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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

## STATE OFFICERS FOR JUNE 1989 TO JUNE 1990

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President: John Malcolm, 10205 Kindly Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879 977-5788  
V. President: Richard J. Dolesh, 17800 Croom Rd., Brandywine, MD 20613 627-2270  
Treasurer: Emily Joyce, 816 Oak Trail, Crownsville, MD 21032 923-6053  
Secretary: Patricia J. Moore, 24600 Woodfield Rd., Damascus, MD 21403 253-2796  
Exec. Secy.: Joy Aso, 1250 4th St., SW, #709W, Washington, DC 20024 554-8529  
Past Pres.: Robt. F. Ringler, 6272 Pinyon Pine Ct., Eldersburg 21784 549-6031

### STATE DIRECTORS

Allegany:	*Roy Brown, Jr. Teresa Simons Mark Weatherholt	Howard:	*Thomas Strikwerda Martha Chestem Jane H. Farrell Helen Zeichner Paul Zucker
Anne Arundel:	*Sue Ricciardi Helen Ford Allan Haury	Jug Bay:	*Wally Stephens Joan Stephens
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Frederick:	*Stauffer Miller Melvin Bennett	Talbot:	*Carolyn Mills Jeff Effinger
Harford:	*William B. McIntosh Todd Holden William Russell	Washington:	*Cameron & Norm Lewis Robert Keedy Joseph Swope, Jr.
		Wicomico:	*Gail Vaughn Charles Vaughn

\*Denotes Chapter President

Active Membership (adults)	\$ 6.00 plus local chapter dues
Student Membership (full-time students)	2.00 plus local chapter dues
Junior Membership (under 18 years)	1.00 plus local chapter dues
Family Membership (Mr. & Mrs.)	8.00 plus local chapter dues
Sustaining Membership	10.00 plus local chapter dues
Life-Membership	200.00 (4 annual installments)
Member-at-large ( <i>Maryland Birdlife</i> only)	5.00

Cover: Adult Black-headed Gull, 96th Street, Ocean City, Jan. 7, 1989. Photo by Michael O'Brien.



## SECOND RECORD OF SWAINSON'S WARBLER FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

HANK KAESTNER

On May 3, 1987 Steve Simon identified a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) in north-central Baltimore County, Maryland. He was first drawn to the bird by its song, similar to one he had heard the year before in the same location, though he had been unable to locate it at that time. This time he followed the song and located the singer.

Several days later I went to the same spot and found the bird. It was sitting in plain sight, about 30 feet off the ground and singing. I saw the bird on many occasions after that, and as late as mid June. Steve's last date was July 12, though he did not search for it after that.

The bird was about six inches long, brown-backed, with a rusty colored cap. A creamy eyestripe was evident. The bill was long for a typical warbler, and viewed through a scope seemed to be slightly drooped. The undersides were a creamy off-white. The bird was very audible, singing for most of the morning. Most of the songs were given from the lower branches of a very tall tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), usually sitting 20-50 feet off the ground. When not singing the bird could usually be found foraging in the brushy undergrowth.

The bird would usually remain in one place for an extended period while singing, allowing excellent views, though the ventriloquial quality of the song and the drabness of the plumage often made locating it frustrating. The song began with two slurred introductory notes followed by three shorter notes.

Steve Simon provided me with the following notes about the initial discovery of the bird, and the possibility of its having been present the previous year:

"On May 3, 1987 I found a Swainson's Warbler on the fire trail near Phoenix, Maryland. The trail is about 200 feet north of the junction of Paper Mill Road and Phoenix Road, and goes west from Phoenix Road. The bird was found in an area south of the trail about one-quarter mile from Phoenix Road. It was a male, on the basis of its loud and persistent song. The song perfectly matched one on band #4 of the record "Warblers" of the Sounds of Nature Series. The brownish-reddish cap, pale eyebrow, and dark eyeline contrasted noticeably with the paler body.

I made audio tapes of the song, and photographed the bird using video tape, 16 mm movie film, and 35 mm, 400 ASA slide film.

I believe that the same bird was in the same location in May of 1986. I have an audio tape made at that time of a song which is identical to the song I recorded this year."

This is the second record of Swainson's Warbler for Baltimore County. In May of 1983 a Swainson's Warbler was caught and banded at Stevenson, about 10 miles from the present location. That record was reported in *Maryland Birdlife* (39:63 and cover). That bird was also suspected of being present in the same location on the preceding year, though it was identified only by song at the time.

322 Presway Road, Timonium, MD 21093

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

June 3, 1989

The annual membership meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held on June 3, 1989, at Frostburg State University. A quorum was present when President Robert Ringler called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

The evening opened with presentation of several awards, the first being those for valued service, which were created to be given in appreciation to members who have volunteered countless hours to the society. Because the first three recipients were unable to attend the conference, their awards were accepted as follows: Gladys Cole by Bob Ringler, Richard Kleen by Jeff Effinger, Charles Mason by Lola Oberman. President Ringler was a surprised recipient when President-nominee John Malcolm stepped in to present a pin and certificate to him.

Mark Weatherholt was awarded an MOS wrist watch in recognition for his able service as conference chairman.

Artist Roy Brown's striking conference pin design brought him the prize of a gift certificate. It appears that the pin design contest has become an MOS tradition.

*Treasurer.* The Society is solvent, with just over \$141,000 in the combined funds. The operating fund is over budget, but should come around during the next year. The Scholarship fund is self-sufficient and thus able to support scholarships without help from the operating fund. A detailed financial report will be published in *Maryland Birdlife*. Mrs. Joyce expressed appreciation to Don Donald for doing the Society's tax work. The assembled membership gave Mrs. Joyce a well-deserved round of applause for her commitment to the financial records.

*COMMITTEES.* The following synopses will be published in full in *Maryland Birdlife's* annual committee reports:

*Audit.* Chairman Rodney Jones' report showed that the financial records of MOS, which continue to be in excellent shape, accurately present the financial position of the Society.

*Atlas.* Coordinator Eirik Blom stressed the fact that although the project is moving along, most of the species accounts are overdue, with only 70 out of 200

having been submitted. The committee is seeking corporate sponsorship and donations. The Atlas Board has two new members: Joanne Solem and Jane Farrell.

*Bylaws.* Lee Meinersmann reported that there were no changes during the past year. Recommended: That the size of the Board be reduced to one director only from each chapter, rather than having representation by numbers of members. This would give each chapter an equal vote.

*Conservation.* Chairman Dolesh presented highlights of issues which are of interest to the Society:

The closing of Fort George G. Meade will leave many acres declared as surplus. The floodplain and mature deciduous woods adjacent to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center need to be kept as open space.

Issues on which MOS membership needs to get informed and involved:

- the American Heritage Trust Fund (Udall Bill) which is under consideration in the 101st Congress,
- the Ocean City Beach Replacement Project, which will be taking sand from Assateague,
- the Potomac River dredging project, which will go from Alexandria to Marshall Hall.

Of three major issues that were decided in recent months, two went in favor of conservation: The Chickadee Checkoff, which raised three times the amount expected, and the passing of the Non-tidal Wetlands Protection act, effective July 1.

The bill to ban Carbofuran, a strong insecticide that kills birds, went in favor of the chemical industry.

Mr. Dolesh urged the membership to keep in touch with their legislators on all these conservation matters.

*Education.* Mr. Cheevers announced that the 1989-90 Speakers List, comprised of 35 people with 120 programs, is available for chapter use. He expressed his thanks to the speakers and to the chapters who suggested names for the list. No Junior Achievement Award was made this year. Chapters are urged to encourage students to submit bird-related projects to science fairs.

*Library.* Highlights from Joy Wheeler's report: Consolidation of back issues of *Maryland Birdlife* is underway at Cylburn, thus making requests for back issues easier to fulfill. The Maryland State Library Resource Center is going to bind a complete set of *Birdlife* and make it available throughout the state on interlibrary loan. Ms. Wheeler represented MOS at the Fourth Annual Natural Resource Fair of the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (MAEOE) and reported that the portable display was well received and that packets were sent to 20 people who requested further information about MOS programs.

*Long-Range Planning.* Joanne Solem and her committee have been working with Mr. Dolesh to find more ways to increase MOS visibility. She reported good

feedback from chapters on a great number of publicity methods which have been compiled and sent to chapter presidents.

*Publications.* Bob Ringler, reporting for Chan Robbins, said that *Maryland Birdlife* is coming closer to being current. December 1988 has been printed and will be mailed soon. March and June 1989 are in the works. Contributions of articles will be welcome.

*Research.* Chairperson Karen Skuldt announced three grants:

David Brinker and Joan McKearnan: "Migration of Saw-whet Owls through Finzel Swamp." \$500.

Sam Droege and Russell Greenburg: "Study of Brackish Marsh Swamp Sparrows." \$270.

Frank Rohwer: "Timing of Breeding in Birds," \$230.

The deadlines for grant applications have been changed to August 1 and February 1. The successful paper session at the Conference was sponsored by the Committee and organized by David Brinker.

*Sanctuary.* Dotty Mumford was pleased to announce the acquisition of a new Garrett County sanctuary, obtained through The Nature Conservancy from the family of the late Caroline Wilson. All the sanctuaries are now protected under one master insurance policy. The workdays at Carey Run and Irish Grove were carried out with great success, but as always, new problems keep popping up.

Irish Grove will forever remain a natural area thanks to an easement deed with the Maryland Environmental Trust that was signed on December 27, 1988. Although Mill Creek and Pelot Sanctuaries have both been threatened by development, nothing has yet materialized. Local chapters are keeping an eye on the situations.

The Committee is evaluating recommendations made by Harford Chapter concerning the future of tum Suden Sanctuary after the Atlas project no longer needs the use of the house.

*Scholarship.* Mildred Gebhard announced the winners of the ornithology and ecology scholarships. Their names will appear in the complete report elsewhere in *Birdlife*. Two of the recipients, Kathryn Lauver and Beth Olson, were present at the Conference.

*Nominating Committee.* Outgoing chairperson Helen Ford thanked her committee for helping to assemble the following slate of nominees to serve for the coming year: President—John Malcolm; Vice President—Richard Dolesh; Treasurer—Emily Joyce; Secretary—Patricia Moore. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion that the slate be unanimously accepted was seconded and passed.

Bob Ringler was given a round of applause in appreciation for his two years' service as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Patricia J. Moore, Secretary*

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

### ANNE ARUNDEL CHAPTER

This year was a very active one for the Anne Arundel Bird Club. Officers were: President, Sue Ricciardi; Vice President, Debbie Rudis; Second Vice President, Emily Joyce; Treasurer, Gerald Cotton; Corresponding Secretaries, David and Peggy Ann Perry; Recording Secretary, Laddie Flyger; and Directors, Dotty Mumford and Helen Ford. Our six regular monthly meetings (a seventh was cancelled because of bad weather) were well attended with members enjoying a variety of programs from birdlife on the American prairie, in Florida, and in Costa Rica to Peregrine Falcons at Assateague, bird banding, and moths in Maryland. Our Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Program, featuring Dr. Donald Messersmith on "Birding in Australia," netted over \$300 for the MOS Sanctuary and Scholarship funds. We also had good participation for approximately 25 field trips to four states and the District of Columbia, including the MOS Lister's trip and our seventeenth annual Winter Weekend. In addition, we enjoyed two picnics at the homes of club members Jerry and Vonnie Cotton and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Litz.

In support of MOS, several of our members served as officers: Emily Joyce as MOS Treasurer and Dotty Mumford, Jim Cheevers, and Helen Ford as committee chairs. Also, our Club was well represented at the Irish Grove and Carey Run workdays and at the MOS Conference in Frostburg, and volunteers were out in force for the Christmas and May Counts. Captain and Mrs. J.E.M. Wood continued their support of an MOS scholarship.

Again this year, as it has for the past several, the Anne Arundel Bird Club co-sponsored with Sandy Point State Park a series of bird walks at the Park for the community. Dotty Mumford continued voluntarily to direct the surveying of birdlife at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary.

I wish to thank all the Club officers for their efforts this year and all our members for their participation and support. On to next year!

*Sue Ricciardi, President*

### CAROLINE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Caroline Chapter feels much encouraged by the addition of several new members and by inquiries from new members of our community. Our bluebird population also continues to grow. We are using the proceeds of our sale of nest boxes made by our members to finance our various trails.

The programs have been well received and have been widely varied, which helps to draw in new members. In March we had a joint meeting with the newly formed Wye Chapter of the Audubon Society. Field trips went mostly to Tuckahoe Park, where the birding has been very good, as many MOS members already know.

We are looking forward to the new season.

*Mariana Nuttle, President*

## CARROLL COUNTY CHAPTER

The Carroll County Bird Club enjoyed another year of hikes, slide-lecture presentations, and a growing camaraderie. Our membership currently stands at 38 with most members and many general public participants attending nearly every program.

We meet at the Piney Run Nature Center in Sykesville at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month except July and August. We started our year with a program interest survey which was returned with membership renewals. From that we scheduled a year of exciting programs: Birding in Kenya, the Purple Martin, Birds of the Winter Feeder, Common Birds of Maryland, Birding the Canadian Tundra, Wildflowers and Nature Photography, Shorebirds of Maryland, Birding in Chile, and the Great Blue Heron.

Favorite hikes included Hemlock Gorge, the McKeldin area of Patapsco State Park, Lilypons, Piney Run Park, and hikes on some of our members' home turf. Throughout the year Bob Ringler frequently invited members to join him on impromptu hikes.

A Bald Eagle spent late November through mid-January at Piney Run Reservoir. Soon after its departure a Falcated Teal appeared at Piney Run and stayed throughout most of the spring; its origin is still a mystery. The Carroll County Bird Club welcomes members of other chapters to join us at our programs and hikes. We are anticipating an enjoyable 1990.

*Melinda Byrd, President*

## FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

The Frederick Chapter had another successful season, with an average attendance of about 40 at the monthly lectures. These lectures took us west to China (Elise Thrasher) and Arizona (Bill Oberman), and south to the West Indies and Belize (Chan Robbins) and Patagonia (Robert Trever). Closer to home, Nancy Stewart explained why pheasant and bobwhite populations are declining in Maryland, Claudia Wilds discussed shorebirds west of Chesapeake Bay, Betty Nichols talked about the bluebirds on her farm, and Glenn Therres told us about the status of Barn Owls in Maryland.

We took nine field trips to favorite spots in Frederick and adjacent counties, and participated in the Christmas and May counts, and in Earth Day activities at a nearby college.

*Stauffer Miller, President*

## HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Howard County Chapter grew to more than 300 members, a record, during the 1988-89 season. As in previous years, we had a wide variety of activities ranging from monthly meetings, weekend bird and wildflower walks, displays at fairs, and several counts.



This year marks the 10th anniversary of our very popular park habitat walks, co-sponsored with the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. A memorial and gifts fund, set up in honor of former club members, was used to finance a special field trip led by naturalist Bill Bridgeland in April. Weekend walks were held throughout the year, with some spring and summer walks focusing on habitat, trees, and wildflowers. Michele Wright ably served as Field Trip Chair for several years.

The popular bird seed sales in October and January, coordinated by Eileen Clegg, were great opportunities for displaying club information and selling books from the club bookstore, as well as an excellent source of income for the club. At our winter sale we had a special collection for The Nature Conservancy's Appalachian campaign. These contributions, plus sale profits and additional club funds, resulted in a sizeable donation. Seed sales have also been good events for generating support and signing petitions for conservation related legislation. Monika Bonsai and Grazina McClure once again coordinated the Annual Potluck on Feb. 25. The evening concluded with a showing of members' slides of birds and scenery.

Our monthly newsletter "Howard," excellently edited by Jo Solem, is vital to the club and always interesting. The Boost Cavity Nesters Project is led by Joseph Suess and Mark Wallace, who compile data and serve as coordinators and resource persons. They reported 1,563 bluebirds fledged in 1988, a Howard County record.

The fourth annual Howard County mid-winter count was held on Jan. 28 and compiled again by Jo Solem and David Holmes. The tally potluck was held at Hal and Zelda Simon's. Paul Zucker continued as our able coordinator and compiler for the May count, which was followed by a potluck at Don and Jan Randle's. Compiler Jane Farrell reported 220 bird species seen in Howard County in 1988, the 10th year of our annual tally. One of our newer projects is to publish lists for some of the popular county parks; coordinator Jane Farrell hopes to publish the first park bird list in a few months.

The club supported a number of county conservation issues during the 1988-89 season with considerable success. We actively supported changes to the "Sub-division and Land Development Regulations," with testimony by conservation chairman Bob Solem and attendance by many club members at the hearings. Petitions in support of the changes were circulated at the October bird seed sale and at the October and November club meetings. This legislation strengthens standards for treatment of sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, and stream valleys, and limits disturbance of steep slopes by clearing and grading. Bob also coordinated club member support for the county's new "Guidelines for the General Plan."

Howard County's newest park, Centennial, is a great place to visit at any time to check for unusual species, and has become a "hot spot" during migration. The most recent of several unusual sightings at the park this year was a Sora, seldom seen so easily in Howard County. The 1988-89 season turned up several County records of note: the first Red Knot in August, the first Sharp-tailed Sparrow in October, and the first active Red-headed Woodpecker nest in many years.

In summary, this was a successful and enjoyable year. We look forward to continued growth and membership participation in our many activities next year.

*Thomas Strikwerda, President*

## HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Harford Chapter had a very active and successful year. An all-time high membership of 200 was reached at the end of the season. Much of this increase can be attributed to a dedicated publicity effort in local newspapers by Jean Fry. Also, through the perseverance of June Vaughn, we were able to secure a sponsor for our rare bird phone line. Hickory Feeds of Bel Air also began offering a discount to all bird club members for bird feed and supplies. Members can now get current information on sightings and club activities by calling 301-638-0290. June updates the tape 3 times a week and keeps in contact with other rare bird alerts in the area. We invite other MOS members to use our phone line.

A field trip committee chaired by Randy Robertson planned an active schedule of outings to places in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the Delmarva area, as well as all local habitats. Highlights included a pontoon boat ride on the Patuxent River, a canoe trip on Swan Creek, and our annual fall picnic held this year at Rocks State Park.

Our traditional dinner meetings were held in November, January, March, and May at the Churchville Presbyterian Church. Our speakers included Peregrine Falcon researcher Dr. William Seegar of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Antarctic traveler Charlie Gant, MOS scholarship recipient Tom Congersky, and raptor enthusiast Bill Russell.

At our January meeting, we held our second annual awards night in conjunction with the release of the updated club history, written by Jean Williams. We recognized 25 members who have been with us for half of the club's 40-year existence. While no charter members are still active, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kohout joined in 1950, making them the members of longest standing. We also selected as bird of the year the pair of Bald Eagles that have successfully nested on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Holloway of Darlington. The Holloways were recognized and presented with a certificate for hosting this pair of birds. Don Soubie was selected as rookie of the year and was presented with a certificate and birding bumper sticker. Colonel Lee Devore of Port Deposit was honored as our birder of the year. He has served the club in many capacities including president, and recently retired after 15 years as outdoor journalist for the *Havre de Grace Record*. Record publisher Peter Jay was on hand to present the award to Colonel Devore.

Our fourth annual warbler walk competition was held in May with first-time leader Don Soubie winning the jackpot. This series of early morning local trips is designed to cover the county during the peak of migration and give participants greater opportunities to observe warblers in breeding plumage.

The Rock Run Christmas Count recorded 84 species and continued to grow in participation. We had 15 parties in the field and covered the area by foot, car, boat, and canoe. The May count, coordinated by Les Eastman and Paul and Linda Bystrak, found 139 species for our highest total ever. A mid-winter count, organized by Bill Pflingsten and Marvin Kastama, also was well received.

Other club projects included a birder's vacation file, which is available to all chapters interested. We have information from many states and countries and request input from any traveling birders. Bill and Barbara Walker (838-4809) coor-

dinate this project. Official lists of birds sighted in Harford and Cecil counties have been researched, compiled, and published. Member Pam Rhoads has been adding to our bird collection after studying with Greg Kearns of Jug Bay. The bird-banding station at Harford Glen has been greatly expanded under the direction of Barbara Bilsborough. Most weekends are covered from April through November.

At our May meeting, Dr. Bill McIntosh was installed as president for a two-year term. We expect his leadership to produce continued success and provide enjoyable, educational, and exciting times.

*Dennis Kirkwood, President*

## JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

Club membership increased to 64 members. Regular activities include monthly meetings and at least one field trip each month. Members also participated in the May Count and the Christmas Count. Conservation activities included letters from the club to our senators and representatives in support of the Land and Water Conservation Funds and a request that land deemed surplus from the closing of Fort George Meade be included in the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

A major project was the completion of the MOS traveling exhibit and case, which is available for any chapter to borrow. After a one-year trial the Jug Bay Junior Bird Club, a monthly outdoor program for ages 8 to 16, was dropped because of low attendance.

Officers for 1989-90 are President—Wally Stephens, Vice President—Mike Callahan, Treasurer—Renee Burns, Secretary—Betty Porter, and Trustee—Joan Stephens.

*Jean Tierney, President*

## KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter had a relatively good year, with an influx of new members this spring bringing our total membership to 75. We did, however, suffer major losses in the deaths of two former chapter presidents, Dorothy A. Mendin-hall (July 1988) and Joseph M. Blair (March 1989).

The Chapter activities for the year included seven regular and two special (dinner and picnic) meetings with excellent speakers recruited by Tom Arkinson, two field trips with our expert leaders Jim Gruber and Floyd Parks, the Christmas and May bird counts, a fund-raising yard sale, informational tables at Remington Farms National Hunting and Fishing Day and the Chestertown Wildlife Show, increasing the number of bluebird nest boxes deployed, and greatly increasing the boxes monitored regularly. The latter activity included a cooperative effort with Remington Farms wherein they supply boxes and sites and we provide maintenance and monitoring. We have continued our support of the bird-banding program at "Damsite" which is continuing under the direction of Jim Gruber.

The officers elected for the 1989-90 year are: President—John Lorenz, Vice President—Tom Arkinson, Treasurer—Walter Bryant, Secretary—Helga Orrick, and State Director—Margaret Duncan-Snow.

*John Lorenz, President*

## PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Bird Club completed another year of lectures from well-traveled members, local ornithological celebrities, and wildlife biologists. Members participated in Christmas Counts not only locally but also on the Eastern Shore. Our chapter straddles four counties, so our members helped work four counties on the May Count.

Our Conservation Chairperson, Eleanor Robbins, kept us informed on conservation issues at the monthly meetings and continued to write the Club column for the *Laurel Leader*. Sales of books and bird seed resulted in donations to the MOS Sanctuary, Scholarship, and Atlas Publication funds.

Please note the change in our meeting place at the Agricultural Research Center on U.S. 1 in Beltsville; we shall be meeting one long block northwest of the USDA Library tower in Building 011-A.

*Sam Droege, President*

## TALBOT COUNTY BIRD CLUB

While many local members traveled extensively and had other commitments, the Talbot Bird Club continued its education efforts at the Waterfowl Festival. Our display attracted many visitors to whom we talked about MOS activities. Also, under a grant from the Waterfowl Festival, we administered a Conservation Education Program in our local schools. Films and guest speakers delivered eight programs to middle school students.

Special thanks go to our speakers, walk leaders, and breakfast hosts for their efforts. We had fewer meetings and bird walks this past year.

The club struggled with a proposed development (building lots) on land adjacent to Mill Creek Sanctuary. While the developer seemed less than receptive to our concerns for the rare Delmarva Fox Squirrel, he still was concerned for impacts from sediment and storm water. Soil evaluations for septic systems for the first half of the project have reduced the number of lots from 23 to 12, and limited the number of lots adjacent to the sanctuary to 3. The developer has agreed to distribute (at settlement) to each lot owner a pamphlet that is being prepared by the Club. This pamphlet will encourage activities to lessen impacts and encourage membership in MOS.

*Lester Coble, President*

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

The Washington County Chapter, with 102 members in 1988-89, held its regular monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday evening from September through April, omitting December. During the summer, members get together for a Sunday afternoon picnic once a month. Starting in September 1989 we shall meet in the Funkstown Elementary School.

Programs for the 1988-89 season included: "Birds of Costa Rica," "Birds of Florida," "Weeds," "Antarctic Adventure," "Alaska," "Birds of America," "Some Prosper, Some Perish," and "Brazilian Adventure."

Field trips this year were day trips to three sanctuaries: Hawk Mountain, Adventure, and Horsehead Wildfowl Trust; local outings to points along the C & O Canal and to Lilypons; and more extensive weekend activities: Fairview Outdoor School Weekend, May 20-21 (41 participants and 118 bird species listed), MOS Convention Weekend at Frostburg, and a Carey Run Sanctuary weekend, June 10-11.

As in former years, members participated in the Christmas Bird Count (28 participants, 73 species), the May Count (41 participants, 126 species); and fall and spring Hawk Counts at Washington Monument near Boonsboro. Other activities engaged in by various members included: Clean-up day at Carey Run; monitoring and maintenance of bluebird trails; paper recycling for benefit of the MOS Sanctuary Fund; MOS Executive Committee meeting hosted at Greenbriar State Park, March 18; and Conservation issues addressed: Petitions signed to keep bow hunting out of Fort Frederick State Park; letters written about protecting Assateague Island areas for nesting Piping Plovers; and support for HR bill to protect 1.5 million acres of Arctic coastal plain.

The Chapter made monetary gifts to The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Fairview Outdoor School of Washington County for its ornithology program.

Officers for 1988-89 are: Co-presidents—Cameron and Norma Lewis, Vice Presidents—Eleanor Little and Ann Mitchell, Secretary—Allison Ritter, Corresponding Secretary—Sharon Raun, Treasurer—Ann Jarmy, and MOS Directors—Joe Swope and Bob Keedy.

*Robert Keedy, President*

## WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

Wicomico Bird Club membership has been essentially stable at 75 for the past couple of years, but meeting attendance has grown to the point where we may have to find a new location. We typically get 35-45 attendees, or more than half the membership. Attendance on field trips is more typical of other chapters, averaging 8-10.

We had 11 monthly field trips, with the 12th month devoted to the annual Audubon Christmas Count; 25 participants counted 85 species on the Salisbury count. The regular field trips included visits to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Bombay Hook Refuge, Chincoteague Refuge, and Blackwater Refuge.

Three other events highlighted the year. Irish Grove cleanup, Nov. 5-6, was our duty weekend; once again Ruth Denit provided her legendary turkey dinner. The MOS May Count produced widely scattered results from the three lower Eastern Shore counties. The most waited for event was our fourth annual Big Day, in which 5 teams participated. This year Doug and Chandra Bruce won with 131 species. Doug and Chandra were treated to the usual winner's prize—a free Chinese dinner at the local Hunan Palace.

*Gail Vaughn, President*

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
May 1, 1988 through April 30, 1989**

Budget Item:	Budget	Actual	Total
<b>OPERATING FUND</b>			
<b>Income:</b>			
Dues	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,553.00	
Transfer, Endowment Fund	414.00	414.00	
Conference Income	1,200.00	245.19	
Interest Income		0.00	
Investments	1,020.00	918.00	
Pooled funds	1,100.00	1,205.45	
Income, publications	100.00	103.00	
Contribution, mail permit	25.00	0.00	
Membership pins	150.00	163.00	
Miscellaneous income		478.79	
Conference '89		4,189.00	
Total Income	15,009.00	19,269.93	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Publications Committee			
Maryland Birdlife (6 issues)			
Printing	7,350.00	9,244.42	
Postage	750.00	1,050.00	
Supplies & Misc.	700.00	1,166.34	
<i>Yellowthroat</i>			
Printing	2,250.00	3,293.40	
Postage	850.00	844.37	
Supplies & Misc.	50.00	239.43	
Total, publications	11,950.00	15,837.96	
<b>Administrative &amp; Office</b>			
Executive Secretary stipend	2,400.00	2,400.00	
Postage	300.00	272.85	
Bulk mailing permits	100.00	120.00	
Bulk mailing	200.00		
Membership list maintenance	750.00	801.92	
Printing & duplication	200.00	326.01	
Office supplies & misc.	900.00	651.95	
MOS decals	577.57	577.57	
Computer	2,950.00	2,950.00	
	8,377.57	8,100.30	
Conference Committee 1989	1,200.00	1,222.24	
Conservation Committee	100.00	0.00	
Education Committee	100.00	0.00	
Library Committee	100.00	0.00	
Records Committee	125.00	106.89	
Research Committee	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Winter Bird Atlas Project	100.00	83.57	
Transfer to Atlas Project	1,000.00	1,000.00	

Budget Item:	Budget	Actual	Total
Transfer to Scholarship Fund	355.00	0.00	
Affiliations and memberships	110.00	110.00	
General Liability Insurance	2,000.00	730.50	
Contingencies	200.00	41.79	
<b>Total committees</b>	<b>6,390.00</b>	<b>4,294.99</b>	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>26,717.57</b>	<b>28,233.25</b>	
Operating Fund, May 1, 1988			23,437.15
Current value, Operating Fund			14,473.83

### SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND

<b>Income:</b>			
Life membership	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	
Contributions	200.00	815.18	
Interest income			
Investments	1,700.00	2,327.75	
Pooled funds	1,800.00	2,471.93	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,900.00</b>	<b>5,614.86</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Transfer to Operating Fund (life member support)	414.00	414.00	
Transfer, Sanctuary Fund	3,086.00	4,385.68	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>4,799.68</b>	
Sanctuary Endowment, May 1, 1988			53,615.99
Current value, Endowment Fund			54,431.17

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<b>Income:</b>			
Contributions	\$ 500.00	\$ 776.49	
World Nature Association	695.00	695.00	
Bourne/Woods Scholarship	525.00	525.00	
Interest income			
Investments	585.00	585.00	
Pooled funds	1,500.00	1,976.02	
Transfer from Operating Fund	355.00	0.00	
From 1987/88 scholarships		1,095.00	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,160.00</b>	<b>5,652.51</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Helen Miller Scholarships	1,390.00	1,350.00	
Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship	525.00	525.00	
Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship	525.00	525.00	
Orville Crowder Scholarship	695.00	675.00	
Woods/Bourne Scholarship	525.00	525.00	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>3,660.00</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	
Scholarship Fund, May 1, 1988			28,358.63
Current value, Scholarship Fund			30,411.14

Budget Item:	Budget	Actual	Total
<b>SANCTUARY FUND</b>			
<b>Income:</b>			
Contributions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 292.83	
Transfer from Endowment Fund	3,086.00	4,385.68	
Interest Income—pooled fund	1,500.00	1,976.02	
Sales, Sanctuary Signs	400.00	267.75	
Use Fees	1,400.00	1,436.24	
Refund, double billing		88.59	
Total Income	7,386.00	8,447.11	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Adventure, banding project	200.00	155.30	
Cary Run			
General maintenance	1,455.00	447.09	
Utilities	250.00	163.01	
Fire insurance	130.00	130.00	
Incidentals	200.00	161.14	
Total, Carey Run	2,035.00	901.24	
Irish Grove			
General maintenance	5,050.00	3,389.05	
Utilities	350.00	711.30	
Fuel	500.00	338.63	
Taxes	1,100.00	981.55	
Fire insurance	350.00	0.00	
Donation, Marion FD	50.00	0.00	
Incidentals	200.00	0.00	
Total, Irish Grove	7,600.00	5,420.53	
tum Suden			
General maintenance	2,000.00	490.59	
Utilities	300.00	0.00	
Fuel	500.00	0.00	
Fire insurance	450.00	0.00	
Incidentals	200.00	0.00	
Total, tum Suden	3,450.00	490.59	
Mill Creek—incidentals	200.00		
General liability insurance	1,600.00	730.50	
General contingency	1,000.00	9.00	
Total expenses	16,085.00	7,707.16	
Sanctuary Fund—May 1, 1988			22,227.86
Current Value, Sanctuary Fund			22,967.81



Budget Item:	Budget	Actual	Total
<b>ATLAS PROJECT</b>			
<b>Income:</b>			
Contributions, general	\$ 150.00	\$ 135.00	
Transfer, Operating Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	
MOS conference, raffle & auction	750.00	877.80	
Matching grant		8,418.04	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,900.00</b>	<b>10,430.84</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Travel	600.00	0.00	
Telephone	600.00	354.77	
Postage	300.00	65.82	
Miscellaneous	400.00	167.67	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,900.00</b>	<b>588.26</b>	
Atlas Fund, May 1, 1988			8,906.77
Current value, Atlas Fund			18,749.35
Current value, all funds			<b>\$141,033.30</b>

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<b>Current Financial Status:</b>	
Sovran Bank (checking)	\$ 2,954.31
T. Rowe Price	85,420.96
Reserve Group	8,876.13
<b>Investments:</b>	
Operating Fund McDermott, Inc.	9,901.07
Sanctuary Endowment Fund	
Source Capital	13,199.47
Niagra Mohawk	4,983.15
Ohio Bell	3,693.75
General Telephone, SW	5,129.92
Scholarship Fund	
Dayton Power	2,190.00
Virginia Electric Power	3,992.04
Pooled Funds	
Potomac Electric	692.50
<b>Total — all funds</b>	<b>\$141,033.30</b>



## THE SEASON

### SPRING MIGRATION, March 1—May 31, 1989 ROBERT F. RINGLER

There was an interesting pattern to the passerine migration this spring. The mild weather early in the season caused species that normally arrive before the first of May to reach the state slightly earlier. The rains of May slowed the migration dramatically, and species that normally arrive in May were slightly late. Most species that leave the state by early May remained longer than usual. This was evident on the May Count. Check the median arrival and departure dates in Table 1 to see how each species varied from the norm. The ten-year median is based on the annual medians for the years 1979-1988. As usual the migration was described differently from one observer to the next with some saying it was extremely poor while others remarked on the above average numbers during the second week of May, though there was no major fallout.

*Observers:* C. Adams, Henry Armistead, Scott Atkinson, Polly Batchelder, Chris Beaton, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Peggy Bohanan, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, Mike Bryan, George Chase, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Dave Czaplak, Bob Dixon, Margaret Donald (banding at Adventure Sanctuary), Mike Donovan, C. Dorset, Sam Droege (reporting for PWRC), Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Jeff Effinger, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline Co.), Harold Fogleman, Mark Garland, Inez Glime, Jim & Patricia Gruber, Alex Hammer, Dave Harvey, Dick Hegner, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Ray Kiddy, Dennis Kirkwood, Alicia Knotts, Nancy Magnusson, Alice Mallonee, Kathy Mariano, Woody Martin, Jim McConnell, Joan McKearnan, Stauffer Miller, Anne Moretti, David Mozurkewich, Dotty Mumford, Bill Murphy, Mariana Nuttle, Lola Oberman, Holly Obrecht, Michael O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Floyd Parks, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Wicomico Bird Club), Marie Plante, Fran Pope (banding at Broadford Run), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Chan Robbins, Arthur Rogers, Barbara Ross (banding at Irvine Natural Science Center), William Scudder, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Connie Skipper (banding at Broadford Run), Chris & Eddie Slaughter, Edwin Smith, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Paul Spitzer, Jim Stasz, Chris Swarth, Charles Swift, Sallie Thayer (banding at Mt. Nebo), Glenn Therres, Mary Twigg, Charles & Gail Vaughn, Dave Walbeck, Robert Warfield, Pete Webb, Joy Wheeler, Tony White, Jim Wilkinson, George Wilmot, Erika Wilson (including reports to the Voice of the Naturalist).

*Locations* (with counties in parentheses): Most locations can be found on the state highway map. Cities and towns which appear in the index of that map are not included in this list. Adventure Sanctuary (Montgomery), Barren Island (Dorchester), Bray Hill (Garrett), Broadford Reservoir (Garrett), Centennial Lake and Park (Howard), Choptank (Caroline unless noted otherwise), Cuckold Point (Baltimore), Cylburn (Baltimore City), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), Deep Creek

Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Flag Ponds (Calvert), Fort Smallwood (Anne Arundel), God's Grace Point (Calvert), Green Ridge (Allegheny), Hains Point (District of Columbia), Herrington Manor S.P. (Garrett), Hodges Bar (Kent), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Huntingfield Creek (Kent), Irvine Natural Science Center near Stevenson (Baltimore), Jug Bay (Anne Arundel), King's Creek (Talbot), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaquidi (Howard), Lake Roland (Baltimore), Langford Bay (Kent), Little Meadows Lake (Garrett), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Masonville (Baltimore City), McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley S.P. (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary (Prince Georges), Meyers Station (Anne Arundel), Mountain Lake (Garrett), Mt. Nebo (Garrett), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll) PNAS (St. Marys), PWRC (Prince Georges), Remington Farms (Kent), Rock Point (Charles), Rocky Gap S.P. (Allegheny), Rumbly Point (Somerset), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Swan Point (Kent), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Violet's Lock (Montgomery).

*Abbreviations:* DC = District of Columbia, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, PNAS = Patuxent Naval Air Station, PWRC = Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, S.P. = State Park, WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

*Loons.* The only reports of Red-throated Loons were of single birds at Cove Point on April 22 (Stasz) and at Assateague Island on April 29 (Warfield). Wintering Common Loons that made it into the spring included 1 at Rocky Gap seen through at least March 25 (Simons, Kiddy) and 1 at Lilypons through March 27 (Mark Garland) that was found dead by April 9. The Common Loon on Broadford Reservoir on March 19 (Pope) may have been the first true spring migrant of the season, but it was quickly followed by 1 at Williston on the 22nd (Hewitt), 1 each at North Beach and Cove Point on the 25th (Stasz), 15 in the mouth of the Choptank River on the 25th (Armistead +), 1 at Hughes Hollow on the 25th (Kay Wells), 3 at Point Lookout on the 26th (Rogers), and 1 at Centennial Lake on the 30th (Farrell). This was far more than the usual number of March arrivals. Stasz closely monitored the flights of migrant loons over North Beach and tallied 3488 for the season with the peak days during April of 785 on the 7th, 816 on the 8th and 758 on the 10th. Locally high counts of Common Loons were 12 at Rocky Gap on April 1 (Simons), 60 from the mouth of the Chester River to Swan Point on April 5 (J. Gruber), 112 flying past Edgewater on April 19 (Bud Taylor), 200 near Sharps Island Light on April 22 (Spitzer, Armistead), 45 at Eastern Neck and 30 at Huntingfield on April 27 (J. Gruber), and 15 at Edgewood on May 14 (Eastman). Late birds were 3 flying over the Middle Patuxent River in Howard County on May 20 (Magnusson), 1 flying over McKeldin on May 21 (Ringler +), 1 in DC on May 22 (Czaplak), and 1 over North Beach on May 26 (Stasz).

*Grebes.* Peak numbers of migrant Pied-billed Grebes were 27 at Loch Raven on March 10 (Simon), 21 on Broadford Reservoir on March 30 (Pope), and 7 at Rocky Gap on April 8-15 (Kiddy). Mumford observed 1 Pied-billed Grebe on a nest at Hughes Hollow on May 6 and late migrants were 1 at North Branch on May 17 (Simons), and 1 at Cove Point on May 20 (Stasz), both potential nesting areas. High counts of Horned Grebes were 45 in the mouth of the Choptank River on March 25 (Armistead +), 53 at Swan Point on March 25 and 350 there on April 5 (J. Gruber), 25 at Rocky Gap on April 4 (Simons), 116 on the Chester River off Ringgold Point on April 7 (J. Gruber), 150 at North Beach on April 7-16 (Stasz), 40 off Rock Point on April 8 (Jett), and 50 at Huntingfield Creek on April 13 (J. Gruber). The latest bird was at North Beach on May 17 (Stasz). Red-necked Grebes were sparse this spring with 1 at Ocean City on March 4 (Iliff), 1 at Rocky Gap from February

through April 5 (Simons, Kiddy +), 1 at Nanticoke on March 28 (Slaughters), and 2 on Loch Raven through April 7 with 1 present through the 16th (Simon). Once again an Eared Grebe appeared at North Beach with the Horned Grebes that use this location as a staging area. It was seen irregularly from April 12 through May 19 (Stasz +).

*Gannets, Pelicans.* There was an extraordinary flight of Northern Gannets into the lower Chesapeake Bay. Stasz observed them off Calvert County from March 18 through April 16 with peak days at North Beach of 189 on March 19 and 433 the next day. The only other report in the bay was of 6 at Point Lookout on March 25 (Rogers). At Ocean City 150 were seen on April 27 (Reese) and Warfield estimated 30 per hour migrating north past Assateague the same day. The latest gannets were 2 off Ocean City on May 12 (M. O'Brien +). The first Brown Pelicans of the season were 5 on April 8 at Ocean City (Dyke) where Reese counted 18 on April 27.

*Cormorants.* All of the spring reports of Great Cormorants came from the Chesapeake Bay/Lower Potomac River region. The last sighting of the birds wintering at Cobb Island Light, St. Marys County, was of 8 on March 12 with 70 Double-crested Cormorants (Ringler, Dixon). Other Great Cormorants were 3 at North Beach on March 20 (Stasz), 1 at Point Lookout on March 25-26 (Rogers) and April 22 (Paul Pisano), 6 at Sharps Island Light on April 22 (Spitzer, Armistead), and 1 adult flying over Hooper Island on May 13 (Armistead +). March arrivals of Double-crests included 1 at Swan Point on the 16th (J. Gruber), 5 at Blackwater on the 25th (Armistead +), several on the Nanticoke River, Wicomico County on the 27th (Ringler), and at Cuckold Point on the 27th (Simon). Stasz first noted 2 flying north at North Beach on the 25th and had a high count of 436 on April 5; 21 lingered to May 27. Jim Gruber's high counts were 45 flying north over the bay on March 31, 72 at Rock Hall on April 4, 67 at the mouth of the Chester River and 106 at Swan Point on April 5, 350 at Swan Creek on April 10, and 150 at Worton Creek on April 13. Potomac River reports included 2 at Seneca on April 10 (Jack Schultz), 1 at Violet's Lock on April 13 (Oberman), 1 there on April 22 (Wilkinson) and 2 on May 1 (Bonham), 110 at East Potomac Park on May 7 (Hilton), and 3 others in DC on May 29 (Czaplak). Other upland reports were of 200 at Conowingo on April 17 (Eastman), 38 at Broadford Reservoir on April 19 and 1 there on May 21 (Pope), 1 flying over Piney Run on April 21 (Jim Peters, Ringler), 1 at Seneca S.P. on April 25 (McConnell), 9 at Loch Raven on April 29 (Jenkins) and 1 there on May 19 (Simon), 3 on Triadelphia on May 13 (Paul Zucker, Magnusson), 1 at Cumberland on May 13 (Twigg), 1 immature on Centennial Lake on May 15 (Ceil Casciaro), and 1 flying over there on May 19 (Magnusson +). Other coastal plain counts of Double-crests were 31 at Masonville on April 16 (Walbeck), the season high of 2637 flying past Cove Point on April 16 (Stasz), 85 at Tanyard on April 24 (Engle), 229 at Fort Smallwood on May 13 (Mozurkewich), and 200 at Barren Island on May 28 (Armistead +).

*Bitterns.* This was the best season in several years for American Bitterns. The reports were 1 at Deal Island WMA on March 15 (Slaughters) and 1 there on May 7 (Ringler +), 1 at Lilypons on April 2 (Miller), 1 at Cove Point on April 8 and 3 there on April 16 and April 30 and 1 remaining on May 13 (Stasz), 1 at Patapsco in Carroll County on April 14 and April 24-25 (Jean Worthley +), 1 at Masonville on April 16 (Walbeck), 2 at Hughes Hollow on April 17 (Czaplak), 6 there on April 22 (Ron White) and 2 remaining on May 13 (Elitzak), 1 at Chain Bridge in DC on April 23 (Czaplak), 1 at Chestertown on April 26 (Parks), 1 at PWRC from April 27 (Osenton) through May 13 (Martin), 1 at Loch Raven on April 29 (Simon, Jenkins),

1 at Meyers Station on April 30 (Ringler +), 1 in a pine tree at Hains Point on May 6 (Czaplak +), 1 on the Middle Patuxent River on May 6 (Farrell, Solem), 1 at Big Pool on May 10 (Walbeck), 1 at Lake Kittamaquidi on May 13-17 (Chestem, Helen Zeichner), and 1 still at Lilypons on May 20 (Iliff). Reports of Least Bitterns were of 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead), 1 at Cove Point on April 29 and 12 there on May 20 (Stasz), 1 at Oldtown on May 3-5 (Jim Paulus +), 1 at Hughes Hollow on May 7 (Norm Saunders), and 1 at Pennyfield on May 7 (Paul Noell).

*Egrets.* The first Great Egret of the year was reported on Marumsco Road in Somerset County on March 31 (Effinger). This was quickly followed by 1 at Loch Raven on April 1 (Wheeler) and 1 there on April 22 (Simon), 1 at PNAS on April 3 (Rambo), 1 at Lake Roland on April 4 (Walbeck +), 1 at North Beach on April 5, and 2 there on May 26 (Stasz). They reached Garrett County with 1 at Broadford Reservoir on April 7 and April 19 (Pope), Frederick County with 1 at Lilypons on April 8 (Joy Peters) and 3 there on May 4 (Warfield), Allegany County with 2 at Cumberland on May 2 (Simons), Harford County with 1 at Conowingo on May 7 (Eastman) and Carroll County with 2 near Union Mills on May 13 (Ringler), thus including most of the northern tier of counties. Other reports of Great Egrets included 7 at Cove Point on April 22 and 8 there on May 20 (Stasz), 1 at Denton on May 2 (Nuttie), 1 at Hains Point on May 6 (Czaplak), and 1 near Dundalk on May 28 (Ringler). Snowy Egrets opened with 2 at North Beach on March 25 and 12 there on April 25 (Stasz), 1 at Point Lookout on March 26 (Rogers), 2 near Nanticoke on March 27 (Ringler) and 2 at Swan Creek on March 30 (J. Gruber). April sightings included 3 at Irish Grove on the 1st (Effinger), 1 at PNAS on the 3rd (Rambo) and 2 at Jug Bay on the 25th (Wilson), followed by 1 at Tanyard on May 11 (Engle), and 14 at Easton on May 14 (Reese). Many of these sightings represent birds traveling from nearby breeding colonies to feed, sometimes across the bay. The first Cattle Egrets were seen on March 30 with 8 at PNAS (Rambo, Bryan) and 1 at Swan Creek (J. Gruber). Other Coastal Plain sightings were of 6 at Hains Point on April 4, 7 there the next day and 2 on May 16 (Czaplak), 5 at North Beach on April 5 (Stasz), 11 at Easton on April 23 (Reese +), 64 at Claiborne on April 26 (Reese), 8 at Denton on April 28 (Adams), 73 at West Ocean City on April 29 (Warfield), 3 at Middle River on May 8 (Swift), and 4 at Tanyard on May 22 (Engle). In the Piedmont there were 4 at Sykesville on April 27 (Ringler), 1 in southeastern Howard County on May 6 (Debra Schultz), and 1 near Buckeystown on May 7 (Miller).

*Other Herons, Ibis.* The 36 Great Blue Herons at Federalsburg on March 18 (Ed Unger) and 13 at North Beach on March 26 (Stasz) were the first large numbers reported for the season. The first Great Blue in Garrett County this year was at Broadford Reservoir on March 19 (Pope); others inland included 21 at Pinto Marsh on April 1 (Simons) and 10 at Loch Raven on April 2 (Simon, Debbie Terry). Single Little Blue Herons were at Deal Island WMA on April 2 (Iliff), at North Beach on April 10 and May 24 (Stasz), at Seneca S.P. on April 25 (McConnell), and at Cove Point on April 29 (Stasz). Single Tricolored Herons were at Deal Island WMA on April 2 (Iliff) and at Ocean City on April 28 (Reese). Early Green-backed Herons were singles at Chestertown on April 7 (Parks), in DC on April 12 (Czaplak), and at Parsonsburg on April 13 (Pitney). Piedmont Black-crowned Night-Herons were 49 at the National Zoo on April 20 (Czaplak), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 6 (Dick Hegner), 10 at Conowingo on May 7 (Eastman), and 2 at Piney Run on May 22 (Ringler). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Noland's Ferry on May 27 (Plante) was unusual in Frederick County. Seventeen Glossy Ibis were at Bonfield in Talbot County on March 13 (Effinger), 1 near Blackwater on March 27 (Ringler), 2 at PWRC on April 7 and 15 (Obrecht, Tom Lewis), 1 at PNAS on April 14 (Rambo), 1

at Hains Point on April 15 (Czaplak), 8 at McDaniel on April 16 (Patty Young), 2 at Jug Bay on April 25 (Wilson), 5 at North Beach on April 25 (Stasz), 1 at Lilypons on May 6 (Garland), and 1 flying over Pennyfield on May 8 (Bonham).

*Swans.* The major part of the Tundra Swan migration occurred on March 11-13 with the following large counts: 200 over Elkridge on the 11th (Chuck Dupree), 1508 over Cove Point on the 12th (Stasz), 220 over DC on the 12th (Czaplak), 150 over St. Michaels on the 12th (Reese), 169 over Greenbelt on the 13th (Murphy), and 500 over Triadelphia on the 13th (Chestem). Other large concentrations were 5000 near Chestertown on the 10th (Grubers) and 1000 at Cooper's Hollow, Talbot County, on the 16th (Effinger). Elsewhere, 21 Tundra Swans at Lilypons on March 5 (Lisa Thoerle) were unusual and 2 on Deep Creek Lake on April 21 (Skipper) and 1 at Brannock Bay, Dorchester County, on May 6 (Wilson) were late. Interesting sightings of Mute Swans, which may represent attempts at range expansion, were 1 at Hains Point on April 8 (Czaplak), 2 at Cove Point on April 8 and 1 through the 30th (Stasz +), 2 at Denton on April 26 (Adams), and 3 at Violet's Lock on May 2 (Bonham).

*Geese.* A Greater White-fronted Goose of the Greenland race was at Rocky Gap on April 1 (Kiddy), the first from western Maryland. The major concentrations of Snow Geese were 30,000 including 728 blues at Ruthsburg on March 22 (Gruber) and 1080 including 700 blues at Blackwater on March 25 (Armistead +); however, the only report of migrating birds was 200 over Assateague on March 28 (Warfield). The Grubers also observed a blue Snow Goose that appeared to be paired with a Canada Goose at Remington Farms on March 12. In Howard County an immature Snow was at Fulton on March 4-16 (Farrell, Solem) and another immature at Centennial Lake from March 13 into the summer (many observers). Late Snows were 40 at Greensboro on April 19 (Hewitt) and 1 at Ocean City on April 27 (Reese). The last reports of Brant at Ocean City were 350 on April 27 (Reese) and 40 on May 12 (O'Brien +). Major flights of Canada Geese coincided with those of the Tundra Swans with 5000 over Chestertown on March 11, thousands there at 4 a.m. on the 12th and 2000 on the 13th (Grubers), and 400 over St. Michaels on the 14th (Reese). Other concentrations were 9000 at Remington Farms on March 2 (Grubers) and 8000 at Long Point, Harris Creek, and Cooper's Hollow in Talbot County on March 16 (Effinger). Meanwhile, nesting activity had begun with a nest with 1 egg at Lilypons on April 2 (Ringler), a nest with 6 eggs at North Branch on April 10 (Walbeck), and a pair of birds with 1 downy young there on May 1 (Twigg). At PWRC 2 broods were seen on April 24 (Mary Ann McKeogh) and 46 goslings on April 28 (Obrecht).

*Exotic Waterfowl.* There were 2 Ruddy Shelducks at Ruthsburg on March 16 (J. Gruber) and a female at St. Michaels on March 25-26 (Bill Portner). A female Common Shelduck was at Piney Run on May 8 (Ringler). Also at Piney Run the Falcated Teal that had been present during the winter remained through April 26 (Ringler +).

*Puddle Ducks.* High counts of Wood Ducks were 102 at Hughes Hollow on March 21 (O'Brien) and 40 at Pinto on April 29 (Simons). The first broods of Wood Ducks seen were 9 downy young at PWRC on April 26 (Osenton) and 12 at North Branch on April 28 (Simons). The high count of Green-winged Teal was 800 at Jug Bay on March 22 (Mumford) and 2 late birds were in DC on May 6 (Czaplak). High counts of American Black Ducks were 123 at Loch Raven on March 10 (Simon), 89 on Deep Creek Lake on March 16 (Skipper), and 300 at Jug Bay on March 17 and 22 (Mumford +). High counts of Mallards were 288 at Loch Raven on March 10

(Simon) and 260 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +), the latter number including young. Early Mallard nestings were a nest with 11 eggs in Baltimore on April 16 (Walbeck), 10 downy young at Denton on April 28 (Adams), and 10 downy young at North Branch on April 28 (Simons). High counts of Northern Pintails were 50 at Violet's Lock on March 10 (Bonham), 77 at Remington Farms on March 17 (Grubers), 26 at Loch Raven on March 20 (Jenkins), 250 at Blackwater on March 25 (Armistead +), and 50 flying over Appleton, Cecil County on March 27 (O'Brien). Late singles were at Piney Run on April 9 (Walbeck) and at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead). Blue-winged Teal numbers were unspectacular with 17 at Hughes Hollow on March 21 (O'Brien), 17 at North Branch on April 9 (Kiddy), 20 at Jug Bay on April 12 (Mumford), and 18 at Easton on April 23 (Reese +). Single straggling Blue-wings were near Bellevue on May 27 (Armistead +) and a drake at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). High counts of Northern Shovelers were 41 at Chestertown on March 22 and 152 at Remington Farms on April 4 (Grubers) and late singles were at Blackwater on May 6 (Armistead +) and at Pinto and North Branch on May 10 (Simons). A late pair of Gadwalls was at Piney Run on April 26 (Ringler). A drake Eurasian Wigeon was last seen at Piscataway on March 10 (Swarth). High counts of American Wigeons were 99 at Loch Raven on March 17 (Simon) and 30 at Piney Run on March 26 (Ringler). Several counties reported wigeons on the May Count and the latest were 3 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +).

*Aythya Ducks.* The big counts of Canvasbacks were 9000 on a farm pond at Tolchester on March 6-9 (Grubers), 9000 at Remington Farms on March 12 (Grubers), and 2500 at North Beach on March 19 (Stasz). Single late Canvasbacks were at Little Meadows Lake on May 12 (O'Brien +), at North Beach on May 18 (Stasz), and at Jug Bay on May 26 (Mumford, Beaton). All reports of Redheads are notable and this spring the most were 10 on a pond on Williams Road, Allegany County, on March 4 (Simons) and 4 at North Beach on March 11 (Stasz); single late birds were at Swan Creek on April 6 (J. Gruber), at Loch Raven on April 9 (Simon), near Point of Rocks on April 9 (Ringler), and at North Branch on April 19 (Simons). High counts of Ring-necked Ducks were 951 at PWRC on March 2 (Obrecht), 197 on Deep Creek Lake on March 22 (Skipper), and 175 at Piney Run on March 26 (Ringler); and late Ring-necks were 2 on Broadford Reservoir on May 8 (Pope), 1 at Lake Haven near Berlin on May 12 (O'Brien +), and 1 at North Branch through May 28 (Simons +). Flocks of Greater Scaup numbered 2000 at North Beach on March 11 (Stasz), and 1000 at Swan Point on March 11 and 368 at Hodges Bar on April 5 (both J. Gruber). Rare inland were 6 Greater at Loch Raven on March 12 (Simon) and 4 at Big Pool on March 19 (Ringler). The latest were 3 at Fort Smallwood on May 13 (Mozurkewich). Large numbers of Lesser Scaup use the Chesapeake Bay region as a staging area for the spring migration and this year there were more reports than ever of large flocks. Included were 2000 at Tolchester on March 2 (J. Gruber), 1300 at Masonville on March 6 (Webb +), 8000 at Chestertown on March 2-10 (Grubers), 10,000 in Langford Bay on March 11 and 5000 still there on April 7 (J. Gruber), 2000 in Hawk Cove, Baltimore County, on March 17 (Simon), 2000 at Swan Creek on March 25 (J. Gruber), 475 in the mouth of the Choptank River on March 25 (Armistead +), 3750 at North Beach on March 27 (Stasz), 5000 at Eastern Neck on April 1 (J. Gruber), 500 at Remington Farms on April 4 (Grubers), and 100 at Edgewood on April 21 (Eastman). Inland tallies of note were 59 at Centennial Lake on March 3 (Farrell), 110 in DC on March 21 (Czaplak), 92 on Triadelphia on March 22 (Magnusson), 146 on Deep Creek Lake on March 22 (Skipper), 100 at Piney Run on March 26 (Ringler) and 60 at Rocky Gap on April 4 (Simons). A late migrant was at North Beach on May 27 (Stasz).

*Eiders, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw, Scoters.* A female Common Eider was at Ocean City on April 8 (Dyke). The last reports of Harlequin Ducks at Ocean City were 5 on March 4-10 (Vaughn +). Excellent numbers of Oldsquaws were seen this spring with 5000 at North Beach on March 11 and April 12 (Stasz), 4210 in the mouth of the Choptank River on March 25 (Armistead +), and 12,000 from Swan Point to Love Point on March 29 (J. Gruber). There were 150 off Rock Point on April 8 (Jett). Inland there were 2 at Loch Raven on March 30 (Jenkins), 7 at North Branch on March 31 (Simons), 26 at Rocky Gap on April 3 (Twigg), 1 at Seneca S.P. on April 10-25 (McConnell), 2 at Seneca on April 18 (Plante), 5 on Broadford Reservoir on April 18 (Pope), 1 at Lake Roland on April 18 (Walbeck +), and 2 at Piney Run on April 20 (Ringler). May reports of Oldsquaws included 6 at Swan Point on the 4th (J. Gruber) and 1 at North Beach on the 27th (Stasz). The only Black Scoter reported was at Cove Point on April 8 (Stasz). Most of the Surf Scoter reports came from the central part of the bay with 30 in the mouth of the Choptank River on March 25 with 8 White-winged Scoters (Armistead +), 81 near Bellevue on March 26 (Armistead), 800 at Cove Point on April 8 (Stasz), 700 at North Beach on April 14 (Stasz), and 2800 near Sharps Island Light on April 22 with 400 White-wings (Spitzer, Armistead). Other Surf Scoters were 2 at Bivalve on March 27 (Ringler), 4 at Rumbly Point on April 1 (Effinger), 1 on Broadford Reservoir, April 26 through May 16 (Pope), and 3 on Deep Creek Lake on May 10 (Skipper). Other White-wings were 6 on Deep Creek Lake on March 31 (Skipper), 18 at Eastern Neck on April 13 (J. Gruber), 3 on Broadford Reservoir on April 18 (Pope), 40 at North Beach on April 23 (Stasz), 1 at Loch Raven on April 25-27 (Simon, Jenkins), and 16 at Swan Point on April 26 (J. Gruber).

*Goldeneyes, Buffleheads.* High counts of Common Goldeneyes were 500 at Hodges Bar on March 2-10 (J. Gruber), 4000 at North Beach on March 11 (Stasz), 800 on the Chester River off Spaniard Point, Kent County on March 14 (J. Gruber), 145 in the Choptank River mouth on March 25 (Armistead +), and 100 near Sharps Island Light on April 22 (Spitzer, Armistead). Single late goldeneyes were at North Beach on May 8 (Stasz), on Broadford Reservoir on May 13 (Pope), at Hampstead on May 13 (Dave & Michelle Hudgins), and a drake that remained at Upper Marlboro from March 23 through May 26 (Stasz). High counts of Buffleheads were 2500 at North Beach on March 11 (Stasz), 300 in the Choptank River mouth on March 25 (Armistead +), 550 at Eastern Neck on April 7 (J. Gruber), and 250 near Sharps Island Light on April 22 (Spitzer, Armistead). The 28 on Broadford Reservoir on April 19 (Pope) was a large number for Garrett County. Late Buffleheads were 1 at North Beach on May 14 (Stasz), 3 on Broadford Reservoir on May 16 (Pope), 1 at Seneca on May 20 (Czaplak), and 1 at Piney Run on May 22 (Ringler).

*Mergansers.* Late reports of Hooded Mergansers included 2 at Jug Bay on April 21 (Mumford), 3 at Pleasant Valley in Garrett County on May 13 (Skipper), and a female at Hughes Hollow on May 27 (Czaplak). A big surprise was the female Hooded Merg with 6 downy young at Meyers Station on April 30 (Ringler +). High counts of Common Mergansers were 156 at Loch Raven on March 3 (Simon), 40 at Triadelphia on March 4 (Farrell), 400 at Piscataway on March 10 (Swarth), and 42 at Swan Point on March 10 (J. Gruber). Extremely late were 3 Common Mergs at Susquehanna S.P. on May 6 (Eastman). Red-breasted Mergansers numbered 300 off Nichols Point on the Chester River on March 14 (J. Gruber), 150 at North Beach on March 21 (Stasz), 32 at Little Meadows Lake on March 25 (O'Brien), and 80 in the Choptank River mouth on March 25 (Armistead +); stragglers included 1 at Piney Run on May 17 (Ringler), 1 at Blair's Valley on May 20 (Ringler +) and 3 at Barren Island on May 28 (Armistead +).



Table 1. Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1989

Species	Median Arrival		Median Departure	
	10-Yr	1989	10-Yr	1989
Common Loon	4/4	3/25	5/16	5/20
Pied-billed Grebe	3/14	3/17	5/5	5/13
Horned Grebe	3/19	3/18	5/2	5/5
Double-crested Cormorant	3/30	3/26	6/2	5/28
American Bittern	4/10	4/5	5/3	5/13
Great Blue Heron	3/19	3/26	-	-
Great Egret	4/7	4/5	-	-
Snowy Egret	4/11	4/1	-	-
Cattle Egret	4/12	4/5	-	-
Green-backed Heron	4/18	4/15	-	-
Glossy Ibis	4/15	4/7	-	-
Tundra Swan	2/28	2/28	3/31	3/29
Wood Duck	3/5	2/23	-	-
Green-winged Teal	3/17	2/26	4/28	5/5
Northern Pintail	2/26	2/15	3/29	3/22
Blue-winged Teal	3/21	3/19	5/9	5/13
Northern Shoveler	3/15	3/12	4/13	4/17
Gadwall	3/11	3/6	4/22	4/17
American Wigeon	3/8	2/20	4/20	4/28
Canvasback	2/27	2/20	4/1	4/9
Redhead	3/1	2/18	3/26	3/29
Ring-necked Duck	3/6	2/22	4/17	4/19
Lesser Scaup	3/6	2/26	4/28	5/13
Oldsquaw	3/20	3/27	4/12	4/23
White-winged Scoter	3/25	3/11	4/15	-
Common Goldeneye	2/24	2/26	4/5	4/26
Bufflehead	3/5	2/25	4/28	5/14
Hooded Merganser	3/7	3/2	4/12	4/19
Common Merganser	2/26	2/23	4/5	4/4
Red-breasted Merganser	3/18	3/18	5/5	5/13
Ruddy Duck	3/20	3/10	5/6	5/13
Osprey	3/18	3/12	-	-
Northern Harrier	3/5	3/8	5/6	5/13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/11	3/7	5/8	-
Cooper's Hawk	3/13	3/11	5/10	-
Broad-winged Hawk	4/16	4/17	-	-
Merlin	3/29	4/4	5/5	-
Virginia Rail	4/19	4/16	-	-
Sora	4/23	4/9	5/14	-
American Coot	3/17	3/25	5/2	5/15
Black-bellied Plover	4/30	4/19	5/29	-
Semipalmated Plover	5/5	5/3	5/29	-
Killdeer	2/24	2/21	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	3/29	3/28	5/16	5/19
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/6	3/31	5/13	5/16
Solitary Sandpiper	4/19	4/18	5/18	5/18
Spotted Sandpiper	4/20	4/20	5/28	5/27
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/4	5/2	6/4	6/5
Least Sandpiper	4/22	4/19	5/19	5/25
Pectoral Sandpiper	3/29	4/2	5/4	5/10
Dunlin	4/17	4/13	6/1	5/27
Common Snipe	3/15	3/12	5/3	4/30
American Woodcock	3/3	3/2	-	-
Laughing Gull	4/1	3/25	-	-

Table 1. (cont.) Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1989

Species	Median Arrival		Median Departure	
	10-Yr	1989	10-Yr	1989
Bonaparte's Gull	3/30	3/26	5/3	5/13
Caspian Tern	4/13	4/6	5/31	-
Royal Tern	4/19	4/9	-	-
Common Tern	4/16	4/13	-	-
Forster's Tern	4/22	4/9	-	-
Least Tern	5/4	5/6	-	-
Black Tern	5/8	5/11	5/29	5/14
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/8	5/6	-	-
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/3	5/1	-	-
Common Nighthawk	5/7	5/7	-	-
Chuck-will's-widow	5/1	4/25	-	-
Whip-poor-will	4/21	4/20	-	-
Chimney Swift	4/15	4/15	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4/29	4/25	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3/27	3/13	5/1	4/13
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5/3	5/3	-	-
Acadian Flycatcher	5/3	4/30	-	-
Willow Flycatcher	5/17	5/16	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	3/14	3/12	-	-
Great Crested Flycatcher	4/28	4/26	-	-
Eastern Kingbird	4/24	4/23	-	-
Purple Martin	3/30	3/31	-	-
Tree Swallow	3/26	3/18	-	-
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4/4	4/2	-	-
Bank Swallow	4/20	4/18	-	-
Cliff Swallow	4/20	4/23	-	-
Barn Swallow	4/4	4/5	-	-
Brown Creeper	3/24	3/14	4/24	4/25
House Wren	4/20	4/19	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	4/24	4/23
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3/25	3/18	4/12	4/16
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/10	4/4	5/8	5/13
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/10	4/2	-	-
Veery	4/30	4/28	5/22	5/22
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/12	5/18	5/25	5/28
Swainson's Thrush	5/2	5/4	5/26	5/27
Hermit Thrush	4/10	4/6	5/4	5/11
Wood Thrush	4/25	4/24	-	-
American Robin	2/22	2/20	-	-
Gray Catbird	4/26	4/23	-	-
Brown Thrasher	4/11	4/2	-	-
American Pipit	3/22	3/22	5/3	5/6
Cedar Waxwing	2/27	-	5/28	5/30
White-eyed Vireo	4/20	4/17	-	-
Solitary Vireo	4/20	4/12	5/6	5/13
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/29	4/24	-	-
Warbling Vireo	4/29	4/26	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	4/25	4/23	-	-
Blue-winged Warbler	4/28	4/28	5/13	5/13
Golden-winged Warbler	5/2	4/30	5/13	5/12
Tennessee Warbler	5/4	5/4	5/20	5/20
Nashville Warbler	5/1	4/30	5/16	5/18
Northern Parula	4/20	4/11	-	-
Yellow Warbler	4/26	4/25	-	-

Table 1. (cont.) Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1989

Species	Median Arrival		Median Departure	
	10-Yr	1989	10-Yr	1989
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/2	4/30	5/20	5/25
Magnolia Warbler	5/3	5/6	5/25	5/25
Cape May Warbler	5/3	5/4	5/19	5/16
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/1	4/29	5/20	5/21
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/9	-	5/14	5/20
Black-throated Green Warbler	4/30	4/29	5/19	5/20
Blackburnian Warbler	5/3	5/6	5/22	5/21
Yellow-throated Warbler	4/17	4/8	-	-
Pine Warbler	3/17	3/16	-	-
Prairie Warbler	4/24	4/22	-	-
Palm Warbler	4/9	4/2	5/3	5/7
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/4	5/4	5/23	5/20
Blackpoll Warbler	5/4	5/7	5/29	5/29
Cerulean Warbler	4/29	4/27	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	4/18	4/21	-	-
American Redstart	4/25	4/25	5/30	5/29
Prothonotary Warbler	4/22	4/23	-	-
Worm-eating Warbler	4/27	4/25	-	-
Ovenbird	4/21	4/20	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	4/28	4/28	5/24	5/26
Louisiana Waterthrush	4/6	3/29	-	-
Kentucky Warbler	5/1	4/29	-	-
Mourning Warbler	5/18	5/19	5/30	5/30
Common Yellowthroat	4/21	4/18	-	-
Hooded Warbler	4/27	4/27	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	5/5	5/6	5/21	5/21
Canada Warbler	5/6	5/6	5/27	5/26
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/1	4/30	-	-
Summer Tanager	5/2	5/1	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	4/29	4/27	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/2	4/30	5/20	5/21
Blue Grosbeak	5/1	4/29	-	-
Indigo Bunting	4/30	4/29	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	3/31	3/26	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	3/31	3/27	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	4/4	3/31	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	3/30	3/28	5/10	5/15
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/26	4/21	-	-
Seaside Sparrow	-	4/23	-	-
Fox Sparrow	2/27	2/16	3/27	3/30
Lincoln's Sparrow	5/4	5/3	5/23	5/22
Swamp Sparrow	4/2	-	5/10	5/13
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	5/15	5/20
White-crowned Sparrow	4/26	-	5/9	5/17
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	5/3	5/2
Bobolink	5/2	4/30	5/23	5/21
Red-winged Blackbird	2/20	2/17	-	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	3/16	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	3/15	3/9	5/3	4/23
Common Grackle	2/19	2/16	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	2/26	2/19	-	-
Orchard Oriole	4/28	4/26	-	-
Northern Oriole	4/28	4/28	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	5/6	5/2

*Ruddy Ducks.* High counts of Ruddy Ducks were 500 at Masonville on March 6 (Webb + ), 500 in Langford Bay on March 11 (J. Gruber), and 3000 at the mouth of St. Leonard Creek, Calvert County on March 12 (Stasz). Interestingly, there are two Wicomico Rivers in the state and Ruddy Ducks were seen on both this spring with 200 on the Western Shore river in Charles County on March 12 (Ringler, Dixon) and 125 on the Eastern Shore river in Wicomico County on March 27 (Ringler). Late Ruddies included 10 at North Branch on May 14 (Twigg) and 3 at Easton on May 16 (Effinger).

*Vultures, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Harriers.* See Table 2 for the results of the hawk watch at Monument Knob this spring. The high count of Black Vultures for the spring was 50 at Lake Linganore, Frederick County, on March 12 (Walbeck). In Allegany County, where the species is a rare breeder, 3 were seen on Green Ridge on April 21 (Twigg) and 2 at Pinto Marsh on May 28 (Kiddy). Early Ospreys in Talbot County were singles at St. Michaels on March 7 (Reese) and at Carmichael on the 10th (Effinger), and other early arrivals were 1 at Jug Bay on the 10th (Bjerke), Remington Farms on the 12th (Grubers), and on the Potomac River in Charles County on the 12th (Ringler, Dixon). The first inland birds were 1 at Centennial Lake on March 26 (Swift) and 1 at Broadford Reservoir on the 30th (Pope). A pair of Ospreys seen copulating at Cumberland on May 16 (Twigg) probably nested nearby, possibly in West Virginia. An immature Bald Eagle soaring over McKeldin on May 27 (Ringler) was a rarity in Carroll County. The last report of a non-breeding Northern Harrier was 1 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler + ).

*Accipiters, Buteos, Golden Eagles.* The high count of Sharp-shinned Hawks for the season was 992 at Fort Smallwood on May 3 (Mozurkewich). A Cooper's Hawk near Whaleysville on May 28 (Reese, Effinger) was probably a rare breeder there. A Harris Hawk seen near Eastern Neck on April 9 (Iliff) was certainly an escape. An albino Red-tailed Hawk was at Greensboro on May 13 (Fletchers). The last reports of Rough-legged Hawks were in March with 1 flying across the Potomac at Great Falls on the 11th (Ed Behr), single light and dark phase birds at Deal Island WMA on the 19th (O'Brien), and 1 at Grasonville on the 21st (J. Gruber). An immature Golden Eagle was at Remington Farms on March 12 (Parks) and an adult was at North Branch on March 23 (Twigg).

*Falcons.* High counts of American Kestrels still on wintering grounds were 15 at Remington Farms on March 5 and 18 at Ruthsburg on March 20 (Grubers). Rare as a breeder on the lower Eastern Shore a female kestrel flying from a barn at Lee Haven, Talbot County on May 14 (Effinger) and 1 near Whaleysville on May 28 (Reese, Effinger) were likely nesters. The male Merlin that wintered at Hains Point was last seen on April 5 (Czaplak). Other Merlins were 1 at Flag Ponds on March 12 (Stasz), 1 at Remington Farms on April 4 (Grubers), 1 at Susquehanna S.P. on April 20 (Eastman), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead), 1 at North Beach on April 25 (Stasz), 1 at Assateague on April 27 (Warfield), 4 at Fort Smallwood on May 2 (Mozurkewich), 1 at Waldorf on May 4 (Jett), 2 at Bolling Air Base in DC on May 6 (Czaplak + ), and 1 at Annapolis on May 12 (Iliff). Sightings of Peregrine Falcons included 1 at Rockville on March 6-27 (Tom Reise), 1 in DC on March 8 (Bjerke), 1 at North Beach on March 19, March 28 and April 8 (Stasz), and 1 at Loch Raven on April 1 (Wheeler).

**Table 2. Hawk Migration at Monument Knob,  
Washington Monument State Park, Spring 1989**

Species	First	Last	Total	Best Days
Osprey	3/27	5/22	331	40 on 4/17, 39 on 5/3, 32 on 4/28
Bald Eagle	4/19	5/3	2	
Northern Harrier	3/13	5/8	60	11 on 4/19, 7 on 3/18, 5 on 4/20
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/11	5/22	286	25 on 4/28, 20 on 4/18, 19 on 4/17 & 5/2
Cooper's Hawk	3/11	5/4	35	4 on 4/1, 3 on 3/17
Northern Goshawk	4/1		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/11	4/11	67	20 on 3/17, 8 on 3/13 & 3/18
Broad-winged Hawk	4/14	5/6	538	154 on 4/20, 104 on 4/24, 63 on 4/22
Red-tailed Hawk	2/20	5/22	441	53 on 3/18, 49 on 4/1, 25 on 3/26
Golden Eagle	4/28		1	
American Kestrel	3/15	4/25	36	7 on 3/17, 4 on 3/26, 3/27 & 4/22
Unidentified			116	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2/20</b>	<b>5/22</b>	<b>1914</b>	<b>201 on 4/20, 133 on 4/24, 124 on 4/17</b>

Data compiled by Sam and L.J. Shoemaker from 236.25 hours of observation on 58 days by many observers.

**Gallinaceous Birds.** Eastern Shore sightings of Ring-necked Pheasants were 4 at Remington Farms on March 5 (Grubers), 1 found dead at Greensboro on April 5 (Hewitt) and 1 seen there on May 23 (A. Bilbrough), and 1 male near Princess Anne on May 27 (Reese, Effinger). Other interesting pheasant reports were of 1 male at North Branch on April 5 (Twigg) and 1 male at Cove Point on April 29 (fide Stasz). The best Ruffed Grouse report was of 4 on Green Ridge on March 24 and 29 (Simons). As usual the high counts of Wild Turkeys were from Allegany County with 24 at Pinto Marsh on March 5-11 (Simons) and 150 on Green Ridge on April 1 (Rodger Simons). Other reports that reflect the statewide introduction of turkeys were 1 heard gobbling at Prettyboy Reservoir in Baltimore County on April 17 (Haven Kolb), 2 at Tuckahoe S.P. on April 22 (Dorset, Nuttle), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead), 1 at Marriottsville on April 29 (Blom +), 5 at Seneca on May 11 (Don Simonson), and 4 at Idlewyld WMA on May 28 (Glime, Ross Robinson).

**Rails.** A unique report was that of a Black Rail found dead on a sidewalk near Jacobsville in northern Anne Arundel County on May 14 (Thomas Lewis). The specimen was preserved. A Clapper Rail was seen on April 30 at Cove Point where it is rare (Stasz). Single King Rails were at Tanyard on March 19 (O'Brien) and April 28 (Engle), and in Calvert County at Cove Point and at God's Grace Point on April 30 (Stasz). The first Virginia Rails of the season were 1 at Cove Point on April 8 (Stasz), 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 14 (Simons), 1 at North Branch on April 15-16 (Kiddy, Twigg), 8 at Adkins Marsh in Talbot County on April 18 (P. Gruber), and 1 at Tanyard on April 26 (Engle). Soras enjoyed their best spring season in the state as far as birdwatchers were concerned with 1 at Centennial Lake from April 5 through May 14 (Magnusson +), 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 8 (Simons), 1 at Cove Point on April 8 and 13 there on May 13, 2 remaining on May 20 (Stasz), 2 at Hughes Hollow on April 9 (Czaplak) and 4 there on April 16 (Jesse Fulton), 1 at Jug Bay on April 13 (Ramona Kasden), 1 at Point Lookout on April 22 (Paul Pisano), 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead), 1 at Oldtown on April 27 (Jim Paulus), 1 at Anacostia Naval Station in DC on May 6 (Czaplak +), 1 at Deal Island WMA on May 12 (O'Brien +), 1 at Chestertown on May 13 (Parks), and 1 at Pennyfield on May 14 (Bonham).

*Moorhens, Coots, Cranes.* A single Common Moorhen at Hughes Hollow on April 16 (Jesse Fulton, Ringler) had increased to 4 by April 29 (Czaplak). Others were 1 at North Branch on May 9-20 (Twigg +), 6 at Tanyard on May 13 (Engle), and 1 at Cove Point May 13-20 (Stasz). High counts of American Coots were 2000 at Piscataway on March 10 (Swarth) and 328 at Loch Raven on April 7 (Simon, Jenkins); late individuals were in DC on May 16 (Czaplak), Bethesda on May 20 (Anita Stoll), Piney Run on May 22 (Ringler), and North Branch on May 28 (Simons +). The Sandhill Crane at Poolesville remained through the season, completing its first year in residence at the horse farm (many observers).

*Plovers.* Interesting reports of Black-bellied Plovers included 2 at Blackwater on April 16 (Greg Lucie), 1 at North Branch on April 19 and 1 on May 11 (Simons), 4 at Hains Point on May 6 (Czaplak +), and 1 at Jug Bay on May 13 (Mumford); high counts were 63 at Worton on May 13 (Parks), 15 near Snow Hill on May 27 (Reese, Effinger), and 31 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). The first report in four years of a Wilson's Plover in the state was 1 on the north end of Assateague on May 29 (John Loegering). Early Semipalmated Plovers were single birds at North Branch on April 29 (Simons), Loberty Reservoir on the same day (Ringler), and Jug Bay on the 30th (Ringler +). High local counts of Semi Plovers were 18 at Tanyard on May 13 (Engle), 7 at Hains Point on May 16 (Czaplak), 7 near Oakland on May 17 (Pope), and 25 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). Warfield found early Piping Plovers on Assateague with 1 on March 12 and 2 on March 27. High counts of Killdeer for the season were 16 near Oakland on March 16 (Skipper), 40 at North Branch on March 22 (Simons), and 57 at Merkle on March 25 (Ringler). A Killdeer nest with 4 eggs was found at PWRC on April 7 (Vic Levi) and an adult with 4 young was there on April 23 (Osenton).

*Oystercatchers, Stilts.* O'Brien found 4 American Oystercatchers at Ocean City on March 19 which may have wintered there. In the Chesapeake Bay area there were 2 oystercatchers at Goose Creek, Fairmount, Somerset County on May 27 (Reese, Effinger) and 9 at Barren Island on May 28 (Armistead +). Black-necked Stilts appeared in remarkable numbers on May 6 with 2 at Blackwater (Armistead +) and 12 at Deal Island WMA where they have nested in recent years (many observers). More unusual were 2 stilts at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +).

*Tringine Sandpipers.* The first Greater Yellowlegs of the season was near Oakland on March 16 (Skipper); high counts of 50 at Jug Bay on April 12 (Mumford), 16 at Lilypons on April 2 (Ringler), and 12 at Harmony on April 25 (Engle) were recorded. Late Greaters were single birds at St. Michaels on May 23 (Reese) and Barren Island on May 28 (Armistead +). The first Lesser Yellowlegs of the season was at Hains Point on March 21 (Czaplak) and high counts were 85 at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead), 50 at Jug Bay on April 26 and May 3 (Mumford +), and 19 at the University of Maryland Farm in Howard County on May 6 (Atkinson); 8 late birds were at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). Early Solitary Sandpipers were singles at Lilypons on April 2 (Ringler) and Mountain Lake on April 14 (Pope). Willets outside the species breeding range in the bay were 1 at Cove Point on April 16 (Stasz), 3 at Kent Narrows on April 27 (J. Gruber), 1 at Adkins Marsh, Talbot County on April 28 (P. Gruber), and 4 at North Beach on May 14 (Stasz); the only inland report was of 3 birds of the western race at Rocky Gap on May 12 (O'Brien). The first Spotted Sandpiper of the season was at North Branch on April 6, and a high of 12 was there on April 29 (Simons); other highs were 14 at North Beach on May 4 (Stasz) and 16 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). Another early Spotted was at PWRC on April 10 (Martin).

*Curlews, Turnstones.* Garland found an Upland Sandpiper in southern Frederick County on May 11 and Roger Anderson saw 1 along US 301 in Queen Annes County on May 17 for the only Maryland sightings outside the Garret County breeding areas. The only Whimbrels this spring were 2 at Assateague on April 30 (Warfield) and 1 at Barren Island on May 28 (Armistead +). Interesting sightings of Ruddy Turnstones were 1 at Blackwater and 3 at Barren Island on May 6 (Armistead +) and 1 at North Beach on May 26 (Stasz).

*Calidridine Sandpipers.* Stasz saw 1 Sanderling at North Beach on March 26. Early Semipalmated Sandpipers were singles at Lilypons on April 25 (Warfield), Remington Farms on April 26 (J. Gruber) and North Branch on April 29 (Twigg, Simons). High local counts of Semis were 100 at Blackwater on May 12 (Effinger), 28 at North Branch on May 24 (Twigg), 16 at Broadford Run on May 26 (Skipper, Pope), 120 at Barren Island on May 28 (Armistead +), and 3000 at Hart - Miller on the latter date (Ringler +). Remarkably early were 35 Least Sandpipers at Blackwater on March 25 (Armistead +). High counts of Least were 25 at North Branch on May 7 (Kiddy), 75 at Hebron on May 8 (Slaughters), 200 at Blackwater on May 12 (Effinger), and 30 at Jug Bay on May 13 (Mumford); the latest were 3 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). The only reports of White-rumped Sandpipers were 1 at Hebron on May 7 (Ringler +) and 6 there the next day (Slaughters), 4 at Smithsville on May 13 (Scudder), 3 at North Beach on May 13-14 (Stasz), and 16 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). The earliest Pectoral Sandpipers were 5 at North Branch on March 21 (Simons), and the latest was 1 at Worton on May 17 (Parks). In between were high counts of 12 at Lilypons on April 22 (Ringler +) and 25 at Blackwater on May 12 (Effinger). Reese found 150 Purple Sandpipers at Ocean City on April 28 but only 3 remained on May 12 (O'Brien +). The numbers of Dunlins wintering at Blackwater decreased from 400 on March 27 (Ringler) to 175 on April 23 (Armistead +) and 25 on May 12 (Effinger). Interesting Dunlin sightings were 2 at Chesapeake Beach on March 19 (Stasz), 1 at Oak Creek, Talbot County on March 31 (Effinger), 4 at North Beach on April 16 (Stasz), 1 at Jug Bay on April 26 (Mumford), 1 at Lilypons on April 30 (Wilbur Hershberger) and 7 there on May 11 (Miller), 5 near Oakland on May 13 (Skipper), 1 at North Branch on May 24 (Twigg), 1 at Herrington Manor on May 26 (Pope), and 200 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). A record-early Stilt Sandpiper was near Salisbury on April 16 (Hammer +) and the only other one of the spring was at Blackwater on May 13 (Armistead +).

*Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcock, Phalaropes.* Reports of Short-billed Dowitchers included 2 at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead), 1 at North Beach on May 3 (Stasz), 1 at Hebron and 1 at Deal Island WMA on May 7 (Ringler +), 4 at Cove Point on May 13 (Stasz), 1 near Oakland on May 13-16 (Skipper, Pope) and 11 at Worton on May 17 (Parks). High counts of Common Snipe for the season were 26 at the University of Maryland Farm in Howard County on March 18 (Chestem), 25 at Tanyard on March 19 (O'Brien), 15 at Lilypons on April 2 (Ringler), 15 at Mountain Lake on April 7 (Pope), 20 at Pinto Marsh on April 11 (Walbeck), 150 at Jug Bay on April 12 (Mumford), and 31 at PNAS on April 13 (Rambo). The latest snipe were 1 at Cove Point on May 13 (Stasz) and 1 in Howard County on May 14 (Chestem). High counts of American Woodcock were 6 at North Branch on March 3 (Simons) and 6 at Millington on March 15 (John Lorentz). The only Wilson's Phalaropes this spring were 2 females at Blackwater on May 13 (Armistead +) and 1 in non-breeding plumage at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). The latter bird was joined by a female Red-necked Phalarope.

*Dark-headed Gulls.* The first reported Laughing Gulls were 1 at Chestertown on March 18 (Parks) and 2 at Salisbury and 4 at Ocean City on March 19 (O'Brien). High counts of Laughers were 300 at Easton on April 16 (Reese) and 300 at Edesville, Kent County, on April 28 (Grubers), while single birds were inland at Loch Raven on April 27 (Simon) and Triadelphia on April 29 (Magnusson, Farrell). The proliferation of Bonaparte's Gulls inland this spring makes listing of all the reports impossible, but the remarkable number of occurrences is a tribute to the many observers who diligently watch their local water spots. In Garrett County there were 38 on Broadford Reservoir on April 13 (Pope) and 28 on Deep Creek Lake on April 14 (Skipper). In Allegany County the first 2 were at North Branch on March 18 (Ringler +) and 30 were there on March 30 (Walbeck), 16 at Pinto on March 31 (Simons), and 21 at Rocky Gap on April 3 and a late bird at North Branch on May 24 (Twigg). On the Washington/Frederick County line there were 31 on the Potomac between Knoxville and Weverton on April 23 (Ringler). Continuing down the Potomac there were 5 at Nolands Ferry, Frederick County, on April 9 (Ringler). In Montgomery County there were at least 50 at Little Falls on April 20-21 (Dick Homan) and 9 at Seneca on April 24 (Warfield). In DC the high count was 120 on April 11 and 1 immature remained on May 29 (Czaplak). Farther north in Carroll County there were 35 at Piney Run on April 20, 3 remaining on May 13 (Ringler). In Howard County there was a record-high inland count of 250 at Centennial Lake on April 2 (Farrells). In Baltimore County there were 49 at Loch Raven on April 14; 35 remained on May 13 (Simon). In the northern part of the bay in Kent County there were 57 at Tolchester and 70 in the mouth of the Chester River on April 5 and 200 at Langford Bay on April 7 (J. Gruber). On the opposite side of the bay 6 Bonaparte's remained at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). In Calvert County there were 150 at North Beach on April 14 and 2 remained on May 22 (Stasz). On the Eastern Shore 1 Bonaparte's was inland at Powellsville on April 9 (Swift). At the primary staging area for Bonaparte's Gulls at Back River on April 12 Swift estimated 500 birds.

*White-headed Gulls.* High inland counts of Ring-billed Gulls were 1000 at PWRC on March 8 (Obrecht), 83 at Cumberland on April 17 (Twigg), and 262 at Deep Creek Lake on May 13 (Skipper); a late bird was at Pinto on May 30 (Simons). High counts on the Eastern Shore were 1500 at Easton on March 14 (Reese), 2500 at Bucktown, Dorchester County, on March 27 (Ringler), and 2500 at Fairlee on April 26 (J. Gruber). At DC the peak was 620 on April 5 (Czaplak). Large flocks of non-breeding Ring-bills that remained late in the season were 700 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +) and 220 in DC on May 29 (Czaplak). The only Herring Gulls in the western counties were 1 at North Branch on March 28 (Simons), 1 immature at Broadford Reservoir on March 30 (Pope), and 1 on Deep Creek Lake on May 13 (Skipper). Non-breeders at Hart - Miller numbered 600 on May 28 (Ringler +). Sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were 1 at Fort McHenry in Baltimore on March 6 (Webb +), a second-winter bird in DC on March 17, a third-winter bird on March 18 and an adult there on April 5 (Czaplak), and a bird in first-summer plumage at North Beach on May 27 (Stasz). High counts of Great Black-backed Gulls were 30 at Jug Bay on April 21 (Mumford) and 80 at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +).

*White Terns.* The only report of Gull-billed Tern was of 2 at Ocean City on May 10 (Paul O'Brien). Very early Caspian Terns numbered 9 at Chestertown on March 26 (Parks), followed by 1 at PNAS on April 3 (Rambo) and 2 in DC on April 4 (Czaplak). Early birds inland were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 6 (Hegner) and 1 at Seneca on April 10 (Jack Schultz). High counts of Caspians inland were 28 at Tria-



delphia on April 14 (Magnusson, Solem), 12 at Conowingo on April 17 (Eastman), 4 at Deep Creek Lake on May 10 (Pope), and 2 at Piney Run on May 12 (Ringler, Anne Moretti). At Hart - Miller 35 Caspians remained on May 28 (Ringler +). The first Royal Terns of the season were noted on April 9 with 7 at Ocean City (Swift) and 2 at North Beach (Stasz). High counts of Royals were 95 at North Beach on May 3 (Stasz) and 20 at Goose Creek, Fairmount, Somerset County on May 27 (Reese, Effinger). There were two reports of Sandwich Terns in the bay, 1 at the mouth of Worton Creek on May 4 (J. Gruber) and 1 flying north up Tar Bay, Dorchester County, on May 28 (Armistead +). The first Common Terns of the season were 5 at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz), and inland birds were 3 at Hains Point on May 6 (Czaplak +), 2 at Piney Run on May 11 (Ringler), and 14 at Deep Creek Lake on May 12 (Pope). March Forster's Terns were 4 at Bivalve on the 28th (Slaughters) and 1 in Kent County the same day (Parks). The first inland bird was 1 at North Branch on April 9 (Kiddy, Twigg). Also inland were 9 at Broadford Reservoir on May 5 (Pope), 42 at Deep Creek Lake on May 10 (Pope), 1 at Rocky Gap on May 12 (O'Brien +), and 1 at Williamsport on May 12 (Bob & Bonnie Lizer). A good count for Caroline County was 28 Forster's Terns at Choptank on May 13 (Engle). Two Least Terns there on April 29 (Engle) were the earliest of that species reported, and 30 at the same location on May 7 (Ringler +) was the largest number. The only other April Least were 3 at Cove Point on the 30th (Stasz).

*Black Terns, Skimmers.* Black Terns put on their best spring show ever as there were more reports inland this year. In Garrett County there were 6 on Broadford Reservoir on May 11 (Pope) and 8 on Deep Creek Lake on May 13 (Skipper). In Allegany County the first was at Cumberland on May 2 (Twigg), followed by 24 at North Branch on May 10 (Twigg, Simons), 1 at Pinto on May 10-11 (Simons), and 22 at Rocky Gap on May 12 (O'Brien +). In Washington County there were 4 at Williamsport on May 12 and 1 there on May 14 (Bob & Bonnie Lizer), and 7 on the Potomac near Antietam on May 13 (Jean Nielly). In Carroll County there were 20 at Piney Run on May 11 and 2 remaining on May 18 (Ringler). In Montgomery County an early bird was at Seneca on April 24 (Warfield), and 5 were at Violet's Lock on April 30 (Oberman). In Howard County 1 appeared at Lake Elkhorn on May 11 (Hegner, Mariano +), and in Baltimore County 3 were at Loch Raven the same day (Simon). The only sightings from the bay region were 1 at North Beach on May 6 (Stasz), 2 at Blackwater on May 12 (Effinger), and 1 at Deal Island WMA on May 12 (O'Brien +). The lone report from the coast was of 3 at Ocean City on May 12 (O'Brien +). Armistead found 14 Black Skimmers at Hooper Island on April 23, a good number there.

*Doves, Parrots, Cuckoos.* A White-winged Dove near Elkton on March 9-27 (Paul Bystrak +) will be detailed in a separate article. A Monk Parakeet was seen at PNAS on April 14-28 (Rambo, Bryan). Black-billed Cuckoos were more common than usual on the May Count this year. Reports outside that date included an early 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 30 (Jack Schultz) and 1 at Denton on May 6 (Fletcher). Early Yellow-billed Cuckoos were 1 at Tuckahoe on April 21 (Rittenhouse), 1 at Salisbury on April 25 (Brodericks), and 1 at Chestertown on April 27 (Parks).

*Owls, Caprimulgids.* The only Short-eared Owls reported were 3 at the traditional site in Baltimore on March 6 and 2 there on April 8 (Webb +). Reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls were 1 at Cylburn in Baltimore on March 8-23 (Glenda Weber +), 2 at Hughes Hollow on March 12 (Elitzak) and 1 there on March 21 (O'Brien), and a fresh road-kill near Rock Hall on April 12 (J. Gruber). A belated report of a Saw-whet in Randallstown on Jan. 6 (Jack Wennerstrom) was also

received. Early Common Nighthawks were 1 near Clarksville on April 30 (Atkinson) and 1 at Cumberland on May 2 (Simons). Reports of Chuck-will's-widows included 1 at Remington Farms on April 13 (J. Gruber), 1 near Lusby on April 23 (Rambo), 1 near Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead), 2 at Salisbury on April 27 (Brodericks), 1 at Smithville on May 4 (Scudder) and, in the Piedmont where the species is rare, 1 at Hughes Hollow on May 7 (Doug Norton) and 2 at Soldier's Delight on May 14 (Webb +). An early Whip-poor-will was seen at Loch Raven on April 1 (Wheeler) and the first at Federalsburg was heard on April 20 (Glime).

*Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.* The high count of Chimney Swifts noted this spring was 250 in DC on May 16 (Czaplak). Earliest Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were 2 at a feeder in Wittman on April 15 (Alice Fairbanks), 1 at Chestertown on April 17 (Grubers), and 1 at Dunkirk on April 20 (Arlene Ripley). The Rufous Hummingbird wintering in Takoma Park was last reported on April 12 (Wilson). Reese reported Red-headed Woodpeckers more common than ever in Talbot County in May with 4 on Miles River Neck and 1 at Longwoods on the 13th and single pairs at Royal Oak and Martingham the next day. High counts of Northern Flickers in Kent County were 32 at Eastern Neck on April 1 and 38 at Remington Farms on April 12 (J. Gruber).

*Flycatchers, Larks.* Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in Howard County in Patuxent River Park on May 13 by the Harts and the Pardoos, in Montgomery County on May 18 (Bonham), at Rock Creek Nature Center in DC on May 20-21 and singing there on May 25 (Czaplak), at High Ridge Park in Howard County on May 26 (Robbins), and at Finzel on May 28 (Mark Hoffman). Early Eastern Wood-Pewees were at Salisbury on April 25 (Brodericks) and at Denton on April 28 (Nuttle). As usual, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were very scarce with 1 banded at Mt. Nebo on May 15, 1 banded at Broadford Run on May 18, 1 in DC on May 22 (Czaplak), 1 singing at Broadford Run on May 24-25 (Skipper, Pope), and 1 banded at Harford Glen on May 29 (Barbara Bilsborough). Early Acadian Flycatchers were at Remington Farms on April 25 (J. Gruber), at Lake Kittamaquidi on April 29 (Atkinson), and at Smithville on April 29 (Scudder). Early Least Flycatchers were banded at Adventure on April 27 (Donnald) and at Crellin on May 1 (Skipper). Other single Least Flycatchers reported after the May Count were at the Pickall Area of Patapsco Valley State Park on May 14 (Wilkinson), in DC on May 15 (Czaplak), near Frederick on May 15 (Miller), at High Ridge Park, Howard County on May 15 (Robbins), at Chestertown on May 15 and 19 (Parks), at North Branch on May 17 (Twigg), at Cabin John on May 18 (Plante), at Phoenix on May 18 (Simon), and at Rockburn Park in Howard County on May 29 and June 2 (Bonnie Ott). Early Eastern Phoebe were single birds at Pennyfield on March 1 (Bonham), Harford Glen on March 2 (Kirkwood), and Cumberland on March 2 (Twigg). Very early Great Crested Flycatchers included 1 at Grime's Farm, Talbot County, on April 23 (Effinger), 1 at Salisbury on April 25 (Brodericks), 1 at Denton on April 26 (Nuttle), and 2 at Remington Farms on April 26 (J. Gruber). The earliest Eastern Kingbirds of the season were 1 at Easton on April 16 (Virginia Graebert), 1 at Chestertown on April 21 (Parks), 1 at Grime's Farm, Talbot County on April 21 (Effinger), and 1 at Cove Point on April 22 (Stasz); 2 late migrants were at Hart - Miller on May 28 (Ringler +). The only notable report of Horned Larks was of 14 at Easton on April 16 (Reese).

*Swallows.* Early Tree Swallows were 1 at Remington Farms on March 17 (Grubers), 1 at Annapolis on March 18 (Iliff), 4 at North Branch on March 18 (Ringler +), 3 at Merkle on March 19 (Donovan), 1 at Hughes Hollow on March 18

(White), 3 at Big Pool on March 19 (Ringler), and 1 at Lilypons on March 19 (Harvey). High counts of Tree Swallows were 50 at North Branch and 200 at Pinto on March 31 (Simons), 100 at PWRC on March 31 (Martin), 250 at North Beach on April 16 (Stasz), 95 at Broadford Reservoir on April 19 (Pope), and 400 at Jug Bay on May 3 (Mumford, Beaton); 3 late migrants were in DC on May 29 (Czaplak). Stasz noted 30 migrant Northern Rough-winged Swallows at North Beach on April 16. Exceptionally early Bank Swallows were noted on April 6 with birds in Montgomery County (Bonham), 2 at Jug Bay (Ricciardi, Robbins), and 2 at Eastern Neck (J. Gruber); the next birds were singles in DC on the 14th (Czaplak) and at Broadford Reservoir on the 15th (Pope). The first Cliff Swallow reported was 1 at Piney Run on April 22 (Ringler); 128 was the high count at Deep Creek Lake on May 10 (Pope), and 4 at North Beach on May 17 and 2 there the next day (Stasz) were rarities along the bay. High counts of Barn Swallows were 200 at Piney Run on April 28 (Ringler) and 100 at Jug Bay on May 3 (Mumford, Beaton).

*Corvids, Nuthatches.* High counts of migrating Blue Jays were 700 at North Beach on April 27 (Stasz) and, at Fort Smallwood, 5300 on April 30 and 1090 on May 13 (Mozurkewich). The best count of Fish Crows was 210 flying across the mouth of the Choptank River on March 25 (Armistead +). In Frederick County there were 8 Fish Crows at Lander on April 9 (Ringler) and a Northern Raven at Sugarloaf on March 27 (Iliff). Non-May Count reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce, with 1 at North Laurel on March 12 (Jay Sheppard), 1 at St. Michaels on March 15-27 (Reese), 3 at Parsonsburg on April 9 (Pitney), 1 at New Germany S.P. on May 12 (O'Brien), 1 at a feeder on Bray Hill through May 12 (Skipper), and 1 in DC on May 12 (Czaplak). Rare in Talbot County was a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches courting on Miles River Neck on May 13 (Reese).

*Creepers, Wrens.* Brown Creepers did not elicit much response from observers, with the highest counts being 5 each at Green Ridge on March 26 (Simons) and at McKeldin on April 1 (Ringler). A Carolina Wren banded at Mt. Nebo on May 19 is the first that Sallie Thayer has captured there. An exceptionally early House Wren was at Broadford Reservoir on March 30 (Pope). The only reports of Sedge Wrens this spring were 1 at Irish Grove on April 16 (Hammer +), 1 at Pinto Marsh on May 4 and 2 there on May 12 (Simons), and 1 at Finzel on May 13 (Walbeck, McKearnan). A Marsh Wren at Cove Point on March 12 (Stasz) probably wintered there, and 1 at Jug Bay on April 6 (Ricciardi, Robbins) may have been an early migrant. Inland Marsh Wrens were 1 at Harford Glen on April 22 (Kirkwood), 1 near Woodlawn on May 6-13 (Wilkinson), 1 at North Branch on May 10-17 (Simons, Twigg), 2 at Finzel on May 13 (Walbeck, McKearnan), 1 on the C & O Canal between Oldtown and Spring Gap on May 13 (Kiddy), and 1 heard at Piney Run on May 18 (Ringler, Moretti).

*Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.* High Counts of Golden-crowned Kinglets were 50 at Jug Bay on March 22 (Mumford), 25 at McKeldin on April 1 (Ringler), 200 on Green Ridge on April 1 (Simons), 33 at Remington Farms on April 12 (J. Gruber), and 20 at Mountain Lake and 30 at Herrington Manor on April 14 (Pope). In Talbot County 2 very late Golden-crowns were at Claiborne on April 26 (Reese), and an extraordinarily late individual was well-described at Jamaica Point on May 13 (Effinger). High counts of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were 32 at Remington Farms on April 13 (J. Gruber) and 40 at Herrington Manor on April 28 (Pope); the latest migrant was 1 at Broadford Run on May 24 (Skipper, Pope). The first Blue-gray Gnatcatchers of the season were 2 on Green Ridge on April 1 (Simons), and the high count was 30 at Jug Bay on April 21 (Mumford).

*Thrushes.* The largest number of Eastern Bluebirds noted was 100 at Bozman on March 17 (Ed Burns). An early Veery was at Four Hundred Farm, Talbot County, on April 23 (Effinger). Sallie Thayer caught a Veery at Mt. Nebo on May 29 that she had banded there on September 3, 1984. Bandings of Gray-cheeked Thrushes included 1 at Broadford Run on May 20 and 1 at Adventure on May 31. Czaplak reported a Gray-cheek of the Bicknell's race in DC on May 24. An early Swainson's Thrush was at Seneca on April 30 (Plante) and a late 1 was at McKeldin on May 27 (Ringler). The high count for Hermit Thrushes was 7 on Green Ridge on March 26 (Simons), and a late migrant was banded at Irvine on May 17. Early Wood Thrushes were single birds at Harmony on April 19 (Scudder) and Remington Farms on April 20 (Grubers). High counts of American Robins were 120 at Piney Neck on March 3 (J. Gruber), 250 at Broadford Reservoir on March 19 (Pope), 200 at Rockville on March 22 (O'Brien), and 150 at Easton on April 16 (Reese). Early Robin nests included one with 3 eggs at Clinton on March 26 (Reese) and one with young in DC on April 23 (Czaplak).

*Mimids, Pipits.* Gray Catbirds that probably were wintering locally were 1 at Theodore in Cecil County on March 11 (Ringler, Fogleman) and 1 at North Branch on April 6 (Twigg); 2 at Remington Farms on April 13 (J. Gruber) and 1 at Denton on April 15 (Knotts) are difficult to categorize. A catbird overwintering in Schooley Mill Park was joined by a migrant on April 22 (Chase, Magnusson), and another was seen on that day at Lander (Ringler). A Northern Mockingbird at Broadford Run on May 20 (Skipper) was a rarity in Garrett County. A Brown Thrasher at Jug Bay on March 17 (Mumford +) was probably wintering, and early migrants included 1 at Blackwater on March 25 (Armistead), 1 in Baltimore on March 30 (Bohanan), 1 at Chestertown on March 31 (Parks), and 1 on Green Ridge on April 1 (Simons). The only high count of American Pipits was 50 at the University of Maryland Central Farm, Howard County, on May 6 and 3 late birds were there on the 13th (Atkinson). Other May Count pipits were 2 at Greensboro (Hewitt), 4 near Keysville (Ringler), and 1 in DC (Czaplak).

*Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings.* High counts of Cedar Waxwings were localized with 200 at God's Grace Point on March 4 (Stasz), and 57 at Cumberland on March 15 (Twigg), 100 at Green Ridge on March 17 (Simons), and 120 at Fort Smallwood on May 13 (Mozurkewich). Most observers reported waxwings to be rather scarce. Late flocks included 25 near Bellevue on May 27 (Armistead +), 30 in DC on May 29 (Czaplak), and 8 at Mt. Vernon on June 3 (Batchelder). The only migrant Loggerhead Shrike reported was at Landing Neck Road, Talbot County, on March 30 (Effinger); 1 was at Lilypons, where they have bred, at least through April 22 (many observers), and 1 at Federalsburg on May 13 (Glime) is late for a migrant and far from known breeding areas. Czaplak found a European Starling nest with young in DC on April 21.

*Vireos.* Early White-eyed Vireos were 1 at Waldorf on April 2 (Jett), 1 at Jug Bay on April 6 (Ricciardi, Robbins), 1 at Remington Farms on April 13 (J. Gruber) and 1 in Montgomery County on April 14 (Bonham). Early Solitary Vireos were 1 at Irvine on April 5 (Pete Martin), 2 on Green Ridge on April 6 (Simons), and 1 at Swallow Falls on April 7 (Pope). The high count of Solitaries was 7 at Remington Farms on April 26 (J. Gruber), and late individuals were at Chestertown on May 15 (Parks) and North Branch on May 17 (Twigg). Exceptionally early were 2 Yellow-throated Vireos on Elm Island in the Potomac near Pennyfield on April 8 (Garland), and moderately early were 1 in DC on April 22 (Czaplak), 1 at Bryans Road on April 23 (Wilmot), and 1 at Twilley Bridge Road, Wicomico County, on

April 23 (Pitney). The first Warbling Vireos of the season were 4 between Weverton and Sandy Hook and 1 at Mountain Lake, all on the C & O Canal in Washington County on April 23 (Ringler), followed by 1 at Seneca on April 24 (Warfield). Another was at a traditional Eastern Shore location, St. Paul's Church in Kent County, on April 26 (J. Gruber) and yet another Eastern Shore report was 1 at Mardela Springs on May 28 (Reese, Effinger), the latter also perhaps nesting. Early Red-eyed Vireos were 3 at Remington Farms on April 17 (J. Gruber), 1 at Swanson Creek, Prince Georges County on April 22 (Walbeck, Rich Dolesh), and 1 at Smithville on April 22 (Scudder).

*Vermivora* Warblers, *Parulas*. Early Blue-winged Warblers were 1 at PawPaw tunnel on April 24 (Twigg), 1 at Remington Farms on April 25 (J. Gruber), and 1 at Irvine on April 26 (Walbeck). In Garrett County where Blue-wings are always rare there was 1 at Deep Creek Lake on May 12 (Pope) and 1 at the Pleasant Valley 4-H Camp on May 13 (Skipper) and May 20 (Kirkwood +). It was an exceptionally good spring for Golden-winged Warblers with most reports coming from the Piedmont. The first sightings were 1 at North Branch and 2 at Cresaptown on April 28 (Simons) and 1 at Chestertown on April 28 and also on May 6 (Parks). Other April reports were 2 at Annapolis on the 29th (Iliff) and, on the 30th, 1 at Battery Kemble Park in DC (Czaplak, Janni) and 1 at Red Bridges in Caroline County (Scudder). These were followed by 5 sightings in Baltimore County, 3 in Howard County, 1 in Montgomery County, and 1 in Harford County. The latter bird was at Harford Glen on May 13 (Jon Cupp, Spike Updegrave). On May 20 a Golden-winged Warbler at Shanktown in Washington County was singing both common songs of the Blue-wing (Ringler +). Of the hybrids there were Brewster's Warblers at Cylburn on May 8 and May 12 (Yokel), a male singing a Blue-wing song at Damsite on May 13 (J. Gruber) and another at milepost 169 on the C & O Canal in Allegany County on May 13 (Kiddy). Lawrence's Warblers were 1 at Cresaptown on April 28 (Simons) and 1 banded at Mt. Nebo on May 15. Early Tennessee Warblers were 1 at Chestertown on April 27 (Grubers), 1 at Fletcher's Boathouse in DC on April 29 (Janni) and 1 at North Branch on April 29 (Simons); a late migrant was at Deal Island WMA on May 25 (Brodericks). The Orange-crowned Warbler that wintered near Woodlawn was last seen on April 9 (Wilkinson). Early Nashville Warblers were 1 at Seneca on April 18 (Plante) and 1 at Chestertown on April 21 (Parks). Exceptionally early Northern Parulas were 1 at Seneca on March 29 (Bonham), 1 at Jug Bay on April 6 (Ricciardi, Robbins), 1 at Nassawango on April 8 (Swift), 1 at Bryans Road on April 9 (Wilmot), and 1 at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert County on April 14 (Wilson).

*Dendroica* Warblers. Early Yellow Warblers were 1 at Tuckahoe on April 17 (Rittenhouse), 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 22 (Helen Kavanagh), and 3 at Lilypons on the latter date (Ringler +). The first Chestnut-sided Warblers were 1 at Remington Farms on April 26 (J. Gruber) and 1 on Green Ridge on April 29 (Simons), followed by arrivals in many parts of the state on the 30th. Thayer caught one at Mt. Nebo on May 21 that had been banded there on May 18, 1985. The latest migrant Chestnut-sided was in DC on May 25 (Czaplak). An early Magnolia Warbler was at Cresaptown on April 29 (Simons). An early Cape May Warbler was at Easton on April 24 (Alice Jones) and 1 at Violet's Lock on April 30 (Oberman). Early Black-throated Blue Warblers were 1 banded at Adventure on April 25, 1 at Annapolis on April 25 (Iliff), 1 at Phoenix on April 28 (Simon), and 1 at Chestertown on April 28 (Parks). High counts of Yellow-rumped Warblers were 200 at Jug Bay on April 21 (Mumford) and 207 at Remington Farms on April 25 (J. Gruber); late migrants were 1 at Flag Ponds on May 20 (Stasz), 1 at King's Creek on May 20

(Effinger), 2 at Harford Glen on May 20 (Eastman), 1 at Cumberland on May 22 (Twigg), and 1 at PWRC on May 22 (Martin). An extraordinarily early Black-throated Green Warbler was at Centennial Park on April 8-9 (Magnusson +) and other early arrivals were 1 at Seneca on April 18 (Plante), 1 at Bray Hill on April 23 (Skipper), and 1 at Remington Farms on April 25 (J. Gruber). There were 10 Black-throated Greens on Green Ridge on April 29 (Simons).

Early Blackburnian Warblers were 1 at Chestertown on April 28 (Parks) and 1 on Green Ridge on April 29 (Simons); a male near Pocomoke Swamp on May 28 (Reese, Effinger) was very late. The first Yellow-throated Warblers of the season were 1 at McKeldin on April 1 (Ringler) and 1 at Jug Bay on April 2 (Donovan); and 1 near Oakland on April 29 (Thayer) was a rarity in Garrett County. Also in Garrett was a rare Pine Warbler near the Potomac, opposite Bayard, West Virginia on May 1; (Skipper). Simons counted 24 Pine Warblers on Green Ridge on March 26. Parks reported the first Palm Warbler at Chestertown on March 27. Best counts of Palms were 15 at Jug Bay on April 12 (Mumford) and 11 at Centennial Park on April 22 (Atkinson). Most Palm Warblers seen in May are of the western subspecies, so a "yellow" banded at Adventure on May 7 was quite late. Other Palms outside the May Count were 1 western in DC on May 7 (Czaplak), 1 western near Bellevue on May 7 (Ringler +), 1 in Baltimore on May 16 (Bohanan), and 1 at Broadford Run on May 18 (Skipper). An early Bay-breasted Warbler was at Chestertown on April 30 (Parks) and a late 1 was at McKeldin on May 21 (Ringler +). An early Blackpoll Warbler was heard at Jug Bay on April 30 (Ringler +), and the latest was 1 at Chestertown on June 1 (Parks). High counts of Blackpolls included 10 at Sandy Point on May 22 (Mumford) and 15 at Jug Bay on May 26 (Mumford, Beaton). Early Cerulean Warblers were 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 23 (Simons) and 1 at Woodstock, Baltimore County, on April 24 (Rogers).

*Black-and-white to Swainson's Warbler.* An early Black-and-white Warbler was at Jug Bay on April 6 (Ricciardi, Robbins) and the first American Redstart of the season was at Lock #5 on the C & O Canal on April 20 (Dick Homan). Early Prothonotary Warblers were 1 at Tuckahoe on April 14 (Rittenhouse) and 1 at Nassawango on April 16 (Slaughters). A first for Carroll County was a Prothonotary at McKeldin on April 27 (Ringler), and reports from Howard County were 1 on Savage Mill Trail on April 27 (Solem, Mariano) and a pair on the Patapsco River on April 28 (Solem, Connie Bockstie). Early Worm-eating Warblers were singles at Chestertown on April 20 (Parks), in Baltimore County on April 23 (Wilkinson), at Pocomoke Swamp on April 23 (Pitney), and at Salisbury on April 25 (Brodericks). Reports of Swainson's Warblers were 1 at Pocomoke Swamp on May 7 (Len & Jo Satloff), 1 at Twilley Bridge Road near Nassawango Creek on May 9 (Brodericks) and an intriguing bird that was heard singing the Swainson's song at North Branch on May 9-15 but never seen (Simons).

*Seiurus and Oporornis Warblers.* Early Ovenbirds were 1 at Nassawango on April 11 (Slaughters), 2 at Salisbury on April 17 (Brodericks), 1 at Greensboro on April 17 (Hewitt), and 1 at Irvine on April 18 (Ross). Early Northern Waterthrushes were singles at Spring Gap on April 14 (Simons), Remington Farms on April 17 (J. Gruber), and banded at Adventure on April 24; 1 at Salisbury on May 20 (Vaughns) was rare on the lower Eastern Shore. March Louisiana Waterthrushes included 1 at Millington on the 26th (John Lorentz), 1 at Bryans Road on the 26th (Wilmot), 4 at Pennyfield on the 29th (Bonham) and 1 on Green Ridge on the 29th (Simons). Early Kentucky Warblers were singles banded at Adventure on April 25 (Donnald), seen

at Denton on April 25 (Fletcher), at Remington Farms on April 26 (J. Gruber) and on Green Ridge on April 29 (Simons). The following reports of Mourning Warblers were received: 1 heard at Flag Ponds on the exceptionally early date of May 6 (Stasz), 1 at Mountain Lake on May 13 (Pope), 1 at Cylburn on May 16 (Yokel), 1 in Montgomery County on May 19 (Bonham), 2 banded at Mt. Nebo on May 19, 1 window-kill near Wolfsville on May 20 (Miller), 1 male at Rock Creek Nature Center, DC, on May 21 (Czaplak), 6 banded at Adventure from May 21-31 with 2 on the 23rd, 1 male at Schooley Mill Park on May 22 (Magnusson), 1 female at Battery Kemble Park on May 23 (Czaplak), 1 at Sycamore Landing on May 24 (Judy Bromley, Plante), 1 at Seneca Creek S.P. on May 24 (Bernie Foy), 1 at Broadford Run on May 24 (Skipper), 1 singing male in DC on May 25 (Czaplak), and 1 at Annapolis on May 28 (Mumford).

*Yellowthroat, Wilsonia Warblers, Chat.* Early Common Yellowthroats were 1 at Cove Point on April 8 (Stasz), 2 at King's Creek on April 9 (Effinger), 1 in DC on April 14 (Czaplak), and 1 at Salisbury on April 16 (Brodericks). Jim Gruber counted 83 Yellowthroats at Remington Farms on April 25. Earliest Hooded Warblers this year were 2 at Jug Bay on April 21 (Mumford) and 1 at Salisbury on April 27 (Vaughns). An early Wilson's Warbler was at Chestertown on April 30 (Parks), and late individuals were at Irvine on May 30 (Ross) and Jug Bay the next day (Mumford). The high count of Canada Warblers for the season was 10 at Sandy Point on May 22 (Mumford). Early Yellow-breasted Chats were 1 at King's Creek on April 21 (Effinger), 1 at Chestertown on April 27 (Parks), and 1 at Cresaptown on April 28 (Simons).

*Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches, Towhees.* Early Summer Tanagers were seen on April 26 at Denton (Knotts) and Remington Farms (J. Gruber). The only Piedmont Summer Tanager was 1 at Cylburn on May 6 (Yokel). Scarlet Tanagers seen on April 25 were 1 at Denton (Fletcher) and Remington Farms (J. Gruber). April reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks included 1 at Phoenix on April 28 (Simon), 1 in DC on April 28 (Czaplak), 1 at Norbeck on April 29 (Ruth Treavor), 2 at Mountain Lake Park on April 29 (Pope), and 1 at Bray Hill the same day (Skipper). Early Blue Grosbeaks were 1 at Denton on April 24 (Nuttle), 1 at Chestertown on April 25 (Parks), 1 at Claiborne on April 25 (Reese), and 1 at North Branch on April 28 (Simons). The first Indigo Buntings of the season included an exceptionally early 1 at North Branch on April 17 (Simons) and another in Allegany County at Cumberland on April 26 (Twigg). The only Dickcissels reported were 1 at Pinto Marsh on May 21 (Simons) and 3 at Greensboro on May 29 (Dorset, Nuttle). Jim Gruber's high count of Rufous-sided Towhees at Remington Farms was 74 on April 26.

*Sparrows, Snow Bunting.* High counts of American Tree Sparrows were 15 at Schooley Mill Park on March 5 (Magnusson, Chase) and 4 at Rising Sun on March 11 (Fogleman, Ringler); the latest was reported at Irvine on April 8 (Ross). Early Chipping Sparrows were single birds at Denton on March 8 (Fletcher), Green Ridge on March 17 (Simons), Waldorf on March 18 (Jett), and Chestertown on March 18 (Grubers). The Grubers estimated 35 Field Sparrows at Remington Farms on March 10 and found 2 Vesper Sparrows there on April 20, the latter rare on the Eastern Shore. The first Vespers of the season were 3 at Rockville on March 26 (O'Brien). The 8 Savannah Sparrows at Eastern Neck on March 8 (J. Gruber) may have wintered locally, but the following were more likely early migrants: 2 at North Branch on March 19 (Ringler +) and 2 at Cove Point on March 25 (Stasz). High counts of Savannahs were 36 at Remington Farms on April 17 (J. Gruber) and

18 at the University of Maryland Central Farm, Howard County on May 7 (Atkinson); late migrants were 1 at Chestertown on May 17 (Parks), 1 at North Beach on May 19 (Stasz), and 1 at Pinto Marsh on May 21 (Kiddy). There were numerous early Grasshopper Sparrows with 1 at Kinnards Point, Kent County, on April 10 (Steve Hitchner), 1 at Constitution Gardens in DC on April 14 (Czaplak), 1 at PNAS on April 19 (Rambo), 1 at Tuckahoe on April 21 (Rittenhouse), 1 at Bittinger on April 21 (Skipper), and 1 heard on Oland Road in Frederick County on April 22 (Ringler). Reese had a high Eastern Shore count of 12 Grasshopper Sparrows at Horn Point on May 20. The only Henslow's Sparrow reported was on Chestnut Grove Road in Garrett County on May 13 (Skipper). Stasz noted migrant Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Calvert County with 1 at Cove Point and 1 at North Beach on April 29 and 2 at North Beach on May 2. Arriving Seaside Sparrows are rarely noted, but this spring there were single birds at Point Lookout on April 22 (Pisano), Cove Point on April 22 (Stasz), and Mt. Vernon on April 23 (Pitney).

The last Fox Sparrows were found on the very late date of April 23 with 1 at Lake Elkhorn (Mariano) and 1 banded at Mt. Nebo. High counts of Song Sparrows were 170 at Rockville on March 22 (O'Brien) and 100 at Trout Run on April 15 (Pope). Early Lincoln's Sparrows were 1 banded at Adventure on May 2, 1 banded at Irvine on May 3, 1 at Pinto Marsh on May 3 (Simons), and single birds on May 6 at Schooléy Mill Park (Magnusson), in DC (Czaplak), and banded at Laurel (Robbins). High counts of Swamp Sparrows were 100 at Jug Bay on April 12 (Mumford) and 30 at Mountain Lake and 20 at Herrington Manor on April 28 (Pope); the latest migrant was 1 banded at Adventure on May 22. Late White-throated Sparrows were 1 near Bellevue on May 27 (Armistead +) and 3 at Denton on May 31 (Knotts). The high count of White-crowned Sparrows was 42 at Remington Farms on April 13 (J. Gruber) and late migrants were singles at Phoenix on May 15 (Jenkins), Monrovia on May 16 (C. W. Merry), DC on May 16 (Czaplak), Edgewood on May 17 (Eastman), and Williamsport on May 17 (Mallonee). The only Dark-eyed Juncos reported after the May Count were 2 at Denton on the extraordinary date of May 31 (Knotts). The only Snow Bunting reported was at Paint Branch Park, Prince Georges County, on March 13 (Wallace Powell).

*Icterines.* Early Bobolinks were 4 males on Oland Road on April 25 (Don Weisman), a flock at Meyers Station on April 30 (Emily Joyce +), and 1 on Broadford Road, Garrett County on April 30 (Pope). High counts of Bobolinks were 100 at Beltsville on May 1 + (Churchill +), 200 + near Madonna on May 5-21 (Kirkwood), 100 at Potomac on May 6 (Elitzak) and May 9 (Oberman), and 75 near Triadelphia on May 6 (Chestem). Mumford estimated 1000 Red-winged Blackbirds at Jug Bay on April 12 as they were still migrating. Migrant Eastern Meadowlarks are difficult to detect but occasionally they appear in unusual places. This spring two that qualify were 1 in the top of a sycamore tree along the Patapsco at McKeldin on April 1 (Ringler) and 1 at Hains Point on April 5 (Czaplak). Reports of flocks of Rusty Blackbirds were 15 at Finzel and 25 at Poplar Lick Run in Garrett County on March 25 (O'Brien), 50 in DC on April 8 (Czaplak), 30 at Jug Bay on April 12 (Mumford), 10 at Piney Run on April 21 (Ringler), 22 at Spring Gap on April 22 (Twigg), and 15 at Beltsville on April 22 (Churchill). Engle estimated 6000 Common Grackles at Preston on March 5 as the wintering flocks began to disperse. Early Orchard Orioles were 1 at Blackwater on April 23 (Armistead) and, on April 25, single birds at Denton (Fletcher), Remington Farms (J. Gruber), and PWRC (Droege). The first Northern Oriole of the season was at Denton on April 20 (Nuttle).



*Cardueline Finches.* Purple Finches, which were scarce during the winter, remained so during the spring with the most reported being 11 at Bray Hill on April 19 (Skipper). Large flocks of House Finches were reported with 500 at Chestertown on March 19 (Grubers) and 100 at Oxon Hill Children's Farm on May 29 (Samuel Barr). Joy Wheeler noted a yellow variant of the House Finch at Oregon Ridge Park, Baltimore County, on March 22. The only Pine Siskins reported were 1 at Bray Hill on March 22-24 (Skipper), 1 near Oakland on March 29 (Thayer), 1-2 at Mountain Lake Park through April 16 (Pope), and 5 at Salisbury on April 19; 1 remained on the 21st (photographed by the Brodericks). The best tally of American Goldfinches was 960 at Fort Smallwood on May 3 (Mozurkewich) during the height of that species' migration. The only Evening Grosbeak in the state this spring was seen at Bray Hill on March 3 and 10 (Skipper).

*6272 Pinyon Pine Court, Eldersburg, MD 21784*

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

### ATLAS COMMITTEE

The Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project is in the second year of preparing for publication of the final results. The effort is moving forward on several fronts.

The county coordinators are making the last checks and edits on the field data. The total number of records is approximately 90,000.

The authors of the species accounts are continuing to submit their work. We now have about 70 of the nearly 200 accounts on hand, but we need to speed up the process. Accounts that do not come in soon will have to be assigned to different authors. The Atlas Board has processed about 50 of the accounts.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources personnel, under the direction of Glenn Therres and Mark Hoffman, continue to process the data and to work on new programs for producing the final maps. Their support has been invaluable.

We are pleased to announce that Joanne Solem and Jane Farrell of the Howard County Chapter have agreed to join the Atlas Board. Not only do they have a great deal of experience and a deep dedication to the project, but valuable editing backgrounds as well.

*Eirik A. T. Blom, Atlas Coordinator*

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

I have examined the financial records of The Maryland Ornithological Society for the year May 1, 1988 to April 30, 1989. In my opinion the records continue to be in excellent shape, are easy to understand, and accurately present the financial position of the Society.

*Rodney B. Jones, Chairman*

## CAVITY-NESTER COMMITTEE

The Maryland Ornithological Society Trails (MOST) had another successful year in 1988 with 166 members participating and monitoring a total of 1,953 nesting boxes. Native cavity nesting birds have responded well to the placement of nesting boxes in suitable habitat and the results have been most encouraging.

### MOST ANNUAL REPORT 1988

Types of Boxes Used	4' x 4'	5' x 5'	Other	Total
Total no. of boxes	1454	449	50	1953
Boxes used by Bluebirds	729	245	29	1003
No. of Bluebirds fledged	3814	130	142	4086
Boxes used: Chickadees	106	28	0	134
Boxes used: Titmice	44	6	0	50
Boxes used: Nuthatches	0	0	0	0
Boxes used: Swallows	67	22	3	92
Boxes used: Wrens	199	13	5	217
Boxes used: Flycatchers	1	1	0	2
Total no. boxes used	1146	315	37	1498
% boxes used by all species	78.8%	70.1%	74%	76.7%
% boxes used by Bluebirds	50.1%	54.6%	58%	51.3%
% boxes used by others	28.7%	15.5%	16%	25.4%
Total no. reports	166			

Chapter presidents are urged to designate a compiler to gather data for their particular chapter in order to simplify reporting. Members not participating are missing a golden opportunity not only to help our native cavity nesting birds, but to witness first hand the life cycle of such species as bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, wrens, swallows, flycatchers and even Prothonotary Warblers.

MOS played a major role in promoting the "Chickadee Checkoff" project in Maryland. Now the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has asked MOS to participate in establishing and monitoring trails on State land. The following areas have been targeted:

Idylwild WMA, Caroline County  
 Earleville WMA, Cecil County  
 Myrtle Grove WMA, Charles County  
 Fishing Bay WMA, Dorchester County  
 Linkwood WMA, Dorchester County  
 LeCompte WMA, Dorchester County  
 Taylors Island WMA, Dorchester County  
 Hugg-Thomas WMA, Howard County  
 Millington WMA, Kent County

McKee-Beshers, WMA Montgomery County  
 Elms Property, St. Marys County  
 Fairmount WMA, Somerset County  
 Deal Island WMA, Somerset County  
 Pocomoke Sound WMA, Somerset County  
 Wellington WMA, Somerset County  
 Indian Springs WMA, Washington County  
 Ellis Bay WMA, Wicomico County  
 E.A. Vaughn WMA, Worcester County

Anyone desiring to participate in this project please contact me at 6002 Hunt Club Rd., Elkridge, MD 21227.

*Delos C. Dupree, Chairman*

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Given the current investment climate, I again see no need to make radical changes to the very conservative tack we're on now. Unless the Board is unhappy with the returns, incremental changes may be all that are required. Given my passive leadership of the Investment Committee, let me know if you wish changes.

*John Barber, Chairman*

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Consolidation of the large supply of back issues of *Maryland Birdlife* is under way on the third floor of Cylburn. Volunteer help would be gratefully received at any time.

Requests for back issues to complete *Maryland Birdlife* collections came from the libraries of Towson State and Auburn Universities. We were able to bring them up to date.

It was suggested that we make a set of *Maryland Birdlife* available to each county library system in Maryland. Instead I have arranged to fill in the incomplete set already held in the Maryland Department of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. As the Maryland State Library Resource Center they will bind the issues and make them available on request throughout the state on interlibrary loan. In my opinion this subscription should be kept up at no charge.

Three sets of *Maryland Birdlife* have been requested by members: two for chairs of standing committees, at no charge, and one for a member at \$100. (The Committee sets of *Maryland Birdlife* will be passed on to succeeding Committee Chairmen.)

There is no progress to report on John Sommer's offer of his father's Maryland field notes from the early part of this century. Brooke Meanley has agreed to follow up on this.

Outside the usual activities of the Library Committee, I represented MOS at the Fourth Annual Natural Resources Fair of the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators (MAEOE). The MOS portable display served very well to present information about our resources available to leaders of nature study activities and teachers in many fields of science, K-12 and beyond. Packets were sent to 20 persons who requested further information. Most of the questions asked at the conference were about our scholarships available to teachers, so a sample application was sent, as well as an MOS Fact Sheet listing the headquarters address, the Baltimore information telephone number, and locations of all 15 chapters. All standing committees concerned with education were listed: Research Grants, Scholarship, Education, Sanctuary, etc. Information about Junior Nature Camp was included. I recommend that we attend next year's MAEOE Conference.

*Joy Wheeler, Chairman*

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Long Range Planning Committee has been examining publicity methods used by each of the organization's chapters as well as ways to increase state MOS visibility. This was undertaken in cooperation with Vice-President Richard Dolesh. A substantial majority of the chapters responded to a request for this information.

Although the size of the chapter did not always correlate with the number or type of publicity used, the most vigorous and rapidly growing chapters tended to use varied methods. There still seems to be no substitute for enthusiastic members who individually promote the organization.

Publicity methods have been compiled and circulated to all chapter presidents.

*Joanne K. Solem, Chairperson*

## MOS RECORDS COMMITTEE

The MOS Records Committee began reviewing records in 1983. These reviews are made by correspondence among the members, so it often takes considerable time to reach a decision. At any given moment there are records in circulation as well as records waiting to be circulated for the first time.

Through May 31, 1989, the Records Committee has taken up 152 records; these records have been listed periodically in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. Final decisions have been reached on 115 records to date. Observers who submit documentation for a particular record receive a letter indicating the committee's decision, including reasons for a record not being accepted if that was the outcome. Decisions are then published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, to inform members and readers about the status of species in Maryland, including new additions to the checklist.

During the 12-month period up to May 31, 1989, the MOSRC took up 20 records for review, came to a final decision on 19 records, and continued discussion on another 20 records. Revised criteria for deciding which records need to be reviewed were published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* 8(5):3-4 (1988). These criteria will continue to be revised as new information about population levels, range expansions or declines, and status at the Federal level becomes available. Decisions about any particular record may be re-evaluated if new information comes to the attention of the committee.

The MOS Records Committee has seen a gradual increase in the quality and completeness of records submitted for review, but feels there is still room for improvement. Toward this end the committee has designed a "Documentation Guide," which will be available at the June 1989 MOS State Convention. MOS members are encouraged to use this guide when submitting records to the committee for review.

*Erika Wilson, Secretary*

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee awarded three grants this year: \$500 to David Brinker and Joan McKearnan for "Migration of Saw-whet Owls through Finzel Swamp"; \$270 to Sam Droege and Russell Greenberg for "Study of Brackish Marsh Swamp Sparrows"; and \$230 to Frank Rohwer for "Timing of Migration in Birds."

The Research Committee sponsored a successful paper session, organized by David Brinker, at the 1989 Annual Conference. Application deadlines have been changed to August 1 and February 1.

*Karen Skuldt, Chairperson*

## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

### NEW SANCTUARY

On December 28, 1988 a deed was signed for a new sanctuary in Garrett County. This sanctuary was obtained through The Nature Conservancy from Robert L. Wilson to be a memorial sanctuary for his aunt, Caroline W. Wilson. The property is 85.8 acres in the Altamont section of Garrett County, south of Deep Creek Lake, at the headwaters of the Little Youghiogheny River. A site guide will be published in a future copy of the *Yellowthroat*.

### INSURANCE

We have finally been successful in getting all of the sanctuary properties under one policy and combined with the MOS liability policy. So that, now, we have only one master insurance policy to renew each year.

### CAREY RUN

The annual spring workday for Carey Run took place on April 29, 1989. There were 24 participants from 5 chapters. Despite the threat of rain, most of the planned work was carried out. The jobs done were cleaning the house; pruning the shrubery around the house and along the trails, digging holes for new fruit trees, building a new picnic table, and about half of the repointing of the house foundation. The participants also enjoyed birding and the traditional fried chicken dinner provided by the Allegany Chapter.

### IRISH GROVE

The electrical wiring in the house at Irish Grove has been completely replaced by an electrical contractor. All the switches and outlets are functional again.

Two work days accomplished a great deal of work. The fall work day on November 5, 1988 had a total of 35 participants representing 8 MOS chapters. Great advances were made to improve the trails with the construction of a bridge across the canal on the North Trail, two bridges and a small observation platform on the Rail Trail, and a large observation tower on the Canal Trail. The Wicomico Chapter again produced their fantastic turkey dinner. The spring workday on April 1, 1989 had 11 participants from 5 chapters. Many odd jobs in the buildings were done, new markers were put in place for the East Trail and plans for the work to be done in the fall were made.

As always, new problems keep popping up. We now need to have the gas heaters repaired, have the driveway regraded and replace the gate which disappeared the week after the spring workday.

An easement deed with the Maryland Environmental Trust was signed on December 27, 1988. This is a perpetual conservation easement which will help ensure that the Irish Grove property will forever remain a natural area. Maryland law allows for a tax credit on properties that have a conservation easement with the Maryland Environmental Trust. An application for this tax credit has been made with the Supervisor of Assessments in Somerset County.

#### MILL CREEK

There has not been any building on the two proposed developments next to Mill Creek Sanctuary. A number of the proposed lots have failed their percolation tests which means that there will be fewer lots than originally planned. Jan Reese is keeping an eye on the situation.

#### PELOT

The proposed building near the Pelot Sanctuary has not materialized. Caroline Chapter is monitoring the situation.

#### TUM SUDEN

The Committee is in the process of evaluating the recommendations made by the Harford Chapter concerning tum Suden Sanctuary. Harford has recommended that when the Atlas Project no longer needs the use of tum Suden that the property be fixed up and either used as it was prior to the Atlas Project or donated to the Harford Glen Education Center.

*Dotty Mumford, Chairperson*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following scholarship winners: Kathryn Lauver, second grade teacher at Timber Grove Elementary School is the winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will attend the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West. Beth Kuser Olsen, ecology teacher at Harford Community College, is the winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West. Lawrence E. Williams, science teacher at Walkersville Middle School, is the winner of the Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship funded by the World Nature Association. He will attend the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine. The three following scholarship winners will attend the Field Ornithology workshop at the Audubon Camp of Maine: Lisa R. Bierer Naturalist at the 30th St. Nature Center, is winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship; Cheri Duncan, Instructor at the Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Campus, is winner of the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship; and Andrew Downes, Instructor at the Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Campus, is winner of the Jimmy Wood and Edith Bourne Memorial Scholarship.

The Scholarship Committee expresses its appreciation to everyone who has helped locate these very fine candidates for our scholarships. We are grateful to the World Nature Association and to the Families of Jimmy Wood and Edith Bourne for funding two of these scholarships. All winners are in positions where they will be able to pass along the information and inspiration which is provided so abundantly in the Audubon workshops they will be attending. We thank everyone for supporting the MOS Scholarship Program.

*Mildred Gebhard, Chairperson*

## BOOK REVIEW

**ATLAS OF WINTERING NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS—An Analysis of Christmas Bird Count Data.** Terry Root, 1988, University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 312 pages, 349 maps, 41 illustrations. Hardcover \$72, softcover \$35.

Many of the approximately 40,000 birders who participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count must wonder, from time to time, what happens to the mountain of data accumulated over the years. We know, of course, that the figures will be duly recorded in *American Birds*, and we will all look at last year's report to make sure our names are listed in the credits, possibly make some comparisons with past records, and then gear up for the next CBC, determined to set new records of species and individuals.

But after the tally rally is over, when all due care has been taken to guarantee accuracy in identification and to avoid duplication in reporting, what does it all mean? What conclusions can be drawn from all these statistics? Conscientious Count compilers must sometimes feel that the whole exercise is equivalent to putting a note in a bottle and dropping it in the ocean.

Those compilers—and all Count participants—can rejoice at the publication of this *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds*. It demonstrates that the data they have compiled can be analyzed and presented in a highly accessible form to indicate the distribution and relative abundance of wintering species across the country. The decade covered is 1963-72. Those who participated in the Count during that period can take pride in having made a significant contribution. They should also be grateful to Carl Bock who computerized the data, but most of all to Terry Root for her careful research and ingenious presentation, which surely will be a model for future studies.

This Atlas is based on 1282 CBC's conducted in the Lower 48 and southern Canada during the ten-year period for which computerized data were available. It includes more than 500 species accounts, with commentaries on the primary wintering areas of each species, its habitat and winter ecology, and rare or anomalous sightings. For each of the 250 most common species, two maps are juxtaposed on the same page. The first, a traditional contour map, outlines early winter range in much more detail than is possible in the generalized, year-round range maps in field guides, and indicates areas of greatest concentration within that range. The second (described by the author as a "three-dimensional fishnet map") presents the same information on a grid in which each square represents a degree of latitude and longitude. Thus, at a glance, the reader can determine, for example, the best place to go in late December to find a Little Gull or a Lincoln's Sparrow.

What a boon to winter travelers and listeners! But equally to serious students of bird population distribution, and to conservationists who want to pinpoint areas that merit special protection and concern.

Augmenting the maps in the main text is a group of transparent overlays that show state and province boundaries, CBC locations, elevation, vegetation, national wildlife refuges in the U.S., average temperatures, average length of frost-free

period, mean annual precipitation, and general humidity. All these permit an in-depth study of each species in relation to its habitat. The text adds further useful information on feeding habits, winter adaptation, and range extension.

Rarities are not included in the main body of the Atlas, which has arbitrarily excluded all species that were seen at fewer than ten sites on CBC's. However, all species sighted are listed in Appendix A, along with the number of locations at which they were reported, their maximum abundances, and the reasons certain species were not represented in maps. Appendix B presents maps and general information on exceptional species: e.g., nomads that appear irregularly, species with cyclical fluctuations, and species frequently misidentified.

Terry Root has produced an Atlas that is, as Chan Robbins writes in the Foreword, "an important research tool that shows at a glance where the major concentrations of each species are to be found." We can join him in the hope that it will stimulate other researchers to undertake further studies with CBC data. And it should impress on all of us who participate in CBC's that we have a special responsibility "to continually strive to improve the quality and continuity of the counts."

*Lola Oberman*

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