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Cover: Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Elliott Is., Md., May 22, 1976. Photo by Robert F. Ringler.



RED-NECKED PHALAROPE IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

HANK KAESTNER

On September 12, 1985, Bob Ringler and I were surveying the avifauna on Hart-Miller Island, the dredge spoil impoundment about one mile east of Miller's Island in the Baltimore County section of the Chesapeake Bay. Toward the end of the circuit around the six mile dike we started walking east on the cross dike. About halfway across I noticed a phalarope swimming along the shore. Before Ringler could observe the bird, it swam closer to the shore and out of sight. "I think it is a Red-necked Phalarope," I said.

We walked along the shore, trying to get closer. When the bird became visible again, it was no more than 60 feet from us, swimming away from the shore. Seeing us, it stretched out its neck along the water so as to project no profile. About 30 feet offshore it found a stake in the water and tried to hide behind it.

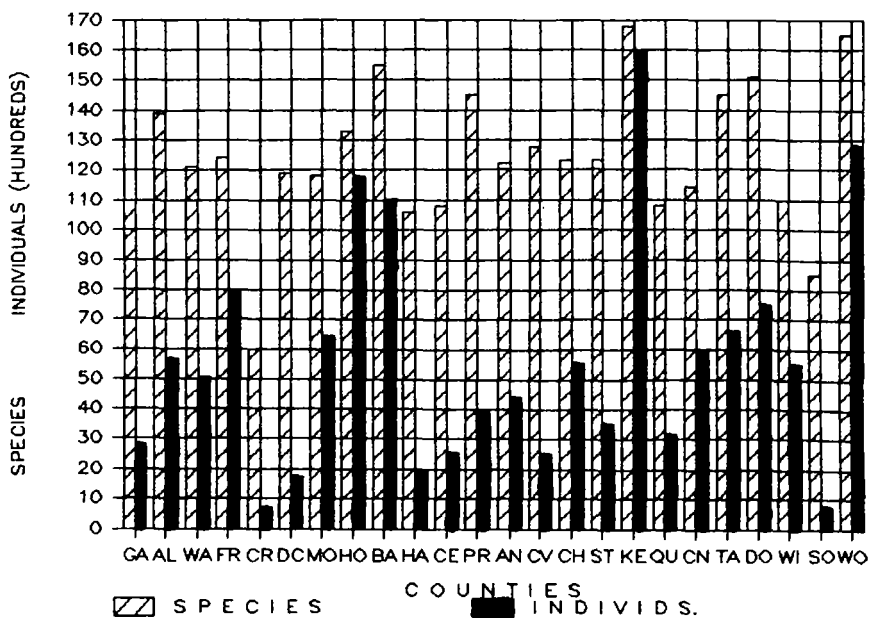
The bird then stayed still and allowed us to study it. The light was good, and the bird all but filled the field of view in the telescope. The most obvious field mark was the long, thin, black bill. The phalarope ear mark, dark gray cap, and overall dark color began to confirm our suspicion that the bird was a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Also very obvious was a pair of light lines on the back, in the same relative place as the lines on the back of a Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*). At this point we were noticing such a long, thin bill that we wanted to see the bird in flight, to confirm that it was not a Wilson's Phalarope (*P. tricolor*). The field guides, especially the new Peterson, show the Red-necked with a rather short bill, and our bird had a long bill. We flushed the bird, and it flew west along the dike, displaying its dark rump. With the sun now behind the bird, the plumage looked even darker than before. The white wing stripe was very evident against the blackish-gray plumage, confirming that our bird was Baltimore County's first Red-necked Phalarope.

It was interesting that this was the first phalarope seen at Hart-Miller during the more than two full years of observing birds there. Within another few weeks however, we began to see Wilson's Phalaropes, eventually recording six individuals. The Red-necked Phalarope, however, was not seen again.

STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT, MAY 3, 1986

MICHAEL RESCH

Poor weather conditions greeted observers on the 39th annual Statewide Bird Count on May 3. Although there was no precipitation that day, maximum estimates of the northwest winds were 35 miles per hour with higher gusts. Only a few observers reported calm periods during the day. The typical temperatures ranged from the mid 30's to 60°, with extremes of 28° in Garrett and Baltimore Counties and 75° in St. Marys County. These less-than-ideal weather conditions prompted one observer to remark that the 1986 Bird Count was held on the only day of bad weather in the entire 1986 spring season. Perhaps because the skies were clear to partly cloudy all day, 408 hardy observers in 206 parties amassed 1,380 party-hours in the field or at feeders. Observers explored 5,824 party-miles, either in search of birds or for a warm place to take cover from the wind. A total of 125,027 birds was reported, representing 245 species and 2 hybrids.



COUNTY CODES

GA = Garrett
 AL = Allegany
 WA = Washington
 FR = Frederick
 CR = Carroll
 DC = District of Columbia
 MO = Montgomery
 BA = Baltimore

HO = Howard
 HA = Harford
 CE = Cecil
 PR = Prince George's
 AN = Anne Arundel
 CV = Calvert
 CH = Charles
 ST = St. Mary's

KE = Kent
 QU = Queen Anne's
 CN = Caroline
 TA = Talbot
 DO = Dorchester
 WI = Wicomico
 SO = Somerset
 WO = Worcester

Fig. 1 Total species and individuals, by counties.

In keeping with recent tradition, counts were received from all Maryland counties as well as the District of Columbia. For the second year in a row, Kent County observers reported the highest species tally with a 1986 total of 168 (Fig. 1). Second place went to Worcester with 165, followed by Baltimore with 155 species and Dorchester with 151. Thirty species were seen in every county, and an additional 15 were found in all counties except one. Conversely, 27 species were found in only one county, led by Worcester with 10, and Kent with 6. Kent observers tallied the most individuals (15,966), followed by Worcester (12,809), Howard (11,774), and Baltimore (11,026). The total number of individuals per party-hour for each county is presented in Figure 2. Seven of the 8 Eastern Shore counties exceeded 100 individuals per party-hour, whereas only one of the other 16 counties (Washington) exceeded this value. It is interesting that the majority of the non-Eastern Shore counties had individuals per party-hour values in a relatively narrow range; 11 of 16 of these jurisdictions recorded values of 56 to 74 birds per party-hour.

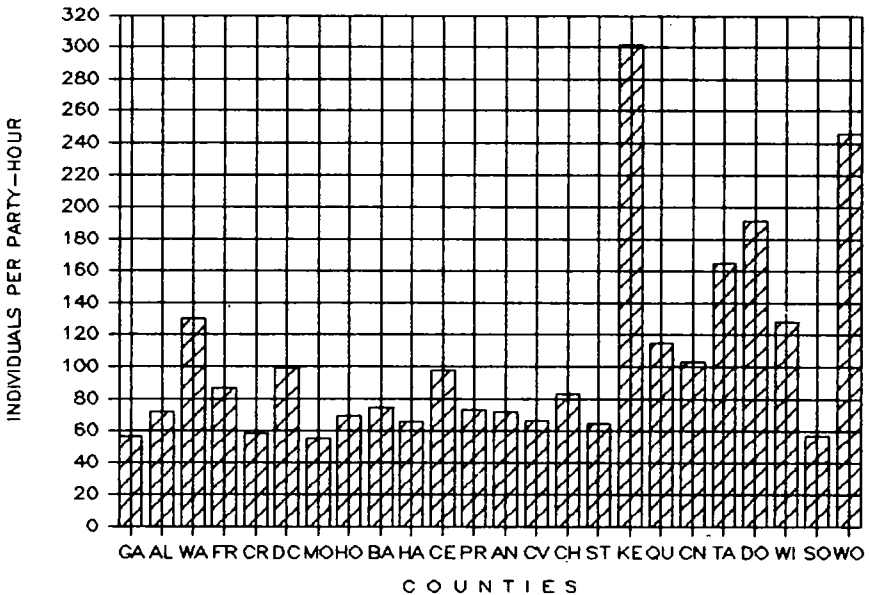


Fig. 2. Mean number of birds per party-hour, by counties.

For the second consecutive year, Howard County had the most observers (62). This total was distantly followed by Baltimore (48), Montgomery (37), and Allegany (31). Substantial increases in the number of observers were noted in several counties that typically have had limited coverage. Examples include District of Columbia and Somerset, which each increased from 1 observer in 1985 to 3 in 1986, Cecil County, which increased from 1 to 4 observers, and Worcester County, which increased from 1 to 8. However, coverage was still spotty in some of these counties as well as in a few others, most notably Carroll County.

Selected rarities and notable sightings are mentioned below, in relation to observations on the 16 preceding May Counts.

Red-throated Loons (2) in Calvert (acceptable details by Jim Stasz and Harvey Mudd); reported only twice outside Worcester on May Counts from 1970 to 1985, inclusive.

Brown Pelicans (2) (acceptable details by Michael Resch); never before seen on a May Count.

Great Egret in Garrett; reported only twice on Bird Counts west of tidewater from 1970 through 1985 and never in Garrett.

Brant (3) in Calvert (acceptable details by John Fales); reported twice on post-1969 May Counts outside Worcester, and never in Calvert.

King Eider in Worcester (Rick Blom, Hal Wierenga, and Bob Ringler); reported on only one May Count (1974) in the 1970-1985 period.

Black Scoter in Kent (acceptable details by Floyd Parks); reported only once outside Worcester on 1970-1985 Counts and never in Kent.

Ruffed Grouse (2) in Cecil (acceptable details by Grier Ralston and Nick Merryman); never seen east of Frederick County on 1970-1985 May Counts.

Western Sandpipers (5) in Wicomico (acceptable details by Charles Vaughn); reported only 6 times on 1970-1985 Bird Counts and never in Wicomico.

Stilt Sandpiper in Dorchester (acceptable details by Henry Armistead, Sam Droege, and Paul Spitzer); reported only twice on May Counts from 1970 through 1985.

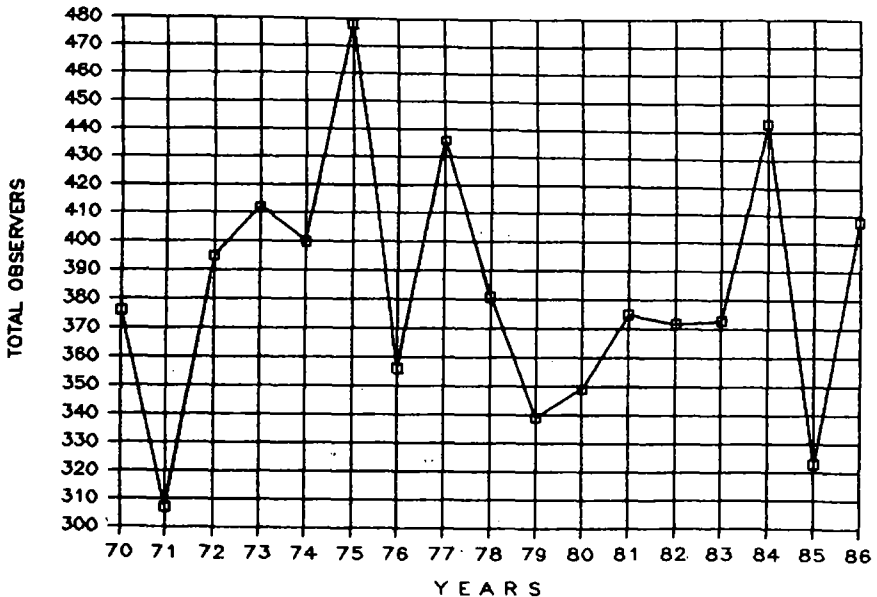


Fig. 3. Total observers on May Statewide Bird Counts, 1970-1986.

Sterna species (not Least Tern) (7) in Garrett (acceptable details by Connie Skipper); Common or Forster's Terns reported only six times on 1970-1985 Bird Counts west of Carroll County.

Swainson's Warbler in St. Marys (acceptable details by Timothy Newberger); on 1970-1985 Bird Counts never reported away from the lower Eastern Shore.

The number of observers in 1986 represents a 27 percent increase from 1985. This year's observer total also compares very favorably with the totals for previous 16 years (Fig. 3). The 1986 total was exceeded only four times during that period.

Sample population trends for three species for the 1973-1986 period are shown in terms of birds per party-hour. The Bald Eagle graph (Fig. 4) suggests a slight decrease in birds per party-hour from 1985 to 1986. However, this "decline" is primarily indicative of a 25 percent increase in party-hours in areas of Maryland where few eagles are found. The fact that the total eagles observed increased from 58 in 1985 to 66 in 1986 suggests that the summering eagle population is increasing in the State.

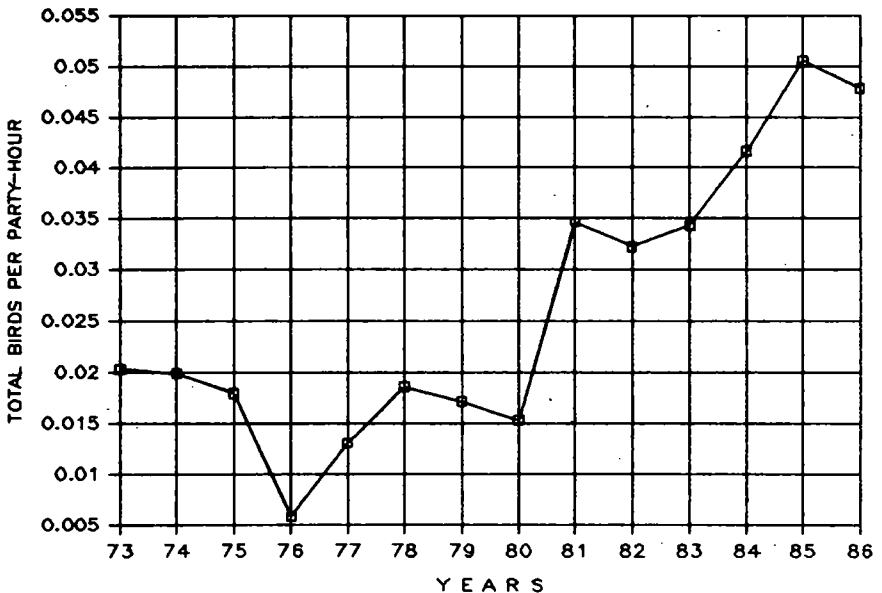


Fig. 4. Bald Eagles per party-hour on Statewide Bird Counts, 1973-1986.

The Carolina Wren population (Fig. 5) is remaining relatively constant at a level just more than half what it was prior to the 1976-1977 crash. The 1986 results for the Eastern Bluebird (Fig. 6) suggest that the population continues to increase at a slow but steady rate. The 1985 figure was an anomaly rather than suggesting a major increase in the local bluebird population.

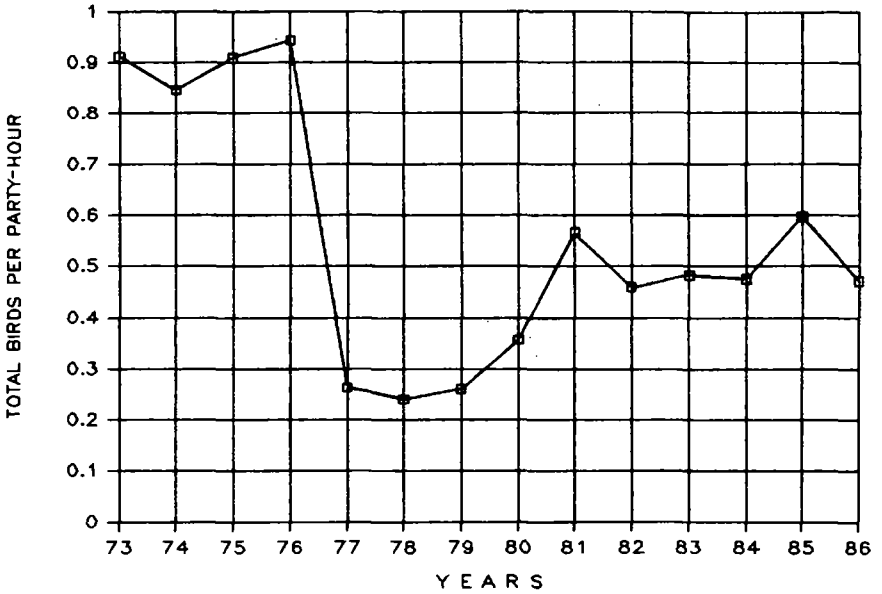


Fig. 5. Carolina Wrens per party-hour on Statewide Bird Counts, 1973-1986.

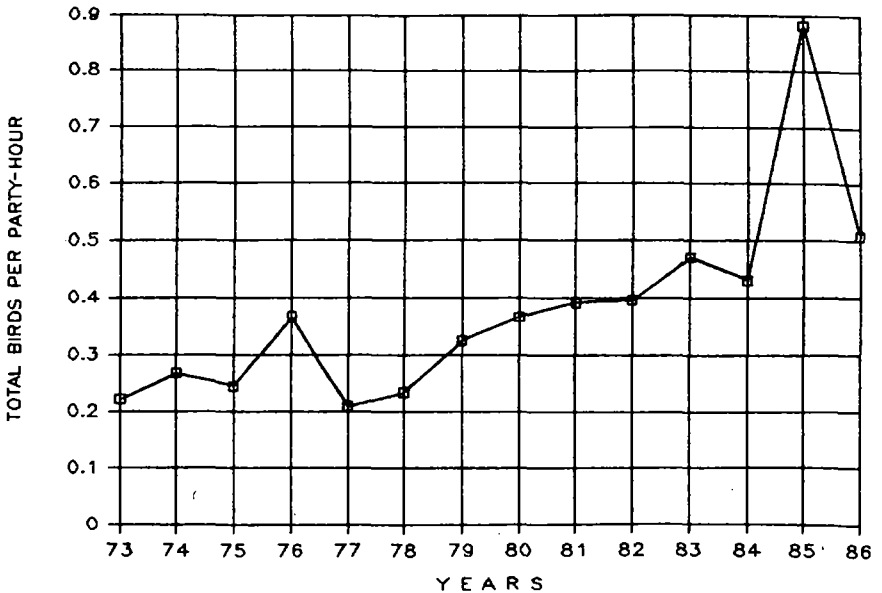


Fig. 6. Eastern Bluebirds per party-hour on Statewide Bird Counts, 1973-1986.

In summary, the 1986 Statewide Bird Count was very successful, particularly in comparison with previous years' results. This is quite remarkable given the poor weather conditions for the 1986 Count. The increases in 1986 observer and species totals over very low figures in 1985, and greatly improved coverage in many counties, are notable. In total, 1986 was a turnaround year for the Statewide Bird Count. Yet another positive note was that details were provided for most rarities. However, if there is any doubt as to the identification of a particular bird, do not include it in the count. Unfortunately, I was forced to delete a few sightings for which details were not quite adequate.

There remains one negative factor which has always plagued the Statewide Bird Counts—inadequate or spotty coverage in some counties. I feel that in order to achieve adequate coverage in most counties, a bare minimum of five dedicated parties is necessary. Despite improvements this year, 7 counties still had fewer than five parties. The problem is not one of lack of interest in these counties. Instead, the principal problem is that there are simply very few birders in most of these locations. The answer may be to twist the arms of birders in some nearby counties to cross the county line and help their neighbors, maybe even spending half a day in both their home and neighboring counties. The best location to try this would be Carroll County, which had the second lowest number of observers on the 1986 Count, while two adjacent counties, Howard and Baltimore, had the highest total observers.

I thank all the observers and especially the compilers who assisted with this Count.

COMPILERS AND OBSERVERS

GARRETT COUNTY: *Compiler:* Fran Pope, 503 F. Street, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550, 334-4908. *Observers:* George Brady, Charlotte & Dan Folk, Sheila Hughes, Jeff Opel, Bill & Fran Pope, Connie & Jessie Skipper, Sallie Thayer, Rayma Weeks, David Winner, Gary Yoder.

ALLEGANY COUNTY: *Compiler:* Teresa Simons, 141 N. Bel Air Dr., Cumberland, MD 21502, 729-4161. *Observers:* Helen Brake, Bill Devlin, Cynthia Donaldson, Flo Giffen, Deloris Gingerich, Christopher Grimes, Ken & Evelyn Hodgdon, Myrna Iser, Ray Kiddy, Gail Kohlenburg, Christopher, Dorothea, Lauren & Mark Malec, Carolyn Mason, Eric Miller, Grace Miller, Lamar & Mary Minnick, Jeanne & John Pfeiffer, Harriet Sheetz, Teresa Simons, Ann & Paul Smith, Bob & Mary Twigg, Mark Weatherholt, Ellen Whitman, John Willets.

WASHINGTON COUNTY: *Non-Participating Compiler:* D. Daniel Boone, 18504 Queen Anne Bridge Rd., Mitchellville, MD 20716, 249-3840. *Observers:* R. & Ted Banvard, Genevieve Beck, Beulah Green, Carl Hull, Mary & Robert Keedy, Alice Mallonee, Robert Moss, Caroline Murdock, Jean Neely, John Taylor, Bertie & Marlin Thurmond, Frank Warfield.

FREDERICK COUNTY: *Compiler:* David H. Wallace, 9 W. 3rd St., Frederick, MD 21701, 662-6753. *Observers:* Marion & Melvin Bennett, Norman Chamberlin, Serene Collmus, Edward & Sonia Dapper, Morris & Rosanell Green, Ken Hunter, Patsy Kerr, Carolyn & Kennedy Maize, Stauffer Miller, Charles L. Mullican, William N. Shirey, Linda Smith, Helen & Ron Sundergill, Elise & John Thrasher,

Table 1. Statewide Bird Count, May 3, 1986

Species	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Crll	D.C.	Mont	Howa	Balt	Harf	Cect
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	12	3	-	9	-	90
American Bittern	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Least Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	2	3	8	-	-	2	4	31	8	16
Great Egret	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tricolored Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	1
Green-backed Heron	-	4	6	6	-	5	8	7	7	3	-
Black-cr. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	1	1	-	3
Yellow-cr. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	6	1	18	64	2	4	93	109	46	28	68
Snow Canada hybrid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	9	41	21	54	2	9	29	18	10	15	1
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
Mallard	30	28	79	65	2	32	55	237	175	18	15
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Blue-winged Teal	4	7	1	11	-	1	2	2	-	2	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
King Eider	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Merganser	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
Black Vulture	-	-	4	28	-	1	-	19	6	1	6
Turkey Vulture	7	31	15	80	8	3	38	124	114	37	87
Osprey	2	1	5	9	1	4	10	13	24	9	6
Bald Eagle (ad/im/u)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/	1/	-
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	6	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	1	1	-	-	5	8	21	4	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-

Table 1 (cont.). Statewide Bird Count, May 3, 1986

Species	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Crll	D.C.	Mont	Howa	Balt	Harf	Ceci
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2	1	6	-	2	12	22	24	8	-
Broad-winged Hawk	6	9	3	1	-	1	3	8	4	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	3	1	1	17	5	-	2	13	24	9	5
American Kestrel	4	5	6	15	-	1	-	16	14	4	6
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Hawk sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	8	11	6	-	5	20	22	3	2
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wild Turkey	5	6	16	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	7
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	6	10	-	1	17	8	16	3	6
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
Sora	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	19	23	5	16	-	2	-	40	22	4	3
American Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	12	3	1	31	1	1	-	4	13	12	6
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	23	-	59	-	5	11	10	43	10	7
Solitary Sandpiper	3	6	8	46	-	3	8	46	30	8	9
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	-	8	14	9	-	5	15	38	55	5	3
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	23	-	24	-	3	11	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Snipe	3	5	-	29	-	1	2	-	4	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	201	-	2
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	8	4	-	-	-	93	-	6	466	45	136
Herring Gull	-	1	-	-	-	10	-	-	174	1	21
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	9	11	24
Gull-billed Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	37	-	-
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	6	4	-
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Dove	20	164	112	207	8	110	40	259	570	38	33

Table 1 (cont.). Statewide Bird Count, May 3, 1986

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	QuAn	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Some	Worc	Total	Cos.
-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1
14	5	3	7	3	2	-	1	-	3	-	-	3	119	18
2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	12
8	3	2	2	6	10	3	13	14	8	8	-	4	161	22
5	6	1	-	3	9	-	7	3	-	2	2	1	110	19
-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4
-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	43	9
20	10	12	22	19	28	24	53	35	26	35	7	24	382	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	6	3
-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
-	-	2	1	-	7	5	-	2	17	-	1	-	44	9
-	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4
5	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2
12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	16	4
-	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	11	-	1	111	130	5
-	-	12	-	7	2	7	-	16	3	12	75	31	166	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1
10	10	8	1	6	5	5	16	12	2	25	-	12	246	21
31	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	33	34	2
26	1	14	13	1	15	14	31	15	20	17	1	17	274	23
17	8	8	8	5	3	4	-	5	6	29	-	15	434	22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	5	341	363	3
19	33	2	40	11	6	-	4	4	11	-	-	25	307	19
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	77	78	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	650	650	1
-	-	3	-	-	9	-	-	12	11	10	-	17	62	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	1
-	-	42	-	-	11	9	24	27	212	55	3	127	571	13
-	-	-	-	7	3	-	1	2	15	3	-	-	35	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	175	175	1
-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	50	-	503	956	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	50	71	3
2	1	3	1	-	2	1	-	9	6	-	-	-	69	14
1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	14	5
-	296	104	64	124	350	114	226	590	1030	2240	7	3050	8407	14
-	-	-	-	2	14	-	-	-	7	-	-	19	42	4
21	110	41	410	135	1882	205	49	285	193	10	1	868	4968	20
14	55	54	123	259	272	3	-	17	310	27	2	1306	2649	17
-	4	1	-	2	29	-	-	17	4	-	-	127	233	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1
4	-	2	1	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	53	8
-	-	-	125	12	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	74	222	4
-	-	7	-	6	-	2	-	-	77	-	2	198	293	7
-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	215	6	-	107	357	8
-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	46	76	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	25	26	2
3	52	3	76	6	96	20	81	16	38	29	-	33	2014	23

Table 1 (cont.). Statewide Bird Count, May 3, 1986

Species	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Crll	D.C.	Mont	Howa	Balt	Harf	Ceci
Swainson's Thrush	-	1	3	1	-	-	7	-	4	2	-
Hermit Thrush	1	-	-	4	-	2	1	-	6	1	1
Wood Thrush	9	13	5	22	2	15	41	59	66	15	32
American Robin	301	646	209	495	66	22	170	784	646	164	75
Gray Catbird	19	15	7	49	4	17	72	66	42	6	3
Northern Mockingbird	-	31	20	122	5	10	70	190	69	40	18
Brown Thrasher	4	17	12	12	1	4	17	28	8	7	6
Water Pipit	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	45	7	-	-	20	60	65	4	1
European Starling	126	320	189	612	58	110	210	939	691	183	78
White-eyed Vireo	1	14	-	8	1	4	56	53	59	18	16
Solitary Vireo	12	4	-	3	-	1	2	1	1	-	-
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	1	1	4	-	-	21	14	1	1	1
Warbling Vireo	-	2	38	8	1	-	13	5	-	1	1
Red-eyed Vireo	-	22	8	9	1	10	61	31	28	2	5
Blue-winged Warbler	-	4	1	5	-	4	9	8	18	-	-
Golden-winged Warbler	1	9	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Brewster's hybrid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tennessee Warbler	-	3	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-
Nashville Warbler	1	5	1	3	-	2	3	1	2	-	-
Northern Parula	1	8	1	16	-	8	65	66	39	10	19
Yellow Warbler	1	34	6	27	3	6	17	66	33	16	4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	3	1	2	-	3	4	5	6	-	-
Magnolia Warbler	3	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	5	-	-
Cape May Warbler	2	1	2	6	-	1	3	2	1	-	-
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	6	9	1	9	-	2	7	8	14	2	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	16	80	55	244	39	49	500	533	326	99	35
Black-thr. Green Warbler	16	5	-	8	-	2	7	6	6	-	-
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	-	3	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	2	5	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	3
Prairie Warbler	-	11	6	3	1	1	21	7	18	1	6
Palm Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Blackpoll Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerulean Warbler	-	11	-	-	-	1	3	2	4	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	9	3	1	4	1	8	8	35	35	7	3
American Redstart	13	29	3	3	-	1	29	30	29	2	5
Prothonotary Warbler	-	1	2	1	-	2	4	1	2	-	-
Worm-eating Warbler	-	2	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	2	10
Swainson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	2	14	-	9	-	6	10	35	28	4	10
Northern Waterthrush	3	5	1	1	2	2	2	2	4	2	-
Louisiana Waterthrush	-	12	5	9	-	1	12	16	2	3	3
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	4	2	-
Common Yellowthroat	11	33	8	22	6	7	70	98	83	26	11
Hooded Warbler	9	4	-	-	-	3	1	6	4	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	8	4	2	-	-	12	3	5	-	-
Summer Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	4	23	3	12	1	6	28	13	6	2	4
Northern Cardinal	43	157	98	242	38	34	320	464	308	56	65
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	16	18	1	1	-	2	6	2	-	-	1
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1

Table 1 (cont.). Statewide Bird Count, May 3, 1986

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	QuAn	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Some	Worc	Total	Cos.
6	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	10
1	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	25	12
24	14	6	23	10	44	3	34	84	12	16	-	17	566	23
48	190	140	76	155	989	153	326	123	210	198	22	127	6315	24
16	9	8	15	11	22	12	9	8	10	27	1	48	496	24
19	41	30	42	59	64	38	54	31	24	36	6	33	1052	23
1	4	3	9	13	18	2	49	6	3	9	1	20	254	24
-	-	-	-	-	55	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	63	4
14	2	-	14	-	81	-	56	47	43	34	10	53	556	17
155	298	154	116	393	387	138	533	295	290	231	31	274	6811	24
28	21	12	41	14	39	10	22	17	10	22	-	59	525	22
1	2	1	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	12
4	4	1	7	-	2	1	3	1	2	7	-	12	88	19
3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	10
46	22	8	109	17	38	3	31	36	16	17	-	18	538	22
8	4	-	2	3	4	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	75	15
-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	6
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	9
38	4	5	55	-	17	3	1	9	1	6	-	10	382	21
8	18	2	3	3	47	10	3	4	5	-	2	13	331	23
1	1	1	2	1	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	45	15
1	1	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	9
-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	24	11
1	1	1	1	1	10	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	78	17
262	123	16	198	53	428	32	91	233	61	167	8	116	3764	24
9	4	-	3	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	72	14
3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	7
3	-	3	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	27	-	12	63	12
2	1	3	5	25	7	11	5	40	33	29	2	35	220	18
9	7	5	15	12	13	2	9	2	5	10	4	12	180	23
2	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6
-	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5
2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	4
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	6
19	11	4	8	14	24	4	11	14	11	6	1	13	254	24
11	5	1	11	1	5	-	1	1	1	5	-	5	191	21
5	-	1	10	1	5	-	7	2	3	6	-	17	70	17
4	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	5	1	2	-	1	36	13
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
30	7	4	31	7	5	-	20	33	10	19	1	48	333	21
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	31	14
4	2	-	7	-	2	-	5	5	-	-	-	5	93	16
1	-	-	3	4	2	-	2	3	1	-	-	5	32	13
26	10	18	30	12	98	37	31	41	42	22	3	35	780	24
8	10	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	63	10
2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	6	5
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
5	-	-	4	-	6	-	2	-	4	1	1	11	68	14
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	5	3	2	-	-	13	5
18	5	-	19	3	18	1	8	13	1	7	-	2	197	22
61	44	57	134	75	369	96	120	80	37	78	23	61	3060	24
-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	2	1	1	-	-	57	13
3	4	1	6	8	6	4	16	2	7	5	2	2	72	17

Table 1 (cont.). Statewide Bird Count, May 3, 1986

Species	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Cril	D.C.	Mont	Howa	Balt	Harf	Ceci
Indigo Bunting	2	28	2	-	-	2	16	19	5	-	3
Rufous-sided Towhee	59	56	10	64	7	15	56	124	91	16	10
American Tree Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	108	166	48	96	5	10	58	147	91	44	11
Field Sparrow	13	29	27	57	3	2	96	72	34	4	3
Vesper Sparrow	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	32	-	7	14	1	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	3	6	4	-	1	2	7	-	1	-
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	64	84	81	147	17	17	115	196	132	14	12
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	5	6	2	2	-	1	9	6	18	3	-
White-throated Sparrow	36	132	105	169	26	44	320	213	220	22	24
White-crowned Sparrow	7	10	6	65	-	2	12	63	2	-	10
Dark-eyed Junco	3	3	3	2	-	-	-	2	9	-	1
Bobolink	4	12	-	-	-	-	-	137	38	12	6
Red-winged Blackbird	139	254	55	273	17	14	140	450	633	90	87
Eastern Meadowlark	30	45	34	32	1	-	11	51	37	6	3
Rusty Blackbird	-	1	3	6	-	-	2	-	13	-	-
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	168	344	274	800	93	13	340	811	742	113	204
Brown-headed Cowbird	114	99	52	138	7	5	125	147	115	28	43
Orchard Oriole	-	2	9	6	-	2	13	7	5	-	2
Northern Oriole	1	49	81	36	3	8	34	18	30	11	7
Purple Finch	36	38	74	60	-	1	33	30	35	5	1
House Finch	34	161	48	105	11	11	47	234	192	21	19
Pine Siskin	30	27	4	2	-	2	-	-	5	-	-
American Goldfinch	110	224	275	471	50	33	325	685	496	87	51
Evening Grosbeak	141	185	41	-	-	-	-	47	37	-	-
House Sparrow	31	118	115	317	45	120	48	210	163	25	26
Total Species	110	139	121	124	60	119	118	133	155	106	108
Total Individuals	2808	5672	5071	7994	729	1737	6462	11774	11028	929	2541
Party Hours:											
Owling	-	2	1	0.5	-	1	1.5	2	2	2.5	3
Foot	25.5	36.5	23	52	12	13.5	110	125	128	14	18
Car	18.5	31.5	10	22	0.5	3	5.5	26	15.5	10	5
Boat/Canoe	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feeder	6	9	-	17.5	-	-	-	16.5	2.5	3	-
Total	50	79	39	92	12.5	17.5	117	170	148	9.5	26
Party-Miles:											
Owling	-	1.5	3	-	-	5	4	2.5	-	9	37
Foot	15.5	33	20	47	7	10	80	123	82.5	12	17
Car	286	272	110	232	3	96	90	444	150	56	210
Boat/Canal	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	301	306	146	279	10	111	174	569	232	77	264
Starting Time	0600	0500	0430	0530	0730	0415	0600	0445	0430	0400	0400
Ending Time	2000	1800	2000	2000	1700	2045	2000	2000	2200	2000	1800
Total Observers	13	31	15	26	4	3	37	62	48	22	4
Number of Parties	8	13	5	15	3	1	16	30	24	5	3
Maximum Temperature	51	57	54	65	55	60	-	60	60	60	60
Minimum Temperature	28	40	38	35	44	45	-	35	28	36	36
Sky	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR	PCL	CLR	PCL	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR
Wind in Morning	20-25	NW	HARD	NW	15-25	NW20	-	NW	NW-GT	15+	5
		(35	-	10-15	-	-	-	10-15	15-30	-	-
Wind in Afternoon	20-25	NW	HARD	NW	7-15	NW25	-	NW-GT	NW-GT	15+	20
		(20	-	5	-	-	-	20-30	15-30	-	-

Table 1 (cont.). Statewide Bird Count, May 3, 1986

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	Quan	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Worc	Total	Cos.	
10	1	-	7	6	4	1	4	1	2	2	1	-	116	19
32	22	6	27	19	62	29	40	27	19	29	3	53	876	24
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
61	61	24	40	20	110	17	80	66	30	47	12	42	1394	24
17	13	1	23	14	47	-	14	14	8	11	1	8	511	23
-	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	12	5
2	2	3	-	-	2	-	5	26	38	2	1	30	166	15
1	2	-	4	8	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	28	2
-	-	8	-	1	1	2	-	1	20	-	-	29	62	7
13	25	20	19	15	34	7	8	10	4	8	2	70	1114	24
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
11	1	16	1	3	6	2	1	3	2	-	2	1	102	21
63	72	47	177	50	285	37	84	79	14	21	4	43	2287	24
1	1	-	-	-	19	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	205	15
-	2	1	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	34	11
15	46	1	37	-	2	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	316	13
107	148	125	370	162	934	373	366	708	915	105	36	164	6665	24
1	6	5	7	11	31	5	9	9	20	6	1	19	380	23
-	-	1	-	-	29	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	56	8
-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	159	172	3
202	256	205	228	340	1892	558	944	510	950	324	36	471	10818	24
27	30	63	41	33	508	26	126	91	120	68	5	59	2070	24
4	4	4	7	5	31	2	16	29	12	6	2	5	173	21
3	3	3	10	5	18	3	25	13	2	5	1	1	370	24
-	8	5	-	-	-	-	6	2	2	3	-	-	339	16
14	80	20	8	16	105	13	48	-	1	6	-	23	1217	22
4	12	13	44	30	-	-	4	5	-	11	-	3	196	15
102	178	98	80	69	97	11	80	159	26	23	12	48	3790	24
10	-	23	35	-	-	-	3	-	-	12	-	17	551	11
15	86	76	43	108	269	19	205	60	25	64	3	73	2264	24
145	122	128	123	123	168	108	114	145	151	110	85	165	245	
3922	4450	2517	5541	3524	15968	3158	5922	6611	7484	5508	746	12809	125027	
2.5	-	2	4	-	5.5	4	1.5	6	5	-	-	2.5	48.5	
47	48	31.5	33	33	14.5	7.5	25	16	12	27	11	34	897	
4	14	4.5	30	19	33	16	29	18	22	16	2	15.5	370.5	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	7	
-	-	-	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	
53.5	62	38	67	54.5	53	27.5	57.5	40	39	43	13	52	1380.	
7	-	2	25	-	41	75	17	85	50	-	-	10	374	
36	24	24	26	34.5	18	13	24	15	5	19	3	26	714.5	
57	130	153	295	251	269	274	333	282	311	203	27	210	4724	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	
100	154	179	346	285	328	362	375	362	366	222	30	246	5824	
0430	0800	0500	0400	0545	0130	0130	0330	-	0430	0645	0630	0425	0130	
2100	1800	2100	2000	2015	1730	1730	-	-	2200	1700	1730	1915	2200	
14	13	5	13	11	11	13	27	7	5	13	3	8	408	
8	9	4	6	8	6	3	17	4	3	7	2	6	206	
55	60	68	60	75	65	52	61	-	57	65	65	60	75	
40	45	39	37	40	40	43	32	-	40	40	40	38	28	
CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR	-	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLEAR	
NW	10-15	NW	0-10	0.25	NW-GT	NW20	25	-	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	10-25
0-20	-	15-25	-	-	10-30	-	-	-	20-30	15	15	10-30	GUSTY	
NW	15	NW	15-30	10-20	NW-GT	NW20	25	-	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	15-30
15-20	-	15	-	-	10-30	-	-	-	30-35	15	15	10-30	GUSTY	

David H. Wallace, Michael J. Welch, Phyllida M. Willis, Janet Wyatt, Benjamin Yokel, Marilyn L. Yost.

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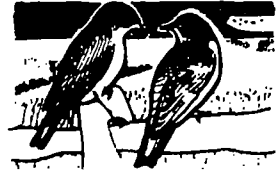
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THE SEASON

Winter Season, December 1, 1985 - February 28, 1986

ROBERT F. RINGLER

The season was generally mild and dry. There were no prolonged periods of cold weather, and snow cover was at a minimum and of short duration. The larger bodies of fresh water remained partially open and Chesapeake Bay almost entirely so. Semi-hardy wintering species were allowed a higher survival rate and some waterfowl that normally would be forced out by ice stayed through the season.

Abbreviations: CBC = Christmas Bird Count, DC = District of Columbia, WMA = Wildlife Management Area, " + " = other observers.

Observers: Burton Alexander, Roger Anderson, George & Henry Armistead, Bob Augustine, Chris Beaton, John & Martha Blaisdell, Rick Blom, Larry Bonham, Monika Botsai, David Czaplak, Bob Dixon, Sam Droege, Sam Dyke, Frances Ehlers, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Jerry, Robert & Roberta Fletcher, Inez Glime, Greg Gough, John Gregoire, Jim & Trish Gruber, Alex & Helene Hammer, Dick Hegner, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Ray Kiddy, Dennis Kirkwood, Alicia Knotts, Walter Kraus, Grazina & Mike McClure, Don Merritt, Harvey & Marion Mudd, Dotty Mumford, Rosamond Munro, Bill Murphy, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, John, Michael & Paul O'Brien, Jim Orgain, Paul Pisano, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Ron Runkles, Bob Schutsky, L.T. Short, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem, Jim Stasz, Wally Sumner, Eva Sunell, Charlie Swift, Charlie & Gail Vaughn, David Wallace, Mark Wallace, Steve Westre, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Erika Wilson, Ben Yokel.

Loons, Grebes, Pelagics. Murphy saw 1 Red-throated Loon at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 12 and there were 35 at Ocean City on Dec. 14 (M. O'Brien). A single Common Loon at Point Lookout on Jan. 7 (Wilson) was the only one reported. 13 Pied-billed Grebes remained on Loch Raven on Dec. 14 (Simon), 1 was unusual in Allegany County at North Branch on Jan. 18 (Kiddy) and 1 was on the Transquaking River in Dorchester County on Feb. 15 (H. Armistead). Mid-winter counts of Horned Grebes were 10 on the Potomac River in DC on Jan. 7 (Czaplak), 10 at Point Lookout on Feb. 2 (M. O'Brien) and 88 at Romancoke on Feb. 23 (Ringler), the latter possibly also including some early northbound migrants. Both Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were seen at Seneca in February by Warfield, the former on the 5th and the latter on the 16th. The only Red-necked Grebe reported was at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 3 (Stasz). Birds seen on a Feb. 8 pelagic trip from Ocean City were 21 Red-throated Loons, 7 Common Loons, 6 Northern Fulmars, 1 Manx

Shearwater, and 6276 Northern Gannets. Gannets seen from shore at Point Lookout included an immature on Dec. 1 (Bob Russell), 7 including 3 adults on Dec. 7 (Hammers) and a sub-adult there on Feb. 2 and 25 at Ocean City on Dec. 14 (both M. O'Brien).

Cormorants. There were 2 immature Great Cormorants at St. George Island on Dec. 7 (Hammers), 1 at Calvert Cliffs on Jan. 1 (Stasz) and 1 at Point Lookout on Jan. 7 (Wilson). Lingering Double-crested Cormorants included 20 at Brandon Shores on Dec. 7 (Ringler, Blom), 6 in St. Marys County (4 at Point Lookout, 1 at Patuxent Beach and 1 at St. George Island) on Dec. 10 (Wilson) and 1 off Sandy Point on Jan. 5 (Blom); 1 at Conowingo on Feb. 2 (Ricciardi) was extraordinary for mid-winter.

Hérons. The only American Bittern reported outside the Christmas Counts was 1 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 1 by the Armisteads who also found 6 Great Egrets, a Snowy Egret and a Tricolored Heron there that day. An estimated 170 Great Blue Herons were at Conowingo on Jan. 11 (Ringler +). Another Great Egret was noted at Bestpitch on Dec. 26 (Gough) and 1 was seen in DC on Jan. 1 at the Columbia Island Marina (Anderson) and on Jan. 4 at nearby Roosevelt Island (Hilton). 27 Black-crowned Night-Hérons were counted at Conowingo on Dec. 28 (Ringler).

Swans, Geese. The 395 Tundra Swans found by Wilson in St. Marys County on Jan. 23 included 328 on Newton Neck and 67 on Washington Creek. There were 3 Mute Swans at inland Williston in Caroline County on Jan. 15 (Short). An adult Greater White-fronted Goose at Sandy Point on Jan. 5 (Wierenga +) was the only one reported this winter. It was noted to be of the Greenland race. Snow Geese on the Piedmont were an adult "blue" at Piney Run Park in southern Carroll County on Dec. 15 (Hammer +), which was probably the same bird seen at nearby Green Manor Turf Farm in Howard County that day by the Mudds, an adult "white" in Harford County from mid-December to mid-January (Kirkwood), 1 at Lime Kiln Pond in Howard County through Jan. 27 (M. Wallace +) and an adult "white" at Piney Run on Feb. 2 (Ringler). A Barnacle Goose was at Cambridge, Jan. 2-6 (Meritt +). The status of this species in Maryland is as yet undetermined. Though it occurs frequently in waterfowl collections it is also a likely candidate for occasional natural occurrence in the northeastern states. Wintering flocks of Canada Geese on the western shore were 1580 at Loch Raven Reservoir in Baltimore County on Jan. 21 (Simon), 1480 in St. Marys County on Jan. 23 (Wilson), 4200 at Piney Run on Feb. 2 (Ringler) and 2600 at Gaithersburg on Feb. 15 (M. O'Brien). In Garrett County, Connie Skipper observed 18 Canadas feeding on corn thrown out by a farmer on Jan. 3 though nearby Deep Creek Lake was completely frozen over by that time.

Ducks. The pair of Ruddy Shelducks previously reported at St. Michaels remained through Dec. 17 (Reese). Mid-winter Wood Ducks were 3 at Loch Raven on Jan. 5 and 1 still there on the 8th (Simon), 55 at Druid Lake on Jan. 14 (Ringler) and 1 on Lake Whetstone in Gaithersburg on Jan. 19 (M. O'Brien); the following were probably early spring migrants: a pair at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 14 (Stasz), 2 at Pennyfield on Feb. 22 (Bonham), 1 at Seneca on Feb. 23 (Warfield) and 17 at Remington Farms in Kent County on Feb. 26 (Grubers). Unusual in mid-winter was

a female Green-winged Teal at Thurmont on Feb. 17 (Ringler). High counts of American Black Ducks were 220 at Piney Run on Dec. 8 (Ringler), and 240 at Loch Raven on Dec. 30 (Simon) and 500 at Jug Bay on the tidal Patuxent on Feb. 14 (Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton). Highs for Mallards were 600 at Druid Lake in Baltimore on Jan. 14 (Ringler) and 460 at Loch Raven on Jan. 17 (Simon). The first migrant Northern Pintails were 20 at Jug Bay on Feb. 14 (Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton), 4 at Rocky Gap in Allegany County on Feb. 22 (Kiddy), 10 at Piney Run on Feb. 22 (Ringler) and 22 at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 24 (Stasz). Unusual occurrences of Northern Shovelers were 1 at Point Lookout on Dec. 10 (Wilson), an immature male at the same location on Feb. 2 (M. O'Brien), 4 at Druid Lake on Jan. 31 (Wilkinson) and 90 at the Hurlock sewage lagoons on Feb. 9 (Ringler). There were 25 Gadwalls at Brandon Shores on Dec. 7 (Blom, Ringler), 20 on Loch Raven on Jan. 1 (Simon) and 1 in Locks Swamp Creek in St. Marys County on Jan. 23 (Wilson). The Armisteads estimated 1400 American Wigeons at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 1, while high Piedmont counts were 40 at Piney Run on Dec. 8 (Ringler) and 68 on Loch Raven on Dec. 23 (Simon).

Reese found 1500 Canvasbacks wintering at Cambridge on Jan. 15; flocks probably staging for northward migration were 400 in the Elliott area on Feb. 15 (Armistead) and 1800 in the Kent Island area on Feb. 23 (Ringler). As usual in recent years only a handful of Redheads were seen during the season with 9 on Loch Raven on Jan. 5 (Simon), 12 at Cambridge on Jan. 15 (Reese), 3 females at Gaithersburg on Jan. 20 and Feb. 22 (M. O'Brien), 2 at Piney Run on Feb. 2 (Ringler), 1 at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 11 (Stasz) and 7 in Baltimore on Feb. 22 (Ringler). Wintering Ring-necked Ducks at Loch Raven were 85 on Jan. 1 and 146 on Feb. 2 (Simon), and at Gaithersburg, 56 on Jan. 20 (M. O'Brien) and 70 on Feb. 2 (Bonham); spring migrants were 1 at Rocky Gap on Feb. 22 (Kiddy) and 40 at Jug Bay on Feb. 28 (Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton). Ringler estimated flocks of Lesser Scaup at 5000 (with 90% drakes) in Baltimore on Feb. 22 and 3000 around Kent Island on Feb. 23, both staging areas for spring migration of this species.

A female King Eider was seen at Ocean City on Dec. 1 (Yokel); the number increased to 4 by Dec. 14 (M. O'Brien) and to 9 birds (4 immature males and 5 females) from Jan. 25 through at least Feb. 9 (many observers). Two drake Harlequin Ducks were reported at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 7 (Charles Platt) and 1 was seen on the 10th (Stasz) and 12th (Anderson). This species is extremely rare away from the ocean. Bill Murphy estimated 500 Oldsquaws at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 12 and Mike O'Brien found flocks of 300 at Point Lookout on Dec. 26 and 170 at St. George Island on Feb. 2; inland birds were 2 at Pinto on Dec. 1 (Simons), 1 on Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon) and 1 on Lake Elkhorn in Columbia from Dec. 20 through the end of the period (Orgain +). An immature male Surf Scoter was at Beltsville from Feb. 20 through Mar. 6 (Sumner). The only White-winged Scoters reported were 2 on the Potomac in DC on Dec. 26 (Czaplak) and 2 in Baltimore on Feb. 22 (Ringler). Wintering at Point Lookout were 220 Common Goldeneyes on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien); spring migrants included 35 at Pennyfield on Feb. 16 (Bonham), 7 at Rocky Gap on Feb. 22 (Kiddy) and 3000 off Swan Point, Kent County, a major staging area, on Feb. 28 (Gruber). High counts for Buffleheads were 175 at Point Lookout on Dec. 26 and Feb. 2 and 140 at St. George Island on the latter date (M. O'Brien). Highs for Hooded Mergansers were 55 at Piney Run on Dec. 8 (Ringler), 49 on Loch Raven on

Dec. 16 (Simon) and 5 in Howard County on Jan. 23 (M. Wallace). Wintering groups of Common Mergansers were 46 on Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon), 2 on the Potomac at Spring Gap on Jan. 12 (Simons) and 3 there on Feb. 1 (Kiddy), 10 at Jug Bay on Jan. 14 (Ricciardi, Beaton), 6 at Fort Smallwood on Jan. 15 (Wilkinson), 30 at Pennyfield on Jan. 16 (Bonham) and 1 near Ocean Downs, rare for the Eastern Shore, on Jan. 25 (M. O'Brien). Spring migrant Common Mergansers were 100 at Jug Bay on Feb. 14 (Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton) and 22 at Piney Run on Feb. 22 (Ringler). However, all of these figures were eclipsed by an unprecedented 20,000 Common Mergansers estimated on Conowingo Lake on Jan. 11 by Blom, Wierenga, Ricciardi, and Claudia Wilds. This flock did not linger long as the lake froze over shortly thereafter. The only large flock of Ruddy Ducks reported was 8000 off Brandon Shores on Dec. 7 (Ringler, Blom).

Diurnal Raptors. No surprising numbers of vultures were noted this winter with the highest being 7 Black Vultures at Tanyard on Dec. 30 (Engle) and 100 Turkey Vultures at Ridgely on Jan. 26 (Reese). Schutsky noted 5-7 adult and 14-16 immature Bald Eagles at Conowingo during December. Other interesting Bald Eagle sightings were 3 at Tanyard on Dec. 1 (Engle), an adult over the Anacostia River near RFK Stadium on Dec. 6 (Ed Boyd), an adult at Loch Raven, Dec. 9-30, and an immature there, Jan. 5-17 (Simon), an adult in Baltimore County at Woodstock on Dec. 28 (Wilkinson) and 18 in southern Dorchester County (including 15 at Blackwater) on Feb. 15 (Armistead). Eagle nesting activities included nest-building on Conn Island in the Potomac River in Montgomery County during February (Anderson) and the first nest on the Susquehanna since the early 1960s (Schutsky). An immature Northern Goshawk was seen in Prince Georges County at Brandywine on Jan. 12 (Stasz). Rough-legged Hawks got above average mention in reports this winter. The many notes included a light-phase bird at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 1 (Armistead) and 3 (2 light and 1 dark) there on Feb. 16 (Dyke), 1 near Sunderland on Dec. 11 and Jan. 7 (Kraus), 1 over the C & O Canal between Spring Gap and Oldtown on Dec. 21 (Kiddy), 1 in Harford County on Dec. 26 (Kirkwood), 2 in Garrett County on Dec. 29 (Skipper), single birds in Howard County on Dec. 30 (M. Wallace) and Feb. 1 (Simons, Mark Weatherholt), 1 over Little Monie Creek on Jan. 1 (Dyke), single light-phase birds at Bestpitch, Blackwater and Wye Mills on Jan. 9 (M. O'Brien), a light-phase bird over Rock Creek in DC on Feb. 8 (Czaplak), a light-phase bird in southern Frederick County on Feb. 15 (Gough, M. O'Brien) and single birds in Caroline County at Ringgolds Green on Feb. 16 and Greensboro on Feb. 18 (Short). Golden Eagle reports were 1 at Blackwater on Dec. 26 (Gough), an immature at Conowingo through about Jan. 1 (Schutsky) and an adult near the Wicomico/Somerset county line on Feb. 14 (Vaughns). A Merlin in Baltimore on Dec. 29 (Blom) was very unusual while 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 9 (Ringler +) was more expected. Sightings of a Peregrine Falcon at Ocean City included Dec. 31 (M. O'Brien) and Feb. 8 (Ringler +); 1 over the Severn River Bridge on Feb. 13 (Gough) was unexpected.

Moorhens, Coots, Plovers, Oystercatcher, Avocet. On Dec. 7 late Common Moorhens were 2 at Brandon Shores (Ringler, Blom) and 1 at Sparrows Point (Blom). High counts of American Coots for the early part of the winter were 350 at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 5 (Skipper), 135 at Brandon Shores on Dec. 7 (Ringler, Blom) and 85 at Piney Run on Dec. 8 (Ringler). Michael O'Brien counted 163 Black-bellied

Plovers at West Ocean City on Jan. 25 and the high count of Killdeer was 200 at Jug Bay on Dec. 10 (Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton). Record high counts of wintering American Oystercatchers at Ocean City were 36 on Dec. 31 and 41 on Feb. 9 (M. O'Brien). An American Avocet was at West Ocean City on Nov. 29 (M. O'Brien) and Dec. 1 (Yokell).

Sandpipers. A Greater Yellowlegs remained at Loch Raven through Dec. 14 (Simon). In Baltimore, 1 was on Herring Run on Dec. 29 (Blom) and another was seen at Fort McHenry from Dec. 29 through the end of the period (Ringler). Previous mid-winter records are all from the central and lower Eastern Shore, such as 1 at Blackwater this Feb. 15 (Armistead). A late Willet was at Ocean City on Dec. 14 (M. O'Brien). Extraordinary on Jan. 5 was a Spotted Sandpiper at Hickory Point on the Magothy River (Dixon, Swift, Ringler). The high count of Ruddy Turnstones was 91 at West Ocean City on Jan. 25 (M. O'Brien). A Sanderling at Chesapeake Beach on Feb. 9 (Stasz) was unusual on the bay. A Least Sandpiper lingered in Carroll County at Liberty Reservoir through Dec. 8 (Ringler), the latest ever in the Piedmont. Single Purple Sandpipers on Chesapeake Bay this year were at Chesapeake Beach, Dec. 7-10 (Stasz), Point Lookout on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien) and Love Point Light on Feb. 5 (Gruber). Armistead estimated 350 Dunlins at Hooper Island on Feb. 15. At Jug Bay on Dec. 10 Mumford, Ricciardi and Beaton estimated 300 Common Snipe and on Feb. 14 they found 25 there, the latter birds perhaps spring migrants. In Frederick County David Wallace found a snipe at Lilypons on Jan. 1 and another in the New Design Road area on Feb. 8. A single Red Phalarope was seen on the Feb. 8 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Wierenga +).

Gulls. Late Laughing Gulls were 1 at Triadelphia on Dec. 8 (Mudds), 15 at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 14 (Gough, M. O'Brien) and 1 at Back River on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien). A Franklin's Gull, the first for mid-winter, was seen by Blom on the Feb. 8 pelagic trip from Ocean City. The only Little Gull noted was an adult at Ocean City on Dec. 14 (P. O'Brien, Augustine). An immature Bonaparte's Gull was unusual at Piney Run on Dec. 15 (Hammer +) while high counts were 175 at Calvert Cliffs on Dec. 14 (Stasz), 500 at Back River on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien) and 400 at Chesapeake Beach on the latter date (Stasz). In Allegany County there were 21 Ring-billed Gulls at Pinto on Dec. 2 and 2 at Rocky Gap on Jan. 12 (Simons). Numbers of Ring-bills in the Piedmont were impressive as the birds continue to take advantage of the inland landfills and reservoirs. In Frederick County there were 250 at the Reichs Ford landfill on Jan. 25 and 670 on Feb. 17 (Ringler). In Carroll County there were 500 at the Hoods Mill landfill on Dec. 14 and 600 at Piney Run on Feb. 2 (Ringler). In Howard County there were 1800 at the Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 1 (Blom, Wierenga, Ringler). On the bay Armistead estimated 2000 Ring-bills at Hooper Island on Feb. 15. Herring Gull tallies at the inland locations were 460 at Piney Run on Dec. 8 and 1000 there on Feb. 2, 800 at Hoods Mill on Dec. 14, 20 at Reichs Ford on Jan. 25 and 110 there on Feb. 17 (all by Ringler), and 1200 at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 1 (Blom, Wierenga, Ringler). Thayer's Gulls, all in immature plumage, were reported from Conowingo with 1 seen on Jan. 1 (P. O'Brien), Jan. 7 (M. O'Brien) and Jan. 15 (Blom, Ringler); 1 at Chesapeake Beach on Jan. 12 (Stasz); and 1 at Reichs Ford on Jan. 11 (P. O'Brien), Jan. 25 (Ringler, P. O'Brien) and Feb. 17 (Ringler). Iceland Gulls were reported almost entirely from Piedmont locations and all but one was noted as being in first-winter

plumage. The first sighting was 1 at Triadelphia on Dec. 8 (Mudds), followed by 1 at Reichs Ford on Dec. 29 (Mudds) through Feb. 22 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (M. O'Brien) and Feb. 2 (Ringler), 1 at Conowingo on Jan. 4 (Kirkwood) with 1 second-winter and 3 first-winter birds there on Jan. 10 (Schutsky) and at least 2 continuing throughout the season (Blom), 1 at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 1 (Blom, Wierenga, Ringler), 1 off Ocean City on the Feb. 8 pelagic trip (Wierenga +), and 1 at Fort McHenry on Feb. 16 (Ringler +).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were prominent again in the winter reports, mostly at familiar locations for the species such as the 1 at Fort McHenry throughout the season and 2 adults there on Feb. 22 (Ringler) and the 1 at Hains Point in DC on Dec. 30 (Czaplak). Others were 1 at Liberty Reservoir on Dec. 8 (Mudds), 1 at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 11 (Kraus), 1 at Hoods Mill on Dec. 14 (Ringler), 2 at Conowingo on Jan. 7 (M. O'Brien), 4 adults there on Jan. 10 (Schutsky) and at least 5 different birds seen through the end of the period (Blom), 2 at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 14 and 27 and 1 on Feb. 19 (Stasz), an adult near Berlin on Feb. 1 (Vaughn) and Feb. 16 (Hammers), and an adult at Easton on Feb. 15 (Armistead). The first of several Glaucous Gulls, all in first-winter plumage, was reported at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 26 (Stasz) followed by 1 at Reichs Ford on Dec. 29 (Mudds) through Feb. 22 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Conowingo on Jan. 7 (M. O'Brien) and Jan. 9 (Gough), and 1 at Piney Run on Feb. 2 (Ringler). The highest inland counts of Great Black-backed Gulls were 7 at Hoods Mill on Dec. 14 (Ringler), 15 at Triadelphia on Dec. 15 (Mudds), 11 at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 1 (Blom, Wierenga, Ringler), 15 at Piney Run on Feb. 2 (Ringler), 3 at Denton on Feb. 17 (Hewitt) and 5 at Reichs Ford on Feb. 22 (M. O'Brien). A probable Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull hybrid was seen at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 1 (Blom, Wierenga, Ringler). An immature Black-legged Kittiwake was seen from shore at Assateague Island on Dec. 1 (Yokel) and the tally for the Feb. 8 pelagic trip was 2278 (Wierenga +).

Terns, Alcids. Late Royal Terns were single birds at Point Lookout on Dec. 1 (Bob Russell), Ocean City on Dec. 14 (M. O'Brien) and Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 16 (Stasz). Late Forster's Terns were at Point Lookout on Dec. 1 (Bob Russell), an extraordinary 1 inland at Piney Run on Dec. 7 (Sumner), 3 at Chesapeake Beach on Dec. 14 (Stasz) and 30-40 on the latter date at Ocean City (M. O'Brien). Alcids seen on the Feb. 8 pelagic trip out of Ocean City were 3 Dovekies, 76 Razorbills, 13 Atlantic Puffins and 47 large unidentified alcids.

Parakeet, Doves, Owls. Lynn Davidson saw a Monk Parakeet on Dec. 28 at the village of Sinepuxent, east of Berlin, in Worcester County. Rock Doves hatched 2 eggs in Dennis Kirkwood's barn during Christmas week. A surprising 54 Eastern Screech-Owls were heard in southeastern Worcester County on Dec. 29 (M. O'Brien) as part of the Chincoteague CBC. The only Long-eared Owl noted was in northern Harford County on Feb. 10 (Blom). Single Short-eared Owls were found south of Cropper Island in Worcester County on Dec. 28 (M. O'Brien), at Greensboro on Dec. 30 (Robert Fletcher), at Rising Sun, Jan. 11-12 (Fogelman), Cherry Hill in Baltimore on Jan. 29 (Wilkinson) and in South Baltimore on Feb. 16 (Ringler). The only report of a Northern Saw-whet Owl was 1 at Hughes Hollow on Dec. 31 (Anderson).

Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows. Eastern Phoebes attempting to winter locally were single birds in Howard County on Dec. 19 (McClures, Farrell, Solem), in Baltimore County at Woodstock on Dec. 21 (Wilkinson), in Howard County on the Patapsco below Sykesville on Dec. 24 (Paul Koehler), at Piscataway on Jan. 4 (Nistico), in Allegany County at Spring Gap on Jan. 11 and Feb. 1 and at Oldtown on Feb. 15 (Kiddy), and in Calvert County at Randle Cliffs on an unspecified date (Stasz). The third CBC record of Western Kingbird in the state was 1 near Ironshire on Downs Road in Worcester County on Dec. 28 (M & J. O'Brien). High counts of Horned Larks were 100-150 at Bradenbaugh in Harford County throughout the season (Kirkwood +), 35 near Blackwater on Feb. 15 (Armistead) and 300 in southern Frederick County on Feb. 24 (Wilson). Single Northern Rough-winged Swallows remained at Piney Run on Dec. 7 (Sumner) and through Jan. 4 at Piscataway (Nistico).

Thrushes, Wrens, Mimids. A late House Wren was in Calvert County on Dec. 9 (Kraus) and a Sedge Wren, while not unusual at Bestpitch on Dec. 26 (Gough), was the only one reported. Sam Dyke saw about 30 Eastern Bluebirds near Snow Hill on Feb. 8, an impressive local count. American Robins remained in the state in large numbers into the early part of the winter and there appeared to be more south-bound migrants coming into the state in mid-winter, making it difficult to separate the early spring migrants, which normally begin arriving in mid-February. By far the largest concentration was an estimated 12,200 coming into roost at Arbutus in southwestern Baltimore County on Dec. 8 (Ringler) including one bird that appeared to be pure white. In Garrett County Connie Skipper noted single robins at Bray Hill on Jan. 12 and Feb. 3, 2 on Feb. 4 and 1 on Feb. 19. Other locally high counts of robins were 564 at Waldorf on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien), 75 on the C & O Canal near Paw Paw on Jan. 12 (Simons), 300 on the Washington College campus in Chestertown on Jan. 27 (Gruber), 490 at the Tidal Basin in DC on Feb. 8 (Czaplak) and 200 at Jug Bay on Feb. 14 (Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton). Most of the Gray Catbirds seem to disappear after the CBCs, but 1 was near Sandy Point on Jan. 11 (Wilkinson). 18 CBCs in Maryland recorded catbirds and 11 had Brown Thrashers.

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. Flocks of wintering Water Pipits were in Howard County, 200 on Old Frederick Road and 150 at Green Manor Turf Farm on Dec. 15 (Mudds); 30 birds were at Bradenbaugh in Harford County on Jan. 3 (Kirkwood), 60 in southern Frederick County on Jan. 26 (Wilkinson), 90 near Blackwater on Feb. 15 (Armistead); in Caroline County on Feb. 16 there were 20 at Denton (Wilkinson), and on Feb. 25, 100 at Tanyard (Engle) and 100 at Federalsburg (Fletchers). The largest flocks of Cedar Waxwings reported were 430 at the Tidal Basin on Dec. 26 (Czaplak), 400 near Seneca on Jan. 1 (Bonham), 50 at Rumbley in Somerset County and 100 at Mt. Olive in Worcester County on Feb. 15 (Dyke). At least 1 Loggerhead Shrike was seen at Lilypons from Jan. 1 (M. O'Brien) through Feb. 17 (D. Wallace) and there were 2 on Jan. 26 (Wilkinson +).

Warblers. Post-CBC warblers in the state were 3 Pine Warblers at Point Lookout on Jan. 7 (Wilson), a Palm Warbler in Columbia on Feb. 14 (Alexander), a Palm Warbler found on Dec. 28 at Downsville in Washington County (Cam Lewis +) and seen on Jan. 3 by Bob Keedy, and a Wilson's Warbler at Greenbelt, Dec. 22-31 (Luther Goldman +). A late Common Yellowthroat was at Jug Bay on Dec. 10

(Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton). Pine Warblers were found on 11 Maryland CBCs, Palm Warblers on 9, and Common Yellowthroats on 7 counts.

Sparrows, Longspurs, Buntings. Six American Tree Sparrows at Horsehead Farm Sanctuary on Feb. 23 (Ringler) was a rather large number for Queen Annes County. A Chipping Sparrow on Dec. 25 at Lonaconing in Allegany County (Kiddy) was very late. Also locally late were Chipping Sparrows on Dec. 28 at Conowingo (Ringler) and at the National Arboretum (Czaplak). A mid-winter Chipping Sparrow was at Rockville on Jan. 21 (M. O'Brien) and Steve Westre found 20 in Caroline County on Feb. 12. An adult Lark Sparrow discovered at Denton on Dec. 24 by Kent Goldsmith remained into the spring season. A second Lark Sparrow seen there on Feb. 9 (Blom, Wierenga, Phil Olsen) was an immature. Wintering Savannah Sparrows included 10 in southern Frederick County on Feb. 2 (Wilson), 12 at Denton on Feb. 16 (Wilkinson) and 3-5 throughout at Bradenbaugh in Harford County (Kirkwood). Single Fox Sparrows in Baltimore on Feb. 7 (Barbara Ross), at Pinto in Allegany County on Feb. 17 (Kiddy) and at Paradise Point in Garrett County on Feb. 21 (Skipper) may all have been early spring migrants. A Lincoln's Sparrow visited the feeder of Doug and Chandra Bruce in Pocomoke City on Feb. 13-14 and was also seen by the Vaughns. A male Lapland Longspur at Ridgely on Dec. 21 (Blom, Bryan Blazie) was the first for Caroline County. In southern Frederick County, Lapland Longspurs were seen from Jan. 26 (Wilkinson +) through Feb. 15, with 6 on Feb. 1 (M. O'Brien). February reports of Snow Buntings were 2 at Rock Hall on Feb. 12 and 14 there on the 13th (Gruber), 2 in Carroll County near Keysville on the 17th (Ringler) and at Bradenbaugh on Feb. 9-15 (Kirkwood +).

Blackbirds, Orioles. A well-described Bobolink discovered by Michael O'Brien on the Seneca CBC on Dec. 22 is the latest ever for the state. Male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen on Dec. 19 near Sunshine in Montgomery County (Chestem, Dupree), near Hudsons Corner in Somerset County on Dec. 27 (J. & M. O'Brien) and at Pinto Marsh on Jan. 19 (Simons +). Rusty Blackbirds were again scarce with 5 at Pinto Marsh on Jan. 12 and 19 (Simons), 1 at Locks Swamp Creek in St. Marys County on Jan. 23 (Wilson), 3 at Paradise Point in Garrett County on Jan. 29 (Skipper) and 1 at Alpha Ridge in Howard County on Feb. 1 (Ringler); the 30 at Jug Bay on Feb. 28 (Mumford, Ricciardi, Beaton) may have been a migrant spring flock. An albino Brown-headed Cowbird was seen in southern Howard County on Jan. 14 (Munro). A Northern Oriole was found on the Port Tobacco CBC (Nistico) and another remained at Conowingo for the Rock Run CBC on Dec. 28 (Ringler).

Northern Finches. The only report of Red Crossbills was 11 at Laurel on Feb. 8 (Droege). Nistico reported 20-25 Pine Siskins at the village of Bryans Road in Charles County all winter and Stasz found 28 at North Beach on Jan. 1, but elsewhere the species was scarce. Evening Grosbeak flocks of note were 50 at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 3 (Stasz), 50-75 at Bray Hill in Garrett County on Dec. 31 (Skipper) and 80 near Cumberland on Feb. 24 (Simons). Connie Skipper also noted an Evening Grosbeak in an abnormal plumage at her feeder on Jan. 8 and 20. She described it as having no black color on the head and back, and only part of the tail being black. Otherwise it was typical.

3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore, Md. 21207

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

CHRIS DOUGLASS

It was 5:30 p.m. March 31, 1986. I was in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Evans at 1516 Denton Road on Back River Neck in eastern Baltimore County. I was checking minnow traps for an upcoming flounder fishing trip when Mrs. Evans called and brought an unfamiliar bird to my attention. I asked if she had a pair of binoculars and she quickly went into her home as I kept an eye on our feathered friend. When she returned with the binoculars she also had her bird identification book and pointed to a pretty blackbird with a bright yellow head. As I glassed the bird in a treetop not more than 100 feet away I could see a black bird with a bright yellow head and throat which was enhanced by a low setting sun. As our friend flew from the tree into the yard across the road I noticed patches of white on either side of its wings. We gazed into her book again and were convinced our visitor was indeed a male Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)! He landed among a small flock of Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) that were almost his size. He seemed aggressive toward his companions as he chased them around on the ground. He then flew toward me and onto a limb about 40 feet away. I noticed the little black mask on his face that blended in with his black bill.

After about 15 minutes he flew away. Mrs. Evans and I checked the book again, while wondering what brought our distant but welcome visitor to Back River Neck. Mrs. Evans told me later on that she saw our yellow-headed friend again the next morning, feeding with Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) on and below her feeder. He went from a limb on her oak tree to her feeder, then onto the limb and back to the feeder. This behavior was observed by Mr. and Mrs. Evans for about one hour until the Yellow-headed Blackbird flew away and returned no more.

1504 Pattison Road, Baltimore, Md. 21221

[This report has been accepted by the Maryland Bird Records Committee—Ed.]

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD AT FULTON, HOWARD COUNTY

MARTHA CHESTEM

On Saturday morning, November 9, 1985 I was travelling northwest on Route 216 in Howard County. Between Brown's Bridge Road and Hall Shop Road I saw on my right a flock of about 1000 blackbirds feeding in an open pasture. I immediately pulled off the road, as has been my practice this fall, to investigate every flock of blackbirds over 30-40 individuals. There was considerable traffic and I was not completely off the road so I decided to scan quickly with binoculars to see if it was worth the stay. My glasses almost immediately caught a yellow head among a number of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) feeding at the leading

edge of the flock, 80-100 feet from me. The flock was predominantly Red-wings, but there were also Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) and a lesser number of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

The bird was definitely a male Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). He was moving about quickly, as were the other birds, feeding and shifting position with frequent short bursts of flight—not more than a few yards at a time. With each flight I could see the large white wing patches. The bird had a completely yellow head with the yellow extending down the breast. The rest of the bird was very black. I spent only a few minutes with the bird, as the traffic was a worry and I wanted other people to see the bird. I knew Jo Solem and Jane Farrell were birding in the area so I took off looking for them. I was confident the bird would remain, and it was so conspicuous I did not see how it could not be found again.

It took almost an hour to track down Jo and Jane and they immediately returned to the area. I followed later with another friend, arriving about 40 minutes after their search had begun. The flock now contained closer to 3000 birds and was feeding in a different field that was most easily seen from Hall Shop Road north of the intersection with Rt. 216. Viewing was difficult because the birds were moving in and out of the trees and the cornfields. Even with four viewers we were unable to relocate the bird. I examined flocks in the area on subsequent days, but without success.

I have spent much time with flocks of blackbirds and I am convinced there is a lot of movement. I have seen flocks change in species composition when I have left for an hour or two and returned. One Sunday afternoon I saw a flock change in composition while I was watching. In the beginning most of the birds were Common Grackles; an hour later most of the birds were starlings. It is possible that the flock with the Yellow-headed Blackbird was not the same one the four of us examined later in the day.

10850 Faulkner Ridge Circle, Columbia, Md. 21044

[This report has been accepted by the Maryland Bird Records Committee—Ed]

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

DONALD H. MESSERSMITH

On May 5, 1984, I observed a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) in Worcester County just south of Shad Landing State Park. I was driving south on US Route 113 and at 6:40 p.m. I saw the kite directly over the road. I was by myself, but let out a cry and immediately pulled off the road and jumped out of the car. The bird circled over the nearby woods just above the tree-tops and I was able to observe it carefully through 10 x 40 binoculars. In addition to the usual gray, white and black colors, I could see the black eye color clearly. The most unusual thing about the bird was its tail. The forked tail was what first caught my attention, but

I later observed that the outer rectrices were relatively short, so that I had the impression of a square black tail with the forked feathers projecting about half their usual length on each side. I suppose this was a young bird.

The exact location of the sighting was 1.7 miles north of the junction of Routes 113 and 13 near Pocomoke City. Mile Post 2 sign is nearby. A stream crosses the road just north of where I saw the bird. The woods are typical swamp, bottomland forest of mostly deciduous trees. The bird was observed for about five minutes. I have seen this species in Central and South America and found this one to be identical to others I have seen except for the short rectrices.

I returned with my students on the next day at about 9:30 a.m., but the bird could not be found in the rain of that day.

Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20901



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