

ISSN 0147-9725

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE



Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

JUNE 1999
VOLUME 55
NUMBER 2

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209
STATE OFFICERS FOR JUNE 1999 TO JUNE 2000

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President: Norm Saunders, 1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905 (301-989-9035)
Vice Pres.: Karen Morley, 2719 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21218 (410-235-4001)
Treasurer: Jeff Metter, 4626 Live Oak Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043 (410-480-9169)
Sec'y: Kathleen Neugebauer, 18217 Fox Chase Cir., Olney, MD 20832 (301-570-8969)
Executive Sec'y: Larry Fry, 1202 Ridge Rd., Pylesville, MD 21132 (410-452-8539)
Past Pres.: Robert Rineer, 8326 Philadelphia Rd., Baltimore, MD 21237 (410-391-8499)

STATE DIRECTORS

Allegany:	* Gladys Faherty Teresa Simons	Howard:	* Mike Kerwin Elayne Metter Mary-Jo Betts Darius Ecker
Anne Arundel:	* Larry Zoller Patricia Dardinsky Allan Haury	Jug Bay:	* Dale Johnson Gary Flenner
Baltimore:	* Terrence Ross Gail Frantz Leanne Pemburn Elizabeth Taylor Peter A. Webb	Kent:	* Gail Regester Patricia Wilson
Caroline:	* Danny Poet	Montgomery:	* Linda Friedland Sam Freiberg Rick Sussman Janet Millenson Lydia Schindler
Carroll:	* Amy Hoffman Roxanne Yeager	Patuxent:	* Tom Loomis Chandler Robbins
Cecil:	* Leslie Fisher Ken Drier Scott Powers	Talbot:	* Wayne Bell Frank Lawlor Bill Novak
Frederick:	* Wilbur Hershberger Bob Johnson	Tri-County:	* Samuel Dyke
Harford:	* Debbie Delevan Thomas Congersky John Nack Joseph Vangrin	Washington:	* David Weesner Ann Mitchell

* Chapter President

Active Membership:	\$10.00 plus chapter dues	Life:	\$400.00 (4 annual installments)
Household:	\$15.00 plus chapter dues	Junior: (under 18)	\$5.00 plus chapter dues
Sustaining:	\$25.00 plus chapter dues		

Cover: Black-crowned Night-Heron on Maryland's Eastern Shore, May 1994. Photo by Luther C. Goldman.



**FIRST SPECIMEN RECORD OF
WHITE-WINGED DOVE
(*ZENAIDA ASIATICA*) FOR WASHINGTON, DC**

CLAUDIA J. ANGLE AND CARLA J. DOVE

On Friday, October 30, 1998, Nannette Herrick of Washington, DC, found a dying White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) on the ground at the base of a lamppost at 28th and Dumbarton Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. The bird was struggling and lived for only a few moments after its discovery. Having seen White-winged Doves in Peru, Ms. Herrick immediately knew the identity and importance of the bird. In her opinion the bird had either struck the lamppost or, more possibly, was hit by a car, but there were no outward signs on the bird to indicate the cause of death. Ms. Herrick attached the appropriate collecting data to the specimen, placed it in her freezer, and contacted the National Museum of Natural History. The bird was received at the museum on November 12, 1998 (See Figure 1 for photo of specimen). This male specimen (USNM 600827) represents the first record of a White-winged Dove in the District of Columbia. The specimen was prepared as a traditional round study skin with accompanying tissue samples (B9006).

Post mortem examination of the thawed specimen revealed the characteristics of a healthy wild bird. The feathers were clean and unworn, and showed no damage or fraying that is often indicative of caged birds. The feet and claws appeared normal when compared to specimens of wild taken birds and no leg bands were present. The specimen preparator, Christopher M. Milensky, noted that the crop was filled with large kernels of yellow or field corn, the skull was heavily damaged, the feathers were not molting, the body had moderate fat deposits, and the bird weighed 174.6 grams (normal range is from 125.0 to 187.0 grams).

We compared this specimen with a series of museum study skins and identified it as *Z. a. asiatica* on the basis of darker color of the back, wings, and upper breast. This subspecies is the most eastern race and is noted in the AOU Check-lists (1957, 1998) as being casual in eastern North America from Minnesota, northern Ontario, New Brunswick, Maine, and Nova Scotia south to northern Texas, central Louisiana, and northern Florida. There are several records from nearby Virginia (Curry 1988, Dalmas 1989, Rottenborn 1993) and Maryland (Robbins 1970, Ringler 1989, Rambo 1990). Aldrich (1981) also documented an established introduced population of this subspecies in Florida.

We thank Richard C. Banks, Robert Reynolds, and Roger B. Clapp for reviewing the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- Aldrich, J.W. 1981. "Geographic variation in White-winged Doves with reference to possible source of new Florida population." *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* 94(3):641-651.
- American Ornithologists' Union. 1957. *Check-list of North American birds. Fifth ed.* American Ornithologists' Union, Baltimore, MD.
- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American birds. Seventh ed.* American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Curry, R. 1988. "White-winged Dove at Chincoteague." *Raven* 58:33-34.
- Dalmas, J.H. 1989. "1989 Report of the VSO records committee." *Raven* 60:5-7.
- Rambo, K., 1990. "White-winged Dove at Patuxent Naval Air Station, St. Mary's County, Maryland." *Maryland Birdlife* 46(1):1-3.
- Ringler, R. 1989. "The Season: Spring migration, March 1–May 31, 1989." *Maryland Birdlife* 45(3):94-117.
- Robbins, C. 1970. "The Season: April, May, June, 1970." *Maryland Birdlife* 26(3):99-108.
- Rottenborn, S. 1993. "White-winged Dove on the eastern shore of Virginia." *Raven* 64(2):114.

Received April 9, 1999

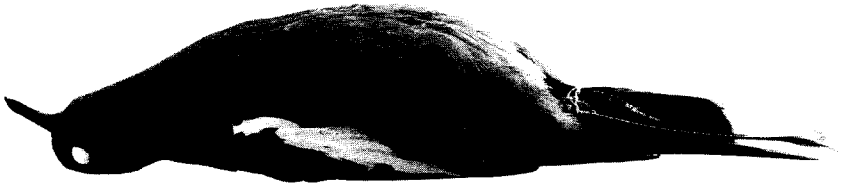


Figure 1. Voucher specimen of White-winged Dove (Zenaida asiatica) collected in Washington, D.C., #USMN 600827. Photo by John Steiner.

*USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, National Museum of Natural History
Room 378, MRC 111, 10th and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20560*

*Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Division of Birds
MRC 116, 10th and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20560*



SPRING MIGRATION: MARCH 1, 1998–MAY 31, 1998

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

After a mild but rainy winter, spring weather was about average. Flooded fields were good for shorebirds. Following an initial rush of early migrants in March and April, many birds were delayed by sustained northeast winds the first few weeks of May.

Observers: Henry Armistead, George Armistead, Tyler Bell, Anne Bishop, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Bob Boxwell, Danny Bystrak, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Leslie Fisher, Linda Friedland, Inez Glime, Kevin Graff, Jim Green, Jim Gruber, Mark & Amy Hoffman, Marshall Iliff, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Jane Kostenko, Ryan Lesh, Stauffer Miller, Mariana Nuttle, Bonnie Ott, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Ron Runkles, Steve Sanford, Norm & Fran Saunders, Eugene Scarpulla (reporting for Hart-Miller Island), Bill Scudder, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, William Snyder, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Rick Sussman, Mary Ann Todd, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Hal Wierenga. Banding efforts were led by Jim Gruber and William Snyder at Chino Farms.

Abbreviations: DC — District of Columbia, NWR — National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS — Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), PWRC — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's), PWRC/N — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center North (Anne Arundel), SP — State Park, WMA — Wildlife Management Area, WS — Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River (Baltimore), Bethel WMA (Cecil), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwalnut Point (Talbot), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Brown's Station Landfill (Prince George's), Chino Farms (Queen Anne's), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Flag Ponds (Calvert), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Greenwell SP (St. Mary's), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Herrington Manor SP (Garrett), Horsehead Wetlands Center (Queen Anne's), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove WS (Somerset), Jug Bay WS (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Merkle WS (Prince George's), Mt. Nebo WMA (Garrett), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), New Germany SP (Garrett), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Rock Creek Park (DC), Swallow Falls SP (Garrett), Terrapin Point Park (Queen Anne's), Town Hill (Allegany), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington).

Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. **Red-throated Loons** were present in Anne Arundel County this spring with Davidson and Wierenga reporting 10 at Sandy Point SP, 16 at Downs Park, and 42 at Ft. Smallwood on March 6. In Charles County, 34 were on the Potomac River near the Route 301 bridge on March 7 (Jett, Iliff, Stasz). A **Pacific Loon**, DC's first, visited Hains Point from May 25 into June (Robert Hilton+). Dave Weesner observed 18 **Common Loons** flying over Washington Monument SP on April 22, and 8 lingering Common Loons were checked off at Hart-Miller on May 31. Late **Pied-billed Grebes**, all possible nesters, were single sightings at Myrtle Grove on May 25 (Jett), at Hughes Hollow on May 30 (N. Saunders), and at Hart-Miller and Piney Run (N. & F. Saunders) on May 31. A **Red-necked Grebe** was discovered near Crisfield on March 28 (Stasz+). **Northern Gannets** included 8 at Blackwalnut Point on March 22 (Harvey & Marion Mudd), 50 at North Beach on April 10 (Stasz), and 10 at Pt. Lookout on April 18 (Davidson, Wierenga). An **American White Pelican**, the first for Montgomery County, was a surprise visitor at Violettes Lock on March 1 (Czaplak, Todd), and Patty Craig and Anne Bishop notched a **Brown Pelican** at Pt. Lookout on May 2. Harry Armistead and his groups found 2 Brown Pelicans at Hooper Island on May 2 during his 61st Dorchester County May Count, and 4 off Elliott Island on May 9 during his 62nd Dorchester count. Tina and Curtis Dew reported a **Great Cormorant** at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on March 27, and another was at Bivalve the same day (Stasz). George Jett made rather large counts of **Double-crested Cormorants** for Charles County on March 7 with 60 at Chapel Point SP, 150 at Cobb Island, and 250 on the Potomac River near the Route 301 bridge. Les Eastman estimated 500 Double-cresteds at the Susquehanna River in Harford County on April 26.

Anhingas, Herons, Ibises. Three reports of single **Anhingas** were made this spring: flying over Chino Farms on April 12 (Gruber, Snyder), flying over King's Landing Park, Calvert County on April 26 (Tom Harten), and in St. Mary's County on May 2 (Boxwell, Cribb). Phil Davis discovered an early **Least Bittern** at Flag Ponds on April 17. Inez Glime counted about 60 **Great Blue Herons** at Federalsburg on March 5, and Dan Guzy reported about 20 Great Blue Heron nests on the C&O Canal near milepost 18.2 in Montgomery County on March 13. Harry Armistead found 2 **Great Egrets** at Elliott Island on the early date of March 6. Also early were 2 **Snowy Egrets** and a **Little Blue Heron** at Smith Island on March 28 (Stasz+). Other Little Blues included singles at Lilypons on May 4 (Norbu) and inland at Black Hill Park on May 8-9 (Todd). **Tricolored Herons** began with 1 at Deal Island WMA on March 11 (Pitney) and 4 at Smith Island on March 28 (Stasz+). A **Cattle Egret** was also found early at Ocean City on March 26 (M. Hoffman). Other Cattle Egrets included single birds at Tanyard on April 13-14 (Engle) and inland at Darnestown on April 18 (Stasz). Among the "early birds" were a **Green Heron** at PWRC/N on March 31 (Rod Burley), 2 **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at Sligo Creek Park in Silver Spring on March 28 (Nick Boutis), and 4 **Glossy Ibis** at Smith Island on March 28 (Stasz+). Three Glossy Ibis turned up at Jug Bay, where they are rare but regular, on April 8 (S. Wright).

Swans, Geese, Dabbling Ducks. **Mute Swans** included 40 at Dundee Marina, Baltimore County on March 12 (Don Burggraf), 1 at Loch Raven on April 18 (Simon), and 24 at Scotland on May 2 (Stasz, Jett). A lingering **Snow Goose** was at the Horsehead Wetlands Center on May 5 (Graff), and 2 **Ross's Geese** were in southern Dorchester County on March 20 (H. Armistead, Iliff). An exotic **Swan Goose** was present at Little Seneca Lake on March 14 (Hilton), and a small race **Canada Goose** was identified at Horsehead Center on March 6 (Iliff). Two **Green-winged Teal** were found at Hart-Miller on the late date of May 23, and a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** was observed at E. A. Vaughn WMA on March 17 (Iliff) and March 26 (M. Hoffman). Jim Stasz found a female **Mallard** with 8 downy chicks at Chesapeake Beach

on April 13. Highs for **Northern Pintails** were 244 at Hart-Miller on March 7th, 125 in southern Dorchester County on March 20 (H. Armistead, Iliff), and 65 at the Nanticoke Marshes, Wicomico County on March 27 (Stasz). A late pintail was noted at Blackwater on May 25 (H. Armistead). The first **Blue-winged Teal** were 5 at Elliott Island on March 6 (H. Armistead), 3 at Jug Bay on March 9 (Chris Swarth, Doty Mumford), and 1 at Scotland on March 10 (Craig), and an adult with 6 young was present at Courthouse Point WMA, Cecil County on May 30 (Fisher). **Northern Shovelers** began with 140 at Blackwater on March 6 (H. Armistead), and Stauffer Miller and party, during a Frederick County "big day" on April 24, found 4 male Shovelers at the Crum Farm Ponds. On March 6th, 61 **Gadwalls** were at Horsehead Wetlands Center (Iliff), and 115 were at Elliott Island (H. Armistead, Reese+). The high for Gadwalls was 300 at Deal Island WMA on March 28 (Stasz, Jett).

Diving Ducks. Highs for **Canvasbacks** were 930 at Cambridge on March 6 (H. Armistead) and 1000 on the Potomac River near the Route 301 bridge in Charles County on March 7 (Jett, Iliff, Stasz). Iliff and Stasz had a nice sighting of 11 **Redheads** at Deep Creek Lake on March 23, and totaled up 169 **Ring-necked Ducks** there the same day. A lingering Ring-neck was found at Bethel WMA on May 30 (Fisher). The high for **Greater Scaup** was 4274 at Hart-Miller on March 7, and for **Lesser Scaup**, 900 at Cambridge on March 19 (H. Armistead, Iliff). Two **Common Eiders** were listed at reliable Ocean City on March 17 (Iliff), where 8 **King Eiders** were reported on March 28 (Don Burggraf). Ocean City also hosted **Harlequin Ducks** including 12 on March 26 and 10 on April 5 (Hoffmans), and 3 on May 11 (Bjerke). An **Oldsquaw** turned up at Jug Bay, an unusual location for this species, on April 1 (Bystrak). Highs for **Surf Scoters** included 455 at Cambridge on March 6 (H. Armistead), and 870 at Bellevue on April 12 (H. & Liz Armistead). A **Hooded Merganser**, possibly attempting to breed, was discovered at PWRC/N on May 25 (N. & F. Saunders), and a late **Common Merganser** was found at Flag Ponds on May 15 (Ripley). Thirty-six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found inland at Little Seneca Lake on March 7 (Sussman), and a few thousand were observed at Ft. Smallwood on March 14 (Davidson, Wierenga). The Red-breasted at Hains Point on May 30 (Sanford), and the 2 at Hart-Miller on May 31 were running late. High counts for **Ruddy Ducks** were 8000 on the Potomac River in Charles County on March 7 (Jett, Iliff, Stasz), 2000 at PRNAS on March 30 (Jim Swift), and 4000 at Horsehead Wetlands Center on March 31 (Graff). Late Ruddies were 2 in southern Dorchester County on May 25 and 1 at Bellevue on May 30 (Harry, Liz, and Mary Armistead).

Diurnal Raptors. Jonathan Alderfer sent a report to the Records Committee for a **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Hughes Hollow on May 16. Several **Mississippi Kites** were reported: 1 at Aquasco Farm, Prince George's County on May 2 (Fred Fallon), 4 at Pt. Lookout on May 17 (Bell, Kostenko), 2 at Ft. Smallwood on May 22 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 4 at Dameron on May 26 (Craig). A Harris' Hawk at South Point, Worcester County on March 12 (Blom, Brian Blazie) was being flown by Bill Waterman, a falconer. Patty Craig saw an extraordinarily late **Rough-legged Hawk** at Dameron on May 26. **Golden Eagles** were 2 at Town Hill on March 6 (Czaplak) and 1 there on March 9 (Ray Kiddy), 1 at Sideling Hill, Washington County on March 22 (Iliff, Stasz), and an immature at Bellevue on March 29 (H. & Liz Armistead). A **Merlin** made a rare appearance at Jug Bay on April 27 (Bystrak), and Connie Skipper reported 1 near Oakland, Garrett County on April 16. Stasz and Jett observed 2 adult **American Kestrels** feeding young at God's Grace Point, Calvert County on May 2.

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails. Marshall Iliff had a nice count of 34 **Wild Turkeys** at Queponco Station, Worcester County on March 17. Harry and Mary Armistead had even a higher count of 40 at Blackwater on March 28. Pitney heard 2 **Northern Bobwhites** calling at Parsonsburg on

April 22, and Wierenga and Davidson tallied 12 **Black Rails** at 6 stops at Elliott Island on May 19. Harry and George Armistead checked off 14 **Clapper Rails** and 38 **Virginia Rails** in southern Dorchester County on May 9, when Harry conducted his 62nd Dorchester County May Count. Helping Harry and George with this count were Jan Mirro, Tom Horton, and Paul Spitzer. The Armisteads also found a Clapper Rail on their Bellevue property on May 8, the first there since 1985. The Nanticoke Marshes in Wicomico County hosted 7 **King Rails** on March 28 (Iliff, Stasz), and 6 were at Allens Fresh on May 2 (Jett, Stasz). April 21 was on time for the two **Soras** at Greenbury Point, Anne Arundel County (Davidson, Wierenga).

Moorhens, Coots, Limpkin, Cranes. The **Common Moorhen** at Elliott Island on April 12 (Green) was a bit early. Other Moorhens included 12 at Easton on May 8 (H. & G. Armistead) and 1 on May 30 at Lake Artemisia, Prince George's County, an unusual location for this species (Jack Saba). The high for **American Coots** was 550 at Piney Run on March 22 (Ringler), and 1 was at Bethel WMA on the late date of May 30 (Fisher). Greg Kearns heard a **Limpkin** at the Patuxent River in Calvert County near Nottingham on May 26 for the fourth Maryland record. Marita Smith observed 2 banded **Sandhill Cranes** at the ballpark at Colmar Manor, Prince George's County on March 15. At least one of them had a radio transmitter.

Shorebirds. **Black-bellied Plovers** included a nice count of 49 at Ocean City on March 17 (Iliff), 1 in Washington County at Whitehall Road on May 16 (Weesner), and 18 throughout Kent County on May 23 (N. & F. Saunders). The first **Semipalmated Plovers** were 1 at Merkle WS on April 26 (Sanford) and 2 at North Beach the same day (Stasz). Marshall Iliff found a **Piping Plover** at Ocean City on March 17 where he also listed 18 **American Oystercatchers**. Stasz and party found 6 oystercatchers at Smith Island on March 28; another was at Hart-Miller on May 2; and Harry Armistead, Mel Baughman, and Paul Spitzer located 4 at Hooper Island on May 2, the same day they found 2 **Black-necked Stilts** at Elliott Island. Another Black-necked was at Scotland on May 4 (Bell, Kostenko). The highs for **Greater Yellowlegs** were 42 at Athol and Taylors Road, Wicomico County on March 27, 40 near Ridgely on April 3 (Scudder), and 41 near Galestown on April 12 (Stasz). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Jug Bay on March 17 (Bystrak) were interesting as were 2 at Dameron on March 21 (Bishop, Craig). The high for Lessers was 149 at Hart-Miller on May 2. Jett and Stasz had a good count of 12 **Solitary Sandpipers** at Waldorf on May 2. **Willetts** included an early one at Ocean City on March 17 (Iliff), 1 at Pt. Lookout on April 20 (Cribb), and 1 at Courthouse Point WMA, Cecil County on May 30 (Fisher). One identified as a western race bird was at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz). There were only two reports of **Upland Sandpipers** with Stasz finding one at Comus on April 18. Bishop and Craig located the other one at Scotland on April 26, where they also found a **Whimbrel** the same day. Norm and Fran Saunders also found a Whimbrel on April 26 at Back River, 1 was at Arnold on May 23 (Davidson, Wierenga), 6 were at Tydings Island on May 25 (Webb), and 1 was at PRNAS on May 26 (Rambo). The 3 **Red Knots** at Ocean City on March 12-13 (Blom, Blazie) had wintered. **Least Sandpipers** were noted very early with 11 at Elliott Island on March 6 (H. Armistead), 8 at Hart-Miller on March 7, and 1 at Scotland on March 10 (Craig). Highs for Least Sandpipers were 120 at Chesapeake Beach on May 2 (Stasz, Jett), and 495 at Hart-Miller on the same day. The 3 at Ridge on May 27 (Craig) were running late. Steve Sanford reported an early **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Merkle WS on April 26, and another was at Chesapeake Beach on May 2 (Jett, Stasz). An alternate-plumaged **Curlew Sandpiper** at Hart-Miller from May 31 into early June was the third for Maryland and the island. Boxwell and Cribb found an early **Stilt Sandpiper** on May 2 in St. Mary's County. High counts for **Common Snipe** were 80 at Allens Fresh on March 7 (Jett+), 43 at PRNAS on March 14 (Rambo), and 80 at Merkle WS on March 20 (Green). Two late Common Snipe were

at Hains Point on May 13 (Pisano). A coastal storm brought in the 11 **Red Phalaropes** found at West Ocean City on May 13 (Charles & Gail Vaughn).

Gulls, Terns, Murre. There were 110 **Laughing Gulls** at the Salisbury landfill on the early date of March 17 (Iliff), and 2400 were massed in fields in Caroline County on April 12 (Stasz). A *Laughing Gull X Ring-billed Gull* hybrid was noted at Jackson Road, Caroline County on March 29 (Stasz, Iliff). A handful of **Little Gulls** were checked off this spring with 1 at Hart-Miller on March 7, 1 at Back River on April 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and 2 at North Beach on April 9 (Stasz). The high for **Bonaparte's Gulls** was about 1500 congregated at Back River on April 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and 80 were found inland at Piney Run on April 18 (Stasz). About 2000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were tallied at Scotland on March 10 (Craig), and 1200 were in the fields of southeast Cecil County on March 29 (Iliff, Stasz). Large groups of **Herring Gulls** included 2000 at Browns Station on March 16 and another 2000 at Salisbury the same day (Iliff). Ottavio Janni reported a first-winter **Iceland Gull** in DC on March 1. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 3 at Browns Station on March 16, 3 at the Worcester County landfill on March 17 and 3 at the Salisbury landfill on March 7 (Iliff), 3 in Havre de Grace on May 9 (Blom), and 1 at Jug Bay on the late date of May 11 (Bjerke). Highs for **Great Black-backed Gulls** were 70 at Cambridge on March 19 (Reese), and 130 at Havre de Grace on May 9 (Blom). Hal Wierenga found a **Glaucous Gull** at Ft. Smallwood on May 22. Highs for **Caspian Terns** were 47 at Tanyard on April 19 (H. Armistead), 442 at Hart-Miller on May 2, and 186 at Havre de Grace on May 9 (Blom). Two early **Common Terns** were at PRNAS on April 7 (Rambo), and 4 early **Forster's Terns** were at Leonardtown on March 4 (Craig). Also early were 4 **Least Terns** discovered at Chestertown on April 27 (Gruber). Two **Least Terns** were at Harford Glen on May 6 (Jenkins). **Black Terns** were in evidence this spring with 1 at North Beach on May 2 (Jett, Stasz), 3 at Chino Farms on May 20 (Gruber, Snyder), and 1 at PWRC on May 27 (Burley). A storm brought in an adult **Thick-billed Murre** seen off the Ocean City inlet on May 13 (Sam Dyke, Charles and Gail Vaughn).

Parrots, Owls, Whip-poor-will, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Flycatchers. An escaped Cockatiel was seen at Washington Monument SP, of all places, on April 22 (Weesner). Jim Green found a **Great Horned Owl** nest with 2 young not far from Rileys Lock, Montgomery County on March 5, and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was calling near Nassawango Creek, Worcester County on March 27 (Stasz). Kevin Dodge heard a Saw-whet near Bittinger on April 7 and again on April 15. An early **Whip-poor-will** was at Ridge on March 31 (John Zyla), and 2 early **Chimney Swifts** were at Little Falls Parkway, Montgomery County on April 1 (Sunny Yoder). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** also started early with an adult male at Waldorf on March 30 (Lorraine Diana). A few single nice-to-find **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were notched this spring: Sang Run, Garrett County on May 16 (Ecker), Webster, Harford County on May 26 (Webb), and Rileys Lock, Montgomery County on May 27 (Green, Rabin, Stone+). The **Acadian Flycatcher** at Hollywood on April 25 (Rambo) was early, and the high count for **Eastern Phoebes** was 14 at Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County on March 26 (Sussman). **Eastern Kingbirds** were noted early in the season with 1 at Hollywood on April 11 (Runkles), 2 at Chino Farms on April 16 (Gruber), and 2 at Suitland on April 17 (David Bridge).

Vireos, Corvids. **White-eyed Vireos** arrived very early with single birds at Dividing Creek, Worcester County on March 26 (Hoffman) and at Chino Farms on April 11 (Gruber). The first **Red-eyed Vireos** were singles at Ferry Landing, Calvert County on April 2 (Arlene Ripley), and at Tuckahoe SP on April 12 (Nuttall). The **Blue-headed Vireo** at Lake Elkhorn on April 7 was also early (Ecker). Sue Ricciardi reported 3000+ **Blue Jays** at Ft. Smallwood on May 3,

and Lee Huff reported an albinistic **Blue Jay** at Hawkins Creamery Road, Montgomery County on May 8-11. About 500 **American Crows** were congregated in the Pleasant Valley area of Garrett County on March 23 (Iliff, Stasz), and 275 **Fish Crows** were gathered at Elliott Island on March 6 (H. Armistead). Other highs for Fish Crows included 150 at Brown's Station on March 16 (Iliff), 40 at Bivalve on March 27 (Stasz), and 200 at Smith Island on March 28 (Stasz+). Dave Czaplak observed 3 **Common Ravens** playing with sticks at Town Hill on March 6, and one was observed at Ft. Smallwood, an unusual location for ravens, on April 25 (Ricciardi, Davidson, Wierenga+).

Swallows, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Creeper. **Tree Swallows** were extraordinarily early this season including 6 at Hughes Hollow on March 1 (Norbu) and 1 in Upper Marlboro on March 3 (Stasz). These birds may well have been moved by coastal storms. High counts for Tree Swallows were 1200 at Havre de Grace on May 9 and 2500 at Conowingo on the same day (Rick Blom). Arlene Ripley observed **Carolina Chickadee** nest-building activity at Dunkirk on March 1, and one with a white tail with two dark central rectrices was seen at the Horsehead Wetlands Center on March 6 (Iliff). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were still being located pretty late in May, with 2 on Kent Island on May 12 (Roger Eastman), 5 at Clopper Lake, Montgomery County on May 15 (Andy Rabin), and single birds at Herrington Manor SP on May 30 (Gary Felton) and at Laurel Grove, St. Mary's County on May 31 (Runkles). Jim Stasz heard a **Brown Creeper** singing at Fleming Mill Pond, Somerset County on March 27.

Wrens, Kinglets, Thrushes. Arlene Ripley observed the nest-building activity of some **Carolina Wrens** in Dunkirk on the early date of March 1, and Patty Craig saw a **House Wren** at Dameron on April 19. Only four **Sedge Wrens** were reported this spring: at Chesapeake Beach on April 19 (Stasz), at the Transquaking River, Dorchester County on May 2 (H. Armistead+), at Pt. Lookout SP on May 3 and May 9 (Bishop, Craig+), and at Little Bennett Park, Montgomery County on May 10 (Marshall Howe). **Marsh Wrens** were noted early with 3 at Rumble Point Road, Somerset County on March 28 (Jett, Stasz+), 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 30 (Craig), and 2 at Chesapeake Beach on April 1 (Stasz). The high for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was 16 at Calvert Cliffs SP, Calvert County on April 11 (Greg Miller), and the one at Deep Creek Lake on May 15 (N. & F. Saunders) was running a bit late. In St. Mary's County, Patty Craig had a nice count of 7 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** at Dameron on May 23 and reported that a **Bicknell's Thrush** was banded during a class at Greenwell SP on May 17. Three Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at Chino Farms on May 17, 19, and 27. Jim Stasz totaled up 14 **Hermit Thrushes** in the Dividing Creek area of Somerset County on March 27, and Jim Green reported the first **Wood Thrush** at Porter's Crossing, Worcester County on April 12. Several hundred **American Robins** were tallied at Ft. Smallwood on March 22 (Ricciardi+), and about 200 were in the Pleasant Valley area of Garrett County on March 23 (Stasz, Iliff).

Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings, Starlings. The **Gray Catbird** at Hughes Hollow on March 1 (Norbu) most surely wintered there. Harry, Liz, and Mary Armistead enjoyed a **Brown Thrasher** at Bellevue imitating a Chuck-will's-widow on May 31. The high for **American Pipits** was about 100 at St. Inigoes, St. Mary's County on March 22 (Bell, Kostenko), and Darius Ecker and Maud Banks turned in the high for **Cedar Waxwings** with 188 at Lake Elkhorn on May 21. About 700 **European Starlings** were in the Pleasant Valley area of Garrett County on March 23 (Iliff, Stasz).

Vermivora, Parula, and Dendroica Warblers. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was singing at Mt. Nebo on May 29 (Skipper), and 2 hybrid **Brewster's Warblers** were located this spring, at Rock Creek Park on May 6 (Young, Loper), and at Herrington Manor SP on May 30 (Gary

Felton). A late **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported in DC at Battery Kemble Park on May 23 (David Gersten). Tina and Curtis Dew turned in the only **Orange-crowned Warbler** for the season, 1 at Chingville, St. Mary's County on March 1. **Northern Parulas** began early with 1 at Seneca on April 2 (Youth). The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was on April 29 at Chino Farms (Gruber), and the last one was on May 30 at Hughes Hollow (N. Saunders). The **Magnolia Warbler** at Schooley Mill Park on April 26 (Ecker, Ott+) was a little early, as was the Cape May Warbler at Greenwell SP the same day (Runkles). A late **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Ashton on May 30 (Sussman). The high for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was 300 at Dameron on April 28 (Craig). The **Black-throated Green Warbler** heard at the McKeldin Area of the Patapsco Valley SP in Howard County on April 11 was early (Ringler). Another was at Bear Swamp, Worcester County on April 12 (Green). A Black-throated Green was singing at Connie Skipper's house near Oakland, Garrett County, on April 26. Late **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Lake Elkhorn (Ecker) and at Hammond Village (Solem) in Howard County on May 28. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were early with single birds at Fleming Mill Pond, Somerset County on March 27 (Stasz) and at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County the same day (Bell). The high for Yellow-throateds was 11 at Flag Ponds on March 31 (Ripley). On April 12, at the Pocomoke Swamp in Worcester County, Schrenk observed Yellow-throated Warbler nest building activity. **Pine Warblers** included 1 at Deer Park Road, Carroll County on March 1 (N. & F. Saunders), 25 at Dividing Creek, Somerset County on March 27 (Stasz), 1 singing at Broadford, Garrett County on March 29 (Pope), and 20 at Elk Neck SP, Cecil County on April 13 (Fisher). An early **Prairie Warbler** was at Greenwell SP on March 29 (Runkles). **Palm Warblers** were early as well, including 1 at Rileys Lock, Montgomery County on March 15 (Green), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 1 (Ecker), a yellow at Dameron the same day (Craig), and a western banded at Chino Farms on April 28. It looks like the western at Flag Ponds on March 7 (Craig) wintered. The last **Bay-breasted Warblers** were solo sightings at Lake Elkhorn on May 28 (Ecker) and at Great Falls, Montgomery County on May 31 (Bob Caswell). Fourteen **Cerulean Warblers** were found this spring including 2 on the Coastal Plain: 1 at PWRC/North on May 9 (Stan Arnold), and 1 at PRNAS on May 20 (Rambo).

Other Warblers. The first **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Chingville Road, St. Mary's County on April 9 (Tina & Curtis Dew), and the first **American Redstart** was at Bear Swamp, Worcester County on April 12 (Green). **Prothonotary Warblers** were very early with 1 at Seneca on April 2 (Youth), and another at Dameron on April 9 (Craig). Lake Elkhorn was an unusual site for the Prothonotary there on May 28 (Solem). The first **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Nassawango Creek, Worcester County on April 21 (Friedland). An always-nice-to-find **Swainson's Warbler** was at Pocomoke Swamp, Worcester County on May 11 (Bjerke), and another was at Dameron on May 23 (Craig). The **Ovenbird** at Chingville in St. Mary's County on April 8 was very early (Dews). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Greenbrier SP on March 24 (Weesner), the first **Northern Waterthrush** was at Fair Hill on April 19 (Fisher), and a **Common Yellowthroat** was reported in DC on March 30 (Jim Felley). The first Common Yellowthroat banded at Chino Farms was on April 12. Four solitary **Mourning Warblers** were notched this spring: at Conowingo on May 9 (Blom), at Battery Kemble Park in DC on May 23 (Gersten), at Greenwell SP on May 24 (Runkles, Cribb, Robinson), and at Pennyfield on May 25 (Friedland, Bowen). **Hooded Warblers** included 1 at Hollywood on April 25 (Rambo) and another at Washington Monument SP on April 30 (Weesner). A late **Wilson's Warbler** was banded at Chino Farms on May 27, and another was at PRNAS on May 28 (Craig, Cribb+). Ten **Canada Warblers** were tallied at Dameron on May 25 (Craig), and a very early **Yellow-breasted Chat** was discovered at Black Hill Park on April 12 (Ted & Lola Oberman).

Tanagers, Sparrows, Grosbeaks. **Scarlet Tanagers** began with one at Nassawango Creek, Worcester County on April 21 (Friedland). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was at North Beach on March 26 (Stasz). Two **Clay-colored Sparrows** were listed this spring, one at PRNAS on April 17 (Rambo) and one at Pt. Lookout on May 3 (Kurt Gaskill, Todd Day, Mike Day). Highs for **Field Sparrows** were 40 at Dameron on March 11 (Craig) and 60 at Chino Farms on March 29 (Gruber). About 150 **Savannah Sparrows** were tallied at Pt. Lookout on April 25 (Craig), and an "Ipswich" race Savannah was identified at Cambridge on March 19 (H. Armistead, Iliff). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard in St. Mary's County on the extremely early date of March 8 (Craig). Stasz and party found a **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Smith Island on March 28, another was at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on April 19 (Craig, Cribb), and one was at North Beach on April 20 (Stasz). Solo **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were identified this spring at Chesapeake Beach on April 10 (Stasz), near Lilypons on April 18 (N. & F. Saunders), and at Flag Ponds on April 23 (Ripley). Norm and Fran Saunders found a **Seaside Sparrow** at Irish Grove on April 4, and others included 1 at North Beach on April 15 (Stasz), 1 at Ft. Smallwood on April 15 (Wierenga), and 5 at Horsehead Wetlands Center on May 5 (Graff). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were an early one in St. Mary's County on May 2 (Boxwell, Cribb), 1 at New Germany SP on May 15 (Steve Sanford), and a late bird banded at Chino Farms on May 27. The last **Swamp Sparrow** banded at Chino Farms was on May 19, but another was notched at Idylwild WMA, Caroline County on the late date of May 23 (N. & F. Saunders). **White-throated Sparrows** also were noted late with 5 at Ft. Smallwood on May 23 (Davidson, Wierenga) and 2 at Woodend, Montgomery County on May 28 (Julie Kelly). Stasz and Iliff were surprised by a **Dark-eyed Junco** with a white head at New Germany SP on March 23. Patty Craig found an adult female **Northern Cardinal** with a fledgling at Dameron on May 14. **Blue Grosbeaks** were among the many early arrivals this spring with 1 at Chino Farms on April 20 (Gruber), 1 at Cap Stine Road, Frederick County on April 22 (Stauffer Miller), and 1 in DC on April 24 (Paul Pisano).

Icterids, Fringillids. Stauffer Miller and party wrote of a **Bobolink** at Cap Stine Road, Frederick County on April 22, the high for Bobolinks was 200 near Lilypons on May 10 (Norbu), and 1 was at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on May 26. The high for **Red-winged Blackbirds** was 800 at Nanticoke Marshes, Wicomico County on March 28 (Iliff, Stasz). Rick Sussman reported a pair of **Eastern Meadowlarks** building a nest on the very late date of May 31 near Triadelphia Lake Road in Montgomery County. A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was discovered in St. Mary's County near Queen Tree Road on May 28 (Mark Runkles). Thirty **Rusty Blackbirds** were counted at Millington WMA, Kent County on April 12 (Stasz), and another 30 were tallied at Edgewood on April 27 (Jett, Stasz). The high for **Boat-tailed Grackles** was 100 at Smith Island on March 28 (Stasz+), and a nice tally of 30 **Orchard Orioles** was made at Pt. Lookout on May 3 (Gaskill, T. Day, M. Day). The **Baltimore Oriole** found at Leonardtown on March 6 probably had wintered there (Craig, Boxwell+). **Red Crossbills** this spring were 1 at Swallow Falls SP on March 23 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 at Chestertown on March 24 (Marc Ribaud), 8 near North East on April 18 (Gary Griffith), and 6 at Rock Creek Park on May 16 (Hilton). In Garrett County, 9 **White-winged Crossbills** were at Swallow Falls SP on March 23 (Stasz, Iliff), and 4 were feeding in hemlocks along Mayhew Inn Road on April 24 and 30+ were at Swallow Falls SP on May 18 (Skipper). Dave Czaplak saw 5 **Common Redpolls** migrating north at Town Hill on March 6, and Kevin Dodge had one at his feeder in Bittinger on April 26. Fran Pope had a **Pine Siskin** at her feeder in Mountain Lake Park, Garrett County on the late date of May 23. The high for **American Goldfinches** was a nice 836 at Ft. Smallwood on April 25 (Ricciardi+). Twelve late **Evening Grosbeaks** were discovered at Mt. Nebo on May 16 (N. & F. Saunders+).

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTERS

ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAPTER

Allegheny Chapter enjoyed a year of varied nature activities, with membership increasing to 52 households from Allegheny and Garrett Counties. The annual picnic at Carey Run Sanctuary in August 1998 started the year off and was attended by 48 adults and children. Our members voted to donate money to the DNR office in Garrett County to build two Osprey nesting platforms at Deep Creek Lake for the 1999 nesting season.

We received an MOS grant for \$200 to improve housing conditions at Carey Run for the children's nature week that Charles and Pam Hager conduct each August. Other Chapter members acted as visiting resource leaders last August.

Our chapter participated in five bird counts: (1) the Fall Bird Count on September 12, Ray Kiddy compiler; (2) the Christmas Count on December 19, Gwen Brewer compiler; (3) the C&O Canal Towpath Count in Allegheny County on January 24, Ray Kiddy compiler; (4) the Winter Bird Count on January 30, Teresa Simon compiler; and (5) the May Bird Count on May 8, Teresa Simon compiler. Tally parties after the counts were enjoyed by many families. Seven field trips were planned for the year: to Dolly Sods in Tucker County, WV to watch the Brooks Bird Club band birds; to Town Hill in Allegheny County for hawk observation; to Shawnee State Park in Pennsylvania to observe waterfowl; to area ponds to check out spring migrations; and to scenic Jennings-Randolph Dam on the MD/WV border. Two summer excursions are scheduled: a fossil field trip in Allegheny County with Bob Twigg and a butterfly identification day with Ray Kiddy.

The annual Allegheny County Chapter Dinner in Frostburg was highlighted by a slide presentation on "Birds of Garrett County" by member Jon Boone, who is an accomplished nature artist. A silent auction raised funds for chapter work. Interesting and varied nature topics were presented by Frostburg State University personnel at four evening meetings. Wayne Yoder, a chapter member who teaches entomology, gave a program on spiders. Durland Shumway and chapter member Gwen Brewer, who are working on a forest ecology project, gave a fire history of trees in Savage River State Forest in Garrett County. Toa Kyle, a graduate student at FSU, spoke of his birding project and experiences in Ecuador. Gwen Brewer supervised an evening in the science department computer lab on Internet Birding. We visited FSU Planetarium and enjoyed an astronomy night presented by Robert Doyle.

Clean-up day at Carey Run Sanctuary on April 24 was well attended by local members and members of other MOS chapters who cleaned the house and grounds and cut down some of the overgrown autumn olive shrubbery on the property. A picnic closed out the day's work. One of our local members, Charles Hager, was awarded an MOS scholarship to attend an Audubon Workshop in Maine during the summer of 1999. With sadness, we note that two long-time members, John Pfeiffer and Frank Byers, died in 1998.

Participation has been increasing in the Allegheny County Chapter. A greater effort has been made to communicate with the members and to make all feel welcome. We have enjoyed having children attend our Chapter activities as well. It has been a pleasure to serve this group the last two years, along with the other officers, Gwen Brewer, Kathleen Helker, and Charlotte Folk.

Gladys Faherty, President

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

Another year of interesting lectures and great field trips was enjoyed by all. The lectures, which are the main function at our eight monthly meetings during the year, were excellent. Highlights include: Greg Kerns doing "Eastern Australia, 5,000 Miles in 30 Days," Dr. Robert Trevor presenting "Chile — Driest Desert in the World." Doug Forsell told us about "Gill Net Mortality on the Atlantic Coast," and other equally interesting subjects. At our annual Richard E. Heise, Jr. Wildlife Program, the well-known Jim Clark talked about "A Natural Celebration," consisting of a beautiful slide presentation. Organizing this lecture series, arranging for and taking the speakers to dinner before the programs, and other miscellaneous assistance to me were the hard and greatly appreciated work of Doug Forsell, 2nd Vice President and Program Chair. Our lectures always include refreshments provided by many volunteers and organized by our Secretary, Laura Glass. Thanks to the volunteers and especially to Laura for all her hard work, including organizing the Christmas Count Tally-up food and refreshments.

The 28 field trips took 83+ folks on both local and far-ranging locations to look for birds. Kim Hudyma, 1st Vice President and Field Trip Chair, did a first class job and made sure the trips were varied. To date, 180 species have been seen, not including the Texas trip. My thanks go to Kim and all of the trip leaders for making them all successful. Peter Hanan's Maniac Tours with eight birders went to Southern Texas and came up with about 211 species.

The club now has an official patch and pin. Four designs were submitted by members and after a difficult decision-making process, Leo Weigant's entry was chosen. His design has a Bufflehead on a light blue background surrounded by a dark blue border with the club name inscribed.

Fall and Spring picnics rounded out the year. At the Club's annual business meeting, the only official business was the election of officers.

Al Haury, President

CAROLINE COUNTY BIRD CLUB

We met the third Friday of each month, September through May, except December, at 7 p.m. at the Caroline County Library in Denton. We started our program year on September 18, 1998 when Jan Reese provided an entertaining program on simple tips to improve our birding identification skills. This was followed the next morning as both skilled birders and beginners set out to do a Fall bird count. The coordinator of the count was Ethel Engle.

We tried a couple of field trips this year, one on Sunday, September 27, at Horsehead Sanctuary, led by Danny Poet, and another on October 3, as Mariana Nuttle led a small but eager group of birders to Martinak State Park near Denton.

On Friday, October 16 we had our Annual Program by Dr. Robert Trever. He spoke on the Pribilof Islands of Southwestern Alaska. On October 18, Bill Scudder led a group of eager folks on a cleanup of Pelot Sanctuary, near Greensboro.

On November 20, Glenn Therres, of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, spoke on the status of Bald Eagles in Maryland. On December 19, a merry bunch of birders set

out to do our Christmas Bird Count, which is coordinated by Steve Westre. At our January meeting we had to get a new speaker at the last minute but I can't remember who it was at this point. In February, Les Coble gave a talk and slide show on Birding at Point Pelee, in Canada.

At our March meeting, Wanda Cole, a Purple Martin landlord for a number of years, spoke on how to start and maintain a Purple Martin colony. This was a very well attended meeting with lots of new faces. In April Wayne Bell spoke on Ecology for Birders and in May we did the May Count and had a reported Swainson's Warbler in Tuckahoe State Park. Mariana Nuttle was our County Coordinator for the count. Our May speaker cancelled at the last minute so we had a short but lively discussion.

Danny Poet, President

CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Carroll County Bird Club's 1998-1999 season was fun and action-packed. We held eight monthly meetings at Carroll Community College with an average attendance of 17 members and guests. The featured speakers covered many topics of interest: "Birds and Butterflies of Ecuador" (Bob Ringler), "Bear, Turkey and Grouse in Maryland" (Steve Bittner), "Owls of the Eastern U.S." (Rick Blom), "Life Zones of Northern Colorado" (Jerry Tarbell), "Horseshoe Crabs in Maryland" (Thomas O'Connell), "Wildflowers" (Dave Pyle), "The Mute Swan Dilemma" (Larry Hindman), "Birds of Trinidad and Tobago" (Dave Harvey). Thanks to the many members who provided the tasty treats for each meeting!

Members Kathy Harden, Maureen Harvey, Dave Harvey, Bill Kulp, Jr., Bob Ringler, Jerry Tarbell and Sue Yingling led field trips to Carroll County hot spots and beyond. More distant trips were taken to view fall raptor migration at Pennsylvania's Wagonner's Gap, winter congregations at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge (with the bonus Cinnamon Teal!), and the eagles at Conowingo Dam. We also had a wonderful Presidents' Day weekend birding trip to the Eastern Shore, as well as a memorable Memorial Day weekend at Carey Run.

Many members participated in the annual fall, winter and May bird counts. The tally rallies that followed at Kathy Harden's, Dave & Maureen Harvey's and Laura and Jerry Tarbell's homes rewarded the bird counters with delicious meals and company.

Several members volunteered their time and energy to worthy causes. Maureen Harvey represented the Club's interests at Teaming with Wildlife meetings, while Bob Ringler and Mark Hoffman were active with Partners in Flight. Mark was also a member of the victorious MOS Yellowthroats at the World Series of Birding. Erma Gebb and Gerry Mathias continued their hard work and volunteer efforts at Piney Run Nature Center.

In the conservation arena, the Club wrote a letter to Carroll County Commissioner Julia Gouge in response to her shortsighted comments regarding the endangered Bog Turtle.

This year our Club was fortunate to have added several new members who have brought new talents and enthusiasm into our amiable group. Our officers have settled into their new positions and have performed their duties well over the past year, especially our Treasurer, Greg Klein, and Secretary, Laura Tarbell.

Amy Hoffman, President

CECIL BIRD CLUB

The Cecil Bird Club continues to keep busy, with 17 activities scheduled between January and September of 1999. Our thanks go to Scott Powers, who continues to do an excellent job as our Field Trip Chair. During April and early May, attendees had increased to 10+ per trip, with guests from out of state and out of county as well. We continue to schedule joint trips with other local clubs. People have commented on the catchy trip names coined by Scott, such as "Loons Along the Susquehanna" and "Happy Owl-o-Ween," the latter trip having 70 participants last October!!!

On the membership front, we have grown to 60+, and seem to be picking up someone new at virtually every recent activity. A continuing publicity campaign includes notice in the event calendars of local papers and columnists, feature articles to local papers to highlight meetings, and local cable channels. Club brochures and fliers have been placed in a wide variety of locations around the county, such as libraries and garden centers. Marcia Watson-Whitmyre has done a wonderful job of recreating our website, so much so that she received notice in early May that the site had won an award. Be sure to visit us at www.udel.edu/cecilbirds. The Cecil Bird Club continues its association with the Fair Hill Nature Center and Natural Resources Area. For the third year running, club members participated in *March for Parks* to raise money for Fair Hill. Also, in October of 1998, club members Charlie Gant, Scott Powers and Leslie Fisher led morning bird walks for participants of Fair Hill's first annual camp-over.

In other community events, CBC has been in touch with officials from the town of Port Deposit, as they strive to become recognized as an official sanctuary of MOS, in a program initiated by Karen Morley. As of April 1999, officials from the town of Perryville have also been contacted with the information necessary to initiate the same procedure for their community. The CBC will also be participating at a community event in North East at the Upper Bay Museum Decoy and Art show on June 5th. Funding was approved for an MOS education grant to purchase a portable club display, which we hope to have completed by that time. The club will have a square in the Delaware Art Museum 1999 Quilt Display, which will be designed for us by the Cecil County Quilters. Club activity on the MOS level continues to increase, with Donna Brown having recently agreed to represent us as Education Committee, in addition to Doug Senn as Conservation and Ron Kelczewski as Sanctuary. Ron has already attended a work session at Irish Grove and is very enthusiastic. He is most recently working on an interpretive sign for the Turkey Point Hawk Watch. Doug Senn, club member and biologist, will be presenting a slide show for the May 26 meeting on "Identification of Native Trees in the Field," so one no longer needs to instructively shout "in that tree over there." We continue to meet bimonthly; past speakers have included Charles Gant on "Identifying Birds of Prey in Flight," Mark Johnson on "Factors Impacting Breeding Success of Wood Thrush," and Jerry Newman on "Maintaining a Bluebird Trail."

We also have a newly formed Records Committee, and Parke John coordinated our May count. Regarding our Newsletter, Ken Drier continues to do an excellent job as editor, Scott Powers efficiently gets it out there, and Marcia Watson-Whitmyre is a regular contributor. Senator Paul Sarbanes recently requested to be put on our mailing list.

Regarding officers for the upcoming year, nominating chair Amy Gordon polled existing officers who all indicated they would remain on board. We are happy to have Jonah Goodwin return for yet another stint as secretary/treasurer. My heartfelt thanks go to a wonderful mem-

bership for their support in what has been a fulfilling year. Were it not for members willing to take on varied responsibilities in their already busy lives, we wouldn't be much of a club!! Last of all, a special thanks to Marcia Watson-Whitmyre: Vice-President, invaluable right hand and wise advisor in all matters great and small; couldn't have done it without ya!!

Leslie Fisher, President

FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

We had a wonderful year: 10 membership meetings, 13 field trips, and 5 organized counts. We started in September with a wonderful talk by Connie Toops, well-known writer and freelance photographer. She shared her expertise on the subject of bluebird biology and how we can help with nesting success. The chapter participated in the Koi festival at Lilypons again this year. Hummingbirds even visited the feeder we had on display. October's meeting was a real learning experience as Bob Ringler introduced us to the full potential of the Yellow Book. We are all now using the Yellow Book more than ever.

In November I took our club on a slide/audio tour of Machias Seal Island and other birding spots in Maine and New Hampshire. Our annual Christmas dinner at Araby Church was a real success due to the great food and the wonderful trip to New Zealand on which Steve Rannels took us. His slides could have been featured in National Geographic. He also shared several audio recordings that he had made on location. Where do we sign up for his next trip?

We launched 1999 with a travelogue by Stauffer Miller. It's always interesting to see where Ellie and Stauffer have been in the past year. In February Mike Welch reviewed an impressive fifty years of Catocin Christmas counts. It was really interesting to see some of the trends in different species over the fifty years. In March, of all months, our meeting was canceled because county schools were closed. We had all been looking forward to Bob Johnson's talk on "Potomac Basin: Botanical Crossroads." We'll have to sign him up for next year. Kevin Dodge entertained us with his unique presentation on Night Sounds at our April meeting. His imitations were terrific. He had all of us simultaneously doing imitations of different night sounds. It sounded, well... interesting.

We were especially fortunate to get Dr. Chan Robbins from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center for our May meeting. He had just flown back to the States the night before and shared his views on "Forest Conservation and Migratory Bird Populations — in Maryland and the Tropics." He had some encouraging news on the efforts to save habitat in Central America and how this work is affecting the local bird populations as well as the neotropical migrants that winter there.

The chapter tried a long weekend field trip for the first time in many years. Mike Welch coordinated a wonderful trip that included the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT), Chincoteague VA, Indian River inlet, Ocean City and many other hot spots. We had to brave fierce icy winds on the CBBT but we were rewarded by very close views of the Black-tailed Gull (a lifer for everyone).

The chapter is looking forward to our annual picnic in June and our Delaware coastal refuge trip in July. The chapter would like to thank all of the speakers for sharing their talents and expertise with us. We would also like to thank the club's officers for a job well done. And

last, but certainly not least, we want to thank the tireless individuals who coordinate the counts in Frederick County.

Wilbur Hershberger, President

HARFORD BIRD CLUB

The Harford Bird Club started the year early by having a Summer Social at the Anita Leight Estuary Center in Abingdon. More than 60 people enjoyed light fare and conversation in a casual setting. The guest speaker was Mr. Bob Schutsky who presented a program on the birds and beauty of Arizona.

The club officially started its 50th year with our annual picnic at the Rocks 4-H Camp. About 50 people enjoyed the pit beef and other food prepared by Randy Robertson with assistance from Joe Vangrin and others. The club has decided to move the picnic to the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1999, so this was the last time for a picnic at the Rocks. We continue with dinner meetings three times per year at the Churchville Presbyterian Church. There is also a meeting at the church in January, with no dinner provided. An average of about 50 people attend each dinner meeting. The November meeting featured Dr. Mike McGrady who presented a program on the status of Russian Sea Eagles. He has been conducting research in the Magadan area since 1991. Our January meeting was cancelled after two successive Friday nights with snow and ice. The March dinner meeting was highlighted by a program on falconry presented by Mr. George Tredway. Dr. Ben Poscover presented a program on the relationship between Horseshoe Crabs and shorebirds in the Delaware Bay at the final dinner meeting of the year in May. Barbara Siebens handles the dinner reservations and acts as liaison with the church.

Les Eastman continues to edit our newsletter. He has been doing an excellent job in preparing the newsletter and also does other computer tasks, such as maintaining a web site for the club. Joe and Carole Vangrin prepare each edition of the newsletter for mailing. Les has asked to be relieved from the position of editor, so he will be greatly missed.

Dave Webb and the members of the field trip committee spend a large amount of time planning and monitoring the trips to the field to make sure that they are successful. Our club averages eight field trips per month so there is a wide variety from which to choose. The field trips are publicized on the local cable TV channel and also in local newspapers, thanks to the efforts of Jean Williams. Dave Webb has also asked to be relieved from his position as chairperson and he will also be missed. In addition to the field trips, the club participated in the Fall Migration Count on September 19, the Rock Run Christmas Count on December 29, the Mid-winter Count on January 30, and the International Migratory Bird Count on May 8.

Each year the club provides a donation to the Envirothon competition involving teams from the local school system. This year we again donated \$150 to help with their expenses. The winners of our annual awards presented at the March meeting were: Harford County Lister of the Year, Dave Webb with 208 species; Rookie of the Year, Matt Hafner; Bird of the Year, Marbled Godwit at Havre de Grace on a club field trip; Distinguished Service, John and Lorna Wortman and also to Dave Webb. Last year members of the club provided over \$500 in donations so that a bird garden could be planted at the Anita Leight Estuary Center. We are pleased to report that almost all of the shrubs and perennials planted survived the dry summer

and winter. The club also provided bird feeders and bird feeding stations, which were recently constructed.

Randy Robertson and Tom Congersky planned for a Nest Box Workshop at the Anita Leight Estuary Center on February 6. More than 75 nest boxes were cut of cedar and assembled for the purchasers. The annual Earth Day Celebration at Havre de Grace on April 17 was well attended this year. We take the club display and hand out county checklists and newsletters. Les Eastman provided a highlight of the show as he showed many people the newly found Bald Eagle's nest on the other side of the Susquehanna River.

MOS education grants were combined over the past two years and used for the purchase of copies of the *Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. We provided one copy to the Harford County Historical Society, one copy to the Harford Glen Outdoor Education Center, and eight copies to the Harford County Library for educational and research purposes. The club has had several winners of MOS Scholarships in previous years. This year Mary Procell won a scholarship to the Audubon Ecology Camp in Wyoming.

The 1998-99 year is the 50th year for the Harford Bird Club. Our official celebration of this achievement will take place at the dinner meeting on November 5, when Chandler Robbins will present the program. A 50th Anniversary committee is currently planning festivities for the meeting.

One long-term project is yet to be finished and that is the Harford Bird Site Brochure. We hope to get that to the printers this summer so it is available for our 50th Anniversary celebration.

I would like to thank the other elected officers for their assistance over the past two years. The Vice President was Randy Robertson, Joyce Gorsuch was Treasurer, and Mary Procell was Secretary. This is my last Annual Report as my two-year term of office has expired. I have enjoyed the past two years, but also realize that it is time to move on. I will continue to be actively involved in club activities and will continue with involvement in MOS as Executive Secretary for the next year. I hope that the club continues to grow and prosper under our newly elected president, Debbie Delevan.

Larry Fry, President

JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

The Jug Bay Bird Club had another busy and productive year. At the end of the 1998 MOS Conference we decided to help plan the next conference. This became a major activity for the year. We held meetings at our club Director, Gary Flenner's house in Calvert County; our President, Dale Johnson, was the local coordinator; Mike Callahan, our new Vice President, was conference publicity, and our newsletter editor and club publicity person; our loyal Secretary Jean Tierney, helped with field trips and many behind-the-scenes jobs; and our faithful Treasurer, Bob Courtemanche, and his wife Anne, worked on the 300 packets for the conference.

Jug Bay Bird Club, even though a small club, can be proud of our contribution to this conference. Our other members are to be recognized for their helpful contribution at this con-

ference: Tyler Bell, Jane Kostenko, Patty Craig, Rich Dolesh and sons, Fred and Jane Fallon, Mary Kilborne, Kyle Rambo, and Arlene Ripley. Our club, along with Conference Chairman Lou DeMouy, the Anne Arundel Chapter, and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS), worked together over the year to create a delightful conference. SMAS benefited by being voted the auction and raffle proceeds for their Native Shrub habitat education project along the Patuxent River in Southern Maryland.

Our annual functions are a December Christmas Party, the Christmas Bird Counts, elections in March, Bluebird trails, May Bird Counts, and a July picnic and boat trip. The field trips and meeting locations were a little different this year. We are making an effort to spread our trips and meetings into Southern Maryland. We have held meetings at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center in Calvert County, at the Leonardtown Library in St. Mary's County, and at the Wild Bird Center in Waldorf, Charles County, along with some at Patuxent River Park. The programs were great. We learned about "Tobago," "Australia," "Ecology for Birders," "Ethiopian Birds," "Barn Owls in Charles County," and "Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds."

Our trips were the annual Ocean City Birds on New Year's Day, a preview of the conference area at Solomons Island and the Calvert Marine Museum, fall raptors in Pennsylvania, the new Chapman's Landing State park, a joint trip with Prince George's Audubon Society to Shady Side, a Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center trip, and a trip to the Delaware Bay for shorebirds.

Other club projects were to update a display board with a grant from MOS. Our new project for the coming year is to build slide programs to be used by our club officers and members to give short talks about birds to community groups.

Our new season will take us into the year 2000 and we look forward to new alliances with the other chapters of MOS and Audubon and other interested groups in our area.

Dale Johnson, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter gained four new memberships this year but lost four old ones, so our membership remained the same as past years', locked in at 50. We had eight meetings with one being cancelled due to snow. Topics at our monthly meetings included "Birding on the Internet," "Bird Identification," "Birding Accessories," and "Ecology for Birders." Our monthly meetings have an average attendance of 25. Field trips had an average attendance of six observers. We try for one field trip per month. The Chapter is involved in both the Christmas and the May Bird Count

We support our Field Banding Station, located in Queen Anne's County, with a donation to help buy nets, and we try to work with Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge with the involvement of several members and scheduled field walks there. The speaker at our Annual Meeting was Marsha Fritz, who told of the Chester River Association and who enlisted members to help with the Water Quality Testing Program. We do have several members already involved. We also held a joint field trip with the Association in November 1998 at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

We continue to man a table at the Chestertown Wildlife Show in October, with displays of bluebird boxes, pictures of the banding station at work, free plans for building a bluebird nesting box, applications for the Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship to a summer Audubon workshop, and selling MOS literature. The display is manned for seven hours by our volunteers, who answer any and all questions from passersby. We also had handouts for the children of coloring pages, mazes, and quizzes — all about birding.

We will continue to sponsor the Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship, but it is getting more difficult as the price of the Audubon Camps keeps increasing. The initial investment does not grow at the same rate as the increases.

Gail Regester, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

Field trips continued to be one of the strengths of our chapter as trip Chair Mike Bowen came up with an array of trips to take us through the seasons. The birding year began in early September at Little Bennett State Park with our traditional Presidents' Day Walk led by participating past presidents. Later that fall, we forded streams at Layhill Park in search of sparrows and looked for lingering migrants at Meadowside Park, Hughes Hollow and Myrtle Grove; we canoed on the Potomac guided by Dave Winer to check out riverine species; we scanned the skies for hawks at Washington State Park and Waggoner's Gap. December kept us busy with area Christmas Counts: in particular, the Seneca Count which our Chapter continues to sponsor. Upholding a January tradition, 20 hardy members braved an ice storm to drive to the Outer Banks for a birding weekend with the Hatteras Bird Club. Later, closer to home, we had field trips to Black Hill Park and Conowingo dam. Spring saw us straining our necks for treetop warblers along the C&O Canal, and finally, as summer neared, busily sorting out shorebirds at Bombay Hook.

A host of excellent speakers enlivened our monthly meetings. A sampling: Pamela Rasmussen, who gave a first-hand account of her discovery of the Forest Owlet of India; Dr. William S. Seegar, who revealed the remarkable amount of information on migratory patterns garnered by telemetry; and MOS member Dave Brinker, who gave us the inside story on the Saw-whet Owl. Two chapter members shared personal accounts of birding trips: Gail Mackiernan showed us her excellent video footage of seabirds (including the Kelp Gull!) taken on a research vessel off the coast of South America, and Daphne Gemmill recreated her fascinating trip to South Africa. Popular additions to the business meetings were the seasonally appropriate 10-minute Bird IDs presented by Luther Goldman, George Jett and Bill Kulp. Members agreed this was a good way to sharpen our birding skills.

Although our regular January meeting was cancelled (nasty ice storm) we did meet together later that month on a positively balmy Saturday afternoon to celebrate the completion of the Claudia Wilds Bird Library at Black Hill Visitor Center in Boyds, Md. We encourage all MOS members to visit this remarkable collection of over 360 books left to our chapter by Claudia Wilds and now permanently housed at the Center.

Our bimonthly newsletter *The Chat* has two new editors: Gemma Radko and Lydia Schindler, who have continued the well-established tradition of providing our 320 members

with informative and lively material five times a year. We also keep in touch via the chapter web site, masterminded by Kathy Neugebauer.

Our annual March Social was a great success with over 90 members enjoying an evening of good food, lively conversation and slides. The chapter presented a plaque to guest of honor Bill Oberman in recognition of his many years of service to the chapter and the birding community at large.

There were a number of innovations this year:

- State Director Rick Sussman began the long-term project of creating an up-to-date site guide to the birding hotspots of Montgomery County. As each site is completed it will appear in *The Chat*, providing timely information and allowing members the chance to make suggestions and comments before the final publication.

- State Director Dr. Sam Freiberg was the driving force behind the establishment of annual awards to bird-related entries at the Montgomery Area Science Fair held each March. This year three students received certificates acknowledging their efforts. Next year the chapter hopes to present cash awards to outstanding entries.

- Spurred by the large collection of bird slides left to our chapter by Claudia Wilds, we have begun to set up permanent slide shows of specific groups of birds. The first set, consisting of gull slides, was used for a study session at Patuxent Visitor Center in February led by Vice President Mike Bowen. A similar session on shorebirds is scheduled for June.

Linda Friedland, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Bird Club held its regular monthly meetings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Bioscience Building on the fourth Tuesday of each month, September–November and January–May.

Topics at our meetings this past year included: “Effects of PCBs on American Kestrels,” by Dr. John B. French; “Protecting Endangered Species,” by Robin Eisman; “The North American Breeding Bird Survey,” by Keith Pardieck; “Adopt an Acre: Preservation of Neotropical Habitats,” by George Jett; “The Natural History of Chile,” by Sid Jacobs; “Cerulean Warblers,” by Deanna Dawson; “Birding in Venezuela,” by Fred Fallon; and Members’ Night: birding slides and forays by our members.

Our field trip program included scheduled monthly visits to Lake Artemesia, led by David Mozurkewich, and joint participation with the Prince George’s Audubon Society in tours of the Fran Uhler Natural Area.

Other activities of the year included participation by club members in Christmas and May Bird Counts, and the Annual Field Trip and Picnic, held at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in June. Our Conservation Committee, chaired by Eleanor Robbins, carried out an active advocacy role on conservation issues.

Elections for the 1999–2000 year were held at the March meeting. Officers for the coming year are: President — Tom Loomis, Vice-President — David Mozurkewich, Treasurer — Loren Fulton, Secretary — Eleanor Robbins, State Trustee — Chandler Robbins. Leonard Lutwack, Helen Meleney, and Harriette Phelps were elected to new two-year terms as Directors. Marty Barron, Robert Caswell, and Fred Fallon will enter their second years as Directors.

Tom Loomis, President

TRI-COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Memberships in the Tri-County Bird Club totaled 63 in 1998–99, a 24 percent increase over the prior year.

Eight monthly meetings were held from September through May. Programs included Whimbrel research at the Virginia Coast Reserve, Saw-whet Owls, birding in Alaska, a visit to the Ward Museum's Rachel Carson Exhibit, planting for birds, Soras at Jug Bay, and warbler identification.

Fourteen field trips took club members and guests north to Bombay Hook Refuge, south to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands, west to Dorchester County marshes and east to the Atlantic seashores of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Club members participated in the Salisbury Christmas Count and the May Count.

Samuel H. Dyke, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Washington County Chapter held its monthly meetings at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center on the fourth Tuesday of the month. During the summer our meetings are replaced by picnics.

Our Secretary, Janet Shields, set up an interesting and entertaining list of speakers for our monthly meetings. The speakers presented the following programs: "The Yellow Book and How to Use It," by Bob Ringler; "Sound in the Natural World: Purpose and Pursuit," by Wilbur Hershberger; "Scales and Tales," by Mark Spurrier; "Trinidad and Tobago," by Dave Harvey; "The C&O Canal," by Bob Johnson; and "Bird Photography," by Hugh Brandenburg. We also had one meeting called Members' Night where members could show slides and/or discuss some of their recent activities and experiences.

During the past year our members went on several field trips. Besides the usual Washington County areas, we went to Little Bennett Park, the National Zoo, Town Hill, Strawberry Hill near Fairfield, PA, Southern Frederick County, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and a pelagic trip in Virginia.

Our Chapter hosted the September 1998 MOS Board Meeting at Greenbrier State Park. Members also participated in the Washington County Christmas Count, two Christmas Counts in Frederick County, the National Park Service mid-winter bird survey along the C&O Canal,

the Flower and Garden Show at Hagerstown Community College, Earth Day events at Greenbrier State Park, the May Count, and the Carey Run Sanctuary Work Day.

I want to thank all of the officers and members of the Washington County Chapter for all their help during a very busy year. I also want to thank Judy and John Lilga for building an exhibit board so we can display information about our club during special events.

Dave Weesner, President

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The annual audit of the MOS financial records for the period ending April 30, 1998 has been completed. These records are judged complete and have been faithfully maintained by our Treasurer, Jeff Metter. The salient feature of the Society's financial well-being is reflected in the increased valuation of our investments. The MOS net worth as reported to the IRS is now approaching \$900,000. The incremental increase in investments for the year ending 1997 was \$49,680.55; for 1998, \$117,870.10. Prudently, approximately 65% (\$76,272.11) of the latter gain has been shifted to U.S. Treasury Notes. The Budget Committee and Long Range Planning Committee probably need to review future investment strategy.

The present budget structure of the operating and permanent funds (i.e., research, sanctuary, education, scholarship, future atlas) seems especially awkward, unnecessarily complicating financial management. The value of the income-generating assets of each fund possibly have become distorted through the choice and gains in equity over and above the original intent and needs of the various funds. This subject could well be included in the review suggested above.

One further small point: one temporary fund, Wanuga, valued at \$2,455.75, has been retained in the last three annual reports, hence probably needs to be distributed.

Gerald F. Cotton

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The budget committee met in February to put together a budget for approval by the board of directors at their March meeting. Several changes were made this year in order to simplify the budget and to make it a more complete picture of the financial activities of the MOS. These changes included adding MOS website maintenance to the operating fund budget, supporting all liability insurance premiums under the operating fund budget, supporting all life membership costs under the operating fund budget, combining the sanctuary maintenance and endowment funds into one sanctuary fund, including conference accounts over multi-year periods, and including an explicit budget for the atlas fund.

The operating fund budget for the MOS for the fiscal year starting May 1, 1999 was \$32,550 compared to anticipated earnings of \$28,000. Since the budget amount is never fully spent (containing some upper limits that are not normally reached), this difference was deemed acceptable and advisable. Apart from the operating fund are the special funds for atlas, confer-

ence, education, research, sanctuary, and scholarship activities. For the last four of these, the budget for the coming year is equal to the earnings of the endowments from the preceding year.

There were also several special expenditures added to this year's budget. These included \$500 for inspection of the buildings at the Carey Run and Irish Grove sanctuaries, \$500 for replacement of mist nets used in research projects, \$2000 to rent a climate-controlled storage facility for MOS records, and \$800 to fund an additional scholarship this year. The mist net and scholarship expenses were earmarked from the funds raised by the MOS team in the World Series of Birding.

The budget was approved by the board of directors at their March 1999 meeting.

Paul A. Zucker, Chair

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Notice regarding two proposed changes to the MOS by-laws was published in the March/April 1999 issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* on page 7. These proposed changes were then presented at the 1999 Annual Conference and unanimously approved by the general membership of the Society.

The first change was in Article IV, Officers, to allow appointment of separate Editors for *Maryland Birdlife* and *Maryland Yellowthroat*. The second change was in Article VII, Board of Directors, to provide that each Editor shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Board and that the Editors may serve in more than one position.

A copy of the MOS by-laws incorporating the approved changes is attached, in both printed and electronic format (MSWord97).

Tom Loomis, Chair

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The 54th annual conference of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) was held in Calvert County at the Holiday Inn Select Solomons on Solomons Island during the weekend of May 14–16, 1999. The 244 registered attendees enjoyed the program and spotted 162 species of birds on field trips. Friday evening's speaker was Mr. Greg Miller of Baltimore County (formerly of Calvert County). The title of his talk was "My Dream Year" — a recounting of Mr. Miller's adventures in identifying 715 bird species in North America during 1998. MOS president Norm Saunders presided over the annual business meeting on Saturday evening, May 15. Norm Saunders (President), Karen Morley (Vice President), Kathy Neugebauer (Secretary), and Jeff Metter (Treasurer) will continue in their roles during the coming year.

The local planning team for the conference included representatives from Calvert County, the Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS), the Jug Bay Chapter, and the Anne Arundel Chapter of MOS. The lead local planners were Dale Johnson, Gary Flenner, and Ernest Willoughby (representing SMAS). Other key planning committee members were Mike Callahan, Anne Courtemanche, Bob Courtemanche, Sue Hamilton, Peter Hanan, Al Haurly, Carol Jelich, and Doty Mumford.

Peter Hanan planned and directed an extensive field trip program that resulted in a Conference total of 162 species seen. Dale Johnson and Gary Flenner organized an art exhibit displaying the work of 13 local artists. Sybil Williams coordinated a raffle and silent auction (\$1,868). The total proceeds were donated in the name of MOS to help a joint project of SMAS, the Calvert County Parks and Recreation Department, and the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary to support the Shrub Habitat Enhancement Project for neotropical migratory birds on the shoreline of the Patuxent River. Dave Brinker arranged presentations of research papers on Saturday afternoon. John Malcolm organized competition for the conference pin. This year's pin design winner was Don Culbertson of the Baltimore chapter. The winning design was a wood duck — a bird seen by many while at the conference.

Norm Saunders presented "Birder Assistant of the Year" awards to John Quade and Bobbie Ray Dean, owner and general manager respectively, of the Sea Breeze Restaurant in St. Mary's County. Also receiving the Birder Assistant award were the husband and wife team of Jane Kostenko and Tyler Bell (St. Mary's County). The awards were for valuable assistance to birders from far and wide who came to see the Kelp Gull in the months preceding the conference. Valued Service awards went to Lou DeMouy (Conference), LeAnne Pemburn (May Count), and Isa Sieracki (Scholarships). Finally, Norm presented the Distinguished Career Service Award to John Malcolm for his many contributions to MOS over more than 25 years.

The society's next conference will be held on the weekend of May 19–21, 2000, in Washington County. The conference site will be the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown.

Lou DeMouy, Chair

COUNTY LIST COMPILER

This year marks the thirteenth time the MOS has compiled state and locality list totals submitted by its members. This year, 86 observers submitted list totals, up 15 from last year (!). Of these 86, nine were first-time submitters (up five from last year). Currently, 163 observers are in the database, reflecting that not everyone submits updated list totals each year.

Phil Davis

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee had five members this year. Baltimore, Cecil, Howard, Talbot, and Wicomico Chapters had representatives on the Committee and they awarded \$1,200 in grants to:

- Harford Chapter — Four copies of the MD Breeding Bird Atlas to local libraries
- Jug Bay Chapter — Traveling exhibit board
- Patuxent Chapter — Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center items
- Cecil Bird Club — Portable display board
- Allegany County Chapter — Carey Run Sanctuary items

- Carroll County Chapter — Pine Valley Nature Center items

Next year there will be two new members on the committee with one additional chapter, Allegany. This will give us coverage across the State.

Maud Banks, Chair

GIFTS COMMITTEE

The principal function of the Gifts Committee has been to develop recommendations to the MOS Board for uses of gifts or bequests of funds or other assets for which donors have not made specific designations as to how they are to be used. In 1998 MOS received a bequest of about \$32,000 from the estate of Frances Covington in memory of Etta Mae Wedge. The bequest did not designate a specific use for the funds.

The Gifts Committee approved a request by the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee that one-half of this bequest be added to the Scholarship Endowment Fund so as to support an annual award of an additional scholarship. The Committee further recommended that the remaining one-half of the bequest be held in unassigned reserves pending additional review of needs by the Board. These allocations of the Covington bequest were accepted by the Board at the March 13, 1999 meeting.

The Gifts Committee has also been studying preparation of an information sheet for those persons who may wish to consider a gift or bequest to MOS. This effort has not yet been completed.

Richard Cleveland was appointed Gifts Committee Chair in May 1991 and has served in that position through the end of the 1998–99 membership year. The reorganization of the Committee and the disposition of a number of sizable bequests were addressed over the past eight years. To ensure a broad spectrum of knowledge on the Committee, it has consisted during this period of a minimum of five members. These persons were the Treasurer of MOS, the Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Chair of the Budget Committee, a past president of MOS, and the Committee Chair (who formerly served as MOS Treasurer).

Numerous helpful suggestions and comments on matters before the Committee have been generously furnished from many MOS members. However, special thanks are due to the following for their participation on the Gifts Committee: Emily Joyce, John Malcolm, Jo Solem, Larry Fry, Jeff Metter, Paul Zucker, and Fran Saunders.

Richard Cleveland, Chair

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The work of the Library Committee over the 1998–99 membership year consisted of:

1. Writing book reviews for *Maryland Yellowthroat* on *Project Puffin*, by S. W. Kress & P. Samuelson; *The Bird Almanac*, by David Bird; *Baby Bird Portraits of G. M. Sutton*, by Paul Johnsgard; and *The Mind of the Raven*, by Bernd Heinrich.

2. Receiving and organizing the exchange journals using newly purchased magazine holders.

3. Weeding the collection of duplicates of *Audubon Magazine* and organizing it chronologically with the help of a community service class of eight students from Roland Park Country School.

4. Beginning an investigation of what to do with the *Audubon Magazine* duplicates.

5. Checking on the collection of *Life Histories of North American Birds* and *Handbook of Birds of the World* held at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central in Baltimore City. There are now over 400 *Life Histories* on hand and four volumes of the *Handbook of Birds of the World*, with Volume 5 on order. The library staff of the Science, Business and Technology Department at EPFL continues to express their gratitude for these valuable references. They report that a number of users have said they heard of its availability through the Maryland Ornithological Society.

Joy Wheeler, Chair

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning for the future is essential for any organization. Long-range or strategic planning provides a blueprint for future actions and growth. To be successful, however, such planning must be oriented towards fulfilling the goals or missions of the organization. This year, the Long-range Planning Committee prepared a series of mission statements for presentation to the Board of Directors. The ten statements characterize the "spirit" of MOS, its programs and activities. They outline how "MOS fosters interaction and exchange of information among people interested in wild birds to encourage the study and enjoyment of birds and the natural world." The statement was approved by the Board of Directors on December 5, 1998, and is attached.

The document will form the basis for our Committee's planning discussions. Within the next year we will evaluate each statement, identifying MOS programs and activities that support each individual mission. From there, we will identify shortcomings, where they exist, and propose items for future planning. These recommendations will, in turn, hopefully assist our officers and committee chair to ensure a vital MOS for many days to come.

I want to thank all Committee members for their participation, especially Marcia Watson-Whitmyre.

Fran Saunders, Chair

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) fosters interaction and exchange of information among people interested in wild birds to encourage the study and enjoyment of birds and the natural world. MOS does this by:

1. Publishing and distributing information about the society, its interests, activities, and projects;
2. Sponsoring field trips and other excursions to observe birds in their natural habitats;
3. Encouraging the study, recording, and observation of bird life in Maryland;
4. Providing educational opportunities in bird and nature study, and supporting research on the birds and bird habitats of Maryland;
5. Encouraging the protection and conservation of bird life and natural resources that support bird life;
6. Acquiring real and personal property to promote sanctuaries for birdlife in the various Maryland habitats, and to maintain such properties for the benefit of birds and other wildlife;
7. Encouraging the formation of local chapters to carry out some or all of the above activities in their local areas;
8. Effectively conducting the business of the society;
9. Ensuring adequate funds and resources to meet the needs and responsibilities of the society; and
10. Working in cooperation with other organizations, as appropriate, to carry out some or all of the above activities.

*Prepared by the Long-range Planning Committee
Approved by the MOS Board of Directors, December 5, 1998*

MD/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE

Achievements:

1. Bringing on-line the MD/DCRC portion of the MOS website: Thanks to Fran and Phil for their expertise and hard work in getting us started with a very valuable resource.

2. Adoption of a species list for DC: Thanks to the efforts of Ottavio Janni, Dave Czaplak, Marshall Iliff, Phil, and, of course, the invaluable start provided by the Swift Committee, this has now been accomplished. Several problem species remain under review, or otherwise in the works, but we now have a good baseline list for the District.

3. Publication in *Maryland Birdlife* (54 [#1], 3-26, March 1998) of the "Second Report of the Maryland/DC Records Committee," thanks to the knowledge and persistence of Mark Hoffman and Phil Davis. This report covered 102 final decisions and brought coverage of decisions up to March 1998. A total of 405 final decisions (of 481 made — see below) have now been detailed and summarized by the combined reports by Bruce Peterjohn and Phil Davis (*Maryland Birdlife* (52 [#1]: 3-43, March 1996) and the recent one by Mark and Phil.

4. Creation of an "Outreach Committee" under the leadership of Mary Ann Todd, and now Paul O'Brien. This group is preparing a program that can be presented to MOS Chapters to help explain the mission of MD/DCRC; how it goes about trying to fulfill that mission; how we depend on MOS members to bring to us their interesting sightings; perhaps to give constructive suggestions about making reports; and to have a question-and-answer period in which people can frankly verbalize problems and shortcomings they perceive about MD/DCRC and what can be done about them. An announcement should be ready by the time of the Annual Meeting to bring the availability of this program to the attention of the chapters as they begin to work on their program schedules for next year.

Where we stand:

As of February 1999, MD/DCRC had arrived at a total of 481 decisions during the 17 years since its inception in 1982. Overall, the acceptance rate has been 74.2%. During the past year, 83 decisions were made, with an acceptance rate of more than 90%. During that year, the backlog of reports somehow "in the works" was reduced from 204 to 143. Since there are inevitably always some reports being processed, this represents a significant catching-up to something close to a tolerable steady-state.

The MD/DCRC files now also contain information on another 237 potentially reviewable sightings (mostly older "one-liners" from *Maryland Birdlife*, *American Birds*, or elsewhere) for which, in spite of efforts to track down further documentation, for the moment the committee considers that insufficient material is available to justify review. These reports, of course, like the remainder of the material in the MD/DCRC files, are available to anyone who cares to make use of them.

Of course, we hope that MD/DCRC is seen by the members of MOS as doing its best to carry out a function that is valuable both to them and to MOS. Certainly, we are always open to suggestions as to how we can improve our procedures so as to better carry out this mission.

S. Harvey Mudd, Chair

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Publicity Committee has worked to actively publicize MOS projects and events during the past year. MOS Press Release (PR) 98-05 was released on August 6, 1998, announcing the creation of a Birdwatchers Library at Black Hill Regional Park in Montgomery County. We helped the Scholarship Committee with publicity and announced the 1999 scholarship recipients. The Committee played an active role with the 1999 Annual Conference Committee. We developed a publicity plan and sent a letter to the businesses of Solomons informing them that MOS was coming to Solomons. The letter also solicited donations for the Silent Auction. The Conference PR was sent out on May 7 to the Southern Maryland Press. I worked with the Baltimore Bird Club and produced a PR for their participation and co-sponsorship of "The Big Help" in Baltimore City. The Records Committee was mentioned in a *Washington Post* article. Developed a schedule and plan of action for activities of the Publicity Committee during the next year. Committee Chairman Mike Callahan was on Karen Morley's Souvenir Committee.

Mike Callahan, Chair

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

During the 1998/99 fiscal year two research grants were awarded, G. Michael Haramis and Gregory D. Kearns received \$2,000.00 for the proposal "Length of Stay, Survival, and Habitat Use of Fall Migrant Sora (*Porzana carolina*) on the Patuxent River Marsh as Determined by Radio Telemetry." This is continuation of research that was initiated several years ago. The MOS research grant is combined with grants from several other sources to fund the Jug Bay Sora research, illustrating the frequent role that MOS research grants play in collaborative research efforts. The second grant was awarded to Kerry J. Fitzpatrick for the proposal "The effects of grassland management on the selection of foraging by birds of prey" which received a grant of \$1,410.00. No additional proposals were received. At the close of fiscal year 1998/99 the MOS research grant fund contained \$1,030.19. The income during fiscal year 1998/99 from interest on the research endowment amounted to \$3,046.19. The balance in the MOS Research Grant Fund at the beginning of the 1997/98 fiscal year was \$4,076.38.

The Research Committee organized the 11th annual afternoon paper session for the 1999 conference. Since its inception in 1989, a wide variety of topics have been covered in the 46 paper presentations. The annual conference is the singular opportunity for people interested in birds in Maryland to share their knowledge with others from across the Free State. All MOS members, professionals and amateurs alike, are encouraged to participate in projects that increase the knowledge of Maryland bird life, to present their findings at the annual conference, and to publish in *Maryland Birdlife*. Attendance at the Saturday afternoon paper session was approximately 20 people.

The success of the 1998 World Series of Birding (WSB) team, the *Maryland Yellowthroats*, has opened a window of opportunity for the research committee. Part of the profit from the WSB team (\$500) was allocated to the research committee to establish a fund to help bird banders replace worn-out mist nets. The research committee is in the process of establishing guidelines for distribution of these funds. Several banders have already contacted the research committee seeking mist net funds and it is hoped that as long as MOS sponsors a WSB team, some of the proceeds can be annually added to the mist net fund to help banders replace nets.

David F. Brinker, Chair

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Three workdays were conducted during the past year, two at Irish Grove and one at Carey Run. Attendance was low at the two Irish Grove workdays but we still managed to get a good bit of work done. The workday at Carey Run had a good turnout and a good start was made towards eliminating the Autumn Olive hedgerows. Autumn Olive is no longer considered a "good" thing for wildlife management. It will take us several years to get all of the hedgerows eliminated. They will eventually be replaced by hedgerows of native vegetation.

Irish Grove is doing well with Dick Roberts, the local manager. Dick has been doing some trail maintenance, bird banding during migration, and generally keeping an eye on the place. The workdays have been working primarily on patching and painting the outbuildings. Our big concern here is the continual intrusion of the marsh into the roads that lead to Round Pond and the Canal Trail.

The entry road to Carey Run had to be raised because the county put a new layer of pavement on the public road. The cost of this work was shared by the three other land-owners who use this road. There is a serious erosion problem with runoff from the big field into the roadway that will need to be corrected. Recommendations have been made to correct the problem. The culvert on the entry road has become inadequate and needs to be replaced.

The Board approved having Partners In Flight evaluate our sanctuaries for habitat management. These evaluations will be done during the coming year.

The Board of Directors also approved having inspections made at the houses at Irish Grove and Carey Run. These inspections are being done by Mike Knott, in a professional capacity.

The text for the revision of the Sanctuary Guide is in a final draft form. Maps showing trails, etc. for Irish Grove and Carey Run need to be made.

It has been a fairly busy year at the sanctuaries. I thank all of the volunteers who help to keep our sanctuaries usable and beautiful.

Dorothy M. Mumford, Chair

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

This year there were 20 applicants for Audubon workshops and 10 scholarships were awarded. Their total value was \$6,970.

Winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship was Dr. Charles Hager from Allegany County. He will attend the Maine Ornithology Workshop. Dr. Hager is a dentist who is also a volunteer camp director at a nature camp for young people held each summer at Carey Run Sanctuary. The Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship was awarded to Mary Procell, a biologist and environmental science teacher at Bel Air High School in Harford County. Mary will attend the Wyoming Ecology Camp. Barbara Holloman was the recipient of the Orville Crowder Scholarship. Barbara is an active community volunteer from Montgomery County and she plans to attend the Maine Ornithology Camp.

Funds from the 1998 World Series of Birding Team provided a scholarship to the Maine Ornithology Camp for Susanna Engvall, a Chespax instructor for the gifted and talented after-school and summer enrichment programs in Calvert County. Helen Miller Scholarships to the Connecticut Ecology Camp were awarded to James Kurtz, a seventh-grade life sciences teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School in Charles County; to Nicole Veltre, a science teacher at Canton Middle School in Baltimore City; to Robert Hicks, a park ranger at Kinder Farm Park in Anne Arundel County; to Mark Spurrier, an educational programmer with the Department of Natural Resources at Soldier's Delight in Baltimore County; and to Monika Botswai, a grade school teacher who incorporates numerous birding activities into the curriculum at the German School of Washington, DC, which is located in Potomac, MD. Monika is a member of the Howard Bird Club.

The World Nature Association, which awarded the Orville Crowder Scholarship in the past, has merged with the Audubon Naturalist Society and transferred its funds to ANS. Fortunately, at least for now, ANS has chosen to continue awarding the Orville Crowder Scholarship. \$15,000 from the Covington Bequest have been assigned by the Board of Directors to fund an additional scholarship in the coming years; the new scholarship will be known as the Covington-Wedge Scholarship. A special thanks goes out to the Kent Chapter for continuing to fund the Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship.

The Committee made an extra effort this year to refine some of the ranking procedures and will continue to work on that process during this next year. Individual chapters are encouraged to appoint a scholarship representative to assist in recruiting good candidates from around the State and assisting them with the application process. The State Committee members are Michael Callahan, Charlotte Folk, Elayne Metter, Elizabeth Taylor, Marilyn Taylor, and Marcia Watson-Whitmyre. They are to be commended for all of the time and effort that they expended in the ranking of applicants, a difficult procedure.

The Scholarship Program is one major area where MOS has the potential to expand its influence to others. A scholarship to an Audubon camp is truly a "gift that keeps on giving," because each person who is selected to attend is in a position to pass on information gained. The Scholarship Committee would like to encourage MOS members and chapters to establish trusts or to give gifts to the Scholarship fund. This quote aptly sums up the goals and purposes of the MOS scholarship program: "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; we will understand only what we are taught." (Baba Dioum)

Jean Fry, Chair

OBSERVATION OF A WEASEL AT A MOURNING DOVE NEST IN HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

TIM RAY

On the morning of May 25, 1999, I observed a weasel near the nest of a Mourning Dove (*Zenaid macroura*) in a multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) at Centennial Park, Howard County, Maryland. The day was sunny and breezy with temperatures 65° to 75°F. In a dense multiflora rose about 15 feet south of the main path, I located a Mourning Dove on a nest five feet above the ground. The shrub was about 100 feet from the south shore of the lake and perhaps 200 feet from Centennial Lane. Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*) were making frequent trips to the same shrub, but I could not see that nest (I later located it). I continued east along the path and after about 20 minutes doubled back. By that time it was about 9 a.m. Once more I checked the rose with the Mourning Dove nest. The male Yellow Warbler flew into the rose, so I went over for a closer look. As I did so, I noticed the Mourning Dove nest was unoccupied. Surprisingly, the Yellow Warbler flew within six feet of me and perched. At that point I noticed a weasel moving on the ground beneath the rose. It climbed easily to the nest, looked in, then moved back to the ground where it stood within five feet of me. Once, when I moved slightly, it backed off a foot so I knew it was aware of me, but it showed no fear. When the weasel returned to the ground, I noticed a dead Mourning Dove lying there. With its mouth the weasel grabbed the dead bird by the neck (the head hung limply) and began carrying it away. At times it hopped to make progress. The bird was a significant burden for the approximately 10-inch weasel. Eventually, I lost sight of the mammal and its prey in the vegetation. On the basis of comparative sizes of the mammal and its prey, I would judge it to be a male Long-tailed Weasel (*Mustela frenata*).

Paradiso (1969) notes that "Male Long-tailed Weasels are strikingly larger than females." Males are listed as 9–10½ inches (Burt and Grossenheider 1964). Paradiso also describes this species as the most common of the possible Maryland weasels. It was dark gray above, white underneath; and the outer half of the long furred tail was black. There was no eye ring, nor were there other obvious stripes or bands. Meanwhile, the Yellow Warbler remained perched six feet from me during the above proceedings. It was singing again within one minute of the departure of the weasel. After the weasel left, I reached into the Mourning Dove nest, but felt no eggs, eggshell fragments, or nestlings. A few light gray feathers remained in a pile beneath the rose.

When I returned to the spot in the afternoon, the Yellow Warblers were still feeding their young and a Mourning Dove a few feet from the nest was calling. It had not called at all while I was in the vicinity in the morning. Burt and Grossenheider (1964) describe Long-tailed Weasels as "chiefly nocturnal, but also active by day." Paradiso (1969) notes that the species "is highly adaptable and willing to live in close proximity to man as long as suitable prey is available." He states that young are born from mid-April to mid-May, so this weasel may well have been taking prey to a family in its den.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks to Joanne K. Solem for helping put my journal entry into a form for publication.

LITERATURE CITED

Burt, W.H. and R.P. Grossenheider. 1964. *A field guide to the Mammals*. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Paradiso, J.L. 1969. "Mammals of Maryland," *North American Fauna* 62. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

5221 Windmill Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

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
Phone: 301-725-1176; fax: 301-497-5624; e-mail: Chan_Robbins@usgs.gov
Assoc. Editor: Janet Millenson, 10500 Falls Rd., Potomac, MD 20854
Asst. Editor: Robert F. Ringler, 6272 Pinyon Pine Ct., Eldersburg, MD 21784
Mailing: Howard County Chapter
Headings: Schneider Design Associates, Baltimore

CONTENTS, JUNE 1999

First Specimen Record of White-winged Dove (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>) for Washington, DC	<i>Claudia Angle & Carla Dove</i> ...	23
The Season: Spring Migration, March 1–May 31, 1998 ..	<i>Daniel R. Southworth</i>	25
Annual Reports of Chapters	<i>Chapter Presidents</i>	33
Annual Reports of Committees	<i>Committee Chairs</i>	44
Observation of a Weasel at a Mourning Dove Nest in Howard County, MD	<i>Tim Ray</i>	54



printed on recycled paper



Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Cylburn Mansion
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4698

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbia, MD
Permit No. 452

