

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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NO. 1

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1946

This year we are able to present seven Christmas bird counts from Maryland. They cover the eastern part of our state very well but we have yet to hear from our inland counties. A survey of the past counts, as published in Bird-Lore and Audubon Magazine, shows that in more than forty years there have been only two counts from west of Montgomery County. Who will remedy the situation?

Bowie, Md. (entire area of the Patuxent Research Refuge of the Fish and Wildlife Service, 2656 acres; bottomland and swamp forest 37%; upland oak 11%; fields 17%; pine 16%; terrace (beech-white oak) 9%; lakes 3%; hedgerows and wood margin 4%; residential 3%).— December 26; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temperature 36° to 46°; wind SW, 5-15 m.p.h.; ground bare; river and ponds open. Eight observers in 7 parties. Total hours, 42-1/2; total miles 35 (afoot). Turkey vulture, 24; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; Cooper's hawk, 2; red-tailed hawk, 4; red-shouldered hawk, 3; bald eagle, 3; bob-white, 26; mourning dove, 16; flicker, 12; red-bellied woodpecker, 13; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 2; hairy woodpecker, 10; downy woodpecker, 35; blue jay, 13; crow, 74; Carolina chickadee, 83; tufted titmouse, 77; white-breasted nuthatch, 7; red-breasted nuthatch, 7; brown creeper, 8; winter wren, 8; Carolina wren, 26; mockingbird, 3; robin, 1; hermit thrush, 3; bluebird, 18; golden-crowned kinglet, 137; ruby-crowned kinglet, 3; starling, 111; myrtle warbler, 38; English sparrow, 23; cardinal, 46; purple finch, 7; pine siskin, 8; goldfinch, 121; slate-colored junco, 561; tree sparrow, 66; field sparrow 13; white-throated sparrow, 80; fox sparrow, 3; swamp sparrow, 7; song sparrow, 33. Total 42 species; 1736 individuals. (Seen in area earlier in week: Marsh hawk, killdeer, barred owl).—Durward L. Allen, Max M. Carpenter, Ernest Ediger, Luther C. Goldman, Arnold L. Nelson, Chandler S. Robbins, Robert E. Stewart, Francis M. Uhler.

Chase (Baltimore Co.), Md. (West shore of Chesapeake Bay from Middle River to Gunpowder River, inland to B. & O. Railroad; habitats as described last year.) — Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear, ground bare, slight skim ice at heads of coves in morning; wind W, 18-24 m.p.h. during most of day; temp. 36°-42°. Sixteen observers in 4 parties. Total hours, 23 on foot; total miles, 28 on foot (mileage in cars used in gaining access to areas not counted). Pied-billed grebe, 1; great-blue heron, 4; mallard, 1; black duck,

50; baldpate, 702; wood duck, 6; redhead, 7; scaup (sp.?) 36; turkey vulture, 8; sharp-shinned hawk, 3; red-tailed hawk, 4; bald eagle, 3; sparrow hawk, 1; coot, 4; killdeer, 11; herring gull, 126; ring-billed gull, 878; mourning dove, 7; flicker, 3; downy woodpecker, 12; blue jay, 9; crow, 87; Carolina chickadee, 29; tufted titmouse, 23; white-breasted nuthatch, 6; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; brown creeper, 1; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 8; mockingbird, 6; bluebird, 5; golden-crowned kinglet, 40; starling, 323; myrtle warbler, 34; English sparrow, 157; red-wing, 19; cardinal, 33; goldfinch, 23; junco, 303; tree sparrow, 19; field sparrow, 3; white-throated sparrow, 44; swamp sparrow, 6; song sparrow, 18; Total 44 species; 3067 individuals. — T. M. Branna, Florence Burner, O. W. Crowder, Irving Hampe, Pearl Heaps, David Kolb, Haven Kolb, Ruth Lenderking, Benjamin Levin, Elizabeth May, Wm. McHoul, A. O. Ramsey, Bert Ramsey, Helen Severin, Stephen Simon, and Lester Wood. (Maryland Ornithological Society).

Loch Raven (Baltimore Co.) Md. (From Towson around the lake and through Dulaney Valley. Time divided as last year). — Dec. 27; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Cloudy, ground bare; wind E, 8-12 m.p.h.; temp. 32° - 25° (Baltimore City readings). Total hours 10 (9 on foot, 1 in car); total miles 28 (13 on foot, 15 in car); observers together. Horned grebe, 1; mallard, 5; hooded merganser, 5; American merganser, 89; turkey vulture, 8; red-shouldered hawk, 1; marsh hawk, 2; sparrow hawk, 4; killdeer, 1; downy woodpecker, 7; phoebe, 1; blue jay, 4; crow, 25; Carolina chickadee, 12; tufted titmouse, 4; red-breasted nuthatch, 3; brown creeper, 1; winter wren, 3; robin, 2; hermit thrush, 1; bluebird, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 5; ruby-crowned kinglet, 2; myrtle warbler, 25; cardinal, 12; purple finch, 20; goldfinch, 5; junco, 39; tree sparrow, 3; white-throated sparrow, 69; swamp sparrow, 3; song sparrow, 8. Total 32 species; 371 individuals. — David and Haven Kolb.

Port Tobacco (Charles Co.) Md. (Areas about Port Tobacco Village, Brentland Wharf on Port Tobacco River, and Potomac River east of Nanjemey Creek; low swampy woodland 45%, mixed upland pine and oak woods, chiefly oak 10%, submarginal farmland and field borders 35%, marsh and water 10%). — December 28; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temperature 40° to 75°; wind 0-15 m.p.h.; creeks and rivers open. Five observers working in 2 parties. Total party hours afield, 18; total party miles, 30 (20 afoot, 10 by car). Horned grebe, 3; great blue heron, 5; whistling swan, 1; pintail, 1; lesser scaup, 1; ruddy duck, 350; Am. merganser, 26; turkey vulture, 47; black vulture, 22; sharp-shinned hawk, 1; Cooper's hawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 3; red-shouldered hawk, 2; bald eagle, 7; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; killdeer, 14; Wilson's snipe, 3; herring gull, 14; ring-billed gull, 90; belted kingfisher, 2; flicker, 18; red-bellied woodpecker, 19; hairy woodpecker, 7; downy woodpecker, 16; eastern phoebe, 2; blue jay, 46; crow, 205; Carolina chickadee, 63; tufted titmouse, 31; red-breasted nuthatch, 5; brown creeper, 3; winter wren, 5; Carolina wren, 45; mockingbird, 4; robin, 18; hermit thrush, 6; bluebird, 47; golden-crowned kinglet, 32; ruby-crowned kinglet, 3; cedar waxwing, 8; starling, 143; myrtle warbler, 20;

English sparrow, 23; eastern meadowlark, 102; eastern red-wing, 305; rusty blackbird, 24; brewer's blackbird, 3 (observed at 35 feet through 7x35 binoculars in excellent light); grackle, 2; cardinal, 76; purple finch, 4; pine siskin, 35; goldfinch, 154; towhee, 6; slate-colored junco, 456; tree sparrow, 15; chipping sparrow, 1; field sparrow, 99; white-throated sparrow, 293; swamp sparrow, 37; song sparrow, 120. Total, 61 species; 3096 individuals. — Durward L. Allen, Ira N. Gabrielson, Arnold L. Nelson, Robert E. Stewart, Francis M. Uhler.

Solomons (Calvert Co.), Md. (area with 14-mile radius of land and water north of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory; water 50%, farmland 15%, marsh 10%, deciduous forest 10%, loblolly and Virginia pine 15%). — Dec. 21; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rain in a.m., overcast in p.m.; wind light, W; temp. 37° to 42°; precipitation about 1.0 inches in 24-hour period. Four observers in 3 parties. Total part hours, 18; total miles, 163 (23 on foot, 116 by car, 24 by boat). Common Loon, 18; red-throated loon, 33; horned grebe, 149; pied-billed grebe, 2; gannet, 5; great blue heron, 5; Am. egret, 1; whistling swan, 22; Canada goose, 12; black duck, 107; baldpate, 34; pintail, 3; greater scaup, 18; lesser scaup, 38; Am. golden-eye, 432; buffle-head, 79; old-squaw, 358, white-winged scoter, 98; surf scoter, 62; ruddy duck, 26; Am. merganser, 19; turkey vulture, 50; black vulture, 26; sharp-shinned hawk, 2; Cooper's hawk, 1; red-shouldered hawk, 3; broad-winged hawk, 1 (seen at 100 yds. with 6x glasses — R.V.T.) no further substantiating details — Ed.; bald eagle, 6; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 3; bob-white, 24; king rail, 1; killdeer, 25; spotted sandpiper, 1 no details — Ed.; herring gull, 346; ring-billed gull, 32; laughing gull, 5; Bonaparte's gull, 5; mourning dove, 28; barred owl, 1; belted kingfisher, 5; flicker, 9; red-bellied woodpecker, 2; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 1; hairy woodpecker, 4; downy woodpecker, 7; prairie horned lark, 13; blue jay, 2; crow, 211; fish crow, 6; Carolina chickadee, 59; tufted titmouse, 18; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; red-breasted nuthatch, 15; brown creeper, 4; winter wren, 2; Carolina wren, 37; long-billed marsh wren, 1; mockingbird, 23; robin, 37; hermit thrush, 7; bluebird, 20; golden-crowned kinglet, 14; ruby-crowned kinglet, 1; cedar waxwing, 47; migrant shrike, 1; starling, 1419; myrtle warbler, 240; English sparrow, 491; meadowlark, 26; red-wing, 2450; purple grackle, 32; cowbird, 128; cardinal, 66; goldfinch, 72; towhee, 6; slate-colored junco, 244; tree sparrow, 34; field sparrow, 6; white-crowned sparrow, 1 (seen at 10 ft. in ditch bank of honeysuckle — R.V.T.); white-throated sparrow, 237; fox sparrow, 1; swamp sparrow, 12; song sparrow, 83. Total, 84 species; about 8178 individuals. — Coit Coker, R. V. Truitt, Chandler S. Robbins, Edwin M. Barry.

Southeastern Worcester County, Maryland (7-1/2 mile radius centered 5 miles SE by E of Snow Hill; barrier beach 25%, Chincoteague Bay 15%, Pocomoke River swamp 15%, loblolly pine stands 15%, agricultural lands 15%, salt marsh 10%, upland deciduous woods 3%, residential areas 2%). — December 23. Clear; temperature 25° to 50° F.; wind SW, 0-15 m.p.h.; ground bare; river and ponds open. Eleven observers in 6 parties. Total hours, 51; total miles, 130

(62 by car, 28 on foot, 28 by motorboat, 12 by canoe). Common loon, 3; red-throated loon, 3; horned grebe, 30; pied-billed grebe, 4; gannet, 2; great blue heron, 10; whistling swan, 1; Canada goose, 306; mallard, 1; black duck, 811; baldpate, 1; pintail, 1; green-winged teal, 2; wood duck, 5; scaup (including greater and lesser), 3515; Am. golden-eye, 127; bufflehead, 42; old-squaw, 235; white-winged scoter, 203; surf scoter, 1066; Am. scoter, 20; ruddy duck, 3; hooded merganser, 5; Am. merganser, 3; red-breasted merganser, 11; turkey vulture, 270; black vulture, 4; sharp-shinned hawk, 7; Cooper's hawk, 3; red-tailed hawk, 4; red-shouldered hawk, 7; Am. rough-legged hawk, 1; bald eagle, 8; marsh hawk, 12; duck hawk, 1; pigeon hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 17; bob-white, 16; killdeer, 58; red-backed sandpiper, 30; sanderling, 5; great black-backed gull, 9; herring gull, 555; ring-billed gull, 38; laughing gull, 1; mourning dove, 144; screech owl, 1; great horned owl, 1; barred owl, 5; belted kingfisher, 2; flicker, 78; pileated woodpecker, 9; red-bellied woodpecker, 26; yellow-bellied sapsucker, 4; hairy woodpecker, 15; downy woodpecker, 38; eastern kingbird, 1 (J.H.B. — no details); Arkansas kingbird, 1 (R.B.O. & C.S.R. — collected); eastern phoebe, 7; northern horned lark, 2; prairie horned lark, 24; blue jay, 1; crow, 664; fish crow, 13; Carolina chickadee, 114; tufted titmouse, 55; white-breasted nuthatch, 10; red-breasted nuthatch, 5; brown creeper, 16; winter wren, 47; Carolina wren, 35; long-billed marsh wren, 3; short-billed marsh wren, 5; mockingbird, 10; catbird, 2; brown thrasher, 1; robin, 205; hermit thrush, 83; bluebird, 110; golden-crowned kinglet, 51; ruby-crowned kinglet, 3; Am. pipit, 14; migrant shrike, 1; starling, 801; myrtle warbler, 691; western palm warbler, 9; yellow palm warbler, 3; English sparrow, 85; eastern meadowlark, 320; eastern red-wing, 1879; rusty blackbird, 23; Brewer's blackbird, 2 (observed in pasture at 50 feet through 7x35 binoculars in excellent light — J.W.A. & D.L.A.); grackle (including bronzed and purple in about equal numbers), 1626; eastern cowbird, 114; cardinal, 118; purple finch, 38; pine siskin, 76; goldfinch, 419; towhee, 8; Ipswich sparrow, 12; savannah sparrow, 145; Henslow's sparrow, 1 (observed at 30 feet through 7x35 binoculars in excellent light, characteristic flight also noted — R.E.S.); sharp-tailed sparrow, 15; seaside sparrow, 1; vesper sparrow, 2; slate-colored junco, 626; tree sparrow, 6; chipping sparrow, 141; field sparrow, 178; white-throated sparrow, 505; fox sparrow, 13; swamp sparrow, 58; song sparrow, 162; Total 113 species (115 species and subspecies); 17,370 individuals. — John W. Aldrich, Durward L. Allen, Irston R. Barnes, John H. Buckalew, Max M. Carpenter, Ira N. Gabrielson, Luther C. Goldman, R. Bruce Overington, Roger T. Peterson, Chandler S. Robbins, Robert E. Stewart.

A CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN THE RAIN

The day chosen for the annual Christmas bird census in the Patapsco State Park began with high winds and heavy rain. Afield we found it impossible to see distinctly more than a few feet ahead of us. Binoculars were useless early in the morning and though an occasional bird flushed from the undergrowth as we left the road

near Elkridge and started toward the Patapsco River, none could be identified. At the river edge we heard a song sparrow singing and chalked up our first species for the day.

The areas covered took in the bottomland along the river and the hillsides. Many hundred of the small passerine species were glimpsed but not identified as they darted into the sodden undergrowth. Between the heavy showers we had opportunities to watch and identify small groups of birds feeding among the trees and on the ground. Juncos and several species of sparrows were among the most numerous birds observed.

Along the trail near Orange Grove an immature male white-throated sparrow was found hopping along on the ground. It was unable to fly any distance and died soon after being captured. Examination showed no signs of injury and it's plumage was quite dry.

The census was carried on till we reached Ilchester and a return trip taking in some of the higher ground was made before completing the required seven hours afield. In spite of the heavy rain and poor visibility we covered about twelve miles and observed 20 species with a total of 514 individual birds identified.

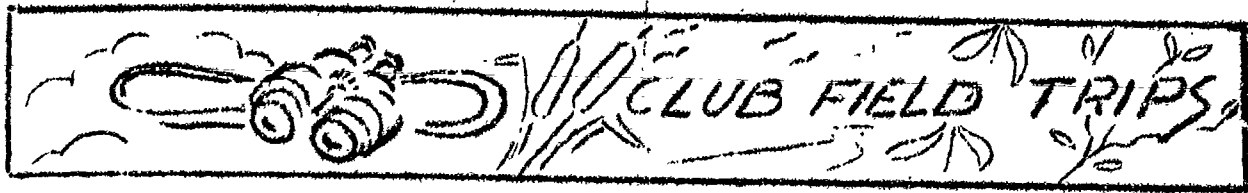
The list of birds observed and numbers counted follows: slate-colored junco, 203; downy woodpecker, 2; Carolina wren, 1; song sparrow, 40; crow, 11; cardinal, 15; tree sparrow, 4; starlings, 80; golden-crowned kinglets, 20; tufted titmouse, 8; sharpshin hawk, 1; bluebird, 2; purple finch, 5; white-throated sparrow, 129; kingfisher, 1; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; bluejay, 1; cedar waxwings, 37; goldfinch, 2; red-tailed hawk, 1.

Irving E. Hampe and Gorman M. Bond

WATCH FOR REDPOLLS !

Large numbers of redpolls were reported on the Christmas censuses due north of here in central New York, and small bunches as far south as Harrisburg. The few records of this species in Maryland are mostly in late January, February and early March. Chan Robbins reports that he heard a small flock flying over Patuxent Refuge the morning of January 19, and points out that the chances of getting a little flight are good. Look them up in your guidebook. They are usually in flocks, resemble the goldfinch in flight, and sometimes associate with goldfinches. Alder seeds are a favorite winter food.

O. W. C.



MONUMENT KNOB, on October 20, started out as a hawk trip. But the 10 birders who reached the historical old Washington Monument on the mountain crest near Boonsboro found weather in which no hawks were apt to be venturing south. We contented ourselves with counting flocks of late warblers, goldfinches and sparrows in a driving rain. Black-throated green and myrtle warblers were colorful, if wet. Our first tree sparrow of the fall showed off his diagnostic breast dot, and we had our first winter wren on the rocks of the ridge crest, far from any water but that which was descending so generously from the clouds. Luncheon in one of the buildings of the State Park was a complete success, and wound up with Mrs. Interrante at the organ, and the field trippers lustily singing hymns!

DICKEYVILLE, November 3, was a short nearby Sunday morning walk. The day was one of heavy-hanging clouds, although no rain descended this time. Eight members inspected the back lane between Fickwick Road and Gwynns Falls, made famous last year by the evening grosbeak invasion. Prize experience of this trip was the visit to the feeder at Deen's, 2553 Fickwick Road. Here our group stood in one spot and counted off fifteen species of birds. Titmice were making rapid trips to the feeder for seeds; a half-dozen purple finches in the trees gave most of us our first record of the season; and a flock of cedar waxwings flew back and forth in the low trees at the corner of the yard and posed for us at every angle. It was a short walk, but a rich one.

PERRY POINT, November 17, brought another drenching rain. The two cars entered the hospital grounds at Perryville to find FIVE cars from Lancaster present for this joint trip with the Lancaster County Bird Club ... and making us feel very humble about our own club's resistance to bad birding weather. Views over the famed Susquehanna Flats were restricted somewhat, but there were about a thousand ducks in view, plus many geese and some thrilling views of swans. Canvasbacks posed at close range, and a bald eagle remained in a treetop for all to admire. An afternoon visit to Carpenter Point gave us very close views of several hundred baldpates, and a still closer view of a single sleeping redhead on the beach. The umbrella weather made it difficult to get as well acquainted with the Lancaster folk as we would have liked, and we look forward to another trip with them under brighter skies.

Orville W. Crowder

THE SEASON

October 16, 1946 to December 15, 1946

The warm weather of the first half of October persisted into the second half. Foliage never attained very brilliant hues and many leaves were blown away while still green; in general, the fall of leaves averaged at least a week later than usual. Grass remained quite green on lawns throughout November and fall-sown small grains grew to unusual proportions. Mean daily temperatures at Baltimore dropped below normal only three times in November, while they rose more than ten degrees above normal on nine days, once reaching 20 degrees above normal. At Govans the first frost occurred on November 13 but there was no really cool spell until December 2 and this lasted only a few days. There had been but little sign of winter when the period closed.

The very mild fall was reflected in the bird population. Thus we have the late date of November 2 for the catbird — late, at least, for the cold hollow of Loch Raven (Kolb). The scarcity of ducks and swans in the Gunpowder as noted by Crowder, is probably in part due to the "bluebird weather" which the hunters universally bewailed. Tree sparrows, whose arrival in numbers usually signals the waning of autumn, were still very scarce in the middle of December. But the best evidence in this connection was the lingering of many predominantly transient species in abundance, the most notable of these being the ruby-crowned kinglet which occurred in greater numbers than ever before in the experience of the writer.

But there were some events which, if they had any meteorological correlation, were governed by the weather farther north. Chief of these was the incursion of pine siskins. At Loch Raven three were first noted on October 19, and small flocks were seen several times thereafter. Crowder reports a flock at Cambridge on November 23. Purple finches were much more abundant than usual and widely distributed; Mrs. Kuch reported them coming into her feeders near Pikesville early in November.

Miscellaneous notes of interest: - Oct. 14: Mr. Brackbill reports that this proved to be the last date for the flock of chimney swifts which had been roosting at the building of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. Oct. 20: at Arbutus Mr. Hampe's sparrow hawk took up its hunting beat as in previous years and was set upon by the resident mocking birds. Oct. 27: about 2:30 P.M. Mr. Brackbill observed two flocks of turkey vultures (groups of 50 and 25) migrating south-southeastward at a point $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Annapolis. Nov. 9: at Loch Raven a noisy migrating flock of about 2000 grackles of both species (or races, as you please). Nov. 23: at Romancoke Crowder and others found ten Forster's terns and the same day 2000 geese together with "plentiful" hooded mergansers at Blackwater Refuge. Dec. 14: in checking on the winter territory of his sparrow hawk, Hampe found that it stayed strictly away from a section in which the mockingbirds were wintering.

NOTES AND NEWS

We welcome to our Society the following new members who have joined us during November, 1946:

- Mrs. Elizabeth Eckhardt May, Hood College, Frederick, Md.
 Mrs. John H. Brewer, 505 Dogwood Lane, Towson 4
 Mrs. Helen B. Miller, Spring Gap, Md.
 Mr. Harry W. Miller, Spring Gap, Md. (Jr.)
 Mrs. Louis Sickles, 6317 Wallis Avenue, (15)
 Miss Clara V. Cox, R.F.D. #3, Parkton, Md.
 Mr. Lester E. Wood, B. & O. R.R. Law Dept. (1)
 Mrs. E. H. Burgess, 3700 N. Charles Street, (18)
 Mrs. E. H. Burgess, 3700 N. Charles Street, (18)
 Mr. Leander McCormick-Goodhart, Langley Park, R #1, Hyattsville, Md.
 Miss Catherine E. Manley, Midland, Md.
 Mr. John H. Fales, 1917 Elkhart St., Silver Spring, Md.
 Mr. F. Cuniberti, Town Point Farm, California, Md.
 Mr. Ethan Allen Andrews, Jr., 47 E. Lake Avenue (12)
 Mrs. E. A. Andrews, Jr., 47 E. Lake Avenue (12)
 Mrs. Allen C. Spencer, 1739 Eutaw Place, (17)
 Mr. Fred Ramsay, McDonough, Md. (Jr.)
 Mr. David Wiegman, Jr., 3054 Arunah Avenue, (16)
 Mrs. Patricia Wiegman, Jr., 3054 Arunah Avenue, (16)
 Miss Mildred H. Lips, 3612 Hillsdale Road, (7)
 Miss J. F. Wood, 3710 Woodbine Avenue, (7)
 Mrs. Henry Duffy, 110 West North Avenue, (1)
 Mrs. James M. Jacques, Geneva Apartments, O.E., 3405 Fenway, (18)
 Mrs. Milton C. Whitaker Whitehaven, Elk Neck Highway, R.D. #2, North East, Md.
 Dr. Irston R. Barnes, 3737 Huntington St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (15)
 Mr. Wm. H. Berry, Dept. of Foreign Languages, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
 Mr. Peter Vischer, Habre DeVinture, Port Tobacco, Md.
 Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, Araby, Mason Springs, Md.
 Dr. John Cushing, 8612 Oakleigh Road, (14)
 Mr. W. L. Reynolds, 8 E. Lombard Street, (2)
 Mrs. Jerome W. Benesch, 100 Tuscany Road, (10)
 Mr. Wm. M. Benesch, 100 Tuscany Road, (10)
 Mrs. Wm. M. Benesch, 100 Tuscany Road, (10)
 Mrs. Gertrude M. Radie (Mrs. John W.), 2408 Linden Avenue (17)
 Mrs. William Houston Mahaney, 202 Aigburth Road, Towson 4
 Mrs. Kenneth H. Ekin, Boyce Avenue, Towson 4
 Mrs. John Campbell White, "Barnstable Hill", Chester, Md.
 Mrs. A. J. Mirkin, 205 Greene Street, Cumberland, Md.
 Mr. H. Lee Muse, Loch Raven, Md.
 Dr. Richard Tousey, 118 Seneca Drive, S.E., Washington, D.C.
 Mrs. Richard Tousey, 118 Seneca Drive, S.E., Washington, D.C.
 Mr. William Houston Mahaney, 202 Aigburth Avenue, Towson 4
 Mr. James E. Maher, 5713 Ridgedale Road, (9)

Mrs. James E. Maher, 5713 Ridgedale Road, (9)
Mr. John R. Bucher, 8204 Harford Road, (4)
Mrs. John R. Bucher, 8204 Harford, Road, (14)

In January we lost by death one of our most valued members and a founder of our Society, Percy Thayer Blogg. Mr. Blogg was for many years one of the foremost advocates of outdoor life in Maryland and was always ready to lend aid to any movement which might foster the appreciation of Nature. He was an accomplished imitator of bird songs and a writer of considerable ability. Himself a hunter and a fisherman, he was highly respected by sportsmen and no doubt did much to spread among them his own wide and loving interest in that outdoor world which surrounds the immediate target. His kindly personality will be missed but his beneficial influence will long remain.

At the regular meeting of the Society for February, two changes were made in our by-laws. The Executive Council had had both changes under discussion for some time and it was agreed that they would result in smoother operation. This view was endorsed by the members at the meeting, who constituted much more than the necessary quorum. Briefly, the annual meeting for the election of officers is changed from March to May and the terms of new officers begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected instead of at the beginning of the following meeting.

The value of the report on the season would be much increased by wider representation. Even if you make relatively few observations, send them in to the editor. Just jot down time and place with a few details on a postcard. Of course, if you make many observations you might send in a regular report, as several of our members do, at the end of each period. Notes for December 16, 1946 to February 15, 1947 are very much needed immediately.

H.K.