

ISSN 0147-9725



# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

**JUNE 1991 .**  
**VOLUME 47**  
**NUMBER 2**

# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

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Cover: Ross' Gull at Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant, Baltimore. Photo by George M. Jett, March 4, 1990.



## FIRST RECORD OF ROSS' GULL FOR MARYLAND

EUGENE J. SCARPULLA

On March 3, 1990, while watching gulls at the Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant, Baltimore County, Maryland, I found Maryland's first Ross' Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*.

This was my second consecutive Saturday morning of watching gulls at the plant. I had been there since 8:45 a.m. and was nearing completion of my second tour of the plant, when at 10:45 a.m., I spotted a gull that appeared slightly different than the nearby Bonaparte's Gulls *Larus philadelphia* swimming on one of the round clarifier tanks. My first observations were made with Bausch and Lomb 10 X 42 Elite binoculars at a distance of about 40 ft. (12 m). The sun was high in the sky and the lighting was good to excellent. I watched the bird for about 15 seconds as it sat on the water, and noted that the overall size was approximately the same as a Bonaparte's Gull, but that the bill was only about one-half as long. At that point the bird flushed and I was able to watch it in flight for another 15 seconds. It appeared to have a dark gray underwing, an approximately one-inch wide white band on the trailing edge of the upperwing, and no obvious black on the wings either above or below. The long white tail was diamond-shaped, coming to a medial point. Though clearly not believable, these field marks strongly suggested an adult winter-plumaged Ross' Gull. At 10:50 a.m. I relocated the bird on another round tank and watched it for about 10 seconds on the water and 10 seconds in flight before it disappeared. I could see that it had a lighter gray mantle than a Bonaparte's Gull, and had none of the Bonaparte's typical black head markings. Further attempts to relocate the bird were not successful.

During that afternoon Pete Webb, Steve Simon, and I attempted unsuccessfully to relocate the bird. That evening I called Rick Blom and Bob Ringler, who, after discussing the field marks I had noted and the circumstances of the observation, spread the word to the Maryland birdwatching community. On the next morning the bird was present at sunrise, as were approximately thirty observers, who were able to confirm the identification. The Ross' Gull remained on the round tanks from about 6:30 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. It then disappeared until about 12:30 p.m. when it was located on one of the square primary settling tanks. It remained there until about 4:30 p.m. The sky was clear, the viewing conditions were excellent, and observers were frequently able to approach to within 30 ft. (9 m) of the bird. Approximately 200 people saw the bird that day, and many photographs were taken.

I continued my observations throughout the day using a Kowa TSN-4 spotting scope with a 40X eyepiece. A summary of the observations from that day follows, with notes from subsequent days included where relevant. Overall, the Ross' Gull appeared rather dove-like, a result of the short bill, round head, short neck, and plumpish breast. The head was

almost entirely white except for the large black eye. There was a blackish, crescent-shaped smudge above, in front of, and below the eye. There was a faint blackish ear spot directly behind the eye. The bill was black. The neck was white and showed no evidence of a collar. The mantle was pale gray and the underwings appeared medium to dark gray, depending on the amount and angle of the light. Grant (1986) and Harrison (1983) also noted that shadow considerably darkens the appearance of the underwing. There was a one-inch wide white band on the trailing edge of both the upper- and underwing. The outermost primary had a thin black outer vane. The flanks, rump, and undertail coverts were washed with a very pale salmon pink. The legs, visible only in flight, were red. Two days later the sky was heavily overcast, and I noticed that the pale pink seemed more obvious. Chartier and Cook (1980), Grant (1986), and Maynard (1989) all commented that the pink wash on the underparts tends to be most visible on overcast days, while on clear days with strong sunlight the bird typically appears quite white below. Another character more readily visible during overcast conditions was a soft gray wash extending from the sides of the neck to the sides of the breast. Grant (1986) noted that occasionally this gray forms a complete breast band, though neither the color nor the pattern of it should be confused with the black collar on breeding adults.

Though some sources (field guides, early references) suggest that the Ross' is a two-year gull, more recent descriptions detail three years as the typical plumage sequence. Using field guides, most observers concluded the bird in Baltimore was an adult in winter plumage. Information taken from Cramp and Simmons (1983) reveals that it was in second-winter (second-basic) plumage, on the basis of the dark ear spot, and because it showed no remnant of the dark neck collar present in breeding (alternate) plumage. Birds older than two years have no ear spot in winter and retain some of the neck collar. If Cramp and Simmons' descriptions are correct, the dark ear spot is found only on second-winter birds.

The Baltimore Ross' Gull was present at the water treatment plant from March 3 to March 12. During that period the bird established a fairly reliable daily pattern. It typically appeared on the round clarifying tanks between 6:30 and 9:00 a.m., and stayed for two to two and one-half hours, swimming and feeding at the surface. The bird was normally absent in late morning and early afternoon, reappearing in mid to late afternoon in the square settling tanks, again swimming and feeding. No one was able to determine where the bird spent the middle of the day, though it was seen flying out onto Back River where large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were loafing and feeding. The river is fairly wide, and access below the plant is severely limited, making it probable that the bird was somewhere on the river. On March 11 it was seen standing with Bonaparte's on the mud at the mouth of Bread and Cheese Creek, which forms the southern boundary of the plant. The bird appeared noticeably pink standing next to the Bonaparte's. This was the first observation when the bird wasn't swimming or flying.

Densley (1979) described four main feeding methods (based on Ashmole and Ashmole 1967) for Ross' Gulls: contact-dipping, where food is gleaned from the water surface while the bird continues forward flight; hovering, where food is picked from the surface while the bird remains aloft and stationary; surface-plunging, where the bird partly closes its wings and settles on the water briefly while incompletely immersing the head and breast; and surface-feeding, where the bird picks food from the water surface while floating. The Baltimore Ross' Gull was observed only surface feeding except for two reports by Dave Czaplak (pers. comm.) of a contact-dipping/hovering combination. Czaplak noted that the bird appeared to be attempting to contact dip but would change to a foot-pattering hover,

possibly owing to the small size of the settling tanks and the obstacles presented by the rotating skimmer bars.

Under pelagic conditions in the Arctic, the main food of the Ross' Gull is thought to be small fish and invertebrates (Divoky 1976). These birds are opportunistic feeders, however, and take a wide variety of food items, occasionally including seal carcasses and feces (Blomqvist and Elander 1981). It is possible that the human and kitchen wastes present in the waste water treatment tanks would offer an attractive and readily accessible food source.

On March 12, air temperatures reached an unseasonable high of 95° F (35°C). The Ross' Gull was not seen after 2:30 p.m. that day and was presumed to have left Baltimore. The disappearance coincided with a significant drop in the number of Bonaparte's Gulls at the plant. Between March 3 and March 12, the number of Bonaparte's Gulls reported daily ranged from 500 to 1000. On March 13, only eight Bonaparte's were observed. Miliotis and Buckley (1975) reported that the Newburyport, Massachusetts Ross' Gull periodically disappeared when numbers of small gulls dropped, and reappeared when their numbers rose during its five-month stay. Bledsoe and Sibley (1985) also reported that Ross' Gulls that have stayed in one location for any length of time frequently disappear for several days when the numbers of small gulls dropped.



**Baltimore Ross' Gull. Photo by Dave Czaplak, March 1990.**

From the end of March on, Bonaparte's were again on the increase at the plant, so it was not entirely out of character when Ben Yokel relocated the Ross' Gull at the waste

water treatment plant on the morning of April 13, a month after it had been last reported. This time it remained until April 24, during which the number of Bonaparte's Gulls was also high, ranging between 500 and 1500.

This time the bird had a much less reliable daily schedule. It was seen variously in the round clarifying tanks, the square settling tanks, on the flats at Bread and Cheese Creek, in a nearby muddy field, and on flats a mile up Back River. The timing of its daily appearances was as haphazard as its locations. On April 24, fewer than 10 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen, and the Ross' was last sighted at 9:30 a.m. that day.

During the 22 days that the Ross' Gull was present, an estimated 2300 people entered the treatment plant in search of it. The maximum number of people who entered the plant on any one day was around 500. License plates were noted from approximately fifteen states and the District of Columbia, including some from as far away as Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Ohio, New Hampshire, and Nebraska. All of these people had come to Baltimore specifically to see the Ross' Gull. The estimate on the number of people who entered the plant, and the areas from which they came was provided in large part by the individuals who manned the security gate at the facility. They were fascinated by the event, and invariably helpful to visitors.

The primary breeding ground of Ross' Gull is the Arctic coast of Siberia, with small populations in Spitzbergen, Greenland, the Canadian Arctic, and at Churchill, Manitoba (Grant 1986). The wintering range is largely unknown, but is thought primarily to be at leads in the pack ice in the Arctic Ocean. Divoky *et al.* speculated that wintering birds may leave the Arctic Ocean and travel southward through the Chukchi and Bering seas to the Sea of Okhotsk in the northwestern Pacific. Since 1974 there have been twelve sightings of Ross' Gull in the lower 48 states (Table 1). When the sightings are plotted into half-monthly

**Table 1. Occurrence of Ross' Gull in the Lower 48 States**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Plumage</b>	<b>First and Last Date Observed</b>	<b>Reference</b>
MASS.-Newburyport	AW	12/07/74-05/06/75	Miliotis & Buckley 1975
ILL.-Chicago	AW	11/19/78-12/01/78	Balch et al. 1979
MASS.-Newburyport	A	04/20/81	Vickery 1981
COLO.-Julesburg	1W	04/28/83-05/07/83	Kingery 1983
MINN.-Agassiz NWR	A	04/04/84-04/14/84	Powell 1984
CONN.-West Haven	A	04/11/84-04/22/84	Nikula 1984
MASS.-Newburyport	A	12/03/84	Heil 1985
TENN.-Reelfoot Lake	AW	12/19/85-12/28/85	Imhof 1986
N.Y.-Lake Montauk	2W	12/11/86	Boyle et al. 1987
OREG.-Yaquina Bay	A	02/18/87-03/02/87	Twedt & Mattocks 1987
MASS.-Gloucester	AW	02/01/90-02/02/90	Forster 1990
MD.-Baltimore	AW	03/03/90-04/24/90	

NOTE: The above reports of Ross' Gull in the Lower 48 States are not necessarily accepted records. All are reports of single birds.

intervals (Figure 1), it can be seen that the majority of sightings have been in early winter through late spring, with peaks in early December and throughout the month of April.

Seven of the twelve sightings have occurred on the northeast coast, one on the northwest coast, two on the Great Lakes, and two inland. The Baltimore Ross' Gull was the southernmost sighting (approximately lat. 39° 29' N) except for the Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee record (approximately lat. 36° 18' N). There has been considerable speculation and little consensus about the origin of these Ross' Gulls. Balch *et al.* (1979) proposed an Arctic Canada or Churchill origin for the Great Lakes birds. Bledsoe and Sibley (1985) argued that the early winter peak probably represents birds moving south from Churchill to winter offshore in the Atlantic, and that the April peak represents birds moving back onshore on their return to Churchill. Miliotis and Buckley (1975) and Gibson (1975)

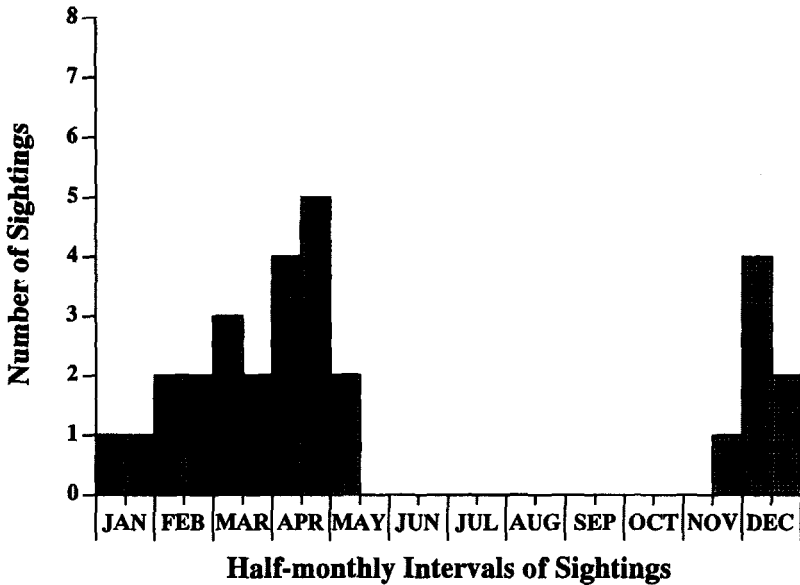


Figure 1. Seasonal occurrence of Ross' Gull in the lower 48 states.

proposed an Old World origin for the birds in the northeast. They note that Ross' Gulls are regular in Norway and the British Isles, and could easily hopscotch to the northeast United States by way of Iceland and Greenland in the manner of other vagrant European gulls. Referring specifically to the Baltimore bird, Harrison (1990) proposed that there were two possible origins. He felt that though Churchill was possible, it was unlikely. He felt it was more probable that the bird originated in Russia, migrated westward across the Atlantic, and then down the coast. The presence of a Ross' Gull in Gloucester, Massachusetts on February 1-2 and 13, 1990 (Nikula 1990) might support the contention that the Baltimore bird had moved down the coast. The Massachusetts bird was in identical plumage as the one in Baltimore (Forester 1990). An editor's note in the Forster article erroneously reported that the Gloucester bird had remnants of a black neck band. Forster and Arvidson (pers. comm.) said that the remnants were actually the ear spots.

Wherever it came from, the Ross' Gull showed up at the same time that thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls were moving north and staging at the plant. These large numbers appear

every spring, and annually include a few Little *L. minutus* and Common Black-headed Gulls *L. ridibundus*. Two Little Gulls were intermittently observed during April 13-22, but no Common Black-headed was reported during the spring of 1990.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are extended to the various City of Baltimore agencies that cooperated and offered assistance to the 2300 visitors to the Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant. Staff of the Watershed Section produced signs saying "WELCOME BIRDERS", and "ROSS' GULL". Staff at Back River erected the signs, produced informational flyers on where best to see the gull, and assisted visitors wherever possible.

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7906-B Knollwood Road, Towson, Maryland 21286

## A PARTIALLY ALBINO JUNCO

### HAVEN KOLB

During the past thirty-five years I have banded several thousand Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and I have observed a considerable amount of plumage variation in the species. On December 7, 1989 I trapped a junco that showed a clear white throat (Fig. 1), immediately recalling the same feature on a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Hybrids between these two species are known (see Mease, 1982, for example), but my bird had no other character that suggested *Zonotrichia*. It did,



however, have some additional unusual white areas. There was a small white spot beside the eye on the left side (not visible in the photograph) and white outer primaries, three on the right side (Fig. 2) and one on the left. There were also some white primary coverts on the right side.



Albinism in Juncos has been discussed by Brown (1972) and in Maryland a generally white but not completely albinistic junco was reported, with a photograph, by Plymire (1972). The normal plumage in this species is mainly white in the central part of the belly and there is white in the three outer rectrices, usually 100% in the outermost (sixth) and often 0% in the fourth. In addition, individuals of the subspecies *hyemalis* often have small amounts of white on the tips of some secondary coverts (Kolb 1986). This last character must be considered a form of genetic albinism since in the subspecies *aikeni* there is extensive white in the secondary coverts. In addition to genetic origin of the various forms of albinism, numerous environmental causes have been advanced (Brown 1972). It is impossible to state the cause of the partial albinism in the bird reported here.

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# THE SEASON

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**WINTER, DECEMBER 1, 1990-FEBRUARY 28, 1991**

**ROBERT F. RINGLER**

It was another very mild winter with temperatures averaging several degrees above normal throughout the season. Precipitation was near normal in December and January but almost non-existent in February. Because of the warm temperatures there was very little snowfall. Consequently, many birds that normally winter a little farther south lingered in the state, and some survived through the season. There was an earlier than usual northward movement of waterbirds in February also.

*Abbreviations:* CBC (Christmas Bird Count), DC (District of Columbia), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), PWRC (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Prince George's County), PRNAS (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County), SP (State Park), UMCF (University of Maryland Central Farm, Howard County), WMA (Wildlife Management Area).

*Locations:* Place names that cannot be found in the index of the state highway map (county in parentheses): Assateague Island (Worcester), Bishop's Head (Dorchester), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Conowingo Dam (Harford unless noted otherwise), Georgetown Reservoir (DC), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Lime Kiln Pond (Howard), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Tavern Creek (Kent), Turner's Creek (Kent).

*Observers:* Harry Armistead, Clif Barry, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Larry Bonham, Carol & Don Broderick, Martha Chestem, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Bob Dixon, John Dunn, Les Eastman, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle, Fred Fallow, Jane Farrell, Jerry & Roberta Fletcher, Harold Fogleman, Greg Gough, Jim & Patricia Gruber, Wilbur Hershberger, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Marshall Iloff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Ray Kiddy, Wayne Klockner, Gail MacKiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Stauffer Miller, Mariana Nuttle, Michael & Paul O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, FLoyd Parks, Jim Paulus, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Wicomico Bird Club), Marie Plante, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Gene Scarpulla, Sharon Schwenmer, L.T. Short, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Bobbie Sinderman, Chris & Eddie Slaughter, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Charles Swift, Debbie Terry, Mary Twigg, Ron Voorhees, Dave Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Pete Webb, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, George Wilmot, Erika Wilson, Dick & Jeanne Woods.

*Loons, Grebes.* **Red-throated Loons** away from the ocean were 3 at Seneca on Dec. 1 (O'Briens) and 1 at North Beach on Feb. 27 (Stasz). At Ocean City an estimated 3000 were seen, mostly flying north, on Feb. 11 with 75 **Common Loons** (M. O'Brien, Dixon, Hoffman, Wierenga), and another 545 Red-throateds and 31 Commons were seen off Assateague the next day (Hoffman). The only Common Loons inland were 2 on Loch Raven on Jan. 4-21 (Simon, Barry) while at bayside locations 1 was at Rumbley on Jan. 27 (Walbeck), 1 at Bishop's Head on Feb. 9 (M. O'Brien) and 3 at PRNAS on Feb. 20 (Rambo). The high for **Pied-billed Grebes** this winter was 65 at Loch Raven on Dec. 30 (Barry). Also at Ocean

City on Feb. 11 were 200 **Horned Grebes** (M. O'Brien, Dixon, Hoffman, Wierenga) while Rambo counted 37 at PRNAS on Feb. 13. The only **Red-necked Grebes** of the season were 1 on the Potomac River at Swain's Lock/Pennyfield, Montgomery County on Dec. 16 (Bjerke), 1 at PRNAS on Feb. 20 and 2 there on the 27th (Rambo). An **Eared Grebe** was seen on the bay side of Ocean City on Jan. 14 (Bruce Lantz) and on the ocean side on Feb. 10 and 16 (M. O'Brien, Blom).

*Gannets, Cormorants.* At Ocean City the high count of **Northern Gannets** was 1000 on Feb. 11 (M. O'Brien, Dixon, Hoffman, Wierenga). Unusual in the bay in winter were gannets off Calvert County with 1 off Breezy Point on Jan. 13 (Mike Donovan), 14 off North Beach on Feb. 12 and 36 there on Feb. 27 (Stasz); the latter perhaps is evidence of an early northward movement. At least 2 immature **Great Cormorants** were seen at Ocean City through the winter and 2 were at Assateague on Jan. 15 (Hoffman). Another Great Cormorant was near Point Lookout on Dec. 8 (Barry) and 7 were seen on the St. Michaels CBC on Dec. 23 (fide Carolyn Mills). **Double-crested Cormorants** lingered into the winter with 1 at Denton on Dec. 3 (Nuttie), 2 in DC on Dec. 7 (Janni), 1 in Charles County on Dec. 25 (Wilmot) and 4 seen on the Baltimore County winter bird count on Jan. 19 (fide Ringler). On the coast Hoffman noted 11 Double-crests at Assateague on Dec. 9, 2 there on Jan. 1, and 1 on Feb. 24. At Ocean City there were 2 from Dec. 18 through Feb. 10 and 1 through the end of the month (M. O'Brien+).

*Hérons, Ibis.* The high count of **American Bitterns** was 7 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 18 (M. O'Brien, Voorhees); later reports included 1 on Assateague on Jan. 6 (Hoffman), 1 at Tavern Creek on Feb. 3 (J. Gruber) and 1 at Lilypons on Jan. 20 through Feb. 11 (Hershberger+). Wintering in the Piedmont were 6 **Great Blue Herons** at Lilypons on Jan. 22 (Wilson) and Feb. 2 (Don Simonson). Signs of early spring migration were 2 Great Blues flying over Oldtown on Feb. 18 (Paulus) and 30 that had returned to the breeding colony at Federalsburg on Feb. 25 (Ed Unger). On the Washington DC CBC, 4 **Great Egrets** were seen in the Anacostia River/Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens area (Bjerke). Other Great Egrets that may have been wintering on the Eastern Shore were 1 at Fairmount WMA on Jan. 27 (Walbeck), 1 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), and 6 at Elliott on Feb. 18 (Davidson, Wierenga). Late **Snowy Egrets** were 2 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 18 along with a remarkable 60 **Tricolored Herons** (M. O'Brien, Voorhees). Other sightings of Tricolored Herons were 3 at Assateague on Jan. 13 and Feb. 12 (Hoffman), 1 at Ocean City on Jan. 17 (M. O'Brien, Gough), 12 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien) and 5 there on Feb. 10 (Slaughters). The latest **Green-backed Heron** was at Oxford on Dec. 16 (Reese). Wintering **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were 80 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 18 (M. O'Brien, Voorhees), 30 there on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), and 12 at Conowingo on Jan. 6 (Eastman). Also lingering at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 18 were 4 **Glossy Ibis** (M. O'Brien, Voorhees).

*Swans, Geese.* Unusual in winter on the Western Shore were 35 **Tundra Swans** in southern Frederick County on Jan. 18 (M. O'Brien) and 71 at Benedict on Feb. 2 (Jett). High counts of Tundra Swans on the Eastern Shore were 2500 at Federalsburg on Jan. 28 (Engle) and, in Queen Anne's County, 1500 at Church Hill on Feb. 8 and 1500 at Queen Anne on Feb. 28 (Grubers). A **Mute Swan** at Assateague on Jan. 13 (Hoffman) may have wandered from the population at Chincoteague. Reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were 1 at Denton on Dec. 18 (Hewitt+), an adult in the Laytonsville area from Dec. 22 through Jan. 31 (Wierenga+), and possibly the same bird seen near Lilypons on Jan. 27 (Roger Anderson+). Blue **Snow Geese** on the Western Shore were 1 at Laytonsville on Dec. 22 (M. O'Brien+), 1 at Hagerstown on Dec. 27 (Ringler), 1 near Rock Point on Dec. 29-30 (Jett), 1

in Anne Arundel County on Dec. 31 (Barry), and 1 near Lilypons on Jan. 27-29 (Roger Anderson+). High counts of Snow Geese on the Eastern Shore were 10,000 south of Berlin on Dec. 28 (M. O'Brien), 20,000 at Sudlersville on Jan. 1 (Grubers), 6000 at Centreville on Jan. 14 (Effinger), and 5000 near Galena and 5000 near Chesapeake City on Feb. 8 (Reese). Also in Cecil County were 1300 Snows at Rising Sun on Jan. 4 (Fogleman) and 1500 at Appleton on Jan. 7 (Reese). The high count of **Brant** was 500 at Assateague on Jan. 27 (Hoffman) and the only one away from the coast was at Blackwater on Dec. 10 (M. O'Brien). Reports of small races of **Canada Goose** were 1 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 23 (Reese, Sinderman), 2 at Easton on Dec. 31 (Reese), 1 near Laytonsville on Feb. 1 (M. O'Brien), 2 at North Branch on Feb. 14 (Simons, Twigg), and 1 at Church Hill on Feb. 20 (Grubers). The high inland count of Canadas was 4045 in western Howard County on Feb. 14 (Wallace).

*Puddle Ducks.* Wintering **Wood Ducks** included 2 at Centreville on Jan. 5 (Effinger), a female near Hagerstown on Jan. 19 (M. O'Brien), 1 at North Branch on Jan. 27 (Simons), and 1 at Cumberland on Jan. 28 (Twigg). Wood Ducks that may have been early migrants were 1 at Denton on Feb. 17 (Short) and 1 at Germantown on Feb. 18 (Warfield). At Blackwater there were 500 **Green-winged Teal** on Dec. 10 and 150 on Feb. 28 (M. O'Brien). At Hart-Miller 1000 Green-wings remained on Dec. 16 (Ringler+). Other Green-wings of note were 3 at North Branch on Feb. 11 and later (Simons) and 45 at Assateague on Feb. 25 (Hoffman). High inland counts of **American Black Ducks** were 70 at Burkittsville on Dec. 22 (Ringler), 250 at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (Ringler) and 426 at Loch Raven on Jan. 27 (Barry) while on the Eastern Shore there were 335 at Assateague on Jan. 27 (Hoffman) and 300 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien). High counts for **Mallards** were 2000 at Blackwater on Dec. 10 (M. O'Brien), 225 at Roxbury on Jan. 12 (Wallace), 500 at Loch Raven on Jan. 13 (Barry), and 150 at Cumberland on Feb. 8 (Simons). The peaks for **Northern Pintail** were 500 at Deal Island WMA and 500 at Blackwater on Dec. 10 (M. O'Brien) and 120 at Remington Farms on Dec. 30 (Grubers), but 15 flying north over the ocean at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (M. O'Brien) were probably spring migrants. Lingering **Blue-winged Teal** were 2 at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 10 and 10 there on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 23 (Reese, Sinderman), a female at Centennial Lake on Feb. 17 (Chestem, Ott) and a female at Columbia on Feb. 23 (Magnusson, Solem, Farrell). At Hart-Miller there were 500 **Northern Shovelers** on Dec. 16 (Ringler+) and 230 remaining on Jan. 19 (Ringler, Dixon); others were 140 at Remington Farms on Dec. 23 (Grubers) and 20 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 where there were also 100 **Gadwalls**, down from 800 on Dec. 10 (M. O'Brien). Other Gadwalls were 30 at Sandy Point on Feb. 19 (Iliff) and 70 at Assateague on Feb. 25 (Hoffman). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 1 (Dunn, Blom, Ringler) and Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien). Also there were 7000 **American Wigeons** on Dec. 10 and 800 on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien). Other wintering flocks of American Wigeons were 40 at Roxbury on Jan. 12 (Wallace), 30 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 27 (Hilton), 44 at Assateague on Jan. 27 (Hoffman), and 292 at Loch Raven on Feb. 10 (Barry).

*Diving Ducks.* Highs for **Canvasbacks** were 7000 at Elliott on Dec. 26 (Wilson), 1000 at Buena Vista on Jan. 13 (Ringler), 450 at West Ocean City on Feb. 3 (Weesner) and, inland, 17 on Lake Kittamaquidi, Columbia on Feb. 24 (Chestem). Interesting reports of **Redheads** were 5 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 26 (Bonham), 1 at Choptank on Jan. 29 (Engle, D. Ford), 1 at Blackwater on Feb. 3 (M. O'Brien), and 14 at Loch Raven on Feb. 17 (Simon). High counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** were 518 at Loch Raven on Jan. 6 (Barry), 160 at Salisbury on Jan. 20 (Weesner), 350 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 27 (Czaplak), and 30 at Deal Island

WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien). The only inland **Greater Scaup** was a female at Gaithersburg on Dec. 8 and 19 (M. O'Brien). At Hart-Miller the scaup flock was estimated at 20,000 on Dec. 16, down to 15,000 on Jan. 19, and up to 60,000 on Feb. 24 (Ringler+). The large majority of these birds are **Lesser Scaup** with small numbers of Greater. Similarly, a flock of 1500 scaup at Elliott on Feb. 23 (Blom+) was mostly Lesser. A female **King Eider** was joined by an immature male at Ocean City, Dec. 7-18 (Swift+), with the female being seen through Feb. 11. Very rare on the bay was a male **Harlequin Duck** off Driftwood Beach, Calvert County on Feb. 10 (Dave Bohaska). Highs for **Oldsquaws** were 1100 between Tilghman and Eastern Bay on Dec. 1 (Reese), 150 at Cobb Island on Jan. 5 (Jett), and 313 at PRNAS on Jan. 23 (Rambo); inland there were 9 at Loch Raven on Dec. 24 (Barry). Three **Black Scoters** were at Elliott on Dec. 26 (Wilson), and 150 off Assateague on Jan. 5 were seen by Hoffman who also noted 355 **Surf Scoters** there on Jan. 26 and 36 **White-winged Scoters** on Jan. 27. There were 26 Surf Scoters at PRNAS on Feb. 20 (Rambo), and other interesting reports of White-wings were 3 at Loch Raven on Dec. 9 (Simon, Terry), 1 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 19 (Ringler, Dixon) and 28 at PRNAS on Feb. 20 (Rambo). High counts of **Common Goldeneyes** were 120 at North East on Jan. 4 (Fogleman), 100 at Cobb Island on Jan. 5 (Jett), 200 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 19 (Ringler, Dixon), 303 at PRNAS on Feb. 13 (Rambo), and 390 at Sandy Point on Feb. 18 (Czaplak). Highs of **Buffleheads** were 219 at PRNAS on Jan. 23 (Rambo), 72 at Bishop's Head on Feb. 9 (M. O'Brien), and 300 at Assateague on Feb. 24 (Hoffman). The best flocks of **Hooded Mergansers** were 50 at Piney Run on Dec. 2 (Ringler), 30 at Piscataway on Jan. 19 (Jett), 63 at Loch Raven on Jan. 27 (Barry), and 27 at Fairmount WMA on Jan. 27 (Weesner). Fogleman estimated 1500 **Common Mergansers** at North East on Jan. 20, while on the Coastal Plain there was 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 2 (Rambo) and 25 were at Blackwater on Feb. 28 (M. O'Brien). High counts of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 120 in Chesapeake Bay east of Hart-Miller on Dec. 16 (Ringler+) and 78 at Assateague on Feb. 24 (Hoffman). Also at Hart-Miller on Dec. 16 were 500 **Buddy Ducks** (Ringler+), and another 300 were at Wicomico Point in Charles County on Jan. 13 (Jett).

*Diurnal Raptors.* Jett estimated 90 **Black Vultures** at Faulkner on Jan. 22, and Hoffman saw 7 at Assateague on Feb. 23, possibly migrants as were 13 **Turkey Vultures** on Feb. 25. Weesner found 80 Turkey Vultures at Mardella on Feb. 9 and Paulus noted 5 early migrants at Oldtown on Feb. 21. Straggling **Ospreys** were single birds at Loch Raven on Dec. 7-9 (Simon, Terry) and near Royal Oak on Dec. 23 (Armistead). **Bald Eagles** west of the Piedmont were 1 on the Potomac at Knoxville on Dec. 2 (Miller), 2 adults at Town Hill on Feb. 20, and an immature there on Feb. 28 (Paulus). Notable concentrations of Bald Eagles were 30 at Deal Island WMA and 20 at Rehobeth on Dec. 1 (Vaughn+), 32 at Conowingo on Dec. 7 (Bob Schutsky+), 34 at Blackwater on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien), and 7 at North East on Jan. 26 (Fogleman). About 30 **Northern Harriers** were at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien). The only report of **Northern Goshawk** was an immature at Benedict on Dec. 8 (Iliff+). Interesting reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** were 1 at Merkle Sanctuary on Dec. 11 (Fallon), 2 in southwest Frederick County on Jan. 10-20 (Miller), 1 at North Branch on Jan. 27-31 (Paulus, Twigg), 1 light phase bird at Queen Anne on Feb. 1 (Grubers), 1 light phase at Golts on Feb. 3 (Parks), 15 mostly dark phase birds at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), and 1 light phase at Columbia on Feb. 10 (Frank Reilly). In addition to regular reports at Blackwater the following **Golden Eagles** were noted: 1 at Glen Echo on Dec. 13 (Czaplak), an immature near Easton on Jan. 23 (Parks), on Jan. 26 an immature at Conowingo (Scarpulla+) and possibly the same bird over Bush River (Bill McIntosh+), and an immature at Remington Farms on Feb. 12 (Effinger). Single **Merlins** were reported at Annapolis on Dec. 14 (Iliff), near Blackwater on Dec. 25 (Andy Higgs), at Waldorf on Jan. 6 (Jett), at Tanyard on Feb. 23 (Blom+), and at Assateague on Feb. 23-25

(Hoffman). Michael O'Brien saw an orange-breasted female **Peregrine Falcon** at Ocean City on Dec. 18-26, and others of note were 1 at Oxon Hill Farm on Dec. 15 (Bjerke), an immature at Hart-Miller on Dec. 16 (Ringler+), 2 at Conowingo on Feb. 2 (many observers), 1 flying over Swan Point and heading for Baltimore on Feb. 3 (Grubers), 1 at Centreville on Feb. 9 (Effinger), and 1 at Blackwater on Feb. 10 (Gregory Inskip).

*Gallinaceous Birds, Rallids, Cranes.* Escaped birds included a male **Chukar** at Elliott on Feb. 18 (Davidson, Wierenga) and a male **Reeves' Pheasant** at Back River on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla+). Coastal Plain **Ring-necked Pheasants** included a male at Marshall Creek, Worcester County on Dec. 28 (M. O'Brien) and 5 at Bridgetown on Jan. 1 (Grubers). **Wild Turkeys** on the Coastal Plain were 3 in Queen Anne's County near Tuckahoe on Dec. 4 (Grubers) and 5 at Starr on Dec. 7 (Bernard Dadds); on the Piedmont there were 7 at Lilypons on Jan. 1 (Hilton) and 1 at Marriottsville on Feb. 15 (Wes & Susan Earp). **King Rails** were found in Kent County this winter with 3 on the Lower Kent CBC on Dec. 16 (fide John Lorenz) and 1 on the winter count on Feb. 3 (fide Grubers). Reports of **Virginia Rails** included 3 at Black Marsh on Dec. 20 (Barry), 5 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 and 7 at Bishop's Head the next day (M. O'Brien). A **Sora** was at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 18 (M. O'Brien). High counts of **American Coots** were 600 at Loch Raven on Dec. 30 (Barry) followed by 30 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 27 (Hilton). The **Sandhill Crane** at Poolesville remained through Dec. 16 (M. O'Brien), but another was at Langford from Jan. 19 through Feb. 17 (Don Meritt+) and a third was near the Choptank Bridge, Talbot County from December through the end of the period (many observers).

*Shorebirds.* Lingering with 71 **Black-bellied Plovers** on Assateague on Jan. 6 were 5 late **Semipalmated Plovers** (Hoffman). Thirty **American Oystercatchers** were at Ocean City on Dec. 1 (Ringler+) and 21 on Feb. 17 (M. O'Brien). Post-CBC reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** were 3 at West Ocean City on Jan. 17 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 2 there on Feb. 18 (Liff+), 6 at Blackwater on Feb. 3 (M. O'Brien), 9 on Assateague on Feb. 9 (Blom), and at least 1 each of Greater and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Elliott on Feb. 18 (Davidson, Wierenga). Other Lessers were 10 on Assateague on Feb. 23 (Hoffman) and 2 at West Ocean City on Feb. 24 (Barry). Among the late shorebirds at Hart-Miller on Dec. 16 was a **Marbled Godwit** (Ricciardi+). A **Red Knot** was late at Blackwater on Dec. 10 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 17-18 (M. O'Brien+) was probably wintering in the area. Late **Sanderlings** on Chesapeake Bay on Dec. 16 were 2 at Hart-Miller (Ringler+) and 20 at Oxford (Reese); 603 on Assateague on Feb. 12 (Hoffman) was the high for the winter. Also among the remarkable collection of shorebirds at Hart-Miller on Dec. 16 were 40 **Western Sandpipers**, 8 **Least Sandpipers**, a **White-rumped Sandpiper** and 50 **Dunlins** (Ringler+). Other Westerns seen on Assateague were 7 on Jan. 6 (Hoffman) and 4 on Jan. 17 (M. O'Brien, Gough). Other Leasts were 5 at West Ocean City on Jan. 17 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 9 on Assateague on Jan. 27 (Hoffman). Post-CBC Dunlins were 2 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 19 (Ringler, Dixon), 880 at Assateague on Jan. 6 (Hoffman) and 800 at Blackwater on Feb. 23 (Blom+). There were 22 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 1 (Ringler +) and 1 at Blackwater on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien). Peter Makevitch noted 13 unidentified dowitchers at Blackwater on Jan. 21, a time when Long-bills are more likely. Post-CBC **Common Snipe** included 3 near Lilypons on Jan. 13 (M. O'Brien), 1 in southern Howard County on Jan. 26 (Solem, Farrell), 2 at Wakefield, Carroll County on Jan. 27 (Ringler), 3 at Laytonsville on Jan. 27 (Janni), 10 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), 7 on Assateague on Feb. 9 (Blom) and Feb. 23 (Hoffman), 2 at Grasonville on Feb. 25 (Reese), and 6 at Lilypons on Feb. 26 (Czaplak). Liff found an **American Woodcock** at Lilypons on Feb. 3.

*Jaegers, Dark-headed Gulls.* An adult **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen at Ocean City on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien). Late concentrations of **Laughing Gulls** were 200 at Round Bay on Dec. 2 (Iliff) and 250 at the Eastern Landfill, Baltimore County on Dec. 22 (Dan Haft); the last inland report was of 1 in DC on Dec. 24 (Czaplak). **Little Gull** reports from Ocean City included 2 adults on Dec. 7 (Swift) and 2 first-winter birds on Feb. 16 (M. O'Brien+). An adult **Common Black-headed Gull** was at Back River on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla), another adult at Ocean City on Feb. 16-18 (M. O'Brien+), where there was also a first-winter bird on Feb. 18-20 (Davidson, Wierenga+), and another adult was at Sparrows Point from Feb. 27 through March 1 (Wilkinson). The high for **Bonaparte's Gulls** on the coast was 1000 at Ocean City on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien) while elsewhere there were 90 at Elliott the same day (Wilson), and, extraordinary inland in mid winter, 62 at Centennial (Farrell, Chestern) and 16 at Lilypons (Davidson, Wierenga) both on Jan. 31. A bird tentatively identified as a first-winter hybrid **Laughing Gull X Ring-billed Gull** was at Ocean City on Feb. 9-10 (M. O'Brien, Blom).

*White-headed Gulls.* High counts of **Herring Gulls** included 500 at Piney Run on Jan. 1 (Ringler), 7000 at Laytonsville on Jan. 15 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 700 at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (Blom+). The adult **Yellow-legged Gull** returned to Georgetown Reservoir on Dec. 18 (Gough+), was first seen at Laytonsville on Jan. 5 (O'Briens+), and continued at both locations through the end of the period. Reports of **Thayer's Gulls** were a first-winter bird at Piney Run on Dec. 8 (Ringler), an adult at Georgetown Reservoir on Dec. 15 (Czaplak), and another adult at Laytonsville on Jan. 21 (M. O'Brien, Pisano). More adult **Iceland Gulls** than ever before were found this winter, with single birds at Laytonsville on Jan. 15-19, Conowingo on Jan. 31, and Salisbury on Feb. 9 all noted as *kumlieni* (M. O'Brien). All other Iceland Gull reports were of the more usual first-winter plumage with 2 at Laytonsville on Dec. 22 (Wierenga, M. O'Brien, Klockner), 1 of which stayed through Feb. 12, 1 at the Eastern Landfill in Baltimore County on Jan. 19 (Scarpulla), 1 at Georgetown Reservoir on Feb. 2 (Scarpulla, Wilson, Claudia Wilds) and Feb. 12 (Janni), and 1 at Brown's Station Landfill near Upper Marlboro on Feb. 3 and 10 (Stasz, Ricciardi, Iliff). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continue to proliferate. In addition to familiar locations such as Conowingo, Hains Point, Alpha Ridge Landfill and Brighton Dam in Howard County, and Fort McHenry in Baltimore, others at less usual locations were an adult at Piney Run on Dec. 8 (Ringler) and Jan. 27 (Stasz), a third-winter bird at Deal Island on Dec. 10 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Oxon Hill Farm on Dec. 15 (Bjerke), 1 at Allen's Fresh on Jan. 5 (Jett), and 2 at Millersville on Jan. 27 (Davidson, Wierenga). Multiple sightings of Lessers included 5 at Georgetown Reservoir on Jan. 9 (Janni), 9 at Laytonsville on Jan. 21 (M. O'Brien, Pisano), 3 at Salisbury on Jan. 17 and Feb. 9 (M. O'Brien), and 3 adults at Brown's Station Landfill on Feb. 10 (Stasz, Iliff). Single first-winter **Glaucous Gulls** were noted at Laytonsville from Dec. 22 through February (Wierenga, M. O'Brien, Klockner+), Brown's Station on Feb. 3 (Stasz, Ricciardi), and Ocean City on Feb. 11 (M. O'Brien, Dixon, Hoffman, Wierenga); a second-winter bird was at Millersville on Jan. 27 (Davison, Wierenga). A second-winter bird believed to be a hybrid **Glaucous X Herring Gull** was at Laytonsville on Jan. 21 (M. O'Brien, Pisano). Highs for **Great Black-backed Gulls** were 300 at Laytonsville on Jan. 15 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 400 at Conowingo on Jan. 26 (Scarpulla).

*Terns, Alcids.* A late **Royal Tern** was at Ocean City on Dec. 1 (Dunn, Blom, Ringler). Late **Forster's Terns** included 1 in Charles County on Dec. 8 (Wilmot), 1 at Blackwater on Dec. 10 (M. O'Brien), 200 at Ocean City on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien), and 5 at Assateague on Jan. 6 (Hoffman). Very rare in Maryland waters, 3 **Common Murres** were seen at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (Blom, Jeff Chenoweth). Two immature **Razorbills** were at Ocean City on Feb. 10 and 9 the next day (M. O'Brien, Blom+). These are rarely seen from shore. In addition, 59 unidentified large alcids were observed flying past Ocean City on Feb. 11 (M. O'Brien,



Dixon, Hoffman, Wierenga), 1 each on Feb. 16 and 17 (M. O'Brien), and 2 more on an offshore boat trip, Feb. 20 (O'Briens).

*Parrots, Owls, Woodpeckers.* Escaped parrots seen this winter were a **Monk Parakeet** at Edgewater on Dec. 30 (Fallon) and a **Black-hooded Conure** (Nanday Parakeet) at Quince Orchard on Dec. 26 (David Schaeffer). Fogleman found 2 Barn Owls at Rising Sun on Jan. 13. Reports of **Long-eared Owls** were 5 near Mt. Airy, Carroll County on Jan. 27 (Steve Whitcomb) and 1 near Boyds, Feb. 3-21 (Czaplak+). **Short-eared Owls** were found more frequently than usual, particularly on the central Eastern Shore. Sightings of Short-eareds included 3 near Ruthsburg on Dec. 9 (Fallon), 5 in Queen Anne's County near Tuckahoe on Dec. 31 (Grubers), 6 at Massey on Jan. 1 (Grubers), 4 at Hayden on Jan. 26 (Ringler, Webb), 1 near Taneytown on Jan. 27 (Blom), 2 at Easton on Feb. 3 (M. O'Brien), 1 near Lilypons on Feb. 9 (Carl Garner), 5 at Starr on Feb. 17 (Effinger), 9 at Elliott on Feb. 18 (Davidson, Wierenga), 3 at Fishing Island, Fairmount on Feb. 24 (Weesner) and 1 in South Baltimore on Feb. 24 (Michael Krynick+). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reports were 1 on Cooley Mill Road, Harford County that was hit by a car on Dec. 8 but recovered and flew off (Eastman), 1 at Centreville on Dec. 8 (Effinger), 2 at Hughes Hollow on Dec. 16, 1 of which remained through Feb. 24 (M. O'Brien, Bjerke+), 1 at Loch Raven on Dec. 30 (Barry), and on Feb. 10, 4 on Assateague (Wierenga, Brinker) where at least 9 different birds were seen during the season (Hoffman). Hoffman counted 17 **Northern Flickers** on Assateague on Jan. 27.

*Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows.* Post-CBC sightings of **Eastern Phoebes** were numerous with 1 at Schooley Mill Park from Jan. 6 through Feb. 16 (M. O'Brien+), 1 at Denton on Jan. 14 (R. Fletcher), 2 at Mill Creek Sanctuary, Talbot County on Jan. 18 (Reese), 1 at North Branch on Jan. 18 (Simons, Twigg), several in Frederick County on Jan. 21 (Miller), 1 in southern Howard County on Jan. 26 (Solem, Farrell), 1 on Oak Farm Road, Harford County on Jan. 26 (Grade Field, Barbara Rauch), 1 at Oldtown on Feb. 4 (Paulus), 6 near Pocomoke City on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), 1 on Assateague on Feb. 9 (Blom), 1 at Cumberland on Feb. 10 (Ringler), 1 at Seneca Creek on Feb. 11 (Jack Schultz), and 1 near Bellewood, Charles County on Feb. 16 (Jett). A **Western Kingbird** was found by Steve Ford near Royal Oak on Dec. 23 for the St. Michaels CBC. High counts of **Horned Larks** were 300 at Centreville on Dec. 15 (Effinger), 60 at Wye Mills on Jan. 7 (Feese), and 400 near Buckeystown on Jan. 12-13 (M. O'Brien). Estimates of **Tree Swallows** wintering on Assateague were 275 on Feb. 9 (Blom) and 170 on Feb. 25 (Hoffman). An extraordinarily late **Barn Swallow** was at Laurel on Dec. 30 (fide Bill Murphy).

*Corvids, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens.* The 20 **Fish Crows** at North East on Jan. 4 (Fogleman) were notable there; however, the major roost for this species is on the Lower Eastern Shore where 20,000 were estimated flying over Deal Island on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien). A **Common Raven** near Buckeystown on Jan. 31 (Miller) was the only one reported from the Piedmont; farther west, Paulus observed 4 at Oldtown on Feb. 5 and 4 at Town Hill on Feb. 28. A few **Black-capped Chickadees** made it south to central Maryland this year, with reports of 2 near Cedar Grove, Washington County on Dec. 27 (Ringler), 1 at Susquehanna SP on Jan. 1 (Fogleman), 10 near Hagerstown on Jan. 19 (M. O'Brien), and 5 at Havre de Grace on Feb. 10 (Eastman). A **Brown-headed Nuthatch** found near Popes Creek on the Port Tobacco CBC on Dec. 16 by Paul Wenninger was the first ever recorded in Charles County. Hoffman found 8 Brown-headed Nuthatches on Assateague on Feb. 25. Lingering **House Wrens** were 1 at Schooley Mill Park from Dec. 1 through Jan. 5 (Magnusson), 1 near Parsonsburg on Jan. 1 (Pitney), and 2 in Calvert County on Feb. 10 (Stasz, Iliff). The only **Sedge Wren** found wintering was on Assateague on Jan. 27

(Hoffman). Wintering **Marsh Wrens** were 1 at Eastern Neck on Dec. 30 (Grubers), 1 on Assateague on Jan. 15 (Hoffman), 6 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 19 (Ringler, Dixon), 3 there on Feb. 24 (Ringler), 3 at Tanyard on Feb. 3 (M. O'Brien), and 2 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien).

*Gnatcatchers, Thrushes, Mimids.* Three **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen this season. The first was at Denton on Dec. 2 and 25 (Short), followed by 1 at Snydersburg on Feb. 21 (fide Schwemmer), and another at North Beach on Feb. 27 (Stasz). Gnatcatchers in November and December are not unprecedented, but those in February do not fit any known pattern. Twigg counted 42 **Eastern Bluebirds** at Cumberland on Jan. 18. The mild winter resulted in these interesting sightings of **American Robins**: 60 at Love Point on Feb. 6 (Reese), 198 in the Rosaryville area on Feb. 8 (Wilson), 3 singing at Bloomington on Feb. 9 (Ringler, Simons), 79 at Bishop's Head on Feb. 9 (M. O'Brien), and 75 flying north over Chestertown on Feb. 22 (Grubers). Wintering **Gray Catbirds** included 1 near Thurmont on Jan 15 (Miller), 1 at Centennial Park from Jan. 18 through Feb. 4 (Ott), 5 on Assateague on Jan. 27 (Hoffman), 1 at Cecilton on Jan. 31 (Reese), 1 at Annapolis on Feb. 5-24 (Iliff), 1 at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), 1 in Calvert County on Feb. 10 (Stasz, Iliff), 2 at Eastern Neck on Feb. 17 (Hilton), 1 at Greensboro on Feb. 26 (A. Bilbrough), and 1 from December through the end of the period at Snydersburg (Schwemmer). A **Northern Mockingbird** at Bloomington on Feb. 9 (Ringler, Simons) is evidence that the species is resident in that part of Garrett County off the Allegheny Plateau. Wintering **Brown Thrashers** were 1 at Fairmount WMA on Jan. 27 (Weesner), 1 near Allen's Fresh on Jan. 27 (Jett), 1 at Greensboro on Jan. 28 (Hewitt), 1 at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 10 (Stasz, Iliff), 2 on Assateague on Feb. 12 (Hoffman), 1 at Ocean Pines on Feb. 19 (D. & J. Woods), and 1 at Sandy Point on Feb. 19 (Iliff).

*Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes.* The largest flocks of **American Pipits** reported were 150 at Centreville on Dec. 15 and Feb. 5 (Effinger), 129 in Queen Anne's County at Tuckahoe on Jan. 1 (Grubers), and 150 near Leitch Wharf, Calvert County on Jan. 13 (Ringler). Jett found 45 **Cedar Waxwings** at Cobb Island on Jan. 5. There was a rash of sightings of immature **Northern Shrikes**, beginning in January with single birds at Schooley Mill Park on Jan. 5-6 (Magnusson+) and again on Feb. 28 (Chester, Chase); other single birds were near Crumpton on Jan. 20 (Parks, Grubers), at Lilypons from Jan. 20 through March 8 (Hershberger+), at Marriottsville on Jan. 26 (Dan Haft, Carol Renfrew+), and at Chesapeake City from Jan. 27 through Feb. 3 (Fogleman). At least 1 **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen at Lilypons through the period.

*Warblers.* Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were seen in Anne Arundel County on Dec. 31 (Barry), on Assateague on Feb. 9 (Blom) and Feb. 25 (Hoffman), and near Bellevue on Feb. 16 (Armistead). The count of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** on Assateague was 1200 on Feb. 9 (Blom). **Pine Warblers** did well during this mild season, with at least 10 at Ocean Pines throughout the season (D. & J. Woods), 1 at Fruitland from Dec. 5 through the end of the period (Slaughters), 18 at Blackwater on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien), 2 at Parsonsburg on Jan. 12 and later (Pitney), 1 at Denton on Jan 26 (R. Fletcher), 1 at Cissel's Farm in Howard County on Jan. 26 (Wallace), 3 near Pocomoke City on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Bishop's Head on Feb. 9 (M. O'Brien), and 1 at Waldorf on Feb. 24 (Jett). The only **Palm Warblers** reported were 3 yellows at Blackwater on Dec. 26 (M. O'Brien) and 3 of unspecified type near Snow Hill on Dec. 31 (Hilton). Bob Rineer followed the progress of an **Ovenbird** in Baltimore from Nov. 26 through Feb. 14. Wintering **Common Yellowthroats** were 2 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 19 (Ringler, Dixon) and 1 there on Feb. 24 (Ringler), 1 on Assateague on Jan. 27 (Hoffman), 1 at Eastern Neck on Feb. 4 (Chris Beaton), and 1 singing at Deal Island

WMA on Feb. 8 (M. O'Brien). Jay Sheppard found a **Yellow-breasted Chat** near Olney on Dec. 22 and David Kubitsky found another at Ellicott City on Jan. 12 for the only reports of that species.

*Dickcissel, Sparrows.* A **Dickcissel** at PWRC, Feb. 6-17, was banded there on the 10th (Bill Howe+). **American Tree Sparrows** on the Coastal Plain included 3 near Allen's Fresh on Jan. 27 (Jett), 2 at Horsehead Sanctuary on Feb. 22 (Iliff), and 20 at Hart-Miller on Feb. 24 (Ringler). A **Chipping Sparrow** was at Denton on Jan. 8 (R. Fletcher), and 8 were near Wye Mills on Feb. 11 (Bob Folker). Hoffman found 20 **Field Sparrows** wintering on Assateague on Jan. 27 and Feb. 23. A **Vesper Sparrow** at Remington Farms on Feb. 24 (Grubers) was unusual for the winter. A **Lark Sparrow** was seen at a feeder on Holly Neck, Baltimore County irregularly from Feb. 13 through March 5 (Betty & Bob Christopher). Reports of wintering **Savannah Sparrows** in the Piedmont included 3 at Schooley Mill Park on Jan. 5 (Magnusson) and 2 near Lilypons on Jan. 13 (M. O'Brien). Other flocks of Savannah Sparrows were 19 on Assateague on Jan. 6 (Hoffman), 12 near Allen's Fresh on Jan. 27 (Jett), 30 at Easton on Feb. 3 (M. O'Brien), 10 at Rosaryville on Feb. 8 (Wilson), and 20 near Price on Feb. 10 (Ricciardi). Hoffman saw 2 **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** on Assateague from Jan. 13 through Feb. 25. On Jan. 25 single **Fox Sparrows** were seen at Federalsburg (Inez Glime) and near Sudlersville (M. O'Brien). High counts of **White-crowned Sparrows** on the Eastern Shore were 22 near Sudlersville on Jan. 25 (M. O'Brien) and 30 at Remington Farms on Feb. 24 (Grubers).

*Longspurs, Buntings.* The only **Lapland Longspurs** reported were in the small flock mixed with Horned Larks near Lilypons that were seen at least through Jan. 31 with the highest number being 10 seen on Jan. 1 (Hilton). Reports of **Snow Buntings** were 1 at Tilghman Island on Dec. 23 (Reese, Sinderman), 10 near Buckeystown on Jan. 12 (M. O'Brien), 2 at Queen Anne on Jan. 14 (Grubers), 30 on Assateague on Jan. 15 (Hoffman), 1 in Carroll County on Jan. 27 (Stasz), and 125 at Hart-Miller on Feb. 24 (Ringler).

*Icterines, Finches.* The 325 **Red-winged Blackbirds** at Oldtown on Feb. 25 (Paulus) were migrants. Wintering flocks of **Eastern Meadowlarks** included 37 at Hayden on Jan. 7 (Grubers) and 75 on Assateague on Feb. 9 (Blom). Reports of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were a male at Rising Sun on Jan. 13 (Fogleman), a female at Blackwater on Feb. 3 (M. O'Brien), a female at Rising Sun on Feb. 16 (Fogleman), and a male near Snow Hill on Feb. 17 (Dotty Mumford, Emily Joyce). A **Rusty Blackbird** at Deep Creek Lake on Feb. 5 (M. O'Brien) was rare for Garrett County in winter. A male **Brewer's Blackbird** was seen in Howard County for three weeks through Feb. 16 (Rosamund Munro) and 5 females were at Blackwater on Feb. 28 (M. O'Brien). The largest flock of **Boat-tailed Grackles** reported was 300 at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (Blom+). Interesting flocks of **Common Grackles** were 10,000 on Assateague on Jan. 13 (Hoffman) and 200 near Kump Station, Carroll County on Jan. 27 (Ringler); 5 early migrants were seen from a boat several miles off Ocean City on Feb. 20 (O'Briens). The only **Baltimore Oriole** of the season was a male at Broadmead, Baltimore County on Feb. 2 (Nancy Rowe). Jack Wennerstrom estimated a flock of **Red Crossbills** at Soldiers' Delight, Baltimore County on Jan. 19 at 15 birds, and Hank Kaestner saw 1 near Phoenix on Jan. 26. The only **Common Redpoll** of the season was at Roxbury on Dec. 22 (Wallace). **Evening Grosbeaks** were generally scarce, but flocks of 25 at Snydersburg on Dec. 1 (Schwemmer), 30 near Carey Run on Feb. 2 (Walbeck), and 40 on Backbone Mountain on Feb. 9 (Ringler, Simons) were reported.

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MAY 25, 1991

The Annual Membership Meeting was called to order by John Malcolm, President, at 7:53 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Bethesda, Maryland. A quorum was present to conduct the business meeting.

The design of this year's pin was submitted by Suzanne Probst, Howard Chapter, who received a \$25.00 gift certificate.

The conference for 1992 will be held at Salisbury State University on August 14, 15 and 16, 1992.

The Montgomery Chapter was thanked for all their hard work in putting their conference together, including but not limited to: Gary Nelson, Helen Ford, John Ford, Sally Rowe, Joanne Hollis, Sybil Williams, Sally Ann Waldschmidt, Graham Edgerton, Janet Millenson, Pat Moore, Linda Hardman, Naomi Ulmer, Ann Mitchell, Mieke Mehlman, and John Bjerke, the Conference Coordinator.

Phil Davis is putting together a new Speakers List. People who would like their name and topic on this list should contact Phil (also anyone with a suggestion for a speaker).

We need members to serve on the Education and Conference Committees.

Pins and certificates for outstanding service were awarded to: Margaret Duncan-Snow, Charlotte Folk, Daniel Folk, Joanne Solem, and Emily Joyce.

A Quick Tally was done and at this point in the conference; 127 birds had been seen.

The raffle, with eight prizes, earned \$755.00. The donors of these prizes were thanked.

The formal business meeting started with a motion by Bill Murphy to accept the minutes of the 1990 Annual Membership meeting, seconded by Lola Oberman, and passed.

*Vice President's Report.* The MOS license tags will finally be available. We should have the number needed (25) by July. The forms and a check for \$11.00 for each car tag should be sent to Rich Dolesh so that the first group of 25 can be submitted. After this first group, subsequent applications can be sent directly to Motor Vehicle Administration.

*Treasurer's Report.* The increase in dues has brought the operating fund to a reasonable level. The Sanctuary Fund is fine, and the Scholarship Fund may need bolstering.

*Past President's Report.* Bob Ringler thanks John Bjerke for his work on this conference.

*Executive Secretary's Report.* The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will produce a calendar for 1992, with photographs of rare and endangered Maryland species and their habitats. MOS will sell the calendar as a fund raiser. Look in *The Yellowthroat* for the date that the calendar will be available.

*Audit Committee Report.* Rodney B. Jones has examined the financial records and finds them in excellent shape.

*Budget Committee.* The budget was passed earlier this year.

*By-Laws Committee.* Bill MacIntosh will have the new By-Laws mailed out to the members very soon. He thanked Lola Oberman, Joy Aso, and Emily Joyce for their help.

*Investments.* Emily Joyce spoke for John Barber. The committee will meet in the near future to consider whether changes should be made in the investments.

*The Silent Auction.* This year the Silent Auction took in \$738.00.

*Long Range Planning.* Jo Solem discussed the undesignated bequests that have been received. There are two long range needs: A better financial base for the Scholarship Fund, and a special fund for research grants. This would take the research grants out of the operating fund. Another area considered is the next breeding bird atlas; perhaps money could be set aside in advance for this. Members should be polled to see if we are meeting their needs. Jerry Fletcher, who is seriously ill, was thanked for all the work he has done during his many years as a member of the committee.

*Research Committee.* Two people received grants this year, Joan McKearman and Paul Spitzer. A number of very good research papers were presented at the conference. Thanks to Dave Brinker for arranging these. The committee would like to be able to increase the size of the grants in the future.

*Atlas Committee.* Of the two hundred accounts, all but 30 are in the second draft or further along. Art work is almost finished. It should be at the printer by September 1, 1991 and then it will be out about nine months later.

*County Lists.* Harvey Mudd is turning this project over to Phil Davis.

*Mailing Lists.* A volunteer is needed.

*Publications.* Chan Robbins reports that the *Maryland Birdlife* for June 1990 will go to printer this month.

*Records.* Erika Wilson reports that the Ross' Gull has been accepted. The accepted rate has gone from 52% to 63% due to better methodology in the reports. The committee will also be reviewing records for Washington, DC.

*Conservation Committee.* Rich Dolesh suggests that each chapter have a conservation committee to keep track of local issues and write letters, as The Maryland Ornithological Society is highly regarded by the local legislatures. Our most important focus is birds and birding habitats.

**International:** The Tropical Rainforests are the item we find most important. Baltimore Chapter has done some very good work in researching this problem and finding ways for MOS to help.

**National:** The Wetlands policy is in trouble, the administration is backing off. All members need to keep writing letters to members of Congress to keep the pressure on.

**State:** Since the State is in financial trouble, all possible funds are being used, including trust funds that we all thought were safe. Program Open Space is the single most important land conservation program in the State and it is being raided. The State is projecting a higher deficit than may actually occur; if it comes in at a lower figure the money should be put back into Program Open Space. This is a serious problem as the money may well be allocated elsewhere. We all need to write to our legislators regarding keeping the Program and putting back money that is taken out. On the local level, Black Marsh is still not a settled issue. Again, contact with legislators is vital. There may be other areas that need protection. If any one knows of an area, it should be brought to the attention of the legislature. Garrett County needs help with their work on Savage River State Forest.

*Nominating Committee.* Bob Ringler speaking for the nominating committee presented the slate of nominees: President, John Malcolm; Vice President, Rich Dolesh; Treasurer, Emily Joyce; Secretary, Joan Stephens. He then asked for nominations from the floor, there were none. It was moved by Bob Ringler and seconded by Chan Robbins that the slate of nominees be elected by acclamation. This motion passed and the officers were elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m. The board meeting followed.

Joan Stephens, *Secretary*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **GIFTS COMMITTEE**

Fortune has smiled on MOS this year. We have received distributions from two major bequests this year with one more expected shortly. The first, from the estate of John Wanuga of Talbot County, was restricted to the purchase of a sanctuary property on the Eastern Shore. The total distribution from that bequest was \$83,607.44, part of which was in cash and the rest in stocks. With MOS board approval, the sanctuary committee is currently searching for suitable property to purchase with the proceeds from the bequest.

We are expecting distribution from the estate of Frances Ehlers (Howard County) at any time. The amount of this bequest is not certain at this point. The bequest is unrestricted.

In addition to those bequests, MOS has begun to receive distribution from the estate of Doris Oakley (Talbot chapter). This bequest is also unrestricted, and distribution will be in two parts. The first distribution is a mixture of cash (already received) and stocks, with a total value of over \$84,000. After consultation among the gifts committee, the long-range planning committee, the scholarship committee, and the research committee, we are recommending that this first distribution be split equally between the scholarship fund and a to-be-established research endowment fund. Both of these areas are currently either funded by or supplemented from the operating fund. Scholarships granted under this expansion and research grants made by the initial endowment would carry Doris Oakley's name—a perpetual memorial.

Use of just the interest from the research endowment, even at a minimal return of five percent, will more than double the research grant funding available and will relieve the operating fund of the need to support research grants. Creation of the research grant endowment fund will offer those interested in research a specific fund to which they may

contribute, thus encouraging the further expansion of our research program.

The addition to the scholarship endowment fund will more than double the investment base. We are recommending that the scholarship committee be given flexibility in the use of the additional income so that scholarships may be given to the nature camps, ornithology camp, or even youth nature scholarships or other educational activities, according to the requirements of applicants in any given year. Any scholarship awarded above the currently funded scholarships would carry the Oakley designation.

We believe that the second distribution from the Oakley estate will be a similar amount to the first. The actual amount of the distribution depends on the sale of property. The net proceeds from that sale will be divided equally among three groups, of which MOS is one. Distribution will probably be made in early 1992. The Gifts Committee and the Long-range Planning Committee would like your ideas for use of these additional funds. We suggest that you carefully consider alternatives and be prepared to discuss them at the next board meeting. We especially solicit ideas from members of the Talbot Chapter. Among the ideas currently under consideration are:

- 1) re-issuing of the "yellow book"
- 2) funding of the youth nature camp (dormant for two years)
- 3) purchase of additional sanctuary property
- 4) seed money for the next atlas
- 5) extension of research funding
- 6) extension of scholarship fund
- 7) increase in the sanctuary endowment fund

Depending on the actual amount of the distribution, a combination of any of the above could be managed.

Richard Cleveland, *Chairman*

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

This was the year to concentrate efforts on finishing the job of sorting and organizing the exchange journals and remainders of *Maryland Birdlife*. They are available on the third floor of Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, 21209-4698. To use them call Baltimore Bird Club, 377-8462 or Library Committee, Joy Wheeler, 825-1204.

To put emphasis on their availability for use in bird study, the Baltimore Chapter offered a series of 8 daytime meetings at Cylburn in the late fall and early spring. A topic for discussion was introduced at the beginning of the session. Time for a search for related material in our collection was then offered, after which a time for sharing was set aside. We were moderately successful in meeting our goals. We had 17 participants from 2 MOS chapters, 2 visiting speakers and many lively discussions. A fee of \$10 was charged each participant.

The committee filled 5 requests for reprints of Lola Oberman's article "Courtship Behavior of a Pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, *Maryland Birdlife* 45:65-66, 1989. Lola thinks the flurry of interest may have to do with the suggestion in the title of an X-rating.

Dr. Thomas Simpson contributed a number of issues of *The Auk*. We have a fairly long run of this journal, including a few from the 1890's.

We contributed a set of *Maryland Birdlife*, 1950-1990, to the Anne Arundel County Jug Bay Sanctuary.

Bruce Beehler, long connected with Baltimore Club through his mother, Carey Beehler, has published a new book, *A Naturalist in New Guinea*. A review follows.

The book collection at Irish Grove was sorted and cleaned by the committee on Irish Grove Cleanup Day in November. We were not able to attend the Carey Run Cleanup. I ask again that you not take old magazines to the sanctuaries and leave them there. It creates a space problem. When visiting the sanctuaries take advantage of the books there. If you have any suggestions about what books you would like to have at your favorite sanctuary, please notify the committee. Make plans to visit Cylburn Bird Museum and Library the next time you are in Baltimore. It is open every Thursday afternoon, 1-3 p.m. and by appointment. Call 377-8462 or 825-1204.

Joy Wheeler, *Chairperson*

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

During the 1990-1991 year the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) was asked to suggest some options for two undesignated bequests that the Maryland Ornithological Society will receive in the near future. In making the following recommendations, the committee operated without knowledge of a firm figure for either bequest.

Currently, it appears that the Society has two pressing needs. First, it is imperative that an expanded base for the Scholarship Fund be established since costs have escalated rapidly the last few years. If the Scholarship Fund remains at the current level, drastic changes or cutbacks will become necessary in the near future. This committee, therefore, encourages the Board to give priority to enhancing this important arm of the Society's activities.

Secondly, the LRPC has previously recommended that money for research grants be removed from the operating fund. If one of the bequests were used to establish a research Endowment Fund, it would provide the necessary continuity for grant funding. Eventually, a sizable fund might offer the possibility for more substantial grants than are now made.

Depending on the size of the bequests, the Board should also give consideration to providing funding for future breeding bird atlases. Foresight now in establishing stable long term funding could make it much easier to plan for and execute another state survey in a decade or two.

During the coming year we will be polling the membership for direction in judging whether MOS is meeting the needs of its members, what it should be doing, and how it can best respond to some of the major environmental problems that face us.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Jerry Fletcher, who recently resigned from this committee for reasons of ill health, for his long and valuable service.

Joanne Solem, *Chairperson*



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

May 1, 1990 through April 30, 1991

Budget Item	Budget	Actual	Total
<b>OPERATING FUND:</b>			
Income:			
Dues	\$22,500.00	\$19,639.50	
Transfer, Endowment Fund	660.00	660.00	
Interest			
Investments	918.00	918.00	
Pooled funds	600.00	511.64	
Income, publications	200.00	358.40	
Contributions, mail permit	30.00		
Membership pins	75.00	24.00	
Advertising, publications	500.00	472.50	
Miscellaneous		339.64	
Rain Forest Challenge		2,956.50	
New Rain Forest Challenge		25.00	
Conference 1991		10,502.50	
Total Income	25,483.00	36,407.68	
Expenses:			
Publications Committee			
Maryland Birdlife			
Printing	7,500.00	2,360.07	
Postage	850.00	348.20	
Supplies & Misc.	700.00	55.83	
Yellowthroat			
Printing	3,935.00	4,038.12	
Postage	850.00	939.81	
Supplies & Misc.	300.00	275.30	
Total Publications	14,135.00	8,017.33	
Administrative and Office:			
Secretary's Expenses	20.00		
Executive Secretary Stipend	2,400.00	2,400.00	
Postage	500.00	325.93	
Bulk Mailing Permits	120.00	120.00	
Membership List Maint.	1,100.00	1,181.20	
Printing and Duplication	600.00	565.80	
Office Supplies	900.00	794.27	
Miscellaneous	500.00	473.79	
Transfer to Atlas Project	1,600.00	1,600.00	
Affiliations and Memberships	275.00	225.00	
Liability Insurance	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Contingencies	200.00		
Total Admin. and Office	9,215.00	8,685.99	

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Committee-related Expenses:</b>			
Conservation Committee	100.00		
Education Committee	100.00	57.25	
Library Committee	100.00		
Conference Committee, 1991	1,200.00	593.68	
Conference, 1990		7,486.92	
Nominating Committee		22.05	
Records Committee	140.00	169.17	
Research Committee	1,000.00	900.00	
To Scholarship Fund		255.43	
Rain Forest Challenge		2,956.50	
Winter Bird Atlas	100.00	85.56	
<b>Total Committee-related</b>	<b>2,640.00</b>	<b>12,526.56</b>	
<b>Total Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>25,990.00</b>	<b>29,229.88</b>	
<b>OPERATING FUND, MAY 1, 1990</b>			<b>15,819.02</b>
<b>CURRENT OPERATING FUND VALUE</b>			<b>22,996.82</b>

### SANCTUARY FUND:

<b>Income:</b>			
Transfer from Endowment Fund	3,700.00	4,506.04	
Interest Income — Pooled Fund	2,500.00	2,362.55	
Sales — Sanctuary Signs	400.00	293.00	
Use Fees	1,400.00	1,579.65	
Donations		145.00	
Insurance Refund, Irish Grove		1,311.61	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>10,197.85</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<b>Carey Run:</b>			
General Maintenance	800.00	1,987.19	
Utilities	250.00	195.39	
Incidentals	350.00	88.59	
<b>Total, Carey Run</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>2,271.17</b>	
<b>Irish Grove:</b>			
General Maintenance	2,000.00	4,317.98	
Utilities	450.00	442.35	
Fuel	500.00	285.70	
Taxes	300.00	233.40	
Donation, Marion FD	50.00	50.00	
Incidentals	700.00		
<b>Total, Irish Grove</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>5,329.43</b>	
<b>tum Suden:</b>			
General Maintenance	1,000.00	498.04	
Utilities	300.00		
Fuel	500.00		
	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>498.04</b>	

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Liability Insur.	1,000.00	1,585.65	
Contingencies	2,000.00	102.92	
Total Sanctuary Expense	10,200.00	9,787.21	
SANCTUARY FUND, MAY 1, 1990			27,250.64
CURRENT SANCTUARY FUND			27,661.28

**SANCTUARY PURCHASE BEQUEST:**

Cash		51,189.12	
Stocks (donated value)		32,418.32	
Dividends		1,104.93	
Current Value Bequest			84,712.37

**SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND:**

<b>Income:</b>			
Life memberships	400.00	400.00	
Contributions	1,000.00	1,438.61	
<b>Interest Income</b>			
Investments	2,400.00	2,750.94	
Pooled Funds	1,714.00	2,415.22	
Total Income	5,514.00	7,004.77	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Transfer to Operating Fund	660.00	660.00	
Transfer, Sanctuary Fund	3,700.00	4,506.16	
Total Expenses	4,360.00	5,166.16	
SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT, MAY 1, 1990			56,853.34
CURRENT SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT			58,691.95

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND:**

<b>Income:</b>			
Contributions	500.00	440.74	
World Nature Assoc. Scholar.	725.00		
Bourne Scholarship	500.00	695.00	
Interest Income Investments	585.00	585.00	
Pooled Funds	2,000.00	2,234.64	
From Operating Fund		255.43	
Nat'l Audubon, reg. return		595.00	
Total Income	4,310.00	4,805.81	

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Helen Miller Scholarships	1,500.00	1,685.00	
Miller Scholarship 1990		595.00	
Chandler S. Robbins Schol.	595.00	695.00	
Eleanor C. Robbins Schol.	595.00	695.00	
Orville Crowder Schol.	725.00	895.00	
Bourne Scholarship	595.00	695.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,010.00</b>	<b>5,260.00</b>	
SCHOLARSHIP FUND, MAY 1, 1990			31,888.49
CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND			31,434.30

**ATLAS FUND:**

<b>Income:</b>			
Transfer from Operating Fund	1,600.00	1,600.00	
Contributions		2,394.50	
Raffle & Silent Auction		1,607.52	
Matching Grant		1,802.50	
Howard Co. Match		2,500.00	
Grant, Power Site Comm.		2,000.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,600.00</b>	<b>11,904.52</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Coordinator		14,934.65	
Telephone		313.87	
Miscellaneous		58.24	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>15,306.76</b>	
ATLAS FUND, MAY 1, 1990			4,007.35
CURRENT ATLAS FUND			605.11

**GRANT, CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST, ATLAS**

Income		15,600.00	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Telephone		1,926.92	
Postage/copying		1,223.01	
Map preparation		2,234.66	
Account editing		37.50	
Available Balance, Grant			10,177.91

**BEQUEST, OAKLEY ESTATE**

Cash			4,869.84
<b>Total, all funds</b>			<b>241,149.58</b>

Emily Joyce, *Treasurer*

## MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE

The MDDCRC is continuing to review new and old records of unusual birds. To date the committee has taken up 192 records; it has come to a final decision on 156 records, accepting roughly 56% of these for inclusion on the Maryland/DC list. Thirty-six records are pending at present, with 24 of these currently in circulation among the members.

During 1990 the secretary tabulated voting results on 30 records, and 20 new records were taken up for review. This year (1991), the secretary has tabulated voting results on 20 records and 15 new records have been taken up for review.

The committee has reworked its documentation guide; it has been distributed to everyone attending this conference. The committee has also developed a standard request letter for additional information from observers. In February the committee met for its second study skin workshop at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, where the committee met informally with AOU Check-list Committee members, as well as working on identification problems posed by records under review. At its March annual meeting the committee elected three new members, completing its shift to a larger, nine member committee.

Members for the 1991-92 year are: Rick Blom (Bel Air, Md.); Hank Kaestner (Timonium, Md.); Bob Ringler (Eldersburg, Md.); Chan Robbins (Laurel, Md.); Dave Czaplak (Germantown, Md.); Paul O'Brien (Rockville, Md.); Willem Maane (Bethesda, Md.); Roger Clapp (Smithsonian Institution); and Chair Claudia Wilds (Washington, D.C.).

Erika Wilson, *MDDCRC Secretary*

## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Sanctuary Committee functioned for another year without any formal meetings. Five workdays were held where many wonderful volunteers did magnificent work to help improve our sanctuaries. The work accomplished is detailed below by sanctuary.

### IRISH GROVE:

The storm that hit Irish Grove last year has changed the look of the building complex. There is more open ground there now. The out buildings that were destroyed have been disassembled and the piles of debris have been bulldozed back away from the building area. Many of the trees among those buildings were also blown down. The storm damage to the house was repaired by professionals and the insurance company has reimbursed MOS for that work.

A special workday was held on September 15, 1990 to do redecorating in the house. Five people worked on two upstairs bedrooms; stripping wallpaper, scraping paint, putting up new wallpaper and applying new paint.

The annual fall workday was held on November 3, 1990. Over forty people showed up to get much work done. Major projects accomplished were: disassembling downed buildings, building a new latrine, and building a new observation platform on the South Marsh Trail. Other jobs done were: finishing the redecorating of the two upstairs bedrooms,

cleaning house, mowing fields, pruning trails, cutting up downed trees, and putting up some new trail signs. Ruth Denit and the Wicomico Chapter again provided a delicious turkey dinner for the participants.

The annual spring workday was held on April 6, 1991. Twelve volunteers came. Electricity was installed to the new latrine. A new trail, the North Loop Trail, was cut, which runs north from the house, through some woods and joins the North Trail in the marsh just north of the tide gate. Two Barn Owl boxes that were donated by Glenn Therres, DNR, were installed in the marshes. One is located off of Rail Trail and the other is north of the East Creek Trail.

### **MILL CREEK:**

Talbot Chapter sponsored a workday at Mill Creek Sanctuary on September 29, 1990. Some forty people worked on replacing the roof of the shelter and boundary maintenance. The participants were treated with a bountiful buffet lunch. A small workday was held to put the finishing touches on the new roof.

### **CAREY RUN:**

The annual spring workday at Carey Run Sanctuary was held on April 27, 1991. The usual house cleaning and trail pruning was done. Extra pruning was done to the Russian olives around the bluebird boxes.

A new submersible water pump has been installed at Carey Run. This will greatly facilitate winterizing the water system.

### **PRIVATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PROGRAM:**

The Private Wildlife Sanctuary, Program is now being run by Lola Oberman (6606 Melody Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817, Phone: (301) 365-1058. The price of the sanctuary signs is \$3.00 plus \$.50 for shipping. Anyone interested in participating in this program should contact Lola.

Dorothy M. Mumford, *Chairman*

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Ecology Scholarship Winners for 1991 were: **Helen Miller Scholarship** (1 week), Anne D. Parsons, Teacher at Loch Raven Middle School and Naturalist with Md. Forest, Park & Wildlife; Duvall G. Sollers, Science Teacher and Science Department Chairperson, Baltimore County Public School System; and Stuart J. Richardson, Elementary School Teacher Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School; **Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship**, June Vaughn, Instructor, Outdoor Bird Study Courses, Harford County Elementary Schools, Community College, Harford Glen, Philadelphia Electric Company; **Edith Bourne Memorial Scholarship**, Eldre Boggs, Preschool and Elementary School Teacher, Outdoor Education of Blind-Youth through Adult.

Ornithology Scholarship Winners were: **Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship**, Danette M. Rahn, Biology Teacher and Outdoor Education Specialist, Randallstown High School; **Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship**, Jon G. Cupp, Jr., Biology major, Mt. St. Mary's College.

Mildred Gebhard, *Chairperson*

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

### ALLEGANY COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The 1990-91 Club Year for the Allegany County Chapter of the MOS began with our annual picnic at Carey Run Sanctuary on September 8. The following Saturday we held our first County-wide September Bird Count. On the 22nd the Club participated in the Hunting & Fishing Day held at the Country Club Mall with displays on Birding. A field trip to Dolly Sods, West Virginia was held on September 29 to observe the Brooks Bird Club's banding station. September was a very busy month for our Chapter. One of our more popular field trips was conducted at Shawnee State Park near Bedford, Pennsylvania on November 3, followed by lunch at Jean Bonnet Restaurant.

Our Annual Dinner was held at Failing's Hotel Gunter in Frostburg. J. Edward Gates of the Appalachian Environmental Lab spoke on Breeding Birds of Green Ridge State Forest. We were fortunate to have very interesting speakers at our monthly meetings this year. Frank Rohwer of AEL spoke on his research on colonial waterbirds, Hugh McIsaac of Frostburg State University gave a presentation on Bird Migration and Navigation, Botanist Melvin Brown welcomed in spring with his slide program on the Flora of the Upper Potomac Valley, and chapter member Ken Hodgdon spoke on Migration and Hibernation.

Club members participated in the Christmas, Winter and May Bird Counts. I wish to express my appreciation to the counters, the compilers and the hosts of the tallies who make these counts a success.

At our April meeting we elected new officers for 1991-92: President - Ray Kiddy; Vice President - Teresa Simons; Secretary - Mary Twigg; and Treasurer - Charlotte Folk.

We ended our Chapter Year with a Wildflower Walk conducted by Gladys Faherty and hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lancaster at their farm near Flintstone on May 18. It was a fine finish to another successful year of birding in Western Maryland.

Roy H. Brown, *President*

### ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

The Anne Arundel Bird Club had another successful year that was enjoyed by an ever-growing membership. The eight monthly meetings were well attended with attendance increasing for the last 4 meetings which were held at the Severn River Junior High School instead of the Library. Our new meeting place is much larger, having seating for 150 or more. The move from the Library was because they would not stay open after 9:00.

Our membership this year was 206. This does enable us to have another Director; however, since this is a marginal number, I have chosen to wait until next year for the election of another Director to see if the membership continues to rise.

Our meeting programs included a membership slide show and the annual Richard E. Heise Wildlife Lecture at which Eugene Morton talked about the fascinating Purple Martin, its migration, nesting habits and its relationship to human beings. The proceeds from the Wildlife Lecture benefit the MOS Scholarship and Sanctuary Funds.

Members and guests participated in 24 field trips, our annual 3-day winter weekend field trip and the spring and fall picnics hosted by the Taliaferros and Marjorie Crain.

Club members active in statewide MOS activities were Sanctuary Committee Chair Dotty Mumford and Treasurer Emily Joyce. There was good participation in the Christmas and May counts, and Sue Ricciardi coordinated the Mid-winter Count. The Anne Arundel area Christmas Count tally-up was again hosted by Pat and Dick Chiles. An MOS scholarship was again generously funded by Gerald and Vonnie Cotton with a little help from the Club.

One of the winners of an MOS scholarship came from the Annapolis area. She is Eldre Boggs who is not currently a member of our Club but will probably join next year. She was invited to our Wildlife Lecture and was introduced to all.

The Club continued to co-sponsor bird walks with Sandy Point State Park. Two members of the club and one of the Rangers from the park led the 5 walks. The Club has also co-sponsored bird walks with the new Quiet Waters Park. Members led two walks on the opening day and on the park's Earth Day, April 21. Also on the park's opening day, the Club had an information booth utilizing the MOS display. A number of old bird related books (65 plus some booklets) were donated to the club by Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Spedden. Mrs. Spedden is the daughter of David and Marguerete Howard, who were among the original members when the Club was known as "The Avid Avists." No stipulations were made as to the use of the books. I chose to make them available for sale with all of the proceeds going to a special fund. This special fund is for things like paying for the wood to make Bluebird boxes (15) and 3 bird feeders which were given to Quiet Waters Park. In return, we were given the use of the Blue Heron Room for our Wildlife Lecture free of charge (the fee is usually \$500 to \$700 per night). I will be monitoring the boxes throughout the summer.

Officers for the year were President, Allan Haury; First Vice President, Chris Beaton; Second Vice President, Kathy Lambert; Treasurer, Gale Taliaferro; Corresponding Secretary, Sally Loving; Recording Secretary, David Knight; and Directors Alexis Doster and Phil Davis. Dotty Mumford served as newsletter editor.

At our annual business meeting we elected the following officers for the coming year: President, Allan Haury; First Vice President, Peter Hanan; Second Vice President, Kathy Lambert; Treasurer Gale Taliaferro; Corresponding Secretary, Wafi Raines; Recording Secretary, Sally Rowe; and Directors Phil Davis and Jerry Cotton. Dotty Mumford will continue as newsletter editor.

Allan Haury, *President*

## **CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB**

The Carroll County Bird Club continues to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Nature Center at Piney Run Park. We meet at 7:30, and visitors are always welcome. The agenda for most meetings includes a guest speaker. During the past year, we have learned about birds found in and near Carroll County and have been introduced to birds from around the country and around the world. An interesting talk on landscaping for wildlife captured our interest in the early spring.

Our club has planned many walks and outings. Piney Run Park offers a wide range of habitat for the birds and is always an interesting place for a birding adventure. Woodland



trails, areas of open field, and several miles of shoreline around the lake attract a variety of birds during each season. A pontoon boat ride planned for a summer evening allowed us to see lots of wildlife that inhabits the area on and near the lake at Piney Run. Last summer's outing was filmed and aired on our local television station!

Other trips included: several successful fall and spring walks for warblers, a Moonwatch at the Harden farm to watch nocturnal migrants, a hawk-watching trip, a "guaranteed" woodcock walk (he really did appear!), a bus tour of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, a visit to Erma Gebb's farm to see Red-headed Woodpeckers, and more.

We participated in winter and May bird counts. Members of our group have represented the Bird Club in several festivals for the environment including Earth Day at Piney Run Park. Our 2nd annual picnic is planned for August when our President, Bill Culp, hosts a "Birds and Beer" cook-out. Our membership continues to grow. We have a great group of people—birders at all levels—who look forward to another year of excellent birding adventures. Come join us!

Bill Culp, *President*

## FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

In conservation, Frederick County Chapter contributed to the challenge for matching funds for tropical rain forest sponsored by the state MOS. We also contributed \$100 to The Nature Conservancy for both in-state and international protection of wild habitat. Our Chapter hosted a state MOS quarterly board meeting in December 1990.

We established a Frederick County bird alert telephone hot-line and by this means a large number of individuals saw Northern Shrike and Northern Saw-whet Owl in Frederick County in 1991. Other important birds were a still-unidentified phalarope found in September 1990 and seen by many birders and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, also found in September. The latter was a first record for the county.

We sponsored eight bird-related programs at our Chapter meetings, which ranged from bluebirds to martins to travel to see birds. We also had our annual Christmas dinner and May picnic. We held a number of field trips and furnished several leaders for the MOS Convention in Chevy Chase.

New officers for 1991-92 are President, William Du Bell; Vice President, Helen Horrocks; Secretary, Beth Zang; Treasurer, Marilyn Yost; Past President, Stauffer Miller; and MOS Director, Mel Bennett.

Stauffer Miller, *President*

## HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Chapter suffered a decline in membership following several years of growth. We began the year with a record 217 members, gained 25 during the period but lost an even 50. Some of the losses are attributable to older long-time members not renewing because of age and infirmities. Some who had been members for only a year or two evidently decided

to look for other activities. Each year this happens. It is probable that some members, mostly totally inactive, elected to drop out on account of the dues increase. We are looking forward, however, to continuing the growth trend of prior years.

The Field Trip Committee chaired by Randy Robertson planned 19 trips during the year. Some were in the immediate county area; others were to more distant locales such as Huntley Meadows in Fairfax, Va., Brigantine NWR, Middle Creek, the Maryland/Delaware Coast and Gettysburg. Field trips are a major portion of our program, and some, particularly the local ones, are especially structured for beginning birders. After five years of competitive warbler walks, they were discontinued and replaced with regular trips during the migration period.

In addition to the annual fall picnic, held again at Harford Glen, we had the usual four dinner meetings. These have been scheduled for the first Fridays of alternate months beginning in November. This year the January dinner was twice delayed, and as a result, future January dinners will be held on the second Friday. Guest speakers were Dr. Robert W. Trever in November with a fascinating presentation on the varied biota of Chile; William B. Murphy in March, entertaining and enlightening us on birding in Trinidad and Tobago; and Glenn D. Therres in May, with an informative report on the Bald Eagle in Maryland. The much-delayed January meeting featured our own club taxidermist, Pam Rhoads, who (not to be stuffy) spoke on the Ecology and Fauna of the Southwest. Members from other chapters and the general public are welcome to attend our meetings. Reservations are required for the dinner portion (beginning at 6:15 p.m., as announced in our newsletter) but the remainder of the program, beginning around 7:15 is open to walk-ins.

The Chapter sponsored three annual bird counts. The Christmas count, coordinated by Dennis Kirkwood, identified 87 species and 67,100 individual birds. The count produced high numbers for 19 species, and for the first time included an American Pipit. The midwinter count, under the guidance of Bill Pflingsten, found 83 species and 122,305 individuals, highlights being two Golden Eagles and five other species new to the count, now in its fourth year. The May count, organized by our Vice President, Les Eastman, does not have a complete tally at this writing.

We continued to present Chapter awards. David Webb was honored as Rookie-of-the-Year. He has been active in all phases of Club activities, and authors a birding Quiz in the newsletter. The Bird-of-the-Year was the Harlequin Duck, which stayed around after the 1989 Christmas Count just long enough to be seen in 1990. The featured award, Birder-of-the-Year, was garnered by Dr. Mildred Gebhard, honored for her many years of service both to the Chapter and to the State Organization, Mildred currently chairs the State Scholarship Committee. The Listers Award, new this year, went to Les Eastman who, with 177, beat out Dennis Kirkwood by only two. Eligibility for these lists is confined to birds identified while the lister was in Harford or Cecil County, depending on where he resided.

Barbara Bilsborough's banding team continued its activities, including demonstrations for school classes. Sue and Ken Heselton, Bill Pflingsten, Jim Wiley and Jean Williams continued to assist with these activities. Bird banding has been an activity by Chapter members for many years.

Harford County is pleased to have three of the seven MOS scholarship winners, two of whom are members of the Chapter. June Vaughn was the winner of a two week Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship. She will attend the Audubon Camp in the West during the

coming summer. Jon G. Cupp, Jr., was awarded the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship. He will attend the Audubon Field Ornithology course in Maine.

Unfortunate circumstances caused the temporary suspension of WINGTIPS, the Harford County Chapter hotline. At this writing arrangements are being finalized to return an improved version to the wires in the near future. The many users of WINGTIPS, both in our club and elsewhere, eagerly await its return.

The Officers, Directors and Committees have served the Chapter well. During the year we regretfully accepted the resignation of Pat Kastama as Treasurer and welcomed Joyce Gorsuch as her replacement. Pat and Marvin will be leaving the area soon. At the end of her term, Barbara Billsborough relinquished her position as Recording Secretary and will be replaced by Barbara Siebens. My term as President ended with the May meeting. The Club will henceforth be under the stewardship of Mrs. Larry Fry (Jean) who has been active in Chapter activities for several years. We all look forward to the next two years.

William B. McIntosh, *President*

## HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Howard County Chapter completed a very active eighteenth year. We had excellent speakers for our well-attended regular monthly meetings. The club was able to donate \$3,600 for habitat purchase in the Monte Verde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica as a result of two very successful seed sales and special donations by members. Our \$2,500 challenge grant to benefit the Atlas Project was met by MOS. An excellent variety of field trips was complemented by our park walks, some of which are cosponsored by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The successful mid-winter and May counts involved many of our members. Our annual potluck was highlighted by a members "show-and-tell" slide program. The club's bi-monthly newsletter continues its superior tradition of education and information to the membership. Booths were staffed at the Howard County Fair and Columbia Mall Leisure Fest as a means of outreach to the general public. Members made educational presentations at many schools, clubs, and other organizations. The club continues to be involved in state and local conservation issues, as well as a project for the protection of cavity nesters. Thanks to the dedicated members of the club who have done so much to make all of this possible.

Ralph W. Geuder, *President*

## JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

Club membership has decreased to forty-nine. This may be due to the new and higher membership fees. Regular activities include monthly meetings and at least one field trip each month. Members participated in the Christmas Count and the May Count. Two members, Rich Dolesh and Joan Stephens, were elected Vice President and Secretary, respectively, to the State MOS board. A new innovation at our regular monthly meetings is the raffling of an inexpensive door prize.

Officers of the Jug Bay Chapter for 1991-92 are: President, Wally Stephens; Vice President, Mike Callahan; Treasurer, Renee Burns; Secretary, Betty Porter; Trustee, Mike Callahan.

Wally Stephens, *President*

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Members of the Montgomery County Chapter enjoyed another fine year of meetings, field trips, and fellowship. This was the year that the dues were increased, but the membership took it in stride recognizing that the increase was long overdue.

Noted raptor expert Bill Clark opened our program season in September with an illustrated lecture on the eagles of the world. George Jett kept up the international theme in October when he gave us a view of the glories of Costa Rica (and a plug for Christmas Counting down there). Field trips included all of our traditional stops at Hughes Hollow and Point Lookout as well as trips to Cape May and the Outer Banks. Fall migration was dwindling as we shifted our attention to the waterfowl arrivals along the Potomac and in Delaware. Other trips featured raptors and early winter finches. Indoors, well traveled Chapter member Don Messersmith treated us to an extraordinary view of the Falklands. In December, NASA scientists Nancy and Al Boggess took us on a fascinating time trip with the Hubble Space Telescope and COBE.

Christmas Counts are an integral part of the season for the Montgomery Chapter. We sponsor two Counts—Seneca and Sugarloaf—and many members find time to do 4 or 5 Counts. The weather was overly wet and foggy but we persevered and kept the holiday birding spirit alive. Winter means thinking about owls and maybe seeing a few. Paul Engman gave us a naturalist's point of view on the ethical search for these elusive species. It was clear from the questioning that owls will ever entrance us. In February, Bob Ringle stopped by to tell us about recent trends in the status of Maryland's birds. The Chapter had several well attended and very successful trips to the coast.

The annual Social in March was a very happy event. Great food, fine comraderie, and a record number of member's favorite slides highlighted the evening. The annual elections installed a new set of leaders for the Chapter including: Byron Swift, President; Bill Kulp, Vice President; Jane Hill, Secretary; and Willem Maane continuing as Treasurer. In April, Bill Oberman shared more of his tropical adventures and bird banding exploits as he discussed the Peruvian Amazon. Meanwhile, members were impatiently awaiting the spring migration with trips planned for all the local hotspots. The last meeting of the season featured another international theme, Barry Cooper speaking about the joys of birding in Britain. May means May Counting and Montgomery was out in force. In June, we head "north" to Garrett County.

Last but not least in the "official" year is the State Conference. Montgomery hosts the Conference this year and many members are working hard to have everything ready. For the first time in several years the Conference is being held in May and we are hopeful that the glories of spring migration in Montgomery County will give the statewide membership something to remember in the years to come.

Membership held steady at about 250 people. Approximately 75 to 100 members attended the monthly meetings. We all look forward to the more informal activities of the summer (lots of shorebirding) and to the resumption of the MOS year in September

John Bjerke, *President*

## PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of every month except June, July, August and December at 7:45 in the Bio-Science building at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The programs are rarely available from other chapters and are always among the best that can be found in MOS. To make sure you don't miss out on the excitement, drop in. You don't have to live in northern Prince George's County to attend.

If you came regularly last year, you would have been enthralled by spectacular photography from as close as the Chesapeake Bay and as far away as East Africa. You would have learned about the winter bird banding project at Patuxent, the 25 year history of the Breeding Bird Survey Routes and what they have to tell us about the decline of some of our beloved songbirds. There was a talk about one of our favorite birds, the Pileated Woodpecker, and you would have found out which endangered species likes to nest in old automobile tires (Roseate Tern). And, of course, what year would be complete without a timely talk about the Spotted Owl and the Old Growth Forest Controversy?

Eleanor Robbins' sale of books and birdseed netted about \$350, which was distributed between the atlas fund, the scholarship fund and Sanctuary maintenance.

With programs like this and good publicity, our membership grew by 20% during the last year. When the deal's this good, you should beat the rush; come and join today.

David Mozurkewich, *President*

## TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER

Our membership stands at 129. The Sanctuaries are in good shape. Marengo Woods has been partially posted and we expect to get a fence up in the next year. We had a very successful work day in which we were able to put a strong roof on the shelter at Mill Creek. We had a lot of fun that day. On subsequent days we have repaired the fence and spruced up the place.

Twenty-nine members took part in our Christmas Count despite the inconvenient date—two days before Christmas. The May Count was less well attended, but it did take place.

The results of the election on May 9 are as follows: President, Donald Merritt; Vice President, Carolyn Mills; Secretary, Bobbie Sindermann; Treasurer, Fred Snyder; Director, Jeff Effinger. Because Don Merritt moved up to President, we are presently missing one director. I will leave that vacancy for Don to fill at the June meeting of our Board. I am presently working with Jim McCann to find volunteers for the study of coastal habitats for neotropical migrant landbirds being conducted by the Dept. of Natural Resources.

My term as president is ending and I have to say that it has been one of the most time-consuming but delightful responsibilities that I have yet undertaken. I gave it up with very mixed feelings.

Carolyn B. Mills, *President*

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

Washington County Chapter meets monthly, from September through April, at the Funkstown Elementary School. We have 112 members consisting of 43 individual memberships and 34 household memberships.

We covered a variety of topics, starting our season with Chan Robbins, talking on migration and ending with Lola and Ted Oberman giving us a trip to Pt. Pelee. (Several M.O.S. members are headed for Pt. Pelee May 10.) We had speakers for ducks, geese and shorebirds, a local nursery gave advice on plantings to attract wildlife to the yard and a botanist showed slides of rare and endangered flowers in Washington County. We also heard from our chapter scholarship winner on her trip to Audubon Camp. In February we had a potluck supper before the meeting. This is becoming a tradition for winter.

We had a number of trips out of the county, including Black Hills and Little Bennett Parks in Clarksburg, The Pulpit in Pennsylvania, Lister's Trip on the Eastern Shore, Piney Run Park, the Gettysburg area, Altona Marsh in West Virginia, and the Blue Ridge Mountains. We had two trips scheduled for Lilypons; one was snowed out, one was rained out. Locally, we had a series of mini-walks from 9:00 a.m. to noon; we met the same place and usually had no assigned leader. We held ten of these walks this fall, most scheduled on Tuesday, some on Saturday, and eight in the spring. Attendance was from thirteen to three.

Washington County continues the tradition of holding the Outdoor School in Clear Spring the third weekend in May. Field trips are conducted all day Saturday and Sunday morning. This is well attended by local and out-of-county M.O.S. members. In the area of conservation we donated money to the M.O.S.-sponsored Rainforest Project, The Nature Conservancy and were able to send almost a hundred dollars to the M.O.S. Sanctuary Fund by collecting over 5 tons of newspaper. We've been active politically, on local issues, most recently opposing tree cutting on the Hagerstown Watershed.

A hawk watch is conducted by members of our chapter atop South Mountain at Washington Monument Park. Results (6,270 hawks this fall) go to the Hawk Migration Association of North America, a very worthwhile project that's been going on for twenty-plus years. M.O.S. members keep in touch over the summer with a potluck picnic held the fourth Sunday of June, July and August.

Ann Mitchell, *President*

## WICOMICO COUNTY CHAPTER

Three major accomplishments in early fall included (1) appointing a Ways and Means Committee to raise money; Chairperson, Gail Vaughn; (2) creating a flyer for our Chapter; (3) and increasing dues, for the first time in several years, at the September meeting.

Meetings were well attended, with an average attendance of 30 to 40 persons. Our speakers were Rick Johnstone with Delmarva Power on "Habitat Protection"; Tom Horton, author of "Bay Country," on "Chesapeake Bay and the Great Blue Heron"; Ellen Lawler on "Raptors"; Dr. Robert Hedeem from Salisbury State University on "Brown Pelicans and the Chesapeake Bay"; Glenn Therres of DNR on "Bald Eagles"; and Jim Rapp from the Salisbury Zoo on "Belize Zoo"; We also had a amateur night and a bird trivia game.

In addition to seven field trips that attracted from 5 to 28 participants, we assisted in 6 area Christmas Bird Counts, our Annual Big Day, the annual May Count, the MOS State Conference, and we sponsored two work days at Irish Grove Sanctuary. Members also led four field trips and conducted four programs for other groups, participated in three radio programs and one TV news program, and Ellen Lawler taught an ornithology course at Salisbury State University.

We reelected our officers to serve a second term: President, David Weesner; Vice President, Mary Ogle; Secretary, Ruth Denit; Treasurer, Len Satloff; and State Director, Ellen Lawler.

David Weesner, *President*

## BREEDING LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES IN MARYLAND: RESULTS OF THE 1989 AND 1990 SURVEYS

WILBUR L. HERSHBERGER

During the breeding seasons of 1989 and 1990, I conducted surveys of Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) for the Maryland Natural Heritage Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Three pairs of shrikes were found each year. Although pairs exhibited nesting behavior, reproductive success was uncertain.

In 1989, the first pair was located on April 4, close to route 340 near Frederick, in Frederick County. The pair's territory included a fence row covered with tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissimus*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). On May 8, I observed one of the shrikes catching food and flying to a tree that supported a dense tangle of multiflora rose 25-30 feet high. The shrike repeatedly delivered food to this rose bush. The other shrike was not observed at this time and no vocalizations were heard. Although I made several regular visits to this site, the shrikes were not observed again. There was no apparent reason for the abandonment of this site other than the proximity of the highway. Predation could not be ruled out, but no evidence was found.

Another nesting pair was observed near Fairview, in Washington County. After a soaking rain the previous night, there were numerous earthworms (*Lumbricus terrestris*) on the road surface. I observed the male shrike searching for prey from the power lines. He would fly down to the road surface and consume earthworms where he caught them. This behavior was observed at least six times. When he encountered a beetle he would immediately take it to the same location in a row of trees that separated two agricultural fields. The southern field was a fallow corn field and the northern field was grown up in winter wheat to a height of approximately 20 inches. The nest was located 8 feet from the ground in a dead tree overgrown with multiflora rose. The nest was not well concealed and the female was sitting on the nest as if incubating eggs. The shrikes abandoned the area within two weeks of this visit. The southern field had been plowed to within six feet of the nest during this period. This activity, so close to the nest, and the nest's lack of concealment, may have caused the birds to leave.

The third pair of shrikes in 1989 was located by Robert Dean near Sharpsburg, Washington County. Initially, the shrikes were believed to be nesting in an eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) that was along the road. On the return visit the vegetation along the road had been sprayed with herbicide and the shrikes were no longer frequenting this spot. However, they were still in the area, with activity concentrated to the northeast of the original site. One of the shrikes was observed carrying what appeared to be a nestling Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) with its feet. Shrikes were seen repeatedly carrying prey items, but no nest could be found. No fledglings were seen in the area during numerous subsequent visits.

During the breeding season of 1989, two pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes and juveniles were also seen at the Antietam National Battlefield (Mark Barnheart, pers. comm.).

During 1990 the known breeding success of Maryland Loggerhead Shrikes apparently improved. Three nests were discovered, and 7 fledglings were seen. Unfortunately, one of the fledglings was struck and killed by a car just a few days after leaving the nest. An adult shrike was also killed by a car at the Antietam National Battlefield in April (Bartgis, pers. comm.). The remaining 6 fledglings were seen repeatedly and disappeared from the nesting territory with the adults.

On April 7, a pair of shrikes was observed south of Buckeystown, Frederick County. The nest was in a multiflora rose thicket growing over a wire fence that enclosed an untilled corn field. The top wire of this fence was barbed. The first nest was low and not well concealed, and was abandoned before construction was complete for a new site in the same bush. Higher and more concealed, the second nest was more successful, with four nestlings that were first seen on April 29. These nestlings were observed on May 3 and seemed to be doing well. On May 15, the shrikes were gone and the nest empty. The nest was in good condition and there were no dead nestlings in or under the bush. The normal time from the beginning of incubation to fledging is about five weeks in Virginia (Luukkonen 1987). If the shrikes had started incubating on or about April 7, there is a chance that these nestlings fledged. However, fledglings and their parents generally stay near the nesting territory until the fledglings are better able to fly (Luukkonen 1987, Novak 1989). While searching the surrounding fields, which contain ideal habitat, I did not observe any shrikes. Predation of the nest can not be ruled out, and may have caused this pair of shrikes to abandon the territory rather than attempt a second nest in or near the same area, as is typical (Davidson 1988, Luukkonen 1987). If these shrikes attempted a second nesting, it was more than one mile from their first attempt.

The most unusual nesting, and the most successful, was near Sharpsburg, Washington County. This nest was located 25-30 feet up in a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), next to the main trunk and supported by a whorl of branches. Adjacent to the nest site were pastures and agricultural fields enclosed by a wire fence with barbed wire along the top. The shrikes hunted from the power lines over the road and from the tops of trees and electric fence posts that bordered and dotted the fields. This nest was not located until June 24, even though the shrikes had been seen in the area for several months. By this time the nestlings were all feathered and almost ready to fledge. On June 26, the five nestlings had fledged and were now in a large stand of tree-of-heaven. Both adults were extremely busy keeping the fledged young fed. One of the adults in particular appeared tired and not well groomed. During one period of observation, five minutes was the maximum interval between deliveries of food to the young from the parents. By July 4, the larger of the fledglings were feeding themselves, catching insects on the ground near the tree-of-heaven stand in which smaller



members of the brood were still resting. The adults brought nestling birds for their young, including nestling Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) and sparrows and finches. All the birds that I saw brought to the young had been decapitated. It is not known if this is typical, nor is it known if the adults eat this part of the prey or discard it.

On July 10, one of the juvenile shrikes was killed by a car, and no other shrikes could be found in the area. Shrikes often leave the nesting territory for new feeding locations soon after the young are able to feed themselves (pers. obs.).

A pair of shrikes was observed on territory in March of 1990 at the Antietam Battlefield (Bartgis, pers. comm.). I located two fledglings and two adult Loggerhead Shrikes near the Antietam Battlefield property on July 14. One of the juveniles was eating an earth worm. It was trying to impale the worm on a broken twig of a brush pile. After a lot of effort the young shrike flew to another perch and impaled the worm on a smaller broken twig. With this, it had little trouble dispatching the prey. Despite thorough search of the overgrown fencerows and eastern red cedars in the fields I found no nest. However, much of the vegetation around the field was extremely thick and could have contained a well-concealed nest.

Reproductive success appeared normal in 1990 for the known nesting attempts. Loggerhead shrikes typically lay a clutch of 4 to 6 eggs (Bent 1965). There is no obvious reason, other than weather, for the apparent disparity in the reproductive success in 1989 and 1990, taking into account the small number of observations. The spring of 1989 was colder and wetter and may have caused a reduction in breeding success. It has been observed that Loggerhead Shrikes are more successful breeders in dry, warm years (Kridelbaugh 1982). Lynn Davidson, in a similar survey during the 1987 breeding season, found only one nesting pair of shrikes. This pair appeared to be double brooded; the juvenile from the first brood was seen in the territory while the adults were feeding the newest young. This pair raised only two fledglings that season (Davidson 1988). Virginia has reported a 94% reduction in the breeding population of Loggerhead Shrikes between 1968 and 1983 (Luukkonen 1987). Luukkonen suggests that changes in land use and the loss of habitat may be the cause for the decline in Maryland. I have noticed a trend toward keeping fencerows barren of vegetation, removing multiflora rose, hawthorns (*Crataegus* sp.) and cedars from pastures and fence rows, and an increased use of herbicides along roadsides. There is also an apparent trend toward the fragmentation of pastures and other fields into segments for various uses (pers. obs.). These smaller fragments may not be suitable to the needs of Loggerhead Shrikes. Loss of habitat to development may be the greatest threat to the future success of Loggerhead Shrikes in our region.

If we are to preserve Loggerhead Shrikes in Maryland, further study of the decline in the breeding population will be required. In addition, details of their wintering biology here at the northeastern fringe of their breeding range will be essential. Comparisons with wintering populations in the south-central region of the United States may provide some guidelines to proper management.

The Loggerhead Shrike was considered common in the northeast during the 1880s (Bent 1965). The high population levels have been attributable to the extent of agricultural lands and the decrease in the amount of forested lands. These agricultural areas are now being replaced with residential and commercial developments, as well as being abandoned and allowed to grow up into woodlands.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Rodney Bartgis and Laurie MacIvor for their review of this paper. This work was supported by the Maryland Natural Heritage Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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### BOOK REVIEWS

**SPRING IN WASHINGTON.** Louis J. Halle. Illustrated by Francis L. Jacques. Foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. Reprint edition published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. 1988. 234p., pprbk., \$7.95.

My introduction to Louis Halle did not come until 1979 when he, along with Chandler Robbins received the Audubon Naturalist Society's Paul Barch Award for outstanding contributions to the field of Natural History. Later, while in a used book store I found the book most often mentioned that night at the award ceremony, *SPRING IN WASHINGTON*. A real bargain at \$2, I bought it and read it eagerly. Where was I in 1947 when Halle was having such a good time birdwatching in Washington, DC, of all places? Certainly not birdwatching, only having picked up binoculars in 1970. The DC I know 40 years later

## Book Review

**WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIRDS GONE?** John Terborgh. 1989. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, available clothbound and paperback (\$45 and \$14.95). 207 pages.

For the serious American birder this is one of the most important books of the 1980s. This collection of essays on the biology and conservation of birds that migrate to the American tropics is written by a professor of biology at Princeton University in language an informed layperson can readily understand.

Migrant birds are at risk on their breeding grounds, during their migratory flights, and at their wintering sites. "Things are going wrong with our environment," writes John Terborgh, "even in parts of it that are nominally protected." This book covers the problems encountered by migrants at both ends of the migratory route. Habitat fragmentation, environmental contamination, the destruction of natural mixed species forests to produce monoculture tree plantations in North America, and the ongoing destruction of tropical forests at an alarming rate are discussed. Serious scientific work provides the basis of the author's presentation; a twelve-page bibliography is referenced throughout the text. (Those wanting to explore this subject matter in more detail will want to consult *Migrant Birds in the Neotropics: Ecology, Behavior, Distribution and Conservation* edited by Allen Keast and Eugene S. Morton, 1980; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 576 pages.)

One of the thought-provoking chapters deals with ecological results of urbanization and the role of competitors, predators, and parasites in the decline of nesting songbirds. "With the best of intentions, Americans annually stock home feeders with more than a billion pounds of birdseed, thereby unwittingly augmenting the populations of avian nest predators (Blue Jays) and brood parasites (cowbirds)." Each starling we help survive the winter is a direct competitor for a nest hole with a woodpecker, chickadee or other native bird. The starling usually wins. It is virtually impossible to keep cowbirds from sharing in the feast at or around a feeder, and we all recognize the devastation caused by cowbirds parasitizing wood warblers.

This book should be purchased and read by every person concerned about the preservation of our environment. First, for the knowledge it contains—a compilation of the results of scientific studies of the author and many others over the course of many years — so that we might have an understanding and a basis for our argument for a change for the better. Being informed is the essential first step. If we are to press for action by our government, we must build our case on facts. A second reason for purchasing the book is to financially reward the author for work well done and the publisher for making the work available at a reasonable cost, and to let them know there is an audience for this and similar publications. I urge you to buy at least two copies. Read it; send a copy to your elected representatives in the Congress; lend it to your birding friends and your neighbors.

We have already lost the Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, Heath Hen, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Bachman's Warbler and Dusky Seaside Sparrow; it is probably too late for the Eskimo Curlew and California Condor. Kirtland's Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo may be next. — *Carroll E. Pinckard, Jr.*

## MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Maryland.

Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md. 20707  
(725-1176)

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Mailing: Howard County Chapter

Headings: Schneider Design Associates, Baltimore

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