

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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Send FIELD NOTES to Editor Chandler S. Robbins; CLUB NOTES to Associate Editor Oliver B. Isaac.

# SPECIAL ARTICLES

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF MARYLAND BIRDS

This is the second of a series of papers written for the purpose of presenting new information on the geographical distribution and abundance of Maryland birds. The eleven items which follow, concern extension of the breeding ranges of four species, clarification of the breeding ranges of two others, the first winter records of two species, the second Maryland occurrence of one, and the only known specimens of two others.

### Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryula martinica*)

One bird was found on June 24, 1947, at the Patuxent Research Refuge by F. M. Uhler. This same individual was seen several times during the period June 24 to 26, 1947, by a small number of observers including C. S. Robbins, and at one time was flushed at a distance of ten feet. The only previous record of this species in Maryland was of one collected on Oct. 12, 1938, in Anne Arundel County, by R. B. Smithers (Hampe, Seibert and Kolb, Auk, 56:475, 1939).

### Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)

A female was collected on Oct. 6, 1946, at the West Ocean City mud flats by R. E. Stewart, accompanied by C. S. Robbins and Max Carpenter. This bird, the first specimen for Maryland, is now in the Fish and Wildlife Service Collection. Previous records of this species include four single birds seen by Stewart near Ocean City during the period Aug. 20 to 30, 1945, and one rather indefinite reference to a bird shot on the marshes along the coast (W. H. Fisher, Oologist, 11:97, 1894).

### Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

A female was collected on Aug. 23, 1947, at Winter Quarters, Assateague Island, by John H. Buckalew, accompanied by Martin Karplus, Brina Kessel and C. S. Robbins. Mr. Buckalew presented the specimen to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The only previous record of this species in Maryland was of one collected at West River, Anne Arundel County, in 1886 by J. Murray Ellzey (Kirkwood, Birds of Maryland, 1895). The whereabouts of the latter specimen is not known.

### Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)

Several Forster's terns were seen by Dr. Earl L. Poole and Dr. David Berkheimer at Ocean City on Dec. 29-30, 1946. Six were seen in this same area on Jan. 24, 1947, by C. S. Robbins and R. E. Stewart. These apparently represent the first wintering records of this species in Maryland.

### Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanos bewickii*)

Our concept of the breeding distribution of this species in Maryland has been greatly clarified as the result of many field trips in the western part of the State during the past two years by several

observers, including Orville W. Crowder, William B. Green, Leonard M. Llewellyn, Richard May, Mrs. Helen B. Miller, C. S. Robbins, Dr. R. S. Stauffer, and R. E. Stewart. Its breeding status may now be described as follows: fairly common in the central Appalachian ridge region of Allegany County and western Washington County; rather rare on the Allegheny plateau of Garrett County and in the Hagerstown valley of Washington County; there is no positive information of its breeding east of the Hagerstown valley.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

At least four singing males were recorded on July 13, 1947, in the Pocomoke river swamp about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below the Delaware line, by Martin Karplus and R. E. Stewart. Previous records of this species in Maryland were all made along the Pocomoke river, and include one by Joseph M. Cadbury near Willards on May 9 and 10, 1942, and several (one bird was collected) by C. S. Robbins and R. E. Stewart in an area about five miles southwest of Pocomoke City during the spring and summer of 1946. These records together with other observations southwest of Pocomoke City indicate that this species occurs regularly in the swampy woodland along the Pocomoke river from the Delaware line to the edge of the tidal marsh several miles below Pocomoke City.

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*)

Field work during the past two years has helped to clarify the status of this species in Maryland during the breeding season. Observers who have contributed recent information on the cerulean warbler are the same as those listed under Bewick's wren, with the addition of C. Haven Kolb, Jr. On the basis of this new information, the breeding status of this species in Maryland may be described as follows: common in the central Appalachian ridge area of Allegany County and western Washington County; rather uncommon in eastern Garrett County in the vicinity of the Savage river; common in the flood plain forest along the Susquehanna river; occurs locally on the piedmont, being common in one five-mile stretch of flood plain forest along the Patapsco river near the intersection of the Baltimore, Howard and Carroll County lines, and occurring in the vicinity of Towson and Cockeyville (Kolb, Auk, 60: 275, 1943).

Boat-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus*)

Until recently this species has been known only as a summer resident along the coast and on the eastern shore of lower Chesapeake Bay. On Jan. 25, 1947, C. S. Robbins and R. E. Stewart saw a flock of 95 boat-tails in the Chesapeake marshes at Crisfield. Although they spent the whole morning in that area, only this one flock was found. This species winters on Assateague Island just a few miles south of the Maryland line, and doubtless occurs sparingly on the Maryland portion of the island as well.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*).

Although widely distributed in Garrett County in summer, the savannah sparrow has not been reported as nesting in the lower parts of Maryland. John H. Buckalew of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, not only discovered that this species is a regular though local summer resident in the Maryland portion of Assateague Island,

but also found a nest, thereby extending the known breeding range in the coastal plain from southern New Jersey (A.O.U. Check List, 1931) to southeastern Maryland. On two occasions, C. S. Robbins and R. E. Stewart accompanied him to the breeding locality and were shown singing birds.

#### Bachman's Sparrow (Amphispiza aestivalis)

On July 17 and 18, 1947, R. E. Stewart found three singing males of this species in a field on Green Ridge Mountain, one mile north of the Potomac river in Allegany County. Previously this bird had been found summering only in Garrett, Montgomery, and Prince Georges Counties. Three or four singing males were also found in June 1947 at a new Beltsville locality, about three miles north of the area where a nest was found in 1942 (Stewart and Meanley, Auk, 60:605-6, 1943).

#### Swamp Sparrow (Melospiza georgiana)

This species was heard singing along the Nanticoke river near Vienna, Wicomico County, during July 1946, and again on May 24, 1947, by Neil Hotchkiss. On July 11, 1947, thirteen adults, including eight singing males were recorded in this same area by Martin Karplus, C. S. Robbins and R. E. Stewart. An adult male which was collected, was obviously in breeding condition, as indicated by the enlarged testes. Like the savannah sparrow, this species has been recorded as summering only on the Allegheny plateau in Garrett County. The discovery of this breeding colony in a tidal marsh suggests that the swamp sparrow may also nest locally in other marshes in the eastern part of Maryland. It had previously been reported as nesting south along the coastal plain only to New Jersey.

The northern phalarope (Preliminary List of the Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Hampe and Kolb, 1947, p. 27) must be relegated to the hypothetical list as far as the State of Maryland is concerned, since the specimen procured "near Cumberland" on May 23, 1901, was stated by Eifrig (Auk, 19:76, 1902) to have been shot at the "Swamp Ponds" which he admits are in West Virginia, although surrounded on three sides by a loop of the Potomac river. There remains one sight record of this species from Indian Head, Maryland (Oberholser, Bird-Lore, 32:279). Since no new species are added to the Maryland list in this issue of Maryland Birdlife, the State total now stands at 309 species.

Robert E. Stewart

HOW SHALL WE USE SPACE? - Recent enlargement of MARYLAND BIRDLIFE to 24 pages was made possible by cutting down other budget items, on the theory that our limited funds should be spent chiefly on something everyone receives. With club activity expanding even faster, we still run out of space. Two regular features were pushed out of this issue (Feeding Stations and Meeting Reviews), and a fine article on Bird Trip Etiquette is being held over. Associate Editor Isaac will welcome suggestions on what to include and exclude. But if you want more field observations, start by sending in some of your own!

## FOSTER PARENT PROBLEMS AT ELKTON

Early last spring, a pair of robins built a nest in the hemlock by the kitchen door of our new home in Elkton. As I worked in the kitchen, I could watch the mother feed her babies; but one morning I neither saw nor heard any activity, so investigated. A cat, the bane of my existence all winter, had called in the night. The nest was upset, and there was no sign of the robin family. However, before the week was out, I saw Mother Robin visiting my storehouse of nesting materials (hair combings and weaving yarns) that I had hung in a wire basket on a tree limb. This time she built in the other hemlock and even lower than the first time, which worried me. The cat lives about a quarter of a mile away, and though I have chased her and nearly scared her to death, she still comes.

In the meantime, I had been watching a song sparrow nest with five eggs in a clump of tall grass right on the edge of the lawn near where I hang clothes. The eggs hatched on May 21, but on Monday the 26th, I noticed that the grass was all mashed down near the nest. To my dismay, the cat had called again. I found a few feathers, and two small legs. The five babies were alive, and crying for food, all mouths open at once, but they were very wet and cold. I saw no signs of Father Sparrow. What to do, I didn't know. I had mothered baby kittens and puppies, but sparrows were so little, and I knew that the mothers ate the worms and then regurgitated into their little mouths. And of course, that I could not do, even for five baby song sparrows! So I took them into the house, put them near heat, and dropped warm milk into their opened mouths,--or tried to, for after the first taste, they refused to open their mouths. Then I decided to get a foster mother. I first tried the English sparrow's nest under the eaves by the Wisteria vine, but I could not reach it, even on a step ladder. Then I thought of Mother Robin, who now had four eggs in her new nest.

I am new at this bird game, having just become interested last winter, so I didn't know what she would do. I thought that she might dump them out on the ground or even roll her own eggs out. So I tried just one bird first to see what would happen. I took one baby sparrow, laid it on the eggs very gently, and went away to watch. With much ado and chatter, Mother Robin sat right down and covered it. Later I went out and saw nothing unusual on the ground, but Mother refused to leave the nest so I could look inside. I did not think that she could handle all five song sparrows and her own four eggs too, and I did not know when the eggs were to hatch. So I gave her three birds, and took the other two to a robin whom I knew was sitting on a nest in the pines on the other side of the garden. I could not see into her nest, and I actually touched her before she flew off. I gave her the two other babies and then left. Since this nest was farther away, I did not observe it every day. I did go back later and saw that the mother was back and no baby birds were on the ground.

However, I watched the other nest every day. Soon I saw Mother feeding the orphans. One must have died, for I could see only two; but these soon got their feathers. At first the robin covered them

completely. Later as she sat on the nest, you could see two small heads sticking out from under a wing. We left on Memorial Day for Cumberland, and the last thing I did was to check the nest; the song sparrows were there, and so were the four blue eggs. We got back late Sunday night, and on Monday morning the orphans were gone, and Mother was sitting on her eggs. The orphans were only a week and a half old. I needn't have worried, though, for later I saw Mother Robin hopping around in the yard, followed by two tiny song sparrows. She would eat a worm and then she would feed the babies. The babies perched most of the time in the tree near the nest, but all during the week they could be seen following the robin.

I was afraid that the eggs might have gotten cold and would not hatch, but on Wednesday, June 4, the first baby robin left its egg, and by the following day all had hatched! I am hoping that everything worked out all right up in the other nest in the pines. I shall always cherish the memory of those small song sparrows hopping after that big fat Mother Robin. I had felt so helpless and inadequate when I found the orphans, and I just love that Robin for helping me!

Viola C. (Mrs. W. Robert) Teeter

#### NOTES ON PIKESVILLE NESTS

I observed the following nests during the spring of 1947 in the Sudbrook Park section of Pikesville, Baltimore County, Maryland. The area was the size of three city blocks, and was covered with open woods and thickets. Blackberry bushes and wild strawberries were plentiful.

On May 28 I found a wood pewee building its nest 20 feet up in a tree, in a fork of a branch about 5 feet from the trunk. The nest was complete on June 3, and on June 11 I saw the bird on the nest.

A Carolina chickadee started building in one of my boxes on April 23. It went away for a week, and then returned. On June 2 we watched 6 young leave the nest at 7 a.m.; they were all able to fly fairly well. They disappeared until June 18, when the adults brought them back to the feeder.

On May 12 I flushed a catbird from an empty nest 32 inches up in a blackberry tangle. On the 17th, 1 egg was in the nest, and later the same day there were two eggs. Rain prevented daily observation until May 23, when the nest contained four eggs. At 10 a.m. on June 1, there were still four eggs; but at 7:15 the following morning I saw a catbird fly through the garden with an eggshell, and also found half a shell in the garden. I examined the nest at 8 a.m., and found that three of the young had hatched. The fourth bird had also hatched by the following day. I watched these catbirds almost daily until June 13, when I saw one young on a nearby blackberry branch at 9 a.m. I couldn't get near enough to the nest to see what the rest were doing, as the parents attacked me, flying so close to my head that I felt their wings. I was really scared of these angry birds, and they drove me away. The young catbirds were still near the nest on June 17, but although the parents came to my feeder daily for raisins, the young did not do so.

I found a brown thrasher's nest on May 12, only ten feet from the catbird's nest. It was 24 inches up in an adjacent blackberry tangle. I looked at the nest daily until May 17, but each time the female was on the nest and I did not flush her. On the 18th, there were four young in the nest. By the 24th, one of these was sitting on the edge of the nest. At 1:30 p.m. on the 26th, one young bird was in a nearby bush, while the other three were still in the nest; but by 7 p.m. they had all left. The young stayed around the nesting site, and were seen together at various times until June 11, when three young and one adult were seen below my feeder. After that time they were seen only singly. I believe this shows these birds do stay around the nesting site for some time after leaving the nest, although the raisins I put out may help in attracting them.

The first of three wood thrush nests was found on May 15, when it was being built 26 inches up in a fallen tree, hidden by low growth, brush and tangle. The nest was completed on the 18th. The second was located 4 feet from the ground in a sapling surrounded by underbrush, and was empty on May 18. I flushed the bird from nest number 3 on May 23. It was located in the crotch of a young dogwood tree, 24 inches from the ground. It was in open woods with little undergrowth around it, and pretty much exposed. A summary of my observations on these three wood thrush nests follows:

Date	Time	Nest #1	Nest #2	Nest #3
May 22	2:00 p.m.	1 egg	1 egg	
23	9:30 a.m.	2 eggs	1 egg	1 egg
24	1:30 p.m.	3 eggs	3 eggs	2 eggs
25	9:30 a.m.	3 eggs	3 eggs	3 eggs
26	8:30 a.m.	4 eggs	3 eggs	4 eggs (1pm)
June 3		4 eggs	3 eggs	4 eggs
4	9:00 a.m.	4 eggs	3 eggs	eggs & adults gone
7	2:00 p.m.	4 young	3 eggs (noon)	
8		4 young	3 young	
9	4:00 p.m.	4 young	2 young	
10-12		4 young	2 young	
13		yng & adults gone	2 young	
14-16	2:00 p.m.		2 young	
17	10:00 a.m.		empty	

The birds in nest number 2 were the only ones successfully raised.

I found a red-eyed vireo nest at 9 a.m. on June 3. It was 6 feet from the ground in a young sapling, and contained 3 eggs. They all hatched between 4 p.m. on June 13 and 4 p.m. on the 15th, but they disappeared from the nest four days later.

I first noticed a scarlet tanager gathering nesting material on May 18, but did not find the nest until June 1. It was 25 feet up in an oak tree at the edge of some woods, and about 15 feet from the house of our next door neighbor.

My towhee nest had 4 very small young in it when I discovered it on June 1. The young were still there on the 3rd, but there was no sign of them on the 7th. Since the nest was still intact, they



may have left safely, although they could not have been more than 9 or 10 days old. A pair of towhees had come to the feeder regularly, and after June 20 they brought two young there to feed.

Other birds which I saw feeding young in the garden or at the feeder included downy and red-bellied woodpeckers, blue jays, a family of 6 white-breasted nuthatches, robins, bluebirds and cardinals.

Ilse Kind (Mrs. Herman F.) Kuch

### DO YOU KEEP A BIRD LIST?

Almost everyone interested in birds keeps notes of one kind or another. These may range all the way from a "life list" to detailed notes on behavior or occurrence. They may be recorded on random scraps of paper, or they may be neatly typed, bound, and cross-indexed.

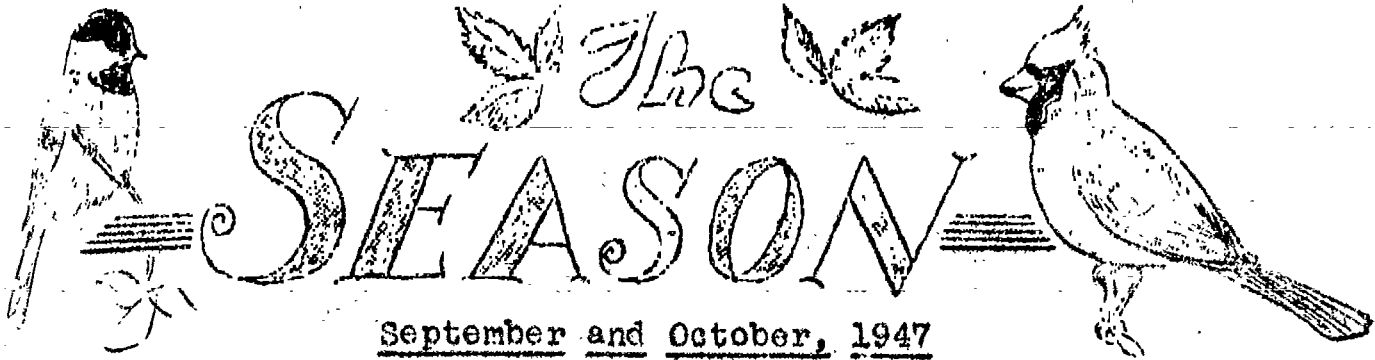
For many years the Massachusetts Audubon Society has sponsored a game wherein bird people throughout the state keep yearly lists with the date and locality when each bird is first seen. At the end of the year these lists are submitted to the Society, and a list of contributors with their totals is published in the spring Bulletin.

More valuable than personal lists, however, are regional lists. Most people have favorite places where they do a large part of their birding. You may cover a county, a township, a river valley, a mountain, a city park, a reservoir, or a back yard. Starting on January 1, keep a record of the birds you see in some chosen area. You may wish to record the first and last dates on which a bird is seen each spring and the first and last dates in the fall; if you are more ambitious you may include dates of mass arrivals and departures, the total number of individuals seen during one season, or the largest one-day count for each migration period. The more accurate and complete notes you take, the more valuable will be your records. But in any case, record the date and locality of your first observation of each species.

If you know others who cover the same area, get together and make up a composite list. If you elect yourself recorder of a county list, make this known at a meeting of the Society so others will contribute their notes from that region; still other records for your area can be found in THE SEASON, and included in the composite list.

Whether you keep a regional list, or a personal list for the whole state (do not include birds seen outside of Maryland), send it to the Bird Records Committee early next January. A list of contributors and their totals will then be prepared for the following issue of MARYLAND BIRDLIFE. Junior members are also urged to keep lists; these will be summarized on the Junior Page.

C. S. R.



September and October, 1947

Reports from the weather bureau that September temperature and precipitation throughout the State were close to normal, are most misleading. Actually, the unprecedented warm spell which began on August 7, continued unbroken until September 17; then colder weather, with frosts during the last week of the month, pulled the average temperature for the month back to "normal". Precipitation varied from 0.60 to 4.92 inches in various parts of the State, being decidedly below normal in some sections and above average in others. The cold weather at the close of September continued through October 1; then temperatures rose steadily through the 23rd of the month, on which date a record-smashing temperature of 91° was recorded in Baltimore. The remainder of the month was cooler, but still several degrees above normal. Virtually no rain fell during October until the 28th, when the drought was broken by heavy precipitation. The effect of the prolonged warm spells was to delay leaf fall, to extend the period when insect food was available to the less hardy species, and to retard migration. The cold spell at the end of September was insufficient to send all the delayed migrants on their southward way; scattered individuals of several species were thus "caught" in the ensuing heat wave and detained to extraordinarily late dates. The warbler migration ended rather abruptly after the 15th of October, coincident with a general leaf fall and consequent disappearance of leaf-eating insects. (Unless otherwise specified, the Halethorpe records which follow were by R. M. Bowen, Loch Raven observations by H. Kolb, Jr., and Patuxent counts by C. S. Robbins.)

Hérons. The flight of white herons dropped off sharply after the first of September, but 3 American egrets were still present at Chalk Point on Oct. 19 (E. J. Stivers), and 1 was seen near Halethorpe on the 25th. J. W. Taylor reported a peak of 20 snowy egrets at Sandy Point on Sept. 1; on the 13th he counted 13 individuals at the same location. Single green herons were noted at the Patuxent Refuge through Oct. 14 (L. M. Llewellyn), and near Halethorpe as late as the 18th. Bowen had a fine look at an adult yellow-crowned night heron near Halethorpe on Oct. 18; this is believed to be the first record of this species in the Patapsco region, as well as the latest fall record for the State.

Ducks and Geese. The first flock of 47 Canada geese was seen at Patuxent on Oct. 9 by R. E. Stewart, and on the following day 20 were noted at Chevy Chase by C. N. Mason. The highest count submitted was of 14 flocks, totaling 307 individuals, which passed over Carderock between 7:30 and 9:50 a.m. on Oct. 24 (C. T. Johnson). The most interesting duck record was a flock of 150 wood ducks at

Mataponi Creek on Sept. 13 (N. Hotchkiss, F. M. Uhler). Small numbers of many other species arrived during the period.

Hawks. No substantial hawk flight was reported from Maryland. Those of us who live in the eastern part of the State find it much too convenient to drive up to Hawk Mt., and consequently we do not know what we may be missing in our own State. Let this serve as a challenge to the "westerners" to watch the ridges next year! Duck hawks were regular migrants along the coast as usual; the only one reported inland was seen by Mason at Widewater on Sept. 28.

Shorebirds. The dearth of reports from the coast leaves us with few shorebird records. A very late spotted sandpiper was found near Halethorpe on Oct. 25, and late solitary sandpipers were noted at Cabin John on Oct. 4 (N. Shelton), and at Relay (2) on Oct. 12 (Bowen, I. E. Hampe). Single greater yellow-legs were last seen inland at Triadelphia dam on Oct. 20 (W. M. Davidson) and at Loch Raven on Oct. 25. Of local interest were shorebirds seen by Stewart and J. N. Hamlet at Sandy Point on Sept. 10; semipalmated plover, 7; willet, 1; lesser yellow-legs, 3; least sandpiper, 12; semipalmated sandpiper, 20; and western sandpiper, 20.

Gulls and Terns. Five black-backed gulls were reported from Assateague on Sept. 19-20 by Heinz Meng, a good count for so early in the season. Stewart saw 450 laughing gulls at Beverly Beach on Sept. 9; and on Oct. 5, 410 were found at the Sandy Point ferry landing (Stewart, Robbins). A concentration of 140 Forster's terns at Beverly Beach on Sept. 9 (Stewart) is the best count on record for Anne Arundel Co.; only 1 remained on Oct. 5. In contrast to this, the largest number of common terns reported from the western shore was 8 at Solomons on Sept. 14, also by Stewart. The only black terns noted during the period were 12 seen at Sandy Point on Sept. 13 by Taylor.

Doves. Cuckoos. Bowen had the rare fortune of seeing an albino mourning dove near Halethorpe on Oct. 19. Cuckoos are seldom observed here after the close of September; yet this year single yellow-bills were noted at Cabin John on Oct. 4 (Shelton), and Patuxent Refuge on Oct. 15 (Stewart), and 3 were identified at Loch Raven on Oct. 11; one of the latter birds was an immature with unopen feather sheaths around the head! Equally late black-billed cuckoos were seen at Silver Spring on Oct. 12 (J. H. Fales) and at Patuxent on Oct. 19.

Goatsuckers and Swifts. The last whip-poor-will reported was one flushed from a gravel road at Patuxent on the evening of Sept. 26 by A. C. Martin. Hampe saw 200 nighthawks at Arbutus on Sept. 7, and H. Brackbill recorded a large migration of them over Baltimore on Sept. 8 and saw his last bird on Sept. 19. The latest record was of 3 seen over Silver Spring on Oct. 8 (Fales). By the beginning of October, chimney swifts had left most communities, although large numbers still frequented some of the cities and larger towns. At College Park, for instance, Miss Cooley and Robbins estimated 900 birds at dusk on the first. Seven days later the last small flock was noted at Arbutus by Hampe, although 25 were still present at Carderock on the 16th (Johnson).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. Hummingbirds left early in spite of the warm weather; 4 were seen at Fairhaven, Anne Arundel Co., on Sept. 13 (D. M. Thatcher), and Hampe had 1 at Arbutus on the 18th. Brackbill saw 2 red-headed woodpeckers at Hanlon Park, Baltimore, on Oct. 12, and 3 adults and an immature at Hillsdale Park on the 22nd; the 3 Hillsdale adults, at least, were still present at the end of the period. Since this is past the usual migration period and acorns are plentiful, these woodpeckers are expected to winter. Stewart saw the first sapsucker at Patuxent on Sept. 26. By Oct. 4, 4 were present, and several observers commented on the large numbers seen during the first half of October.

Flycatchers. Single kingbirds were found as late as Sept. 13 at Highland, Howard Co., and Sept. 16 at Patuxent Refugo (T. D. Burleigh, Robbins). Still another turned up at Patuxent on the record-breaking date of Oct. 5. The last reports of the crested flycatcher came from near Halethorpe on Sept. 13, and Patuxent Refuge on the 17th (Stewart). Phoebes reached a peak in the Baltimore-Washington region on Oct. 10-11, and departed abruptly after the 12th; single individuals were seen as late as Oct. 26 near Halethorpe by Mr. and Mrs. Bowen, and through the 29th at Patuxent. Acadian flycatchers usually leave in late August, but due to the prolonged spell of warm weather, Stewart and Robbins found them at Patuxent daily through Sept. 19; 3 of the 4 birds recorded on the latter date were heard singing as well as seen. Wood pewees, which generally depart by the end of September, remained at Patuxent through Oct. 10 (2 birds), and at Carderock until the 11th (Shelton).

Swallows, Nuthatches. Although a Maryland observer saw barn swallows in Ontario on Sept. 12, and in Massachusetts on Sept. 25, the last birds reported locally were 6 at Marlboro on Sept. 13 (Hotchkiss, Uhler). Two purple martins noted at Highland on Sept. 13 by Burleigh and Robbins, however, were past the usual departure date for that species. That this is destined to be a poor year for red-breasted nuthatches, is borne out by the observation of only a single bird--near Cabin John on Oct. 4 (T. W. Donnelly) and Oct. 5 (S. M. Peel).

Wrens, Mockers. The majority of house wrens departed in September, but between 1 and 5 were seen daily at the Patuxent through Oct. 12, and single birds were found on Oct. 18 and 19, the usual departure time for the last individuals of this species. The winter wren arrived on schedule in spite of the prolonged warm weather, single birds being observed at Loch Raven and Patuxent on Oct. 4; the migration peak occurred at Patuxent on Oct. 11-15, when up to 10 birds were seen per day (Stewart, Robbins). The general departure of catbirds was on Oct. 13, although 1 remained at Halethorpe until the 18th, and 2 at Chalk Point through the 19th (N. Jenison, Thatcher). The last thrasher at Patuxent was seen on Oct. 11 (Stewart), but Fales had one at his home in Silver Spring throughout the month.

Thrushes. Thrushes were late in arriving from the north, and even later in departing. The wood thrush, which normally leaves in the first week of October, was observed daily at Patuxent through the 14th, 6 being seen on the 12th. The hermit thrush overlapped

the wood by 6 days, which is unusual; the first 2 were noted at Patuxent on Oct. 9, and 3 days later 18 were recorded by Stewart and Robbins. Olive-backs were present daily at Patuxent from Sept. 17 (6 birds) through Oct. 15 (1), and gray-cheeks from Sept. 17 (1) through Oct. 14 (3, Stewart, Robbins). Transient veeries were not noted in Maryland until Sept. 14, the normal time for departure, when 2 were seen at Patuxent (Burleigh, Robbins); although few individuals were reported from the eastern part of the State, Stewart found one bird at Patuxent on the extraordinary date of Oct. 11.

Gnatcatcher, Kinglets, Pipit. Gnatcatchers are seldom seen after the end of August; yet E. G. Davis found 3 along the towpath near Cabin John on Sept. 21, and Dr. Jenison found another at the same place on the 29th. Golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets were first observed at Patuxent on Oct. 5 and Sept. 29, respectively. Neither species became common until Oct. 10; on the 12th, Stewart and Robbins counted 8 of the former and 29 of the latter. The flight of golden-crowns were notably poor. Pipits were exceptionally late in arriving, none being reported during this period.

Vireos. No high counts for vireos were reported, except for 18 blue-heads seen at Patuxent on Oct. 15 by Stewart and Robbins. Late departure dates were as follows: white-eyed, Sept. 24 near Cabin John (Barnes, Davis); yellow-throated, Sept. 20, 1 singing at College Park (W. H. Ball), and Sept. 27, 3 near Halethorpe; red-eyed, Oct. 17, 5 at Patuxent Refuge (Stewart, Robbins); and blue-headed, Oct. 26, 2 at Patuxent. The first blue-head to arrive from the north was seen at Towson on Sept. 28 by Crowder, Hampe, and Kolb.

Warblers. Warblers were notably late in arriving from the north, and even later in departing southward; peak numbers of many species occurred in October instead of at the usual time some two weeks earlier. Arrivals on the average were 5 days late, none being worthy of special comment. Late peaks and departures, on the other hand, established records which will not be broken for many years. Departure dates which are believed to be the latest on record for the State are underscored. Black and white: 30 on Sept. 24, Cabin John (Barnes, Davis); 1, Patuxent Refuge, Oct. 17. Prothonotary: 12 on Sept. 3, Cabin John (Donnelly). Worm-eating: 1 at Patuxent, Sept. 13 (Stewart). Blue-winged: 1 at Patuxent, Oct. 4. Tennessee: 12 at Patuxent, Oct. 3, and a few almost daily through Oct. 16. Nashville: 3 on Oct. 3 and 1 on Oct. 14 at Patuxent. Parula: 17 on Oct. 3, 12 on Oct. 12, and 2 on Oct. 17 at Patuxent. Magnolia: 1 at Chalk Pt., Oct. 19 (Miss Stivers). Cape May: 1 at Cabin John, Oct. 22 (Dr. Jenison); 1 at Patuxent, Oct. 25; no high counts. Black-throated blue: peak at Loch Raven (Kolb) and Patuxent (29, Stewart and Robbins) on Oct. 11; last, Oct. 15, Patuxent. Black-throated green: at Patuxent, 20 on Oct. 1, 17 on the 3rd, 12 on the 11th, and 2 on the 17th. Blackburnian: 1 at Widewater, Oct. 11 (Shelton). Chestnut-sided: common near Patapsco State Park, Sept. 6 (Hampe, Bowen); 3 near Halethorpe, Oct. 11. Bay-breasted: 1 at Patuxent, Oct. 10; very few after September. Black-poll: Patuxent totals of Stewart and Robbins-- Oct. 4, 50; Oct. 11, 140; Oct. 12, 120; Oct. 15, 54; Oct. 17, 41; Oct. 19, 11; Oct. 21, 4; Oct. 26, 1. Pine: 1 at Laurel, Oct. 24 (Davidson). Oven-bird: 10 at Patuxent during the first 15 days of

October; 1 on Oct. 19. Northern water-thrush: 1 at Patuxent, Oct. 10. Kentucky: 4 at Patuxent, Sept. 3, and 2 on the 4th. Connecticut: 3 at Patuxent in Sept., 34 in Oct.; maximum 7 on Oct. 3; 1 on Oct. 29 (Stewart, Llewellyn). Mourning: only report was 1 at Patuxent on Oct. 7. Yellow-throat: last at Laurel, Oct. 18 (Davidson) and Chalk Point, Oct. 19 (Audubon Society). Hooded: 1 on Sept. 13 at Patapsco State Park (Bowen), and 3 on the 18th at Patuxent. Wilson's: 1 near Cabin John, Sept. 24 (Barnes, David). Canada: 1 at College Park, Sept. 20 (Ball); 1 at Patuxent, Oct. 12 (Stewart). Redstart: daily at Patuxent through Oct. 16. The most interesting warbler of all was the rare orange-crown which was studied at close range by Hampe at Arbutus on Oct. 4, and by Mason and L. Garges at Glen Echo on Oct. 25.

Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers. By Sept. 13, 900 red-wings were roosting in the Patuxent River marshes near Marlboro (Hotchkiss, Uhler). On the following day Hampe reported grackles "too numerous to count" at Arbutus, and on the 17th Kolb found large flock congregating in Govans where only a few pairs spent the summer. Although the first rusty blackbirds were recorded more than a week ahead of schedule at Carderock on Oct. 3 (Johnson) and at Patuxent on Oct. 10, few individuals were reported during the period. Baltimore orioles departed at the usual time, the last being seen at Patuxent on Sept. 15 by Dr. Martin. Scarlet tanagers, which usually leave during the first week of October, remained until the tenth of the month at Patuxent, and the eleventh near Halethorpe.

Finches. Up to four blue grosbeaks were seen daily around the Patuxent laboratories through the middle of September; single birds remained to the end of the month, and 2 individuals were seen on the record-breaking date of Oct. 3. Indigo buntings remained a week later than usual, small numbers being found daily at Patuxent through Oct. 13. A late nesting record of the goldfinch is suggested by a fuzzy immature which Kolb found calling for food at Loch Raven on Oct. 11.

Sparrows. The first savannah sparrow was seen at Sandy Point on Oct. 5 by Stewart and Robbins; by the middle of the month this species was widely distributed, but it did not become common until the end of October. Single late grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows were found by the Audubon Society on their trip to the Besson's cottage at Chalk Point on Oct. 19. Davidson reported a flock of 30 vesper sparrows at Claibourne during the period Sept. 2-8, a high count for that species. Juncos arrived ahead of schedule in spite of the warm weather; the first bird was seen on Sept. 27 at Loch Raven, and on Oct. 4 R. T. Mitchell counted 6 at Dickerson; they did not become regular at Patuxent until the tenth. The first white-crowned sparrow was found at Patuxent on Oct. 3, one week ahead of normal; no others were noted until the 11th (Llewellyn). White-throats arrived at Loch Raven on Sept. 27; at Patuxent on Oct. 1; and at Beltsville (H. J. Fales) on Oct. 3. The first fox sparrow was seen at Patuxent on Oct. 15, about five days ahead of normal, but the flight of this species was considerably poorer than usual. Lincoln's sparrows were reported only from Patuxent, where 8 individuals were noted in the first 12 days of October. The first swamp

sparrow was found at Patuxent on Sept. 26 (Stewart); on Oct. 3, 20 were counted there, and by the 4th there were 35. This species arrives regularly during the last week of September, but is overlooked by many observers who do not explore the proper habitat at this season and who do not recognize its phoebe-like ship.

Chandler S. Robbins

#### EVENING GROSBEAKS AGAIN NEAR BALTIMORE

The great eruption of evening grosbeaks (Hesperiphona vespertina) in the winter of 1945-46 gave bird watchers in many parts of Maryland their first experience with this mainly northwestern species. It was seen often in the vicinity of Baltimore throughout the winter. Usually such visitations by northern birds come but infrequently; the birds are here one winter and entirely absent for a varying number of years thereafter. Consequently, we did not expect to find evening grosbeaks in Maryland during 1946-47. However, on April 5, 1947, I observed four of these birds sitting in a dead willow tree beside the Patapsco River near Halethorpe. I was able to watch them for about ten minutes before they flew away. On April 13 I visited the same area accompanied by Gorman Bond, also a member of the Society. Within twenty yards of the tree in which the birds had been seen previously, we found four evening grosbeaks, two males and two females. We were able to observe them some time through our binoculars before they were frightened away by a Cooper's hawk (Accipiter cooperii). My third and last record of the grosbeak was in the afternoon of April 19, when I observed a single bird in the same locality. So far as I can discover, this constitutes the only observation of the species around Baltimore in the season of 1946-47.

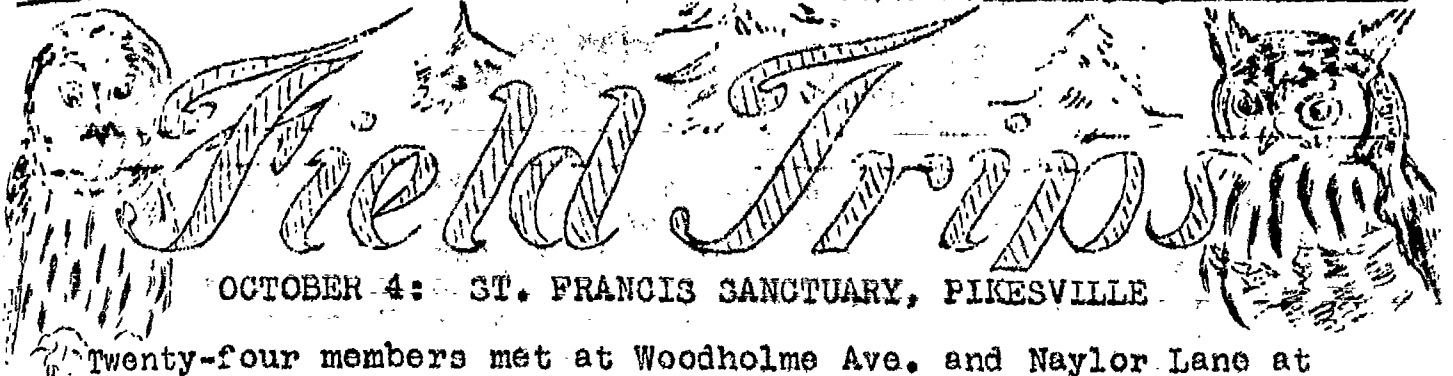
Robert M. Bowen

#### ESCAPED AMERICAN MAGPIE IN BALTIMORE

Early in September, 1947, a female American magpie escaped from the aviary of Mr. William Kinstler at 1903 Ellamont Street in the Walbrook section of Baltimore, and two months later was still at large in that section. Between about September 10 and the week of November 2 to 8, besides returning once to the vicinity of the aviary, the bird was seen in the 3400 block of West North Avenue, the 3400 and 3500 blocks of Walbrook Avenue, the 2200 block of Roslyn Avenue, and the 2100 block of Chelsea Terrace--this last location, the most remote one, 1,000 yards airline from the point of escape.

Telephone calls to me about the bird by puzzled observers who asked identifications, led me to give an account of the apparent magpie in the Evening Sun on November 5. I have to thank Mr. Philip Lavarello, one of our members, for being the first to inform me that he had seen the bird and had learned that it had escaped from Mr. Kinstler. Mr. Kinstler confirmed this to me, and said the bird was one of 4 American magpies he had brought from Montana about 5 years ago.

Hervey Braakbill



### OCTOBER 4: ST. FRANCIS SANCTUARY, PIKESVILLE

Twenty-four members met at Woodholme Ave. and Naylor Lane at 8:15 a.m. to visit the 8-acre bird sanctuary which is maintained there by the Bird Club of the Humane Society of Baltimore County. Mrs. Gardner Tillinghast, who is chairman of this Bird Club, and Mrs. and Mrs. Herman F. Kuch, Jr., were the leaders.

Because of the large number present we divided into two groups, starting in opposite directions to cover the well-marked Nature Trail which winds all around the acreage. All along this trail bird boxes have been erected and, under the supervision of our leaders, some of these were opened and examined so that the annual record could be made of how many had been occupied this year. Eighteen of the 23 boxes were examined, and of these, 13 had been occupied, mainly by bluebirds and wrens. Most of the boxes which were not occupied were in the woods. In 3 cases "double-decker" nests were found. Evidently bluebirds had first occupied the box, then wrens had taken over to build their nests on top of the old bluebird nests.

The 28 species of birds seen included: red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, chimney swifts, red-bellied and red-headed woodpeckers, phoebe, wood pewee, mockingbird, catbirds, brown thrashers, and black and white, parula, and black-throated green warblers.

After the Nature Trail had been traversed 6 people continued on a walk back of the Sanctuary toward Mt. Wilson Lane. It was here that 4 red-headed woodpeckers were observed in open woodland where there were many tall oak trees. One red-head was particularly in evidence, busily feeding on acorns which he persistently wedged into a hole in one particular branch. Time and again he flew to other trees to gather acorns, then returned to his favorite branch to wedge his morsel into a crack and peck away the outer shell until he came to the part he could eat.

Since the 8 acres covered early in the day constitute a permanent sanctuary, it was suggested that this would be an excellent area in which to make a breeding bird census next spring. This will be taken under advisement.

Ilse Kind (Mrs. Herman F.) Kuch

### OCTOBER 10-11: HAWK MOUNTAIN, PENNA.

Fifteen people, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Eric Hall and utilizing transportation provided by Miss Pearl Heaps, Dr. H. W. Newell and Mr. Jock Lane, found the hawks at famous Hawk Mountain somewhat few and far between, as did most other parties this year.



Three adequate compensations were at hand for the lack of hawks, however: the glorious fall weather, the privilege of associating with birding friends from all over the east, and the avocet chase.

Hawk Mountain in October is always an ornithologists' Mecca, and this year we renewed acquaintance with our friends of the Lancaster County Bird Club, admired the home-made 7x50 glasses of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, chatted with Roger Tory Peterson about duck hawks (between his sessions of autographing field guides for scores of admirers), discussed Assateague shore birds with Clayton Hoff, and made friends with the long distance delegation from the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Meanwhile, the clear, calm weather held the half-day count of hawks to a scattering of sharp-shinned, Cooper's, red-tails, red-shoulders and a lone marsh hawk.

But this was a double-feature trip. We had heard of the avocet - a spectacular western shore bird rare east of the Mississippi - which was sojourning at Ontelaunee Reservoir, north of Reading, so we repaired to that spot in mid-afternoon. A little car cruising along the shores, plus advice good and bad from other searchers, finally brought this lovely bird into our telescope, and all of us without exception could claim one "life list new" for the trip.

Orville Crowder

#### OCTOBER 26: WEST RIVER "At the Sign of the Purple Martin"

Our first stop was at the South River bridge below Annapolis, where no birds could be seen, but the sound of a towhee was in someone's ear. The next observation station, overlooking the bay at Beverly Beach, was the spot where a discussion ensued. The question: Were we looking at a forster's tern or a common tern? It was never clearly decided. But a meadow lark was identified, as were a group of black vultures, distinguished by their black-feathered heads and short tails. From the clumps of brush along the shore we flushed song sparrows, redwing, kingfisher, blue jay, mockingbird and myrtle warbler. With the aid of the telescope, common loons were studied a short distance offshore.

A short ride to Chalk Point on West River brought us to the pleasant estate of Adele and John Besson - "The Purple Martin". We were quite ready for the comfortable seats and grateful for the ginger ale that added zest and wetness to our own dry lunches. The hospitality of the genial brother and sister shall not be forgotten. We were invited to wander through the lovely house and over the lawn. We scanned bird literature that was spread on tables, noted the map of Carcassonne and were reminded of Gustave Nadaud's poem. Not the least attraction were hammocks where the lazy might recline.

We enjoyed a launch ride on West River and passed by the villages of Shady Side and Galesville. We sailed as far as Rhodes River, finding the bird population light, and returned to Chalk Point immensely refreshed by our nautical adventure.

But bird observations were not over for the day. Under the threefold leadership of Miss Jeanne Stivers, Henry Woodman and Orville Crowder, nothing on wings escaped attention as we scanned field and sky at Chalk Point. The fields produced a rich variety of birds, and the group was treated to some especially close studies of Henslow's sparrows. But probably the reward of the afternoon was a long look at a majestic American egret poised upon a wharf post. It was a fitting climax to a perfect day.

Oliver B. Isaac

RESUME - FIELD TRIP PROGRAM OF 1946-47

The Field Trips Chairman, long-sufferer of late reservation trials and tribulations, ventures to present some rather interesting statistics on last year's program of field trips.

There were 17 trips scheduled, and the cumulative attendance was 338. A measure of the relative popularity of excursions may be found in the record of attendance by trips:

Sep. 14-15 Bird River .....	24	Mar. 23 - N.H.S. Cabin .....	18
Sep. 21-22 Cape May, N.J. ....	11	Apr. 13 - Patuxent Refuge ....	38
Oct. 20 - Monument Knob .....	10	Apr. 27 - Lake Roland .....	23
Nov. 3 - Dickeyville .....	9	May 11 - Patapsco Forest ....	26
Nov. 17 - Perry Point .....	6	May 17-18 Ocean City .....	11
Dec. 22 - Xmas Count, Chase..	16	June 1 - Woodstock .....	11
Jan. 19 - Loch Raven .....	18	June 15 - Lake Roland .....	7
Feb. 16 - Kent Island .....	33	Jun. 20-22 Garrett County .....	36
Mar. 16 - Carroll Island ....	41	Total .....	338

A total of 130 individuals participated in the field trips. Of these, 44 attended 3 or more trips each. The number of "regular customers" is significant; those who came most frequently were:

Orville Crowder .. (trips) 16	Eleanor Cooley .....	} 7
Bill McHoul .....	Rockwell Smith .....	
Florence Burner .....	Benjamin Levin .....	
	Herbert Strack .....	
Ruth Lenderking .....	Mrs. Newell .....	} 6
Theo. Brannan .....	Jocelyn Newell .....	
Lola Strack .....	Marcia Newell .....	
Willard Strack .....	Pearl Heaps .....	
	Mrs. Stollenwerck .....	

The success of last year's field trips inspired the enlarged program for the current year. A further consideration was the increasing number of members and field trippers, and the attendant desire to offer enough trips to keep the attendance on any one excursion from getting too large for good observing. This year we shall get into every corner of the state and explore every habitat. Those who can come with regularity should have a rich birding experience and a grand time as well.

Florence Burner

# Member Memos

NEW MEMBER LIST SUSPENDED. Reluctantly, with this issue we discontinue listing the names and addresses of new members. The growth of the Society has been so rapid that this month's list would cover four full pages. With the size of each Maryland Birdlife limited by what is possible on our one-dollar-dues budget, there isn't space to extend to these new friends the warm welcome they deserve. However, a complete listing of members is under consideration at present, and should shortly be available for those who wish a copy.

During September and October, membership rose 168 to a total of 506. Among the new members were scores from outside the Baltimore area, including our first members in Harford and Caroline Counties. Only three counties now remain "unconquered": Talbot, Somerset and Wicomico. Have you any connections there? New members ranged from 8-year-old juniors to seasoned ornithologists. One of the latter was Roger Tory Peterson, who recently became a genuine Marylander when he acquired a home at Glen Echo in Montgomery County.

STOKES ON PELEE: The traveling Stokeses - Allen and Alice and a new young Stokes - are settled in a new locale - Pelee Island in western Lake Erie, where Allen is engaged in a pheasant research project which will extend over the next year. We have a fine letter from Allen with many interesting notes about this ice-bound island, its inhabitants human and avian, and its farming economy and attitude toward bird research. We hope to pass some of these along in the next issue. It was our pleasure to spend some time with the Stokes family at Madison this fall, and to have Allen join us on a bird jaunt into Northern Wisconsin.

Orville Crowder

## AUDUBON WILDLIFE TOURS

The National Audubon Society is conducting two fascinating series of wildlife tours in southern Florida this spring. Two-day trips at frequent intervals from Jan. 19 to Mar. 19 will be conducted to the Okeechobee-Kissimmee Region by none other than Alexander Sprunt, Jr., who will show limpkins, burrowing owls, glossy ibises, Florida cranes, and Audubon's caracaras to the six lucky people who accompany him on each trip. And from Jan. 14 to May 1, Audubon Warden Charles Brookfield will lead similar tours to the new Everglades National Park, Cape Sable, and Florida Bay, to show his followers reddish egrets, man-o'-war birds, anhingas, wood ibises, and roseate spoonbills. Fee \$15. For illustrated folders, write Nat'l. Aud. Soc., McAllister Hotel Arcade, 10 Biscayne Blvd., Miami.



# ALLEGANY ACTIVITIES!

**85 MEMBERS ON SEPTEMBER WALK:** Following the Allegany organization meeting September 10, attended by 45 members, a field trip was planned for September 27. Approximately 70 junior members and 15 adults attended, traveling by car to Koon Dam on Lake Gordon, Pa. Observations were slow, but the entire group had excellent views of a blue-headed vireo, black-billed cuckoo and red-tailed hawk. Leaders were Jimmy Deetz, Walton Robey and Helen Miller.

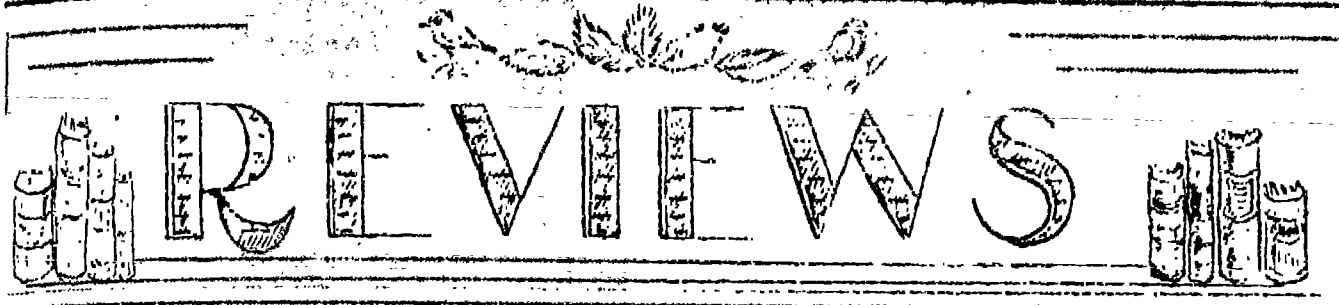
**OCTOBER FIELD TRIP SPECIALIZES IN SPARROWS:** Five adults and 9 juniors enjoyed a bird walk along the C & O Canal at Oldtown on Saturday, October 11, led by Jimmy Deetz and Helen Miller. It was an ideal autumn morning, 56 degrees at 8 A.M. and no wind. We were first greeted by the song sparrow, announcing a good day for sparrows. We had close observation of the white-crowned, field, white-throated, fox, savannah, Lincoln's English and sharp-tailed sparrows. Other birds seen were: flocks of cedar waxwings, myrtle warblers, goldfinches, Carolina wren, kingfisher, downy woodpecker and catbird. The singing of the Carolina wren, robins, white-throated, savannah and song sparrows made us wonder whether it was spring or fall.

Nan Livingstone

**MAURICE BROOKS FEATURED IN TWO TALKS AND WALK:** On the 17th and 18th of October, Maurice Brooks, who led the statewide society's field trip through Cranesville Swamp last spring, was the guest of the Allegany club. Friday afternoon he talked to the student assembly at Fort Hill High School on the subject "Feeding and Taming the Wild Birds", illustrating the talk with his own slides. The same night, he talked to a regular meeting of the Bird Club, on the subject "A Balanced Program of Conservation". Saturday morning, Mr. Brooks was the guest leader for an adult walk along the C & O Canal at Oldtown. It was another perfect fall morning - clear and no wind. Twenty-two species were observed, including killdeer, white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, Carolina wren, cardinal, myrtle warbler, ruby-crowned kinglet, bluebird, goldfinch, downy woodpecker, cedar waxwing, Cooper's hawk, phoebe, blackpoll warbler, kingfisher and tree sparrow. The kinglets were everywhere and were observed very closely.

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER PLANS:** The Allegany meeting in November will be held at the Public Library in Cumberland, and the subject will be "Feeding Stations". Kendrick Hodgdon, feeding station chairman, will be in charge. At the December meeting plans and outlines for the Christmas bird count will be discussed and teams organized.

Helen B. Miller



## RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

For some time one of the features at the monthly meetings of the AOU has been a brief account of current bird literature. Many people seem to have found helpful and interesting this overview of the large amount of printed material which is being offered these days to those of us interested in birds. With membership increasing more rapidly than the number who are able to attend the Baltimore meetings, it has seemed a good idea to devote a page in Maryland Bird-life to the same purpose. Hence, you will find here in the ensuing months brief notes on any published items of ornithological interest which may seem to this editor worthy of comment. Formal reviews will not be attempted and we may occasionally seem to stray down inviting by-paths, but the purpose of the page will always be to invite everyone to wider acquaintance with the present-day abundance of printed matter in the ornithological field.

This month we restrict ourselves to the recent issues of two of our national ornithological journals. The September number of The Wilson Bulletin contains an article which will be of interest to all of us. Comments made at various places in the latest edition of Peterson's "Field Guide" have, perhaps, for the first time brought to the attention of some of us that all is not well with our present system of vernacular names for birds. Criticism has grown in recent years. Now comes Dr. Griscom with "Common Sense in Common Names", asserting that most of the criticism is much ado about virtually nothing. Of Dr. Griscom's engagingly made points, two appeal strongly to this writer: "Common or vernacular names are not necessary for the amateur naturalist and it is a psychosis to think so." and "Coining vernacular names for subspecies is a waste of time." We do not agree with everything in the article quite so wholeheartedly, but we think it should be read by all who are in any way interested in birds.

Those who are taking part in the first winter bird census this January will want to read T.L. Quay's "Winter Birds of Upland Plant Communities" in the July issue of The Auk. The work on which the article is based was done near Raleigh, N.C., but the results are very illuminating for our own region, and, moreover, are a good illustration of the valuable information which can be assembled by birding in a season often wrongly regarded as unprofitable for field trips.

This same issue of The Auk also contains another supplement to the AOU Check-list. The changes this time are chiefly in generic names resulting from the decision to conform to the International

Rules of Zoological Nomenclature on the matter of the difference in a single letter in the spelling of generic names. Personally, we think this a bad rule but regard the principle of adherence to the International system of higher importance than single rules. Few enough are the international agreements of these days. Not many Maryland birds are affected by the changes. With a few exceptions your new Peterson employs these new names.

Haven Kolb

#### ALLEN LECTURE: BATTLE OF BIRDS VS. INSECTS

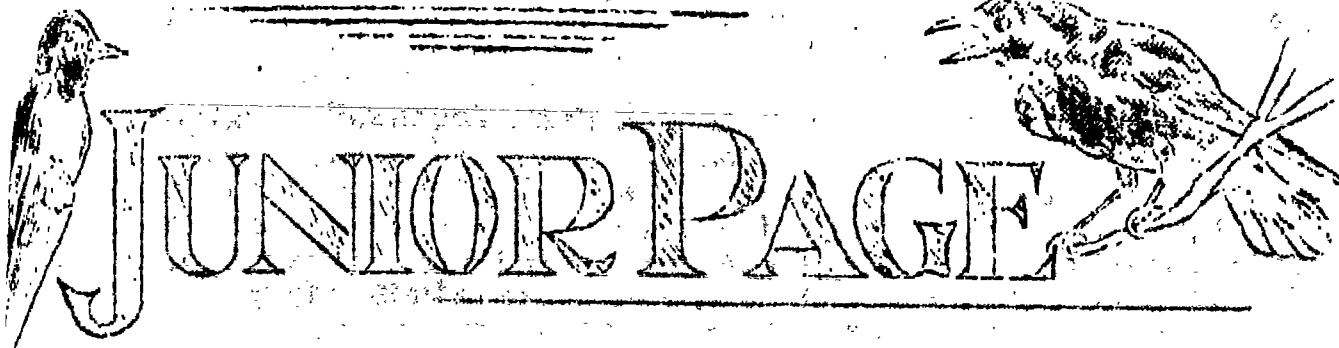
Under the sponsorship of the Bird Club of the Humane Society of Baltimore County, Dr. Arthur A. Allen, professor of ornithology at Cornell University, delivered a colorful movie, "Birds in the Garden," to an overflow audience of youngsters and oldsters in the auditorium of the Baltimore Museum of Art on Friday evening, November 14. In every way, financially, socially, and scientifically, the occasion was a success.

The title of the lecture may be termed an understatement, for the area covered by the lecturer spread far beyond the confines of a backyard to encompass plain, mountain, and sea. Nor was the subject strictly ornithological in scope. In fact, political propaganda loomed as large as the birds themselves. The film was originally designed to stir a nation under arms, as the alternate title, "Birds on the Home Front" indicated.

The lecturer sought by clever analogy to compare certain classes of birds to respective military units: for example, scaup ducks were submarines, sandpipers served the function of amphibious operations, barn swallows were likened to the flight command, and the barn owl, pouncing down upon a rat, was a bomb diver. Now all this is dated, strictly speaking. One can imagine that if a member of the House Committee investigating the movie industry had happened in upon the program, and seen an owl termed General Tito followed by a flash of red as a scarlet tanager appeared upon the screen, it is possible that both lecturer and camera would have been seized and haled before a U.S. Marshal. However, the license granted by an audience in the free state of Maryland permitted this presentation of the facts of history.

The analogy was neatly sustained as the feathered folk warred against our pests, and we glimpsed such striking scenes as a chestnut-sided warbler snapping up tent caterpillars for its hungry young, and rejoiced with the young cuckoos as they stretched wide mouths for the canker worms that mamma dangled for a long time over her impatient babies. The eye of mother cuckoo was a fascinating study. Swarms of oven birds, crows and starlings constituted ground crews and infantry, always necessary for mopping-up manoeuvres. The birds won the war, and Dr. Allen, by his genial personality, won the hearts of young bird-lovers of Baltimore.

Cliver B. Isaac



# JUNIOR PAGE

The National Audubon Society's report of Audubon Junior clubs at the end of November shows that Maryland had 81 clubs this year against 51 by the same time last year - a gain of 53%. The number of members at the end of November in Maryland was 2,058, against 1,337 last year. The big news about this is that Maryland ranks first of all 48 states in the rate of gain over last year. You folks in the Junior Clubs have been putting our state on the map!

As usual, most of the junior reports this month come from the youngsters in Allegany County. Let's hear from some of you other junior members in time for the next issue.

**WESTERNPORT:** The very live bunch of juniors at Hammond Street School in Westernport have been keeping us posted on bird news from that corner of Allegany. Charles Barnard (11) reports that his collection of bird nests includes a wren's, a catbird's, a goldfinch's and a robin's. He tells us that Delores Carpenter is one up on him with a Baltimore oriole's nest, however. Westernport juniors have been busy making bird houses and feeding stations this fall. John Dettra (11) made one of each for his yard; C. A. Beck (10) got together with his father on a feeding station and sends us a picture of the one they built from a pattern in "Wee Wisdom". Johnny Ferrell and Jerry Moorehead also turned out a nice looking job, judging from the pictures they sent. Too bad we can't reproduce photos in Maryland Birdlife yet; we may be able to do this later on. Donald Vanorsdale (11) is one of our regular reporters, and sends an interesting note of a trip by 15 boys of the 4th, 5th and 6th grades on October 14, under the leadership of adult member Mr. Paul Vanorsdale. They saw many things of interest, Donald says, including a cardinal, flicker, song sparrow and a sparrow hawk.

**OLDTOWN:** The Oldtown School Junior Club has been busy, and we have fine reports of the September and October meetings. Faith Reckley gave a report on Dr. Brooks' talk before the Allegany Bird Club, and the following officers were elected: Joanne Crabtree, president; Faith Reckley, vice-president; James Walters, secretary; Roxanna Hough, treasurer. Jack Carder gets around the country at Oldtown quite a lot, and has been spotting ducks on the Potomac. He sends descriptions, but hasn't named the species yet. Looks as though a Peterson guide would be a help on one of the Oldtown trips.

**CRESAPTOWN:** We get a nice regular report of birds seen near Cresaptown by three Junior Clubs at the Cresaptown School - Mrs. Gerson's room, Mrs. Alderton's room and Mrs. Geis' room. Two Sep-

tember field trips are reported, observations including Baltimore orioles, broad-winged hawks, killdeers and many others.

LONACONING: "Central High School has organized a Bird Club under the direction of Mr. Kendrick Hodgdon. One big activity was our walk in Frostburg. Cardinals, many different sparrows and one olive-backed thrush were observed. We have a project to build and erect feeding stations in this area, and also plan a mid-winter census hike during the Christmas vacation. Our next bird walk will be Friday, November 28, starting from Love's grocery store. We have invited fellow birders from the county to join us". - Martha Bishop.

ELLERSLIE: The first bird reports we have had from Ellerslie School, up close to the Pennsylvania line, came in this month from Tommy Swanson (11), David See (10) and Fremont Sheavley (10), who report seeing, respectively, a robin, wild geese flying over, and a kingfisher.

CUMBERLAND WEST SIDE SCHOOL: Probably the most regular of all our junior correspondents are the West Side club members. Billie Stein (9) reports the class bird calendar for September, and we note that birds seen included screech owls and nighthawks. The October report comes from Evelyn Schadt (9), also for the Fourth Grade Nature Club, and lists 22 species. Jerry Hart says he spotted 29 different kinds of birds in October, bringing his list for the year up to 129. That is a good total. Do you keep a yearly list? There is still time to start a list for 1948. Gary Lee Williams, who took John Puritan's place as president of the Fourth Grade Club when John left for the west, reports his list for the month, including a red-tailed hawk, cedar waxwing, and tree sparrow.

BIRD WALK, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25: "Fifteen children from West Side School met at Allegany and Greene Street at 9 A.M. We started our bird walk up Greene Street and turned off on a dirt road to the Ridgedale Reservoir. After that we began to see many birds. These are the birds we saw: chickadee, field sparrow, myrtle warbler, tufted titmouse, downy woodpecker, song sparrow, crow, flicker, starling, cardinal, white-throated sparrow, robin, a hawk, cedar waxwing and chipping sparrow." - Freddie Wartzack & Robert Reiber (age 11).

A FLICKER'S NEST: "One day when Gary Williams came over to my house I said to him that I thought there was a nest in my back yard. I took him to an old dead tree where I had watched a flicker last summer. Gary climbed the tree and pulled out a handful of feathers, then two skeletons of babies. He told me to get a box and I did. When I started back, he was yelling like anything and I thought something had happened to him - but he had found a bird's egg. We brought them to school and now they are in our collection". -- John Puritan (age 9).

Many other reports of Junior Clubs are already in covering the events of November, and these will be covered in the next Maryland Birdlife, since happenings of November and December are reported in the January-February issue.



## MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

To our Non-member Friends:

The Ornithological Society is eager to keep in touch with all Marylanders who are interested in bird life. We welcome visitors on field trips and at meetings, and we appreciate notes of interest about birds in your vicinity. We should like to number you among the members of the Society so that you will receive future issues of Maryland Birdlife and notices of local activities in Baltimore, Cumberland and other centers.

This issue of Maryland Birdlife is being sent to five groups of people, of which you are probably one of the following:

- (1) Those who have already received an invitation to join the Society.  
In this case, we wanted you to receive a copy of the club publication so that you might know more about the group's program and activity.
- (2) Those whose names have recently been passed on to us.  
Someone knows of your bird interest, and this is an introduction to Maryland bird activity and an invitation to associate with it.
- (3) Residents of Maryland in the vicinity of Washington.  
If you are a member of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia we do not urge duplication of membership, but we include all bird friends with Maryland addresses in our list and you will be very welcome.
- (4) Residents of Allegany County.  
The very active Cumberland group led by Mrs. Miller of Spring Gap, and others, is developing a fine local program and welcomes new members.
- (5) Sponsors of Junior Audubon Clubs.  
Contact with these school clubs is especially desired. Teachers may join as individual adult members or send 50-cent "junior group memberships" for their club as a unit, or both. Individual juniors are also welcome.

Dues have been held to a dollar a year so that interest in birds may always be the basis of membership rather than money, and we do not solicit contributions of any kind. If you would like to keep in touch with bird news and activity in the state, we hope you will send along the application form below.

Orville W. Crowder, President

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to apply for membership in the Maryland Ornithological Society, and enclose remittance for dues as indicated below:

Adult member,  
\$1 a year

Junior under 18, 50¢  
(Give birth date)

Junior Group,  
50¢ a year

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Mr. H. P. Strack, 529 Sussex Road, Towson 4, Maryland.