color enable the observer to delineate the territorial boundaries for each bird. Notice, from this map, that the territorial sizes are all approximately the same for this species. The maps for other species may indicate greater distances between nests which may demonstrate a lack of tolerance between members of a particular species, or may be caused by a specific and exacting feeding requirement or may simply be due to a small local population. Such questions, to be answered, however, require much more extensive field work than has been done here.

With the species map completed, the observer is then ready to begin the final step--the calculation and standardization of the number of territorial males. Each map is inspected and the number of territorial males is determined to the nearest .5 of a bird. The number of territorial males obtained for each species is then standardized by calculating how many would be found in an area of 100 acres. Territorial males are calculated only for those species for which three or more territories have been plotted. The calculation of males per 100 acres is relatively simple to make. If, for example, we find 6 territorial males in a 31-acre study area the calculation is as follows:

$$\frac{\# \text{ males} \times 100 \text{ acres}}{\# \text{ acres in study area}} \quad \text{thus:} \quad \frac{6 \text{ males} \times 100 \text{ acres}}{31 \text{ acres}} = 19 \text{ males/100 acres}$$

This is conventionally written as: 6 (19).

Breeding Bird Census Counts have been made at Rock Run Sanctuary for the past three years. The results of these three years have been published in the December issues of Audubon Field Notes. From these counts we have learned a great deal about the annual breeding population of the sanctuary. When the average Marylander is asked what bird is the commonest breeding bird in the state he will promptly reply "The Red-eyed Vireo." While this may be true of many parts of Maryland, and perhaps for the state as a whole, it is not true for Rock Run Sanctuary. At the sanctuary the Red-eyed Vireo is the second commonest nesting species.

For three years in a row the American Redstart has been, by far, the commonest nesting species for the sanctuary study area. In 1963, the Redstart was $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as common as the Red-eyed Vireo. Our Redstart population, although not the most dense on record, is extremely high

ROCK RUN CENSUS AREA

Trip # 1

- Visitors
(species & number)
- Broad-w. Hawk - 1
 - Turkey Vulture - 4
 - Redwing - BB - 23
 - Common Crow - 1
 - Fish Crow - 1
 - Starling - 5

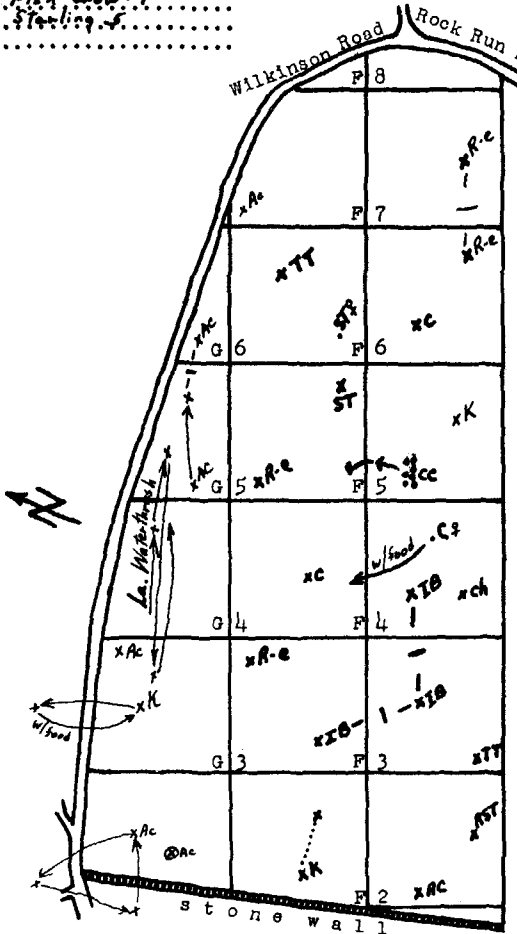
Date June 3, 1963
 Start 6:00 a.m.
 Stop 8:15 a.m.
 Sky Clear
 Temperature 68-72°
 Wind West 2-5 mph

Observers
 E. Douglas Hartman

Code: X = Singing male.
 - | - = singing simultaneously.
 o = non-singing bird seen.
 ⊙ = location of nest.
 ♂ = male ; ♀ = female.

ABBREVIATIONS

- AC = Acadian Flycatcher
- C = Cardinal
- CC = Carolina Chickadee
- ch = Yellow-br. Chat
- IB = Indigo Bunting
- K = Kentucky Warbler
- RST = Rufous-sided Towhee
- TT = Tufted Titmouse
- ST = Scarlet Tanager
- R-e = Red-eyed Vireo



Scale :
 0 100 200 300 ft.

Figure 1.

ROCK RUN CENSUS AREA

Visitors
(species & number)
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

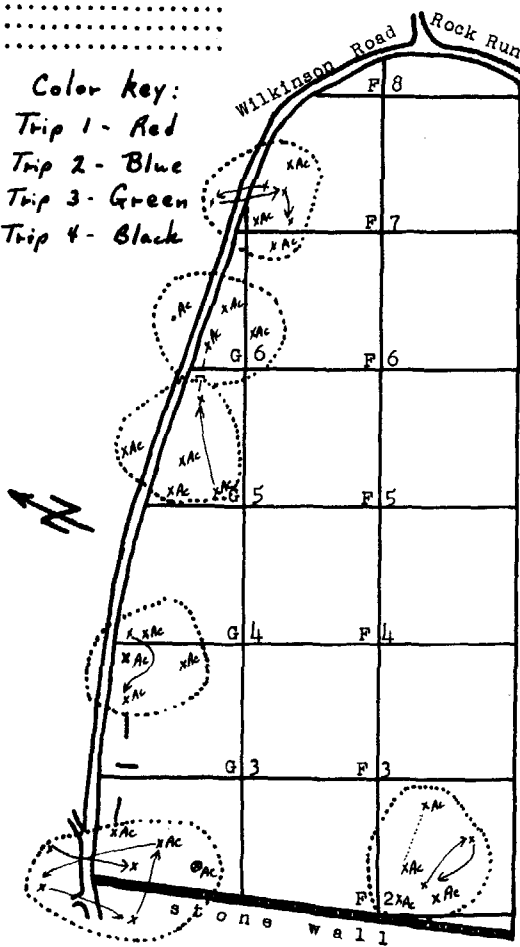
Acadian Flycatcher

Date
Start
Stop
Sky
Temperature
Wind
Observers

Color key:
Trip 1 - Red
Trip 2 - Blue
Trip 3 - Green
Trip 4 - Black

Code: X = singing male
-/- = singing simultaneously
⊗ = location of nest
○ = approximate boundary of Territory
• non-singing bird seen

ABBREVIATIONS:
AC = Acadian Flycatcher



NOTES:

6 males singing on Territory - five of these beside stream along Wilkinson Road.

6 males per 31 acres = 19 per 100 acres

Scale:
0 100 200 300 ft.

Figure 2.

because of the dense cover that has been created by the extensive growth of honeysuckle. Twenty-five territorial males (or 81 males per 100 acres) were found in 1962 as compared with only 8 territorial males (or 26 males per 100 acres) for the Red-eyed Vireo. Thirty-two species have been recorded as nesting species on the sanctuary study area. The majority of these species are represented annually by fewer than 2.5 territories. Only twelve species, during the three-year study, have been represented by more than 2.5 nests per season.

Species	1961		1962		1963	
	Terr. Males	100 acres	Terr. Males	100 acres	Terr. Males	100 acres
American Redstart	12	39	25	81	24.5	79
Red-eyed Vireo	9	29	8	26	10	32
Cardinal	5	16	8	26	8	26
Acadian Flycatcher	6	19	6	19	6.5	21
Indigo Bunting	4	13	6	19	6	19
Carolina Chickadee	3	10	8	26	4.5	15
Wood Thrush	+	-	3	10	5.5	18
Kentucky Warbler	2	-	3	10	5	16
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	-	4	13	4.5	16
Tufted Titmouse	1	-	4	13	4	13
Downy Woodpecker	2	-	2.5	-	3	10
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	-	2	-	2.5	-
Blue gray Gnatcatcher	1	-	2	-	2.5	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	-	2	-	2	-
Worm-eating Warbler	1	-	-	-	2	-
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	1	-	-	-	1	-
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-	1	-	1	-
Gt. Crested Flycatcher	1	-	1	-	1	-
E. Wood Pewee	+	-	1	-	1	-
Carolina Wren	-	-	1	-	1	-
White-eyed Vireo	2	-	3	10	1	-
Cerulean Warbler	2	-	+	-	1	-
Prairie Warbler	1.5	-	2	-	1	-
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	-	1	-	1	-
Scarlet Tanager	2	-	2	-	1	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	-	2	-	1	-
Yellow-shafted Flicker	+	-	-	-	+	-
American Goldfinch	1	-	2	-	+	-
Mourning Dove	-	-	+	-	-	-
Blue Jay	-	-	+	-	-	-
Yellowthroat	+	-	+	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	+	-	-	-	1	-
	<u>66.5</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>98.5</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>102.5</u>	<u>331</u>

NOTE: + indicates probable nesting activity.

It may be observed that the totals obtained during the first year of the study were, in most instances, far below those obtained in the two succeeding years. This was due partly to unfamiliarity with the area and also to the extremely late start that was made. In the first year, counts were not initiated until the last of June when the nesting season was about half completed. By the time counts were begun, that first season, many birds had already completed their nesting for the year. In subsequent years the counts were begun in the last week of May and were continued every weekend throughout the middle of July. Thereafter, the totals for most species either remained relatively stable or increased slightly.

The counts for several species require some explanation. From a brief survey of the totals it would appear that the Wood Thrush was steadily increasing in abundance on the sanctuary. This is actually a false impression. In the first year, the majority of Wood Thrushes had completed their nesting by the time the count was initiated. In 1962 when three territorial males nested on the sanctuary study area at least five other pairs of Wood Thrushes nested outside, but close to the borders, of the study area. In 1963 it appeared that several of the birds that had nested close the boundaries the previous year had moved their territories within the boundaries. In all probability, there will be quite a fluctuation in the totals of this species from year to year as various birds shift their territories in and out of the study area. The Kentucky Warbler also has also done a considerable amount of territory shifting from one year to the next.

The fluctuations in the totals for the Carolina Chickadee seem to result in part from the same situation as that of the Wood Thrush and the Kentucky Warbler. However, this species further complicates matters by its long nesting season. In some years the Carolina Chickadee may nest as early as March. If a large percentage of the chickadee population chooses to nest early then the totals from counts made during the May to July period may be somewhat low in relation to the true population.

It is dangerous to make too many assumptions simply on the basis of counts made over the short period of two or three years. Population trends do not normally assert themselves over such short periods of time unless they are extremely drastic in nature. Population studies such as this acquire more prestige and value if they are continued for long periods of time and especially if they are done by the same person. Over a long time period estimates (both over and under) will tend to level out as the observer gains experience, and a degree of confidence and understanding gradually replaces the exuberance and, perhaps, misconceptions with which he started. Such counts, even first year ones, are always of value to the researcher if they have been made carefully and accurately because they serve as an excellent basis of population comparison from year to year.

Lilac Lane, Perry Hall

MAKE A BREEDING BIRD COUNT IN YOUR AREA THIS YEAR

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S SANCTUARY PROGRAM

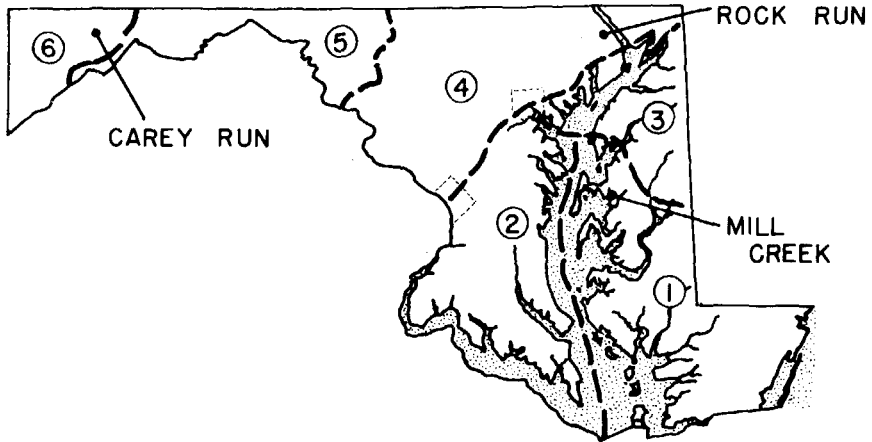
W. Rowland Taylor

Twenty years ago next February a group of enthusiastic birders founded the Maryland Ornithological Society and almost from the inception many of its members have dreamed of a statewide sanctuary network. For an organization of this type a sanctuary system must necessarily have multiple purposes. Among these are: (1) the preservation of unique or vanishing ecological areas such as spruce bogs and virgin forests; (2) provision of wildlife refuges for recreational and educational opportunities not only for adults but also for the expanding youth programs in many chapters; (3) provision for suitable wildlife areas for both amateur and professional scientific studies such as bird banding, population studies, bird behavior studies and studies of the interrelationships between plant life, animal life and the environment.

It is fortunate that Maryland has many different physiographic areas. The state can be divided into six biotic areas, each of which can be considered as a distinct ecological region. These are shown on the accompanying map. Within each region there are of course many habitats, each of which has a characteristic wildlife population. Similar habitats in different ecological regions, however, may have different populations. The difference may be pronounced or, on the other hand, may be slight. It is obviously impossible to have all interesting habitats available as sanctuaries. It would, however, be desirable to have each of the six major biotic regions represented in the Maryland Ornithological Society's Sanctuary System and, from a practical usage standpoint, it would be desirable to eventually have a sanctuary within easy reach of any part of the state.

It has been relatively recently that the Sanctuary Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society has become a reality. Through the efforts of many people, but primarily Mrs. Evelyn Gregory of Harford County, Mr. J. Gilman Paul in 1960 made available the lovely old stone house and 57 acres on Rock Run in upper Harford County near the Susquehanna River as our first M.O.S. operated sanctuary. From the beginning this has been a successful venture and is now a well established and much used sanctuary meeting all of the purposes set forth in the beginning of this article. The house has been renovated and comfortably furnished, trails have been cut through the woods and well marked, grids have been laid out for nesting population studies. Mr. Paul's enthusiasm for the Rock Run project has resulted in many improvements including having the spring water brought into the house and last year the erection of a magnificent shelter at the banding station on the old barn site. M.O.S. can never completely express its gratitude to Mr. Paul. He has made our entire Sanctuary Program possible and has given us the opportunity to show what we could do with a wildlife sanctuary.

In 1962 members of the Allegany County Chapter located an abandoned 53 acre farm in Garrett County that was available for purchase and



BIOTIC AREAS OF MARYLAND

which would make an excellent sanctuary. An enthusiastic statewide campaign resulted in the purchase of the second M.O.S. sanctuary now known as the Carey Run Sanctuary. The initial local enthusiasm for this project has, if possible, increased. The house has been repaired and refinished both inside and out. You would be surprised how many layers of wall paper came off of the kitchen wall. A parking lot has been built and the road into the property repaired. Through an agreement with the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Maryland a tree planting program has been started. Game management programs are underway and plans are now being made to make better use of the stream that flows through the sanctuary and thus create new wildlife habitats. The Carey Run Sanctuary has demonstrated the growing maturity of the Maryland Ornithological Society's statewide Sanctuary Program.

What of the future? Where do we go from here? We continue to build! Because of their uniqueness, special emphasis should be placed on the acquisition of vanishing habitats such as bogs. Habitats not already represented on the present M.O.S. sanctuaries are desirable. Although a variety of habitats within a sanctuary increases the variety of wildlife present and increases the possibilities of demonstrations, it should be kept in mind that at least 15 to 30 acres of a uniform habitat are necessary for population studies. Such studies in unsprayed habitats will become increasingly important in future years and, because of the difficulties in controlling drift from sprays applied from the air, it is important to preserve areas of several hundred acres when possible.

Some suggested areas suitable for sanctuaries that might be considered are: a heron colony, a Pocomoke Swamp area, a tidal marsh on the lower Eastern Shore, Kent County farmland and pond, a stream and woodland

in Queen Annes or Talbot County, an Anne Arundel County neck on the Chesapeake Bay, a Southern Maryland woods, Montgomery County bottomland forest, a Frederick County abandoned fish hatchery, Allegany County slope and streambottom and a Garrett County bog such as the Finzel Swamp.

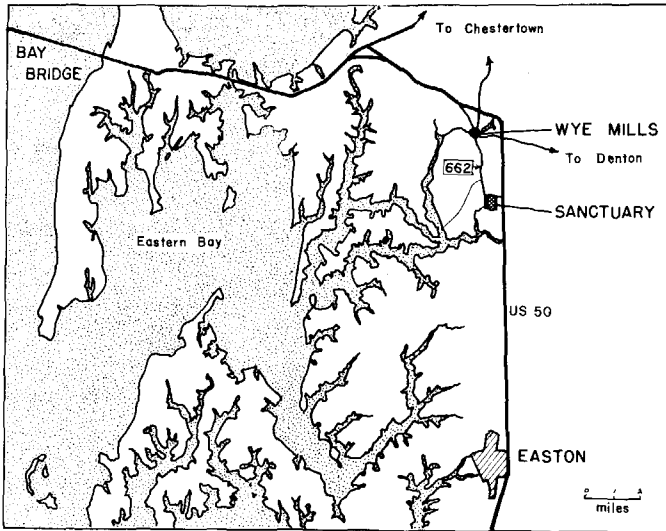
As has been demonstrated with the present sanctuaries, the structure of the Maryland Ornithological Society is such that strong local chapter support is required not only in the acquisition but successful operation of sanctuaries. Protection of the property, operation of feeding stations, maintenance of nature trails, habitat development, demonstrations to Scout and school groups, etc. require dedicated local people. While it is possible that in the future the Maryland Ornithological Society may have the financial strength to own and operate large sanctuaries requiring resident naturalists, the Society has not yet reached such a position. We must, however, not lose the vision of those who founded our Society two decades ago.

The sanctuary committee is being reorganized so that one of its members will be the local manager for each of our sanctuaries. In order to obtain the best available advice as to sanctuary management, a consulting board is being organized. This board will consist of several of the professional biologists, conservationists and wildlife experts in our membership. The financial aspects of the state sanctuary program must be reevaluated and the Sanctuary Committee has this under study. The committee is consulting with some of the Society's members who are well versed in finance and real estate. The results of these deliberations will be the subject of a future article. In the meanwhile the time has arrived for the next big step in the development of the state-wide sanctuary network.

The Proposed New Sanctuary in Talbot County

The Talbot County Chapter has been actively searching for a suitable sanctuary site for several years. This past winter a wonderful plot of woodland was located. The property consists of 107.6 acres of rolling woodland fronting 1053 feet on Route 662, the old Centerville-Easton Road, approximately 14 miles north of Easton and 1 mile south of Old Wye Church. Its location with respect to our other sanctuaries is shown on the map on page 11. A larger scale map below shows its relation to Easton and the Bay Bridge. The entire tract is woodland through which runs the upper reaches of Mill Creek, a creek which finally becomes tidal and drains into the eastern arm of the Wye River. There are many springs in the woodland which drain from the higher ground in the eastern part of the property into Mill Creek. There is ample fresh water, both still and running, to attract wildlife. The eastern part of the property is higher ground into which extend gentle gullies through which the springs drain. The ridges and slopes of the gullies are well covered with laurel, holly, pine shrubs and other low plants offering wonderful bird cover. The topography offers excellent opportunities for nature trails.

This higher forest was subjected to lumbering operations several



Location of Talbot County Sanctuary

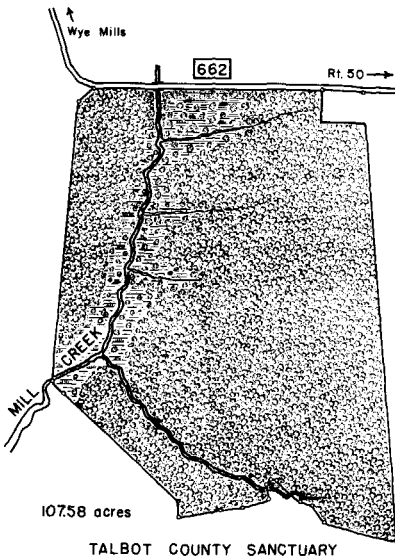
decades ago. However, this was judiciously done and much of the hard wood including all of the beech trees and many of the oaks were left intact. These and the additional secondary growth have resulted in an essentially mature forest.

The lowland through which Mill Creek flows has not been cut over. A U.S.D.A. Conservation Service survey shows this lowland to be of value only as a wildlife area. As a result it has not been disturbed. It can best be described as typical Prothonotary Warbler habitat. At times of high run-off Mill Creek overflows its low banks resulting in considerable areas of the low forest being almost swampy. The possibility of a future pond in this part of the property is suggested, but a careful survey by qualified conservationists should be made before such a decision is made.

Representatives of the state sanctuary Committee have inspected this property and it was their unanimous recommendation to the Trustees that every effort be made to obtain it as part of the M. O. S. Sanctuary System. This recommendation was approved by the Trustees.

The Committee's reasoning can be summarized as follows: The property is located in the Eastern Shore Section of the Oak-Pine Forest Geographical Region of Maryland, an ecological area quite different from those in which our other two sanctuaries are located. The specific land being considered contains wildlife habitats that are not represented at either Rock Run or Carey Run. It is of sufficient acreage to be useful for all sanctuary purposes including population studies in several related forest habitats. There are no buildings on the property to require repair or maintenance. There are no roads into the property; only foot paths. It can therefore be developed as sound sanctuary

management practices dictate. The property is in a stable agricultural community free from residential pressures. Part of an adjacent estate has already been set aside by its owners as a wildlife refuge. As is shown on the above map, it is accessible by an easy drive to all chapters of the M.O.S. with the exception of the westernmost group. Finally, a strong local chapter is enthusiastically supporting the venture. This has been demonstrated by the initiative shown by the Talbot County Chapter in locating the property and their increasing enthusiasm as plans for the acquisition of the sanctuary develop. This 107 acres in upper Talbot County meets all of the criteria for the development of the Society's Sanctuary System as outlined in the policy statement in the beginning paragraphs of this article.



How can we make it a reality? Through careful negotiation with the present owner of the property, a purchase price of only \$75 per acre has been set. This amounts to \$8068.50 and is an excellent price for such property in this area of the state. An option has been signed to purchase the property. This option must be exercised by July 1, 1964.

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION NOW. The Talbot County Chapter has already raised over one-fourth of the total purchase price within their own group. There is much enthusiasm in the Baltimore Chapter. Not only are contributions being collected, but special fund-raising projects are being planned. The Kent County Chapter and the Caroline County Chapter are

enthusiastic. Anne Arundel Chapter will have a sanctuary within 40 minutes drive, and Soldiers Delight and Patuxent are little more than an hour away. Harford Chapter and the two western chapters know from their experience with Rock Run and Carey Run of the importance and benefits of sanctuaries. Their leaders have indicated support for this project. The State Sanctuary Fund is in good condition, containing over \$4600. We can not deplete this fund to the point of endangering the upkeep and improvements required on our other sanctuaries. Therefore we have set our goal at raising \$8100. The sanctuaries belong to the entire state and this campaign is being waged on a statewide basis. This is a sound program; it merits your support. Large contributions or small contributions, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN TO MAKE A TRUE STATEWIDE SANCTUARY SYSTEM A REALITY. Send your contributions directly to Thomas Carswell, R. D. 1, Chestertown, Md. 21620. Mark your checks Maryland Ornithological Society Sanctuary Fund.

Chairman, Sanctuary Committee
1540 Northbourne Rd., Baltimore 12.

FIRST MARYLAND SIGHTING of BLACK-HEADED GULL

Jan Reese

On November 10, 1963, while watching ducks on the Choptank River, early in the morning, I caught a glimpse of a light-winged gull in the foreground. At first I passed it off for a Bonaparte's Gull (Larus philadelphia) because they are seen here regularly at this time of the year. It soon caught my attention again by persistently crossing the field of my 'scope; then I noticed the brilliant red bill. Remembering that Bonaparte's Gulls have black bills, I continued to follow the bird through my scope. At a range of forty feet, I noted the red bill and feet and legs, the black under wing linings and the dark spot behind the eye. It was nearly the size of a Ring-billed Gull and generally lazy acting. With these points in mind I went home to check some reference books. After reading the plumage descriptions of all plumages of the Bonaparte's Gull, from Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota", I was convinced this was definitely not a Bonaparte's Gull. After referring to three other reference books on the Black-headed Gull I was almost certain of the identification before I went back for a second look. Upon reaching the spot where I had seen the bird forty-five minutes earlier, I found it was still there. I immediately checked all the identification points very easily, because of the close range and a very, very cooperative adult European Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus). This bird returned to this same location for about an hour every morning from November 10 - 29. Others who observed the bird during this period were Richard L. Kleen, Don Meritt, Mary Blumsoehr, and Mr. and Mrs. James Key. We tried unsuccessfully to obtain photographs.

The status of the Black-headed Gull in Europe is much the same as the status of the Ring-billed Gull in our country. Thriving on a man-made environment, Black-headed Gulls are gradually increasing on our east coast. Dr. Anthony S. Erskine (Audubon Field Notes 17:334-338, 1963) has summarized occurrences and abundance of the Black-headed Gull in eastern North America. It was first identified on our side of the Atlantic in 1930. Last winter as many as 300 were estimated in Newfoundland and there are now records for all Atlantic coastal provinces of Canada, and all Atlantic States from Maine through Virginia, with a single record for Florida.

The present sighting constituted the first record for the Black-headed Gull in Maryland.

Box 213, Tilghman

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND AT CAREY RUN - June 5, 6, & 7

Special highlight - a visit to Finsel Swamp (one of Western Maryland's cedar bogs). For information on accommodations and program contact: Mrs. C. Gordon Taylor, 45 Broadway, Frostburg, Md. OV9-6791

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dorothy A. Mendinhall

Once again I bring you greetings as your President. I must admit I feel somewhat like a frustrated over-worked mother of ten individualistic children named Alle(gany), Anne (Arundel), Bal(timore), Caroline, Fred(erick), (Har)Ford, Kent, Pat(uxent), (T)Albot, and Sol(diers Delight). All delightful, sometimes out of hand; often needing to be humored, encouraged, praised, prodded into action but always deeply loved and appreciated.

To sustain me through all this there have been many many "Trustee" friends who were devoted, loyal, and always came to my aid at critical times. In addition, to brighten my life, came invitations to dinner from Fred and Ford; there was a day of birding with Bal at Rock Run; an overnight for the dedication of Carey Run with Alle; news from Albot of an option on a new home; word from Kent that a friend would help with records and finances; then there was Caroline, "the littlest angel" always at my side working quietly in her efficient way; Sol, the dilettante finally coming through with flying colors and contributing to the smooth family operations; Anne kept track of the budget, supplied the winner of the Helen Miller Scholarship and gave impetus to the publication of a handbook; Pat, helped Father Chan with his homework on Birdlife and even though late it was always excellently edited. All of this cooperation made the frustrations seem trivial and like the family which gathers together at the end of the day only the happy memories remain. So as we of M. O. S. come to the end of this year let us all gather to-gether for our annual convention and meeting at Ocean City, Md., May 8th, 9th and 10th. Here we can forget our frustrations, keep our chores to a minimum, refresh happy memories, renew friendships, set our sights high for the future, and above all give thanks for our freedom and blessings bestowed upon us.

There is nothing more that I can say except how humble and honoured I am to have been the President of this great family M.O.S. God bless you all.

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CAREY RUN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
PROGRESS REPORT - 1963

Billie Taylor and Anderson J. Martin

Conservation Activities

Carey Run Wildlife Sanctuary was snowbound during the first three months of 1963. However, the feeders were filled regularly by members who enjoyed wading through the drifts.

Activities began in earnest during the first week in April. Mr. Byron L. Ashbaugh, Chief of Field Services, National Audubon Society, assisted by Mr. Don Emerson, Science Department, Frostburg State College, and Mr. Paul Herndon, Natural Resources Institute, University of Maryland, toured the 52.3 acres and listed plans for improvement of the wildlife habitat there. The following practices have been put into our program:

1. Feed Grain Program-2 acres-U. S. Department of Agriculture;
2. Game Management-Wildlife Food Patches-Game and Inland Fish Commission of Maryland;
3. Tree Planting-1500 evergreens-White Pine, Red Pine, White Spruce, Norway Spruce-Department of Forests and Parks of Maryland. Cost Share - U. S. Department of Agriculture;
4. Mowing of fields-Local farmer;
5. Removal of maple saplings growing under and up through the apple trees and thinning of other maple clumps;
6. Nature trail with teaching stations.

A set of 20 slides was presented to the Sanctuary Committee by Mr. Emerson. A script, which suggested the conservation practices necessary for improvement, accompanied the pictures of the different areas of the Sanctuary.

Suggestions made by the steering committee that were started but not completed are as follows:

1. Planting of multiflora roses on contour lines around the hill opposite the house;
2. Planting of willow and larch trees along the streams;
3. Construction of a pond or potholes.

Mr. Ventis Plume, Research Assistant in Forestry, Natural Resources Institute, University of Maryland, completed arrangements for establishing forest research plantations at Carey Run Wildlife Sanctuary in 1964 on two acres of land agreed upon by members of the MOS Sanctuary Committee. The plantings will consist of Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*).

Later, students from Mr. Emerson's conservation class at Frostburg State College, in conjunction with Mr. William Nace, District Soil Conservationist, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, and Mr. Harold Harmon, Game and Inland Fish Commission of Maryland, studied the area and prepared a booklet "Plans for Improved Land Management". Their study included many suggestions listed by the previous group, but information pertinent to

pond construction needs to be considered. It is as follows:

1. The construction of a pond on Hefner Run would cost around \$1000;
2. A pond on Carey Run would be much more expensive, because of the larger water shed;
3. Much less expensive would be pot holes along both streams.
(They should be dug by hand to prevent damage by heavy equipment.)

Visitors

Approximately one thousand members and guests visited the Sanctuary during 1963. The Sanctuary was dedicated in an impressive ceremony on June 9. Groups on other dates included:

1. Elementary school groups and a Boy Scout Troop who helped to plant 1500 evergreen trees, brought bird houses and bird feeders and helped to keep the feeders filled during the winter months;
2. Other elementary school groups, interested in conducted trips around the trail loop;
3. Girl Scout Troops, interested especially in birds and flowers;
4. Cub Scouts, interested in Bird Study;
5. Cumberland Campers;
6. Luther Leaguers from a Cumberland church.

Household Donations

Many members from different chapters have shared in improving the living conditions at the Sanctuary House. Donations of kitchen equipment have consisted of electric percolators, refrigerator, hot plate, fry pan, sets of dishes, cutlery, cupboards, tables and chairs, glasses, pots and pans, sink, towels, and garbage cans. Other furniture and supplies were chests of drawers, cots, chairs, curtains, curtain rods, book cases, lamps, tables and stands, sofa bed, quilts, spreads, sheets, rugs, records, wall paper, paint, picnic table and benches, bulletin board, lawn chairs, and many tools including an electric saw.

Labor Donations

Innumerable hours of labor were contributed by many MDS members. Improvements on the house consist of the following work:

- Removal of all old wall paper
- Repapering or painting of all walls
- Hanging of curtains at all windows
- Painting of all floors including the front porch and steps
- Concreting of the floor on the back porch
- Concreting of the basement floor where needed
- Sealing of the ceiling in the basement with Homosote boards
- Painting of the stone wall in the basement with Bondex
- Repairing of the roof of the house and of the back porch
- Caulking where necessary
- Cleaning of the entire house
- Arranging of all donated materials
- Hauling away of all unburnable trash
- Rebuilding of one chimney

Exterior Improvements

One of the biggest jobs at the sanctuary was to make improvements on the grounds in order to provide the necessary conveniences and make an enjoyable and workable atmosphere. Many hours of time and effort were given by local M.O.S. members with the help and assistance of individuals of the other chapters. In the past year the following have been completed:

1. The entrance road was graded and filled with crushed rock.
2. A parking lot for visitors which accomodates about 20 cars was graded.
3. To provide drinking water a well was drilled .
4. A latrine was constructed.
5. A new boundary fence was erected with the cost shared by our neighbor who borders on our line.
6. Grass was cut and trimmed throughout the summer and fall as needed.
7. The orchard, on the hillside facing the house, was thinned out of maple saplings.
8. Three new trails were cleared and marked. One of these is a portion of the original trail made by General Braddock which also serves as one of our boundary lines.

Birds and Bird-Banding

At Carey Run Sanctuary occur the typical birds of the Mixed Mesophytic Region. Within the borders of the sanctuary 103 species of birds have already been recorded. Among the summer bird projects planned is a breeding bird census for which maps and instructions are now being prepared.

During the winter of 1962-63 bird-banding was begun at Carey Run and since then 233 individuals of 38 species have been banded. On the weekends of last August a sampling project was conducted in anticipation of our own Operation Recovery station this coming fall. We noted this winter the return of a Slate-colored Junco, which was one of the first birds banded at the Sanctuary. The most interesting banding events were the banding of a Sharp-shinned Hawk during last fall's sampling project and this spring's recapture of a Slate-colored Junco which had been banded at another station. We are anxiously awaiting the banding information on the Sanctuary's first "Foreign Retrap."

Mammals

No extensive investigation of mammals has been undertaken, but 13 species have been recorded on the sanctuary. Among the most common are White-tailed Deer, Red and Gray Squirrels, Woodchucks, Eastern Chipmunks, and Beavers.

75 Broadway, Frostburg
826 Windsor Rd., Cumberland



OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1963

Chandler S. Robbins

Continued drought, which had plagued Maryland for the past three months, reached its climax in October when fourteen cooperative stations of the U. S. Weather Bureau (including Rockville, Laurel and Centerville) recorded no precipitation at all. Numerous other stations as widely scattered as Friendship Airport, Solomons, Royal Oak, Denton and Chestertown had only a trace of rain in October. Only Princess Anne received more than half an inch. Fire danger remained high and forests in some areas were closed to the public until the soaking rains of early November brought some relief.

Heavy rains in the first and last weeks of November arrived too late to help the production of wildlife foods, but did replenish the water supply in our reservoirs. Precipitation totals for November ranged 2 to 4 inches above normal, with as much as 8.80 inches falling at Laurel. Temperatures for these two months averaged 1° to 4° above normal and the prolonged mildness here and to the north of us was reflected in the late departures of many transient birds and the late arrivals of waterfowl and other winter residents.

Winter's fury finally engulfed the Free State on Dec. 14, when temperatures plummeted into the 'teens, suddenly ending the unseasonal mildness that had characterized the fall. A very heavy nocturnal migration of waterfowl occurred over Maryland on the night of Dec. 15-16 when temperatures dropped to near zero in much of the Great Lakes area. We would like to know which species figured most prominently in this flight, and would appreciate any information on big increases in waterfowl on Dec. 16. Subnormal cold continued until after Christmas, dealing a crushing blow to those half-hardy species that had attempted to winter north of their normal range.

The feature of the season was the unprecedented influx of cross-bills together with an abundance of other northern finches. This influx, of course, was not a result of the late December cold snap, but was related to a shortage of cones in the northern coniferous forest.

Arrival and departure dates for the more frequently reported species are summarized by counties in Tables 1 and 2. Thanks are extended to the many observers who supplied migration records for this summary. Those

Table 1. Fall Arrival Dates, 1963

Species	W.Md	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Cecil	Kent	Caro	Q.An	Talbot	Wico	Worce
Whistling Swan	0	11/15	--	0	0	0	10/29	--	10/ 1	0	--	10/ 6	0	0
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	9/22	0	0	0	9/29	--	0	0	0	9/22	0	9/14
Black-capped Chickadee	9/17	10/22	10/12	12/11	11/17	11/16	--	0	0	0	10/19	10/18	0	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	--	10/ 1	10/ 4	--	10/18	10/16	10/13	10/13	--	10/ 7	10/12	10/ 5	--	10/ 9
Water Pipit	10/ 6	0	11/10	0	0	11/11	11/15	0	0	--	0	0	0	10/10
Rusty Blackbird	--	--	--	0	--	10/ 5	10/14	0	10/13	10/12	10/20	10/19	10/17	--
Evening Grosbeak	11/ 9	11/16	10/27	12/ 8	10/25	10/27	12/14	0	11/20	11/14	0	10/27	11/28	--
Purple Finch	--	10/16	10/12	10/21	10/25	10/ 5	11/ 1	10/14	9/20	12/ 1	0	10/13	10/16	9/23
Pine Siskin	11/ 9	11/16	10/11	11/23	10/12	11/ 9	--	10/18	--	10/14	10/12	10/13	10/16	10/10
Red Crossbill	0	11/24	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	12/ 5	0	12/22	11/24	12/ 1
White-winged Crossbill	12/22	11/28	0	0	1/ 2	11/29	12/ 2	0	--	0	0	12/22	12/ 7	12/ 1
Tree Sparrow	--	--	--	11/18	--	11/24	12/ 7	--	--	0	0	12/ 7	--	--
White-crowned Sparrow	10/ 5	10/ 5	10/ 6	10/14	10/13	10/ 5	10/17	0	10/ 5	10/12	0	10/ 5	0	9/23
Fox Sparrow	--	10/29	11/ 2	11/22	--	10/10	10/28	10/16	10/13	10/14	--	11/ 1	--	10/12

who submitted the largest number of records for each county were: Western Maryland (Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties)--Anderson J. Martin, Robert W. Warfield, Jerry Elgert, Mrs. Alice Mallonee, Carl Carlson; Frederick County--John W. Richards, Sterling W. Edwards; Baltimore City and County--C. Douglas Hackman, Mrs. Nancy Rowe, Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Mrs. Alice S. Kaestner; Harford--Mel Garland, C. Douglas Hackman; Howard--Morris Collins, Mrs. George Munro, Mrs. Harry Rauth, John H. Fales; Montgomery--Robert W. Warfield, Miss Lucille V. Smith, John H. Fales; Prince Georges--Vernon Kleen, Melvin Kleen, David Bridge, Ted Stiles, Ted Van Velzen, Chandler S. Robbins, John H. Fales, Brooke Meanley; Anne Arundel--Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Long, Harold Wierenga, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Garner, Paul and Danny Bystrak, William Anderson; Southern Maryland (Calvert and St. Marys Counties)--John H. Fales; Cecil--Vernon C. Rossman; Kent--Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, Mrs. Bradley Fisk, Mr. and Mrs. Geryl Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Lenz; Caroline--Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, V. Edwin Unger, Mrs. Alicia Knotts, Mrs. Essie Pepper, Samuel H. Dyke; Queen Annes--Mr. and Mrs. David Bridge, Terry Moore, Mrs. Betty Riedel; Talbot--Jan Reese, Ted Van Velzen, Richard L. Kleen, Donald Meritt, Francis W. Welch, Mrs. Mary Blumoehr, Mrs. John Bauer; Wicomico--Samuel H. Dyke; Worcester--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Samuel H. Dyke, V. Edwin Unger, Carl Carlson, Mrs. Sarah Baker, Chandler S. Robbins.

Dates underscored in the tables represent banded birds. Dates underscored in the text are new extreme dates for that part of the State, and underscored numbers exceed the highest previous one-day total for the fall (or winter) for that part of the State.

Hérons. New late departure records for Maryland were established on Oct. 12 for both the Cattle Egret (11 birds flying south high over Rock Run Sanctuary--Douglas Hackman) and the Louisiana Heron (2 at North Ocean City by Robert W. Warfield).

Swans and Geese. Although a few Whistling Swans arrived very early (Oct. 1 in Kent County, Edward Mendinhall; Oct. 6, 1 in Talbot County, Jan Reese), the main flight was late. Mr. Warfield saw a flock of about 40 Whistling Swans migrating southeastward over Triadelphia Reservoir as late as Dec. 1. Samuel H. Dyke remarked that 9

Table 2. Fall Departure Dates, 1963

Species	W.Md	Fred	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.C	Anne	SoMd	Kent	Caro	Q.An	Talb	Worc
Green Heron	--	--	9/14	--	--	10/27	10/19	8/31	9/1	--	--	--	10/2	10/10
Osprey	9/22	9/22	9/14	10/27	--	--	10/4	9/21	9/1	--	10/15	--	9/8	9/14
Semipalmated Plover	0	9/3	0	0	0	0	9/18	0	9/29	0	0	0	0	10/26
Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	--	0	0	0	9/18	9/21	9/12	0	0	--	0	9/21
Solitary Sandpiper	0	0	9/14	0	0	0	9/21	10/19	--	0	0	--	0	8/25
Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	9/14	0	10/27	10/27	10/26	9/29	9/1	0	--	0	11/15	11/7
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	0	0	9/19	--	9/29	0	--	0	0	10/26
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	11/2	--	9/29	0	0	--	0	0	9/13
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	9/29	9/1	0	0	0	0	9/13
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/15	10/19	--	--	--	11/25	11/24
Yel.-billed Cuckoo	10/17	10/20	9/14	10/26	--	--	10/1	10/9	9/29	10/9	10/17	--	10/26	10/18
Common Nighthawk	--	9/27	9/28	9/9	--	9/20	9/20	10/1	9/20	0	9/28	0	9/21	--
Chimney Swift	10/12	--	9/26	10/5	10/7	10/1	10/11	10/11	9/25	--	10/3	--	9/14	9/28
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	9/30	--	10/6	9/22	9/16	--	10/5	9/5	9/2	10/1	9/24	9/14	10/6	--
Eastern Kingbird	--	--	--	--	--	--	9/9	8/26	9/8	--	9/22	--	9/21	10/6
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	9/23	--	--	9/22	--	9/3	9/21	--	--	--	--	9/23	9/9	10/11
Eastern Phoebe	--	10/11	--	10/20	12/6	12/25	10/12	10/2	10/6	10/13	10/10	10/13	10/23	10/17
Yel.-billed Flycatcher	0	0	0	9/29	0	0	9/28	0	0	9/28	0	9/23	9/29	9/22
Acadian Flycatcher	--	--	--	9/21	--	--	9/14	0	8/11	9/13	10/2	0	--	--
Traill's Flycatcher	0	0	0	9/14	0	0	9/21	0	0	0	0	0	9/22	9/22
Least Flycatcher	9/5	0	0	9/14	0	0	9/7	0	0	--	9/1	0	9/25	10/9
E. Wood Pewee	9/5	--	9/14	9/22	9/17	9/21	9/28	10/1	9/27	10/2	9/28	9/23	9/27	10/18
Barn Swallow	8/23	--	9/14	9/29	8/28	--	9/14	9/5	9/2	--	--	--	9/14	9/25
Purple Martin	8/31	--	9/9	9/28	--	8/20	9/16	9/7	9/7	--	--	--	9/15	--
Blue Jay	--	--	--	10/13	--	10/4	10/29	--	11/11	--	--	10/19	10/12	10/17
House Wren	--	--	9/14	10/12	--	9/5	10/1	10/1	--	10/2	11/17	9/22	10/4	10/7
Catbird	10/12	10/13	11/24	10/20	9/15	10/13	10/26	10/18	9/29	10/15	10/12	10/19	10/20	10/19
Brown Thrasher	9/15	--	9/14	9/29	9/30	10/12	9/30	10/10	9/22	10/8	10/17	9/23	10/20	10/19
Wood Thrush	10/20	--	--	10/5	10/8	9/20	10/6	9/29	--	10/9	10/1	9/29	10/13	10/6
Hermit Thrush	--	--	10/26	10/26	--	--	10/27	11/15	--	11/1	10/19	10/20	10/27	10/19
Swainson's Thrush	9/18	9/27	10/12	10/11	10/2	10/12	10/12	10/20	0	10/17	10/5	10/12	10/20	10/20
Gray-cheeked Thrush	--	--	--	10/20	0	10/12	10/13	9/29	0	10/10	10/7	10/12	10/20	10/13
Veery	--	--	9/21	9/28	0	0	9/7	0	0	9/15	9/2	9/29	10/19	10/4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11/17	--	10/12	10/27	11/29	--	11/17	11/26	--	11/2	10/23	10/20	11/17	10/20
White-eyed Vireo	0	--	9/14	9/28	--	--	10/10	--	8/31	--	9/17	--	--	9/14
Solitary Vireo	--	9/21	0	10/20	0	10/5	0	0	0	10/15	9/24	0	0	10/19
Red-eyed Vireo	--	--	9/14	10/4	9/14	--	10/1	9/28	9/2	10/6	9/18	10/13	9/25	10/17
Black-&-white Warbler	--	--	9/14	9/21	9/21	--	10/1	9/22	--	10/13	9/13	10/12	10/12	10/18
Worm-eating Warbler	--	--	--	9/9	--	--	8/31	--	--	9/15	--	0	9/24	10/2
Blue-winged Warbler	--	--	--	8/17	0	0	9/3	--	--	9/15	9/8	0	9/12	--
Tennessee Warbler	0	0	0	10/26	0	0	10/25	0	0	10/14	0	9/23	10/13	10/18
Nashville Warbler	--	0	9/5	9/21	0	0	9/17	0	0	10/10	0	9/22	10/4	10/4
Parula Warbler	--	--	9/28	9/22	10/11	--	9/28	--	--	10/2	--	9/23	10/19	10/9
Yellow Warbler	9/12	--	--	--	--	--	9/17	--	--	0	9/9	--	--	9/21
Magnolia Warbler	--	--	9/14	9/29	10/9	9/25	10/19	--	0	10/9	10/1	10/13	10/5	10/17
Cape May Warbler	10/5	0	10/12	9/28	0	0	9/19	10/4	0	10/1	10/10	9/28	--	10/17
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	10/20	0	10/2	10/5	9/14	10/14	10/13	0	0	10/10	9/21	9/28	10/5	10/19
Myrtle Warbler	10/25	10/18	10/12	10/27	11/3	11/11	12/9	11/14	11/25	10/31	10/26	10/20	10/27	11/28
Black-thr. Green Warbler	10/5	10/5	--	10/5	0	9/26	9/28	9/28	0	10/11	9/28	0	10/4	10/12
Blackburnian Warbler	--	--	0	9/21	0	0	0	9/24	0	9/22	0	9/22	0	9/21
Chestnut-sided Warbler	--	--	9/14	9/14	10/1	0	9/18	9/29	0	9/30	10/2	9/23	10/13	10/9
Bay-breasted Warbler	10/5	9/27	0	0	0	0	10/2	9/29	0	10/1	0	9/23	9/23	10/10
Blackpoll Warbler	10/5	0	9/28	10/26	9/18	10/1	10/13	10/8	0	10/16	10/14	9/28	10/18	10/20
Prairie Warbler	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8/30	10/21	--	10/12	9/21	10/20
Palm Warbler	0	--	10/26	0	0	0	10/5	0	0	10/13	0	10/20	10/18	10/20
Ovenbird	9/29	9/27	--	10/12	9/22	10/12	9/29	9/29	0	10/13	10/10	9/29	10/12	10/20
Northern Waterthrush	--	--	9/14	9/29	0	10/12	10/5	9/28	0	10/10	10/10	9/23	10/5	10/5
Kentucky Warbler	0	--	--	9/28	--	9/17	9/28	--	--	8/22	--	--	--	10/5
Connecticut Warbler	0	0	0	10/5	0	10/12	10/5	0	0	10/8	10/10	9/23	9/28	10/8
Yellowthroat	9/17	--	11/10	10/20	--	--	10/19	9/29	--	10/13	9/24	12/7	10/18	10/19
Yellow-breasted Chat	--	--	--	10/4	11/6	--	10/6	--	--	10/9	--	10/13	10/13	10/19
Hooded Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	9/18	--	--	9/14	0	9/22	9/9	--
Wilson's Warbler	11/29	10/4	0	9/21	0	9/21	9/18	0	0	9/20	0	0	0	10/5
Canada Warbler	--	0	9/14	9/22	0	0	9/17	9/12	0	9/15	0	9/22	9/29	9/19
American Redstart	--	--	9/28	9/28	9/22	9/3	10/5	10/4	--	10/23	9/24	10/13	10/18	10/19
Bobolink	--	--	--	9/22	0	0	9/28	--	--	0	--	0	9/8	9/26
Baltimore Oriole	--	--	8/25	9/1	--	9/5	9/12	--	--	--	9/1	--	9/14	10/16
Scarlet Tanager	9/18	--	10/12	9/28	--	--	9/21	9/29	--	10/1	10/3	9/23	10/12	10/13
Rose-br. Grosbeak	9/17	9/18	0	9/28	9/30	10/3	9/28	0	0	9/23	9/24	9/23	9/28	10/1
Blue Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	--	9/7	9/7	--	--	--	10/1	--	--	10/10
Indigo Bunting	9/6	--	--	10/13	--	9/15	10/12	9/28	9/7	10/13	--	9/22	10/13	10/14
Chipping Sparrow	10/24	--	--	--	--	--	10/26	10/18	10/19	10/31	11/24	--	--	10/28
White-crowned Sparrow	10/7	--	10/23	10/26	--	--	10/19	10/17	0	11/1	10/14	0	10/13	10/17
Fox Sparrow	0	0	--	--	12/1	--	12/4	11/19	--	10/29	--	0	11/10	12/1
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	10/6	10/5	0	0	10/6	0	0	10/31	10/7	0	10/18	10/18

birds of a small race of the Canada Goose (Snow Goose size) with high-pitched voices stopped briefly on Schumaker Pond in Salisbury on Sept. 24. Although Oct. 4 was the best flight day for Canada Geese in Wicomico County, the heaviest migration over Washington, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Counties occurred during the period Oct. 21-26. On Nov. 24 Bruce Newman saw 100 Snow Geese and 2 Blue Geese migrating high over Seneca.

Ducks. At Ocean City, Black Ducks were concentrated by the ice at Christmas time, with the result that 6,775, more than twice as many as ever before, were counted on the Christmas Count. Buffleheads were unusually plentiful on the Annapolis (888) and St. Michaels (863) Christmas Counts. Dyke found a second year male Common Eider at Ocean City Inlet on Nov. 24, and 2 King Eiders were there on the Dec. 30 Christmas Count; the King Eider has been recorded on 5 of the last 8 Ocean City Christmas Counts.

Hawks. Mr. Warfield's best days at Monument Knob on South Mountain were Nov. 2 (76 Red-tails and 8 other hawks in 2½ hours) and Nov. 3 (55 Red-tails and 2 Marsh Hawks in 2 hours). The wind was strong from the northwest both days and he was told that the flights continued all day. On these same two days Mr. Hackman at Rock Run Sanctuary saw only 15 and 22 hawks, respectively, in 4 hours daily. The flight at Rock Run was much better on Nov. 10, when Hackman counted 61 Red-shouldered Hawks, 36 Red-tails, 1 Sharp-shin and 1 Cooper's in 5 hours. This was his best Red-shoulder flight in several years; he attributes the lateness of these flights to the balmy October weather. There were 21 Bald Eagles on the Maryland Christmas Counts this year as compared with 19 last year, but of the 16 birds whose age was noted, only 1 was in immature plumage. Last year there were 10 immatures, 3 adults, and 6 of unspecified age. Two Golden Eagles were seen at Blackwater Refuge on the Southern Dorchester County Count; one seen on Ferry Neck on Dec. 23 by Harry Armistead was the first ever reported from Talbot County.

Bobwhite. Birds of Maryland credited the 1954 Christmas Counts with three of the four highest Bobwhite tallies ever obtained in winter in our State: 122 at Ocean City, 77 at St. Michaels, and 67 at Annapolis. The 1963 Counts showed 225 at Ocean City, 423 at St. Michaels, and 351 at Annapolis.

Shorebirds. Oct. 26 was a late date for a Spotted Sandpiper at Triadelphia Reservoir (Warfield). The same observer found a Dunlin there the next day; this is a common bird in tidewater areas, but rare on the Piedmont. A Stilt Sandpiper studied at West Ocean City on Nov. 7 was three weeks later than the previous record for this species (Dyke). First Talbot County winter records for the Sanderling and Black-bellied Plover were established this year; Harry Armistead saw 7 Sanderlings at Benoni Point on Dec. 22, and Jan Reese found a Black-bellied Plover at Tilghman on Christmas day.

Cuckoos, Kingfishers. Mrs. Alice Mallonee saw a late Yellow-billed

Cuckoo 12 miles south of Hagerstown on Oct. 17. Hackman noted a small but definite movement of Belted Kingfishers migrating over Rock Run Sanctuary and also over White Marsh during the first half of November. He saw 3 flying southwestward over Rock Run on Nov. 3 and 3 on Nov. 11.

Ravens, Chickadees, Nuthatches. The Common Raven is seldom reported in Maryland east of the Allegheny Plateau. Douglas Hackman saw one at Rock Run Sanctuary (first Sanctuary record) on Oct. 26. A great wave of Black-capped Chickadees spread southward into Maryland in mid-October and banding records at Rock Run Sanctuary showed that new birds continued to arrive as late as mid-November. This species as well as the White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch remained unusually common throughout the period. As many as 144 Red-breasted Nuthatches were counted on the St. Michaels Christmas Count.

Warblers. Except for the first winter record of an Orange-crowned Warbler in Talbot County (Dec. 22 by Jim Voshell and Chris Clark), interest in this family centered around late dates: a Tennessee at Rock Run on Oct. 26 (Hackman), a Parula banded at Blackwalnut Point in Talbot County, on Oct. 19 (Reese and Van Velzen), a Magnolia at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Oct. 19 (V. Kleen), a Black-throated Blue south of Hagerstown on Oct. 20 (Alice Mallonee), a Chestnut-sided banded at Blackwalnut Point on Oct. 13 (Reese, Van Velzen), a Prairie banded at "Damsite" (Tolchester) on Oct. 21 (Mrs. Edward Mendinhall), an Ovenbird banded at Ocean City on Oct. 20 (Mrs. Richard D. Cole), a Kentucky Warbler banded at Ocean City on Oct. 5 (latest State record--Mrs. Cole), a Connecticut Warbler banded at Brookeville on Oct. 12 (John S. Weske), a Yellow-breasted Chat seen in Howard County on Nov. 6 (Mrs. Dorothy Rauth), and a Wilson's Warbler seen 12 miles south of Hagerstown on Nov. 29 (Mrs. Mallonee).

Orioles, Tanagers. Each winter we look with interest for the appearance of Baltimore Orioles at the David Howards' Annapolis feeding station. The first two birds arrived there this year on Oct. 30 and on the next day there were 3. Note that this arrival is two weeks after the last Maryland departures for this species were reported. In Talbot County, Don Meritt had his first wintering Baltimore Oriole on Dec. 7, 2 on Dec. 13, and 3 on Dec. 28. An oriole fitting the description of a female Bullock's was carefully studied at Havre de Grace on Dec. 21 by Chandler Robbins and Mel Garland; because of the close similarity of this bird to the female Baltimore and the possibility of hybrids occurring here, the Bullock's Oriole still remains on Maryland's hypothetical list despite several sight records in recent years. At Denton Mrs. Alicia Knotts heard a Summer Tanager as late as Oct. 6.

Finches. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills began arriving at the end of November and were seen before the close of the year by almost all observers who made a real effort to find them. Peak numbers for the season were recorded on the various Christmas Bird Counts, as this was the period when the largest numbers of observers were afield. Table 3 shows comparative counts of several winter finches on Maryland Christmas Counts in 1963 as compared with the previous winter. Only a small part

Table 3. Winter Finches on Christmas Bird Counts

	<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	<u>Purple Finch</u>	<u>Pine Siskin</u>	<u>American Goldfinch</u>	<u>Red Crossbill</u>	<u>White-wg. Crossbill</u>
Accokeek	40	2	25	40	0	0
Alligany Co.	217	24	0	84	0	0
Annapolis	120	25	16	347	0	36
Catoctin Mt.	32	12	10	37	0	0
Cylburn	17	0	1	85	0	0
Denton	65	0	51	293	0	0
Loch Raven	33	4	8	109	0	0
Lower Kent	202	12	74	545	18	92
Ocean City	10	21	114	641	26	21
Palmers	67	0	2	78	7	0
Port Tobacco	6	0	4	45	0	0
Rock Run	31	46	125	191	0	0
St. Michaels	411	12	315	612	20	11
Seneca	27	2	0	233	0	0
So. Dorchester	13	1	41	173	0	35
Triadelphia	229	17	10	496	5	0
1963 CBC Total	<u>1520</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>796</u>	<u>4009</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>195</u>
1962 CBC Total	9	120	15	1931	0	0

of the difference in abundance is related to the increased coverage (about 1170 party-hours in 1963, 949 in 1962). Seven Common Redpolls seen at Ferry Neck in Talbot County on Dec. 22 (Harry Armistead) were the only birds of this species identified in Maryland this winter. I am pleased to report that Maryland's latest pest species, the introduced House Finch, has not increased over last year's total and has not been reported from any additional counties. All sightings of this species should be reported in order that its spread may be well documented. The Howards saw a maximum of 2 male and 2 female House Finches at their Annapolis home on Nov. 17. In Baltimore single birds were seen by Mrs. Norwood Schaffer on Dec. 14, Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner on Dec. 15, and a male and 2 females were banded by Mrs. Carl Lubbert. Three House Finches were seen on the St. Michaels Christmas Count, Dec. 22 (2 parties).

Sparrows, Snow Buntings, Longspurs. John S. Weske found a wintering Grasshopper Sparrow on the Dec. 26 Triadelphia Count. Vesper Sparrows wintered in unprecedented numbers in the Maryland Piedmont and were also more common than usual in the Coastal Plain. Robert Warfield noted a flock of 10 wintering at Germantown, and Christmas Count records showed 17 at Catoctin, 16 at Rock Run, 64 at Denton, and 25 at Ocean City. Wintering White-crowned Sparrows also made a good showing, with 78 at Seneca, 40 at Triadelphia, and 60 in Lower Kent County. The first 5 Snow Buntings of the season were found at Beltsville airport on Oct. 30 by C.E. Addy. Brooke Meanley added the 251st species to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center list on Dec. 3 when he identified 2 Lapland Longspurs there.

Migratory Bird Populations Station
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel

HORNED GREBE GROUNDED IN LAVALE

William M. Leeson

On the morning of December 16 or 17, 1963 our neighbor's young son beckoned to advise that there was a strange bird in their driveway, apparently injured. I rose to the call and brought the creature home. Since I had to rush to school, the bird did not command my attention until late afternoon. The children showed an unusual interest in the bird at first sight, offering possible identifications such as loon, duck and even pigeon. After thoroughly examining it, I was convinced it was a Horned Grebe (Podiceps auritus). It did not appear to be injured so I released it in the basement for a test flight. After it bumped into the wall time after time, trying in vain to fly, we decided it was not injured, but simply had to have water to get airborne. It was belligerent when held and its sharp beak left its marks on my hands.

Why had this bird ventured into this steep mountain valley, miles from open water? Apparently it encountered low overcast and snow squalls while migrating over the Appalachians. Perhaps the illuminated icy driveway appeared to be water. If so, the grebe was in for a rude awakening upon landing.

The following afternoon we traveled to the Potomac River, near the C. & O. Canal, enroute to Oldtown, where we gave the grebe its freedom. It became very excited upon seeing the water, and when released began to dive repeatedly. Within minutes it was in mid-river, moving downstream with the current, and our experience was history.

114 Mary St., LaVale

BEHAVIOR OF A HAND-REARED BROWN THRASHER

Hildegard H. Reissmann, M.D.

A Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum) found out of the nest on the fourth of July 1962 and lovingly kept alive, was given to me in June 1963. The tame bird had worn and broken wing and tailfeathers and the upper mandible was overhanging the lower. I assured its owner it would take a month to get the bird in fine shape on the right food and freedom. I let the bird loose in the house and spent hours each day catching food for him. The first weekend that I took him out in the yard, the bird riding on my shoulder, he would not go on the ground. I had to push him on a compost heap incredibly overpopulated with earthworms; then, when he saw the result of my scratching, he grasped the situation quickly. He was so unused to the outdoors that he was in constant danger. He disregarded a shallow birdbath and jumped into a large tub filled with water up to his neck, from which I fished him out. Inside the house, he got wedged under a sofa to the point of immobility searching for insects; but he somehow grew stronger and developed three new long tailfeathers. Every morning I put him out on his favorite spot and every

(continued on page 28)

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evening "Orpheus" waited there, hopped on my arm and was carried inside. By September, his new feathers were broken again. In October, he became bolder and I heard him call from the edge of the water, a few hundred feet away; there he stayed night and day in a tangled mass of thorns over rotten logs. When I went down with a tidbit, he gave his call "dje" and ate from my hand. In November, he disappeared from sight. He did not answer when I called, and after days of searching the woods, I finally gave him up as perished. But on the last day of November, after a heavy rainstorm, he was suddenly close to the house; he flung himself on an earthworm I brought him and "rode home" on my shoulder. He took up quarters in some plants. An hour later he sang his whisper song from a gardenia.

Palisades on the Severn, Crownsville

COMING EVENTS

- | | | | |
|------|-------|--------------|---|
| May | 23 | ANNE ARUNDEL | Bird Walk 8 a.m. Palisades on Severn |
| | 24 | BALTIMORE | Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge. Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Thomas, ID-6488 Meet Chesapeake Diner, Route 40 East & Middle River Road, 7:30 a.m. |
| | 24 | FREDERICK | Chapter Picnic at Seneca. Take lunch |
| | 26 | BALTIMORE | Bird Walk Lake Roland. Leader: Mrs. Kaestner 8:00 a.m. |
| | 30 | BALTIMORE | Catoctin Mountain. Leader: Mr. Vernon Kleen of Patuxent Research Center. |
| June | 5-7 | ALLEGANY | ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND - CAREY RUN SANCTUARY |
| | 6 | CAROLINE | Bird hike and cook-out breakfast |
| | 5-7 | EBBA | Eastern Bird Banding Association meeting at Douglas College, New Brunswick, N. J. |
| | 9 | BALTIMORE | Picnic Supper Patapsco State Park for Courtship Flight of Nighthawks in Soldier's Delight at sunset. Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Rowe. |
| | 12 | BALTIMORE | Monthly meeting - Cylburn 8:00 P. M. Business and social |
| | 19-21 | BALTIMORE | Junior Nature Camp at Camp Waredaca in Unity, Md., near the Seth Low farm. For information contact Mrs. N. K. Schaffer, 8 Beechdale Rd., Baltimore 10. Phone 323-4090 |
| July | 11 | STATEWIDE | Membership picnic at "Damsite", Chestertown, Md., home of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mendinhall |

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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