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Cover: Male Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) on the restored grassland on Washington College's River and Field Campus (formerly Chino Farms), Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Photographed by Daniel M. Small on 24 May 2016.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the spring 2019 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. This issue documents three Maryland firsts: Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*), and Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*). Additionally, the issue features in-depth articles on the recovery of an Eastern Shore population of Northern Bobwhites (*Colinus virginianus*), nesting success of central Chesapeake Bay Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), and mortalities of Maryland Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The results of the 2018 May Count and the 2018 Fall Count round out the issue.

First YMOS Submittal to *Maryland Birdlife*

This issue features the first article submitted by a member of the YMOS (Youth Maryland Ornithological Society). Joshua S. Heiser, a high school student, has documented Maryland's first record of Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) that showed up in his Montgomery County yard. We hope that Joshua's achievement encourages more YMOS members to submit manuscripts to the journal. Congratulations, Joshua!

Maryland Birdlife Is Now Archived on SORA and BHL

Back issues of *Maryland Birdlife* are now archived online at SORA (Searchable Ornithological Archive) and at BHL (Biodiversity Heritage Library). All issues (except for a holdback of the two most recent years) are accessible. The back issues can be accessed on SORA at <https://sora.unm.edu/node/132691> and on BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/118626#/summary>.



Introducing Ricki Norton: The New Statewide Compiler for the Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count

Ricki Norton's interest in nature started with her family taking her on frequent outdoor adventures as a kid. As she grew older, her interest in animals grew and led her to pursue a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut (UConn) in Storrs, Connecticut. During college, she was lucky enough to spend one summer in California participating in a Behavioral Biology Fellowship with the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. It was during this time Ricki became more focused on birds, working on a project involving acoustic monitoring of Cactus Wrens (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) and the effects of increased ambient noise levels on bird communication. After graduating UConn in 2012, Ricki started to pursue a Masters in Biology at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she planned to continue researching bird song and noise pollution. However, various personal factors caused her to leave school, and eventually led her into the veterinary field where she now works as a registered technician in a specialized neurology practice. Birdwatching and nature photography are now two of her main hobbies. Ricki's favorite Maryland birding spots include Violette's Lock and Riley's Lock (both Montgomery County) along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, Lake Artemesia (Prince George's County), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's County), and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Dorchester County). She is excited to apply her prior education and current passion as the new volunteer Statewide Compiler for the Maryland Mid-winter Bird Count.

William H. (Bill) Thompson, III – In Memoriam

The birding community will sorely miss Bill Thompson, III, Editor and Publisher of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, who passed away on 25 March 2019 at age 57 from pancreatic cancer. I first met Bill in June 1990 at an American Birding Association Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado. Over the years, our paths crossed a few more times. Bill was always cheerful and personable. He was a standard bearer for birding, promoting the pastime any way that he could. Bill's memory and legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of his birding friends and acquaintances.

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