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Cover: Lapland Longspur at Harvey's Peninsula, Deep Creek Lake.

Photo by Fran Pope, Dec. 19, 1989. See *Maryland Birdlife* 46:58



## MIGRATION TIMING OF FOUR UNCOMMON SPECIES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

DAVID W. MEHLMAN

The Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*), Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*), Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), and Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) are migrant species in Montgomery County that tend to be overlooked or unreported by local birders. However, personal experience of the author at bird banding stations has shown that these species are commoner than field observations typically indicate. Since all four species tend to be found on or near the ground in habitats that are suitable for the use of mist nets, it seems reasonable to assume that bird banding stations would capture these species in numbers somewhat proportional to their actual abundance in the field. If this is true, banding capture data can be used to define the migratory periods of these species and to provide guidelines on when birders should expect to find them.

The data for this study were obtained during spring and fall banding operations at Adventure Bird Banding Station, located about 4.5 miles southwest of Rockville in Montgomery County, Maryland. For a detailed description of the study area and a summary of banding methods, see Bray (1979) and Bray (1980). I used summarized capture data for an 18-year period in the analysis that follows.

The total number of birds of each species banded in each season during the period fall 1972 to fall 1989 is given in Table 1. To provide a comparison with more common species that might be confused with the uncommon ones, I have included data on Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) to compare with Gray-cheeked Thrush, Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) to compare with Mourning and Connecticut Warblers, and Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) to compare with Lincoln's Sparrow.

To determine migration timing, I summed the number of birds banded on each day across all years of banding operations. The following statistics were then computed from the summed data: dates of first and last capture, median date (date on which equal numbers of birds were captured before and after), dates of the period in which 50% of all birds were captured, dates of the period in which two-thirds of all birds were captured, and dates of the period in which 90% of all birds were captured. Bar graphs representing these periods are shown for spring in Figure 1 and fall in Figure 2. Dates on which individuals were captured outside the normal migration period are indicated by a "+" symbol in the figures. The dates of first and last capture and the median date for each species for each season are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1. Number of birds banded, dates of first and last capture, and median date for each species by season.**

Species	Season	Number Banded	Dates	
			First-Last	Median
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Spring	164	2 May-31 May	21 May
	Fall	738	19 Aug-26 Oct	30 Sep
Swainson's Thrush	Spring	1077	25 Apr- 1 Jun	18 May
	Fall	5818	17 Aug-29 Oct	25 Sep
Connecticut Warbler	Fall	134	25 Aug-21 Oct	21 Sep
Mourning Warbler	Spring	102	11 May- 1 Jun	24 May
	Fall	49	15 Aug-10 Oct	8 Sep
Common Yellowthroat	Spring	916	15 Apr-31 May	12 May
	Fall	699	15 Aug-30 Oct	22 Sep
Lincoln's Sparrow	Spring	142	21 Apr-30 May	14 May
	Fall	115	11 Sep-30 Oct	8 Oct
Swamp Sparrow	Spring	765	10 Apr-30 May	1 May
	Fall	425	18 Sep- 1 Nov	16 Oct

Adventure's normal period of operation is April 15 to May 31 in the spring and August 15 to October 31 in the fall, although the station has occasionally been operated for brief times outside of these dates. The real start and/or end points of migration for Gray-cheeked Thrush and Mourning Warbler at the end of the spring, Mourning Warbler at the beginning of the fall, and Lincoln's Sparrow at the end of the fall apparently occur outside of this period. This means that the tail ends of these species' migration periods are undersampled. However, in each case the ends of the migration period in question are outside the 90% dates and the few individuals migrating at these times should not influence the shape of the graphs.

It is particularly interesting to note the relatively late peak of migration of Mourning Warblers in the spring. The median date of May 24, and the fact that birds have been caught right up to the end of banding operations, illustrate the relatively delayed migration of this species. Also note the absence of Connecticut Warblers in the spring and the lack of overlap of the two *Oporornis* species in August.

I compared the results at Adventure with the dates listed in Stewart and Robbins (1958) and the bar graphs given in Robbins and Bystrak (1977). There is generally a good correspondence between Adventure's peak dates and the peak dates listed by Stewart and Robbins. Using the 90% dates as an approximate guide to the "normal" migration period in Stewart and Robbins, Adventure appears to have a migration period slightly earlier (about 5 days) than that listed in Stewart and Robbins. The Adventure data also match fairly closely the graphs of Robbins and Bystrak, although their graphs represent occurrence in a slightly different fashion.

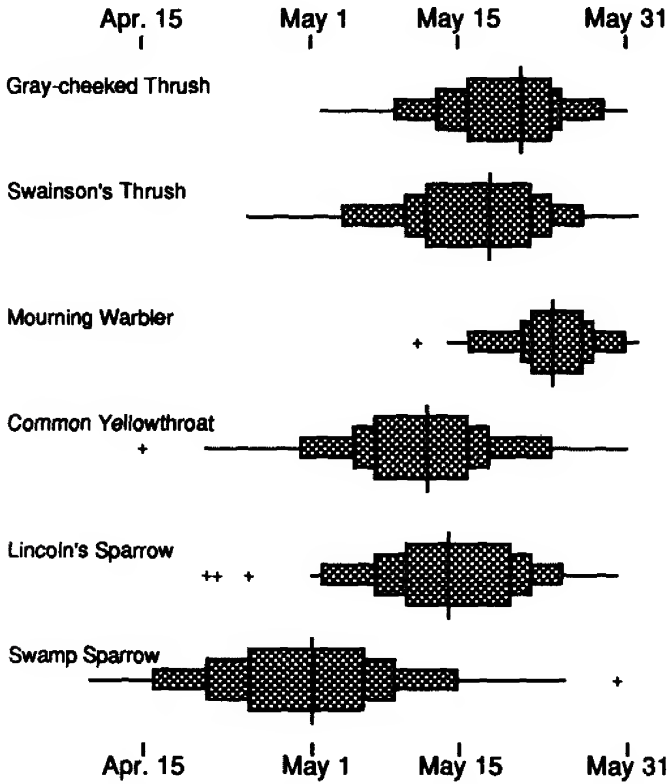


Figure 1. Spring Migration timing at Adventure Bird Banding Station.

| =median    [shaded] =50%    [darker shaded] =2/3    [darkest shaded] =90%    — =range

The four species discussed in this paper are considered uncommon (Gray-cheeked Thrush), rare (Mourning Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow), and very rare (Connecticut Warbler) in Wilds (1983). I believe that these birds are more common than field observations indicate and that bird banding stations capture them in relative proportion to their actual abundance. This information should be used as a guide to determine the optimal times for finding these species in Montgomery County and surrounding areas and hopefully will encourage birders to find these species during birding trips.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Margaret Donnalld provided the data used in this report and several useful comments. Many people have contributed a great deal for many years to the operation of Adventure; without the efforts of these people, this work would not have been possible.

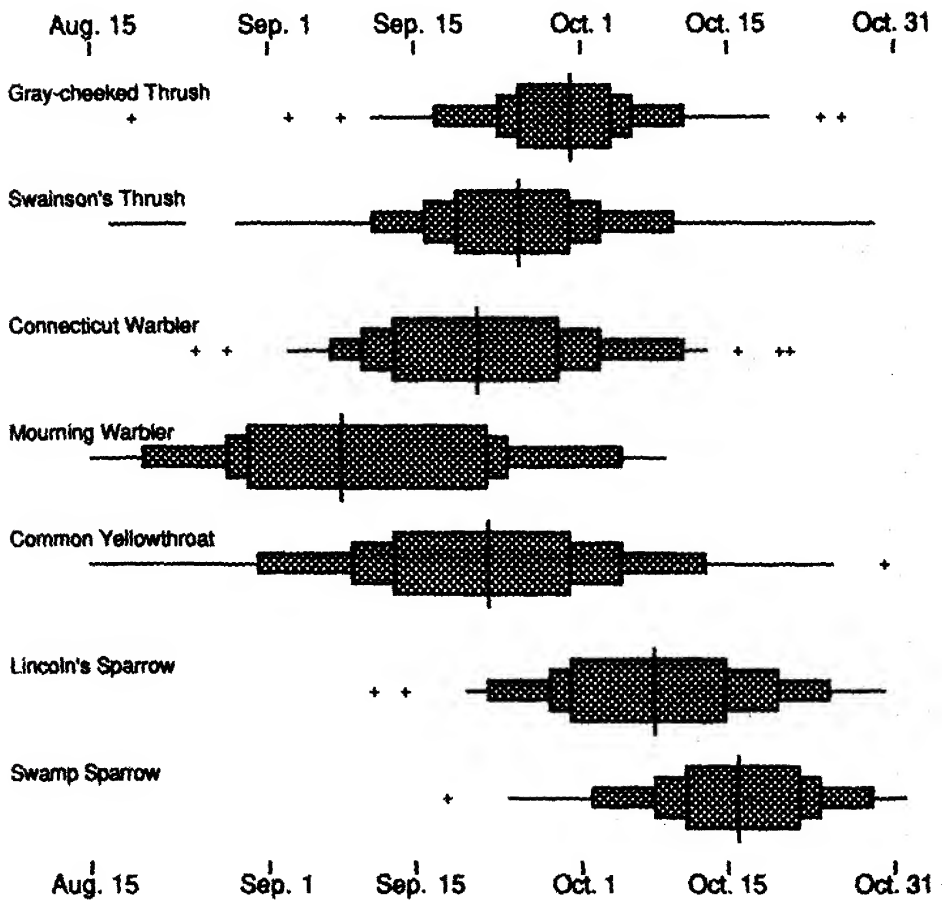


Figure 2. Fall migration timing at Adventure Bird Banding Station. See fig. 1 for legend.

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## AMERICAN ROBINS FEED FLEDGLING CROWS

MARTHA CHESTEM

The December 1988 cover of *Maryland Birdlife* featured a photograph of an American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) feeding nestlings. That photograph brought to mind a time when I was confronted by the remarkable sight of a pair of American Robins feeding young American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

On the morning of May 27, 1988 Zelda Simon of Columbia heard a strange and raucous noise near her home. At first she thought it might be the smoke alarm, but a quick check showed that the noise was coming from outside of the house. She checked but was unable to locate the source of the racket.

The next morning she heard the sounds again, and looking out of the window saw two large black birds sitting in a silver maple tree in the yard. They were both emitting loud squawks and she recognized the sound as being identical to the one she had heard the day before. While she was watching she was amazed to see an American Robin fly in with food and feed one of the black birds. The birds being fed were definitely not robins. The squawking continued, and the robin flew off, presumably in search of more food.

On the third morning there were three large black birds present, and two adult robins attempting to provide food for them. The task was an enormous one for the robins and they made trip after trip bringing food to satisfy insatiable appetites. Simon checked her copy of Stokes' *Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds*, but it said that male robins fed the fledglings while the female moved on to a second nesting attempt. There was nothing in the book to explain what was happening in her yard.

Two days later she decided she needed assistance. She called Joanne Solem, who thought it was unlikely from the description that the birds were European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) or Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and pointed out that robins are not known to care for Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molourus ater*). Zelda then called me, and I found her story so fascinating that I was reaching for my binoculars while we were still on the phone. I told her I would be right over.

Her home is a five minute walk from mine and when I arrived I saw no robins, but the three fledglings were in the yard making a racket. They were larger than an adult robin, with oversized feet and bills for their size. They had most of their contour feathers, but were still showing down feathers scattered throughout. They were both awkward and comical—flying short distances and squawking all the time. A quick examination showed that they could only be crows, almost certainly American Crows, and very hungry ones at that. Soon the robins returned and the young crows swooped at them as if they would swallow both the worm and the carrier in one gulp. As soon as they had delivered the food the robins flew off, leaving the young crows squawking for more. It was difficult to understand how either the robins or the crows could keep this up hour after hour.

There remains a remote possibility that these crows could have been Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*). My identification of American Crows was based on my familiarity with the area where I have lived for ten years. I have not seen a Fish Crow nest or any evidence of nesting, *i.e.*, carrying nesting material or food. Fish Crows are occasionally heard flying overhead. The American Crows are very common around this neighborhood and I have seen nests and young.

Naturally I speculated on how so unlikely a situation as this had developed. The most likely scenario was that the robins had lost their own nest a week before during a heavy rainstorm that passed through the area. The young crows probably flew from or fell from their own nest at about the same time, and the adults had either been unable to locate them, or had simply abandoned them. The robins must have seen the young crows on the ground begging for food, and their instincts had taken over.

Photographing was difficult because the birds moved around a great deal and the yard was mostly shaded. On June 3, Simon and Marci Krishnamoorthy took some recognizable pictures. By this time there were only two young crows; the third had disappeared and was not seen again.

The Simons last saw the birds on June 9 when they left for a short vacation. When they returned on June 16, the yard was quiet and there was no further sign of robins or crows.

Those of us who watched this intriguing fluke of nature were not fully aware at the time of the rarity of the situation. An opportunity was missed to observe for longer periods of time and to take more detailed notes. I did send a written report to Rick Blom who in return sent a copy of a paper on interspecific feeding by Marilyn Muszalski Shy (*J. Field Ornithology*, Autumn, 1982). She charted reports of over 200 examples of such behavior but none involved corvids. However, American Robins had been observed feeding Mourning Doves, Gray Catbirds, House Finches, and being fed by Cardinals and European Starlings. Usually these incidents involved mixed clutches in one nest or "close nest" situations. The robin feeding the crow not only is a rarity, but according to Shy, fledglings triggering interspecific feeding by their calls is believed to be an uncommon occurrence.

I thank Zelda Simon for providing me with her daily notes, personal observations and photographs, Marci Krishnamoorthy for her photographs and Rick Blom for his research assistance and comments.

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## MATING BEHAVIOR OF THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

J. DONALD SMYTH

My wife and I have been enjoying having Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) visit our sugar water feeders in Towson, Maryland for some years. We have noted with interest their beauty, their habits and activities.

We have seen courtship displays involving large, swinging, circular flight maneuvers while the birds emit high-pitched squeaks. We have had a male come to the feeder and drink while we were attaching it to the porch roof. We have seen one female drive off another female that was trying to drink at the feeder. We have watched the birds as they have left the feeders, and they usually have gone directly into the woods behind our house.

In 1990 we put up the feeders on April 16. My wife saw a male hummingbird for the first time this year on April 23. On May 3, at about 3:30 p.m., I went to the back



door to check for hummingbirds. None were at the feeder. I saw some movement to my left on the ground, then the brilliant red of the male's throat appeared and I realized that a bird was there. Looking closely, I wondered if it was injured. Then I got my 10 x 50 binoculars and saw clearly that the male was holding another bird down. This bird was on its back with its wings spread. The male was pecking the other bird very vigorously and fluttering its wings. The other bird was a female with the clear silver gray underparts. This pecking and fluttering behavior went on for approximately 5 or 6 minutes. The male stayed atop the female the entire time, turning about and pecking the female around the base of the back, head and wings. After a while, the female changed positions from being on her back to being breast down. The male on several occasions seemed to stand on her back as if on "tip-toe" and extended his head and bill slightly upward and fluttered his wings in what appeared to be a display. This action was done with the male facing the same direction as the female.

I am sure that I was privileged to witness the mating act of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Subsequently, I have read other accounts of Ruby-throated Hummingbird mating. Whittle (1937) stated: "At other times their flights were more or less spiral in character, and such exhibitions were frequent up to July 7th, when Mrs. Whittle observed a pair drop to the ground beside our driveway, where copulation took place." Johnsgard (1983) wrote: "Copulation has not been well-described, but on one observed instance it occurred on the ground after a display flight by the two birds similar to the type just described (Whittle 1937)." In 1989, Stokes in his revised *Bird Behavior*, Vol. III, wrote: "Other observations have males and females doing Vertical-flights together, with mating taking place on the ground after one of these flights."

In the same article, Stokes also observed "One writer listed Horizontal-flight as preceding copulation. There are only a few reports of mating being observed, and some writers think that what has been reported as mating was just aggressive behavior." The hummingbirds which come to our feeders are certainly aggressive. This aggressiveness is most often seen in the driving off of other hummingbirds attempting to drink at the feeder. Stokes also remarks about this aggressiveness as follows: "It is not clear which displays of ruby-throats have a courtship function, or whether most of their behavior is aggressive and the male just overpowers the female during mating."

The mating behavior I witnessed appears to be the most detailed accounting of such behavior by the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

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## THE SEASON

### SPRING MIGRATION, March 1 - May 31, 1990

ROBERT F. RINGLER

The remarkably mild weather of late winter continued into early spring and many passerine migrants arrived in the state earlier than usual. Cooler, wetter weather prevailed through most of May and consequently there were also numerous late birds. See Table 1 for the medians for this spring compared to the medians for the past ten years.

Reporting for this season again was very good with more people including details of rarities to make the job of editing easier. Some flycatcher reports have been deleted for lack of details.

A remarkable fallout of waterfowl occurred on and about April 6 with large numbers accumulating on inland reservoirs, particularly in Garrett County.

*Observers:* George & Henry Armistead, Scott Atkinson, Cliff Barry, Polly Batchelder, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Peggy Bohanan, Larry Bonham, Jon K. Boone, Bob Boxwell, Carol & Don Broderick, Gwen Burkhardt, Danny Bystrak, George Chase, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Deanna Dawson, Ruth Denit, Bob Dixon, Margaret Donald, C. Dorset, Sam Droege, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle, Fred Fallon, Jane Farrell, Jerry & Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Harold Fogleman, Paul Fritz, Cora Fulton, Ralph Geuder, Carol Ghebelian, Inez Glime, Jim & Patricia Gruber, Doug Hackman, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Wilbur Hershberger, Marvin Hewitt, Robert Hilton, David Holmes, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Kye Jenkins, Hank Kaestner, Ray Kiddy, Dennis Kirkwood, Haven Kolb, Ellen Lawler, Mark Letzer, Nancy Magnusson, Kathy Mariano, Joan McKearnan, Don Meritt, Sandy Meyerhoff, Stauffer Miller, David Mozurkewich, Dotty Mumford (reporting for Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary), Mariana Nuttle, Holly Obrecht, Michael & Paul O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Floyd Parks, Betty Pitney (reporting for Wicomico Bird Club), Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Barbara Ross, Gene Scarpulla, William Scudder, Sam Shoemaker, L. T. Short, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Connie Skipper, Chris & Eddie Slaughter, David Smith, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Charles Swift, Hank Taliaferro, Debbie Terry, Glenn Therres, Mary Ann Todd, Linda Tripi, Mary Twigg, Curt Vacek, Charles & Gail Vaughn, Dave Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Pete Webb, Hal Wierenga, Ben Yokel.

*Abbreviations:* DC—District of Columbia, NWR—National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS—Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC—Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SP—State Park, UMCF—University of Maryland Central Farm, WMA—Wildlife Management Area.

*Locations:* Most locations can be found on the index of the State Highway Map. Others, with county in parentheses, are: Adventure Sanctuary (Montgomery),

Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River (Baltimore), Battery Kemble Park (DC), Black Marsh (Baltimore), Blackwalnut Point (Talbot), Broadford Reservoir and Run (Garrett), Carroll Island (Baltimore), Conowingo Dan (Harford unless noted otherwise), Cylburn Park (Baltimore City), Dan's Rock (Allegany), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Fletcher's Boathouse (DC), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Grove Point WMA (Cecil), Hains Point (DC), Harford Glen Park (Harford), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Herrington Manor SP (Garrett), Horn Point (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Kent Island, Narrows and Point (Queen Anne's), King's Creek (Talbot), Kingston Landing (Talbot), Lake Roland (Baltimore), Little Meadows Lake (Garrett), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven Reservoir and Watershed (Baltimore), McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP (Carroll), Meyers Station (Anne Arundel), Mill Creek Sanctuary (Talbot), Monument Knob (Washington), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Point Lookout SP (St. Mary's), PRNAS (St. Mary's), PWRC (Prince George's, unless noted otherwise), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Rock Creek Park (DC unless noted otherwise), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Roosevelt Island (DC), St. George Island (St. Mary's), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Savage Mill Trail (Howard), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), South River (Anne Arundel), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Trout Run (Garrett), Tuckahoe SP (Caroline unless noted otherwise), UMCF (Howard).

**Loons:** **Red-throated Loons** in central Chesapeake Bay were more numerous than usual, notably 1 on March 8, 12 on March 31, and 2 on April 2 (Stasz) at North Beach, 1 at Fort Smallwood on March 11 (Wierenga), 2 flying up the bay at Blackwalnut Point on March 18 (Meritt +), and 13 near Bellevue on April 15 (Armisteads). Mild water temperatures led **Common Loons** to stage a remarkably early flight this year as many birds appeared in mid March throughout the state. Leading the armada were single birds at North Beach on the 9th (Stasz), Deep Creek Lake on the 14th (Skipper), Loch Raven on the 14th (Simon), DC on the 17th (Czaplak), and Rocky Gap on the 20th (Simons). Stasz noted the biggest loon flight with 313 at North Beach on April 12. Inland highs were 30 in Garrett County (8 on Broadford Reservoir and 22 on Deep Creek Lake) on April 6 (Pope) and 13 at Seneca on April 21 (M. O'Brien). Late migrant flyovers were 3 at Ellicott City on May 23 (Ott) and 1 at Phoenix on May 26 (Walbeck, Burkhardt).

**Grebes.** The high inland count of **Pied-billed Grebes** was 9 on Deep Creek Lake on April 6 (Skipper). High counts of **Horned Grebes** were 200 at Claiborne on March 19 (Effinger), 256 at PRNAS on March 28 (Rambo), 550 at Round Bay on April 7 (Taliaferro) and 400 at North Beach on April 21 (Stasz). Inland, 31 Horned Grebes were seen in Garrett County on April 6, with 7 of them on Broadford Reservoir and 24 on Deep Creek Lake (Pope, Skipper), 24 on Loch Raven on April 6 (Simon), 15 at Rocky Gap on April 7 (Kiddy), and 17 at Triadelphia on April 7 (Magnusson). Other locally high numbers were 65 at Edgewood on April 6 (Eastman) and 48 in DC on April 7 (Czaplak). A small number of **Red-necked Grebes** moved through the state this spring with 1 or 2 at Seneca from March 10 through April 7 (P. O'Brien+), 5 at Little Seneca Lake from March 11 through April 7 (P. O'Brien +), 1 at Rocky Gap from March 17 through April 10 and 2 on March 21 (Simons +), 1 at Rugby Hall on March 28 (Taliaferro), and 1 at Loch Raven on April 7 and April 27 (Simon). **Eared Grebes** once again made the spring scene with 1 at North Beach on March 3 and March 28 (Stasz +), 1 at Sandy Point on March 24 (Scarpulla), 1 on the South River

on March 27 (Iliff), and 1 at Hains Point on April 15 (Czaplak). The latter species, once considered accidental in Maryland, has become a regular spring migrant in very small numbers.

**Gannets.** **Northern Gannets** were again noted in the southern half of Chesapeake Bay beginning with 3 seen at North Beach on March 2 by Stasz. His maximum number there was 30 on March 15. Other sightings included 32 at Point Lookout on March 17 (Stasz +), 1 off Blackwalnut Point on March 18 (Meritt +), birds off Rose Haven and Kent Point on March 26 (Davidson), 3 off Kent Island on March 28 and 1 on April 2 (Therres), and the last 2 at North Beach on April 5 (Stasz). On the coast the last gannets were 1 off North Assateague on May 19 (Czaplak) and 1 found alive on the beach in Ocean City on May 30 and taken to the Salisbury Zoo for rehabilitation (fide Therres).

**Cormorants.** Sightings of **Great Cormorants** were notable for the number of birds involved. There were 6 at North Beach on March 6 (Stasz), 8 at Point Lookout on March 17 (Stasz +), at least 3 on Benoni Light, Talbot County on March 18 (Blom, Ringler), and 7 at Ocean City on April 26-27 (Reese). Once again **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared in substantial numbers and throughout the state as never before. At Ocean City the high count was a mediocre 450 on April 26 (Reese). On Chesapeake Bay the peak numbers were 250 at Back River on April 14 (Walbeck +), 1008 at North Beach on April 16 (Stasz), and 250 at Sandy Point on May 14 (Iliff). On the Potomac there were 451 off Mulberry Field Farms, St. Mary's County on April 1 (Boxwell +), 138 in DC on April 14 (Czaplak), 12 between Pennyfield and Seneca, April 11-20 (Bonham, M. O'Brien), and 1 at Point of Rocks on May 2 (Warfield). On the Susquehanna there were 200 at Conowingo on April 21 (Eastman). In Howard County there were 3 at Triadelphia on April 10 (Solem, Chestem), 20 flying over UMCF on April 14 (Solem, Farrell, Magnusson), 16 flying over Columbia on May 17 (Atkinson), and 1 at Brighton Dam on May 24 (Magnusson). In Washington County there were 4 flying over Sideling Hill on April 28 (Iliff) and 1 flying over Big Pool on May 19 (Ringler +). In Garrett County there were 7 at Little Meadows Lake on April 12 (Skipper), 46 on Broadford Reservoir on April 21 (Pope), 3 flying over Finzel on May 16 (M. O'Brien) and 1 near Oakland on May 23 (Pope). The latest reports were of 30 at Fletcher's Boathouse, DC on May 27 (Hilton), 5 at Conowingo on May 28 (Eastman), 1 at Loch Raven on May 31 (Simon), and 8 at North Beach on May 31 (Stasz). Some of these probably lingered into the summer.

**Herons.** **American Bitterns** were reported from ten locations this spring with early birds at West Ocean City on March 3 (Betty Zickrick +), PWRC on March 10 (Barbara Dowell), and Lilypons on March 25 (Bob Oberfelder), and a late one at White Marsh on May 13 (Swift). The first **Least Bittern** seen this year was at North Beach on April 24 (Stasz). Near breeding colonies 40 **Great Blue Herons** were at Federalsburg on March 17 (Ed Unger) and 35 at Tilghman Island on March 18 (Reese); inland migrants were 8 at Broadford Reservoir on April 5 (Pope). Early **Great Egrets** were 1 at Elliott (Hilton) and 3 at Great Marsh, Dorchester County (Ringler) on March 17, 3 at Tilghman Island on March 18 (Reese), and 1 at Tuckahoe on March 23 (Nuttle +). **Great Egrets** inland included 1 at North Branch on March 23 (Simons), 2 at Piney Run on April 8 (Hackman, Ringler), 1 at Centennial Park on April 8 (Farrell, Magnusson) and 2 there on April 29 (Ott), 1 at Lilypons on April 13 (Warfield), 2 at Seneca on April 29 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Phoenix on April 30 (Jenkins), 1 at Point of Rocks on May 2 (Warfield), and 1 at Loch Raven on May 22 (Simon). The first **Snowy Egret** seen this spring was at North Beach on March 14 (Stasz); other interesting reports were of 33 at Ocean City on April 6 (Reese), 1 at Back River on April 14 (Simon +) and 3 at Pemberton Park, Salisbury



on April 14 (Lawler). The first **Little Blue Heron** of the season was at Ocean city on April 6 (Reese), followed by 2 at Irish Grove the next day (Webb +). Inland Little Blues were single adults at Hughes Hollow on April 13-16 (Todd +), Harford Glen on April 30 (Kirkwood), and Rock Creek on May 13 (Czaplak). Unusually far north in the bay was a **Tricolored Heron** at Kent Island on April 28 (Czaplak). There were many reports of early **Cattle Egrets** with 1 at Mount Vernon on March 25 (Batchelder), 2 at Tanyard on April 2 (Engle), 1 at Annapolis on April 2 (Iliff), 4 on Kent Island on April 3 (Reese), 3 at PRNAS on April 3 (Rambo), and 1 at North Beach on April 3 (Stasz). Notable inland were 1 at Seneca on April 7 (O'Briens), 2 in Howard County on April 15 (Chuck Dupree), 2 at Lilypons on April 18 (Warfield), 2 at Clarksville on May 21 (Wallace) and 13 near Frederick on May 22 (Miller). Earliest of the **Green-backed Herons** were singles at Chestertown on April 6 (Parks), Centennial Park on April 9 (Ott, Holmes), Annapolis on April 9 (Iliff) and White Point Beach, St. Mary's County on April 9 (M. O'Brien). Inland reports of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were an adult at Centennial Park on March 25 (Chestem), 1 at Lake Roland on April 3 through May 22 (Bohanan +), 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 22 (P. O'Brien), and an immature at Brown's Bridge, Howard County on May 24 (Solem, Magnusson).

*Ibis.* **Glossy Ibis** staged the most impressive flight outside their breeding areas this spring beginning with 1 at Jug Bay on March 25 (Ricciardi +) and 6 at North Beach on March 31 (Stasz). Local high counts were 47 at PRNAS on April 3 (Rambo), 46 near Irish Grove on April 8 (Stasz, Iliff), 14 near Bellevue on April 13 (Armisteads), 12 at North Beach on May 7 (Stasz), and 7 at Hillsboro on May 20 (Reese, Dorset). In the Piedmont there was 1 Glossy Ibis at UMCF on April 7 (Atkinson), 1 at Centennial Park on April 7-13 (Ott +), and 1 at Seneca on April 14 (P. O'Brien). One at Hains Point on April 14 (Czaplak), 3 at Chesapeake City on May 13 (Webb, Sanford), 1 in Kent County on May 18 (Parks), and 2 at Back River on May 27 (Yokel) were outside the breeding range on the Coastal Plain.

*Swans.* High Coastal Plain counts of **Tundra Swans** were 850 near Easton on March 3 (Reese), 1450 at Centreville on March 11 (Effinger), 450 at Edgewood on March 13 (Eastman), and 623 at North Beach on March 19 (Stasz). In the Piedmont the highs were 45 flying over Lilypons on March 2 (Warfield), 81 at Triadelphia on March 10 (Farrell), 59 at Piney Run on March 11 (Hackman), and 380 on Loch Raven on March 12 (Simon). Late birds were 1 at North Branch on April 21 (Simons, Kiddy) and 4 at Jug Bay on May 4 (Fallon). Single **Mute Swans** away from known breeding sites were at Edgewood on March 13 (Eastman), North Beach on March 26 (Stasz), and in the Boundary Channel, DC on May 20-27 (Hilton). High counts of Mute Swans were 218 in the mouth of the Wye River on May 15 and 84 in the Royal Oak area on May 25 (both Reese). A **Black Swan**, certainly escaped, that had previously been reported in the winter remained at Deal Island WMA through March 24 (Scarpulla).

*Geese.* The **Greater White-fronted Goose** that had been near Madonna at the end of the winter remained through March 8 (Kirkwood). The last large flock of **Snow Geese** that remained before migrating north contained 7000 birds, including 35 blues, at Centreville on March 11 (Effinger); 125 were seen at Ocean City on April 6 (Reese). There were 350 **Brant** at Ocean City on March 15 (Reese), but only 3 stragglers remained there on May 19 (Czaplak). Migrating flocks of **Canada Geese** included 2000 flying north near Easton on March 5 (Reese) and 4000 flying north over Chestertown on March 10 (Grubers). Nesting Canadas included adults on 21 nests at PWRC on March 29 (Obrecht), a pair with 5 young at North Branch on April 28, and 28 adults with 13 young there on May 26 (Kiddy); a pair with 5 young was at Herrington Manor on May 6 (Pope).

Table 1. Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1990

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Common Loon	4/3	3/18	5/18	5/22
Pied-billed Grebe	3/14	3/8	5/6	4/13
Horned Grebe	3/18	2/9	5/2	4/17
Double-crested Cormorant	3/29	4/1	6/2	5/31
American Bittern	4/10	3/10	5/3	5/7
Great Egret	4/5	4/1	-	-
Snowy Egret	4/10	4/5	-	-
Little Blue Heron	4/18	4/15	-	-
Cattle Egret	4/10	4/3	-	-
Green-backed Heron	4/17	4/13	-	-
Glossy Ibis	4/14	4/7	-	-
Tundra Swan	2/27	2/23	3/30	3/30
Snow Goose	2/21	2/19	4/3	3/29
Canada Goose	2/23	2/27	4/17	-
Wood Duck	3/3	2/9	-	-
Green-winged Teal	3/14	2/19	4/28	4/23
Northern Pintail	2/24	2/10	3/29	3/31
Blue-winged Teal	3/21	3/14	5/11	5/11
Northern Shoveler	3/14	2/25	4/13	4/13
Gadwall	3/9	3/11	4/19	4/7
American Wigeon	3/8	2/24	4/20	4/17
Canvasback	2/25	2/10	4/2	4/6
Redhead	3/1	3/10	3/27	3/11
Ring-necked Duck	3/3	2/10	4/17	4/15
Greater Scaup	2/25	3/12	4/5	4/13
Lesser Scaup	3/6	2/26	4/30	4/23
Oldsquaw	3/20	3/14	4/13	4/10
Black Scoter	-	-	4/29	4/12
Surf Scoter	-	-	4/22	5/1
White-winged Scoter	3/21	3/22	4/15	4/21
Common Goldeneye	2/24	1/30	4/5	4/8
Bufflehead	3/5	2/20	4/28	5/3
Hooded Merganser	3/6	2/15	4/13	4/15
Common Merganser	2/24	1/28	4/5	4/4
Red-breasted Merganser	3/18	2/5	5/5	5/19
Ruddy Duck	3/20	3/21	5/6	4/15
Osprey-coastal plain	3/16	3/10	-	-
Osprey-upland	-	4/5	-	-
Northern Harrier	3/6	3/4	5/7	5/12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/9	3/11	5/11	5/11
Cooper's Hawk	3/12	3/11	5/10	-
Broad-winged hawk	4/16	4/14	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	4/2	3/28
American Kestrel	3/11	3/1	-	-
Merlin	4/1	4/11	5/6	5/9
Sora	4/19	4/19	5/14	-
Common Moorhen	4/27	4/19	-	-
American Coot	3/18	3/25	5/1	-
Black-bellied Plover	4/27	4/28	5/29	5/29
Semipalmated Plover	5/4	5/3	5/29	5/31
Killdeer	2/23	2/10	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	3/29	3/23	5/16	5/29



Table 1 (cont.). Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1990

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/6	3/29	5/14	5/12
Solitary Sandpiper	4/19	4/22	5/19	5/24
Spotted Sandpiper	4/20	4/20	5/28	5/28
Upland Sandpiper	4/26	4/23	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	4/29	4/29	6/1	5/27
Sanderling	4/18	3/25	5/29	-
Semiplumbed Sandpiper	5/3	5/5	6/5	5/31
Least Sandpiper	4/22	4/23	5/20	5/27
White-rumped Sandpiper	5/7	5/12	6/8	5/30
Pectoral Sandpiper	3/30	3/28	5/4	5/1
Dunlin	4/15	3/30	5/30	5/30
Short-billed Dowitcher	4/22	4/20	5/29	5/28
Common Snipe	3/14	3/13	5/2	5/5
American Woodcock	3/2	2/16	-	-
Laughing Gull	4/1	3/22	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	3/30	3/19	5/4	5/6
Ring-billed Gull	2/17	2/5	5/17	5/25
Caspian Tern	4/13	4/10	5/31	-
Royal Tern	4/18	4/5	-	-
Common Tern	4/15	4/21	-	-
Forster's Tern	4/19	4/13	-	-
Least Tern	5/4	4/29	-	-
Black Tern	5/9	5/12	5/25	5/16
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/8	5/4	-	-
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/3	4/28	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	3/19	4/1
Common Nighthawk	5/7	5/6	-	-
Chuck-will's-widow	4/30	4/28	-	-
Whip-poor-will	4/20	4/23	-	-
Chimney Swift	4/15	4/18	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4/27	4/25	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3/27	3/22	5/1	4/14
Northern Flicker	3/16	3/16	-	-
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5/3	4/29	-	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	5/31
Acadian Flycatcher	5/2	4/28	-	-
Willow Flycatcher	5/17	5/12	-	-
Least Flycatcher	5/2	5/3	5/21	5/20
Eastern Phoebe	3/13	3/8	-	-
Great Crested Flycatcher	4/28	4/25	-	-
Eastern Kingbird	4/24	4/24	-	-
Purple Martin	3/30	4/3	-	-
Tree Swallow	3/24	3/14	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4/2	3/30	-	-
Bank Swallow	4/18	4/15	-	-
Cliff Swallow	4/20	4/21	-	-
Barn Swallow	4/4	4/7	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	5/3	4/29
Brown Creeper	3/24	3/25	4/24	4/16
House Wren	4/20	4/17	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	4/25	4/16
Marsh Wren	4/30	4/25	-	-

Table 1 (cont.). Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1990

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3/25	3/19	4/13	4/17
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/10	4/8	5/9	5/8
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/10	4/12	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	2/23	2/21	-	-
Veery	4/30	4/27	5/22	5/28
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/13	5/8	5/25	5/25
Swainson's Thrush	5/2	5/4	5/26	5/28
Hermit Thrush	4/10	4/7	5/4	4/26
Wood Thrush	4/25	4/24	-	-
American Robin	2/20	2/11	-	-
Gray Catbird	4/26	4/23	-	-
Brown Thrasher	4/11	3/29	-	-
American Pipit	3/21	3/15	5/3	5/5
Cedar Waxwing	-	4/27	5/28	6/1
White-eyed Vireo	4/20	4/22	-	-
Solitary Vireo	4/19	4/20	5/6	5/8
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/28	4/26	-	-
Warbling Vireo	4/28	4/28	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	4/25	4/24	-	-
Blue-winged Warbler	4/28	4/26	5/12	5/12
Golden-winged Warbler	5/1	-	5/13	5/9
Tennessee Warbler	5/4	5/5	5/21	5/22
Nashville Warbler	4/30	5/2	5/17	5/12
Northern Parula	4/20	4/17	-	-
Yellow Warbler	4/26	4/23	-	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/2	5/3	5/21	5/19
Magnolia Warbler	5/3	5/4	5/25	5/27
Cape May Warbler	5/3	4/29	5/19	5/21
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/1	4/26	5/20	5/20
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/7	-	5/15	5/15
Black-throated Green Warbler	4/30	4/27	5/20	5/21
Blackburnian Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/22	5/25
Yellow-throated Warbler	4/16	4/7	-	-
Pine Warbler	3/16	3/10	-	-
Prairie Warbler	4/24	4/22	-	-
Palm Warbler	4/7	4/7	5/3	5/6
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/4	5/4	5/23	5/22
Blackpoll Warbler	5/5	5/2	5/29	5/30
Cerulean Warbler	4/28	4/28	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	4/18	4/9	-	-
American Redstart	4/26	4/26	5/30	5/28
Prothonotary Warbler	4/22	4/23	-	-
Worm-eating Warbler	4/27	4/27	-	-
Ovenbird	4/20	4/22	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	4/28	4/28	5/24	5/23
Louisiana Waterthrush	4/6	4/3	-	-
Kentucky Warbler	5/1	4/27	-	-
Mourning Warbler	5/19	5/17	5/30	5/31
Common Yellowthroat	4/20	4/17	-	-
Hooded Warbler	4/27	4/27	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	5/5	5/6	5/21	5/23
Canada Warbler	5/5	5/5	5/27	5/28

Table 1 (cont.). Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1990

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Yr.	1990	10-Yr.	1990
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/1	4/28	-	-
Summer Tanager	5/2	4/29	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	4/29	4/26	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/1	4/30	5/21	5/22
Blue Grosbeak	5/1	5/1	-	-
Indigo Bunting	4/30	4/27	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	3/31	3/16	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	3/22	3/28
Chipping Sparrow	3/30	3/16	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	4/4	3/25	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	3/30	3/28	5/10	5/12
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/25	4/25	-	-
Fox Sparrow	2/25	2/16	3/27	4/13
Lincoln's Sparrow	5/4	5/6	5/23	5/21
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	5/11	5/12
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	5/16	5/14
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	5/10	5/12
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	5/2	4/27
Bobolink	5/2	5/2	5/23	5/21
Red-winged Blackbird	2/20	2/14	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	3/14	2/24	5/2	4/22
Common Grackle	2/19	2/10	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	2/24	2/11	-	-
Orchard Oriole	4/28	4/25	-	-
Northern Oriole	4/28	4/26	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	5/6	4/28
Pine Siskin	-	-	5/10	5/12
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	5/5	5/3

*Puddle Ducks.* A female **Common Shelduck**, obviously escaped, was at Piney Run on May 5-7 (Ringler +). High counts of **Wood Ducks** were 100 at Jug Bay on March 16 (Mumford) and 34 at Deep Creek Lake on April 6 (Skipper, Pope), while nesting **Woodies** included a nest box with eggs at Denton on March 25 (Short), 8 downy young at Seneca on April 21 (M. O'Brien) and a female with 7 downy young at Lilypons on April 28 (Walbeck, Burkhardt). **Green-winged Teal** were moving early, with 19 at Tanyard on March 6 (Engle); high counts were 400 at Jug Bay on March 16-23 (Mumford), 28 at Deep Creek Lake on March 21 (Skipper), and 38 at PRNAS on April 4 (Rambo); a late bird was at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). The only notable count of **American Black Ducks** was 200 at Jug Bay on March 23 (Mumford). Early nesting **Mallards** included downy young at PWRC on March 25 (Dawson), a nest with 13 eggs at Harford Glen on April 3 (Kirkwood), downy young in DC on April 8 (Czaplak), and a pair with 10 downy young at Loch Raven on April 23 (Simon). High counts of **Northern Pintails** were 3000 at Remington Farms on March 11 (Grubers) and 1000 at Deal Island WMA on March 31 (Dyke); late single birds were at Jug Bay on April 20 (Mumford) and on the Potomac in DC on May 5 (Czaplak +). The first **Blue-winged Teals** of the season were 4 at Jug Bay on March 8 (Fallon), the high count was 32 in Garrett County (20 at Trout Run and 12 at Broadford Reservoir) on April 8 (Pope), and the last migrants were 2 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). The high counts for **Northern Shovelers** were 35 at

Piscataway on March 8 (Gheblian, Fulton), 26 at Remington Farms on March 11 (Grubers) and 18 at Edgewood on March 13 (Eastman); late birds were 1 in Kent County on May 12 (Parks) and 2 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). Highs for **Gadwalls** were 70 at Piscataway on March 8 (Gheblian, Fulton) and an impressive 500 at Deal Island WMA on March 31 (Dyke); a late bird was at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). The high counts of **American Wigeons** were 50 at Harford Glen on March 9 (Kirkwood), 1000 at Deal Island WMA on March 31 (Dyke), and 63 at Grove Point WMA on April 8 (Blom). Three late birds were on Little Meadows Lake on May 12 (Walbeck, McKearnan).

*Aythya Ducks.* Lingering flocks of **Canvasbacks** numbered 650 at West Ocean City on March 15 and 1200 at Tilghman Island on March 18 (both Reese), while in Garrett County there were 22 on Broadford Reservoir on March 24 (Pope), and a straggler was at PRNAS on May 22 (Vacek). Sightings of **Redheads** included 19 at Broadford Reservoir on March 10 (Pope), several near Knoxville on March 11 (Miller), 6 at Loch Raven on March 11 (Simon), 1 at Cambridge on March 25 (Czaplak), and 1 exceptionally late individual at Deal Island WMA on May 5 (Stasz Iliff). High counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** were 324 at PWRC on March 1 (Obrecht), 69 on Deep Creek Lake on March 8 (Pope), and 50 at Rocky Gap on March 9 (Simons); a late bird was at North Branch on May 16-28 (Simons, Kiddy). Inland reports of **Greater Scaups** were 4 on Broadford Reservoir on March 7 (Pope), 1 at Centennial Lake on March 19-26 (Farrell +), and 12 at Triadelphia on April 7 (Magnusson); other interesting reports were of 2 at Grove Point WMA on April 8 (Blom) and 2 in DC on April 14 (Czaplak). High counts of **Greater**s were 175 at Rugby Hall on April 7 (Taliaferro) and 250 at Melitota on April 12 (Grubers). High counts of **Lesser Scaups** were 34 at Rocky Gap on March 16 (Simons), 700 at Cambridge on March 25 (Czaplak), 329 on Deep Creek Lake on April 6 (Skipper), 6000 at Rugby Hall on April 7 (Taliaferro), 140 at Seneca and 50 at Little Seneca Lake on April 7 (O'Briens), 400 at Golden Beach and 2500 in St. Clement's Bay, St. Mary's County on April 9 (M. O'Brien), 315 at Bushwood Wharf, also in St. Mary's County, on April 9 (Boxwell), 825 at Carroll Island on April 14 (Blom, Ringler), and 3000 at Hart-Miller on April 22 (Ringler +). The flock of 5000 scaups at Edgewood on March 22 through April 6 (Eastman) was also mostly Lessers.

*Eiders, Oldsquaws, Scoters.* A female and 2 immature male **Common Eiders** were seen at Ocean City on April 8 (Webb +), and the female **King Eider** that had wintered there remained through May 19 (Czaplak). High counts of **Oldsquaws** on Chesapeake Bay were 1000 at North Beach on March 2-14 (Stasz), 250 at Tilghman Island on March 18 (Reese), and 513 at PRNAS on March 28 (Rambo). Inland Oldsquaw reports included 2 on the Potomac at Knoxville on March 11 (Miller), 2 at Little Seneca Lake on March 25 (Ringler), up to 7 at Rocky Gap on March 29 through April 21 (Twigg +), 2 at Centennial Lake on April 12 (Ott), 5 at Piney Run on April 1 (Hackman, Ringler), 6 on Deep Creek Lake on April 6 (Pope, Skipper), 6 at Loch Raven on April 6 (Simon), and 4 at Seneca on April 7 (O'Briens); Late birds were 2 at North Beach on May 1 (Stasz) and 1 at PRNAS on May 25 (Vacek). The only reports of **Black Scoters** were of 1 at PRNAS on 3/14-28 (Rambo), 8 at Tilghman Island on March 18 (Reese), and 1 at Ocean City on May 17 (O'Briens +). The big counts of **Surf Scoters** were 4000 at North Beach on March 31 (Stasz) and 2560 near Bellevue on April 13 (Armisteads). The only inland Surf Scoters were 3 on Deep Creek Lake on April 6 (Pope); late birds were 3 at Kent Narrows on May 15 (Reese), 5 at Ocean City on May 17 (O'Briens +), and 1 near Royal Oak on May 25 (Reese). The highs for **White-winged Scoters** were 150 at Tilghman Island on March 18 (Reese) and 65 near Bellevue on May 6 (Armisteads +). Inland White-

wings were 1 at Trout Run on March 16 (Pope), 2 at Rocky Gap on March 29 (Twigg), and 3 on Broadford Reservoir on April 6 (Pope); the latest bird was at Ocean City on May 19 (Czaplak).

*Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks.* **Common Goldeneyes** remained in numbers a little later than usual, with 500 still at North Beach on April 4 (Stasz) and the latest individual reported on the Potomac near Great Falls on May 12 (Hilton). Highs for **Buffleheads** were 1000 at North Beach on April 4 (Stasz) and 1500 at Rugby Hall on April 7 (Taliaferro). However, the early April storm also brought large numbers of Buffleheads to inland sites, including 365 in Garrett County (68 on Broadford Reservoir and 297 on Deep Creek Lake) on April 6 (Pope, Skipper), 225 on Loch Raven on April 6 (Simon), 43 on Triadelphia Reservoir on April 7 (Magnusson), 60 at Seneca on April 7 (O'Briens), and 200 in DC on April 7 (Czaplak). The latest Buffleheads were 2 at Loch Raven on May 16 (Simon), 1 in Crab Creek, Anne Arundel County on May 22 (Iliff), 1 at Piney Run on May 25 (Ringler), and 1 near Royal Oak on May 25 (Reese). Highs for **Hooded Mergansers** were 36 at PWRC on March 1 (Obrecht) and 29 on a pond near Oakland on April 17-19 (Skipper); a late migrant was at Joppatowne on May 5 (Swift). Hoodeds again nested at Meyers Station where a female with 6 downy young was seen on May 12 (Mumford). Flocks of **Common Mergansers** numbered 44 in DC on March 17 (Czaplak), 30 at Edgewood on April 2-4 (Eastman), and 20 at Brighton Dam on April 14 (Farrell, Solem, Magnusson); a very late bird near Royal Oak on May 25 (Reese) may linger into the summer. High counts for **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 59 on Deep Creek Lake on April 6 (Skipper), 88 at North Beach on April 6 (Stasz), and 97 in DC on April 7 (Czaplak); late birds were 2 at Seneca on May 20 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Loch Raven on May 25 (Simon), and 1 at North Branch on May 30 (Simons). The big fallout of ducks in Garrett County on April 6 included 698 **Buddy Ducks**, with 38 on Broadford Reservoir and 660 on Deep Creek Lake (Skipper, Pope). There were 200 Ruddies at Golden Beach on April 9 (M. O'Brien), and lingering birds were 1 at Cambridge on May 8 (M. O'Brien) and 3 at Pinto on May 10 (Simons).

*Diurnal Raptors.* See Tables 2 and 3 for the results from the hawk watches at Fort Smallwood and Monument Knob. High roost counts for the season were 25 **Black Vultures** at Tanyard on April 30 (Wilbur Engle) and 35 **Turkey Vultures** at Pinto on March 30 (Simons). Early **Ospreys** included single birds at St. Michaels on March 3 (Lu Krantz), Tanyard on March 4 (Reese), Piscataway on March 4 (Boxwell, Ricciardi +), Sandy Point on March 5 (Reese) and Denton on March 6 (Short), and the first inland was at Germantown on April 2 (Warfield). It was hoped that recent summer sightings of Ospreys in the Cumberland area would lead to a nesting, and such was the case, through it was in West Virginia. A pair was seen nest building at Ridgely, West Virginia on the Potomac shoreline opposite Cumberland on April 25 (Simons). Reese estimated 225 Ospreys in the Royal Oak area on May 25, obviously one of the highest concentrations of this species to be found anywhere. Reports of an adult **Mississippi Kite** at Fort Smallwood on April 28 (Bill Murphy +) and a first-summer bird at Rockville on May 11 (M O'Brien) are being reviewed by the Records Committee. Western Maryland **Bald Eagles** were an adult near Deep Creek Lake on March 2 and March 18 (Pope), an immature near PawPaw Tunnel on March 31 (Twigg), and an immature at Dan's Rock on April 9 (Twigg). Single late **Northern Harriers** were near Chopticon High School on May 12 (Boxwell) and at Choptank on May 24 (Engle). The latter may indicate local breeding. Reports of migrating **Broad-winged Hawks** away from the two hawk watches were 150 at Rockville on April 22 (M. O'Brien) and 80 in DC on April 22 (Czaplak). The records



committee is also reviewing the report of a **Swainson's Hawk** at Fort Smallwood on April 27-28 (Bill Murphy +). Reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** included, in Garrett County, 1 over Hammel Glade on March 4 (Skipper) and 1 dark bird at Pleasant Valley on March 12 (Pope); elsewhere, 3 at Deal Island WMA on April 8 (Dyke), 1 at Dan's Rock on April 8 (Twigg) and a light phase bird near Bellevue on April 14 (Armisteads). Two **Golden Eagles** were reported: an adult at Remington Farms on April 5-13 (Parks) and 1 over Mountain Lake Park on April 15 (Pope). An **American Kestrel** was carrying nesting material near Deep Creek Lake on March 11 and a male was performing a courtship flight there on March 16 (Pope). There were 28 reports of **Merlins** away from the hawk watches, the most for any spring season. The earliest were 2 at North Beach on March 7 (Stasz), 1 at Annapolis on March 10 (Iliff), and 1 at Denton on March 25 (Short). Other single Merlins of note were at Dan's Rock on April 9 (Twigg), at Rockburn Branch Park on April 14 (Ott) and in DC on May 14 (Czaplak).

**Table 2. Hawk Migration at Monument Knob, Washington State Park, Spring 1990**

Species	First	Last	Total	Best Days
Osprey	4/2	5/12	226	52 on 4/24 and 35 on 4/19
Bald Eagle	4/19	5/1	2	-
Northern Harrier	2/17	5/8	81	10 on 4/24
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/8	5/12	299	24 on 4/24 and 20 on 3/12
Cooper's Hawk	3/10	5/7	15	3 on 3/14 and 4/25
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/1	3/27	70	44 on 3/10
Broad-winged Hawk	4/9	5/8	1778	1053 on 4/25, 209 on 4/23, 169 on 4/24
Red-tailed Hawk	2/17	5/11	431	76 on 4/3, 38 on 3/13, 34 on 3/10
American Kestrel	3/12	4/26	25	11 on 3/12
Merlin	4/22	5/2	6	2 on 4/22 and 4/23
Unidentified		-	143	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2/17</b>	<b>5/12</b>	<b>3076</b>	<b>1094 on 4/25 276 on 4/24, 253 on 4/23</b>

*Compiled by S. C. & L. J. Shoemaker*

**Gallinaceous Birds.** Coastal Plain reports of **Ring-necked Pheasants**, all single birds, were in Charles County on April 1 (Webb +), near Crumpton on April 12 (Reese), at Greensboro on April 15 and May 13 (Hewitt), at Mason Landing, Worcester County on May 12 (M. O'Brien), and at Princess Anne on May 28 (Robert Reynolds). The largest flock of **Wild Turkeys** reported was 35 at Pinto Marsh on March 17 (Simons). Turkeys near sites of recent introductions included 1 in the Liberty Watershed, Carroll County on April 13 (Ringler), 1 heard on Miles River Neck, Talbot County on April 14 (Effinger), 1 near Marrisottsville on April 15 (Harveys), 3 at Susquehanna SP, Harford County on May 6 (Eastman), and 1 at Prettyboy Reservoir, Baltimore County on May 7 (Scarpulla). A Northern Bobwhite near Oldtown was a rarity in Allegany County on April 29 (Kiddy).

**Rallids, Crans.** The first **Black Rails** of the season were single birds heard at Irish Grove on April 26 (Smith) and Black Marsh on April 28 (Scarpulla). Stasz saw a



**Table 3. Hawk Migration at Fort Smallwood Park, Spring 1990**

Species	First	Last	Total	Best Days
Black Vulture	4/7	5/6	7	6 on 5/6
Turkey Vulture	3/11	5/12	389	111 on 3/13 and 62 on 3/11
Osprey	3/11	5/18	160	46 on 5/5 and 42 on 5/6
Mississippi Kite	4/28		1	
Bald Eagle	4/14	5/6	5	2 on 4/28 and 5/6
Northern Harrier	3/21	5/19	39	13 on 4/28
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/11	5/19	1129	799 on 5/6, 346 on 4/26, 343 on 4/28
Cooper's Hawk	3/11	5/6	74	18 on 4/28 and 13 on 3/11
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/11	5/19	62	39 on 3/11
Broad-winged Hawk	4/14	5/19	325	262 on 5/6
Swainson's Hawk	4/28	-	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	3/11	5/19	33	9 on 3/11 and 8 on 4/28
American Kestrel	3/11	5/6	82	15 on 4/8
Merlin	3/18	5/6	7	3 on 5/6
Unidentified			8	
TOTAL	3/11	5/19	3408	1171 on 5/6, 488 on 4/28, 389 on 4/26

*Compiled by P. D. & C. N. Fritz*

**Clapper Rail** at North Beach on April 21. Reports of **King Rails** included 1 at Hughes Hollow on March 18 (Ed LeBlanc), 1 at Irish Grove on April 7 (Webb +), 1 in southern Howard County on April 15 (Wes Earp), and 19 in the Choptank River marshes on the night of April 23-24 (M. O'Brien). High counts of **Virginia Rails** included 5 at Eastern Neck on April 13 (Blom, Ringler), 9 on Carroll Island on April 14 (Blom, Ringler), 9 at Black Marsh on April 28 (Scarpulla), 37 in the Choptank River marshes on the night of May 11-12 (M. O'Brien), 118 in southern Dorchester County on May 12 (Armistead +), and 19 at Easton on May 19 (M. O'Brien). High counts of **Soras** were 12 at Deal Island WMA on April 29 (Dyke), 10 in the Choptank River marshes on the night of May 2-3 (M. O'Brien), 24 at Easton on May 12 (M. O'Brien), and 6 at Pinto Marsh on May 15 (M. O'Brien). Lingering **Soras** included 1 at Finzel on May 17 (O'Briens +) and 8 at Deal Island WMA on May 19 (Dyke). The first reports of **Common Moorhens** for the season were single birds at Grove Neck WMA on April 13 (Blom, Ringler), Tanyard on April 17 (Engle), and Hughes Hollow on April 21 (Mumford). Unusual for the location and situation was a moorhen brought in by a cat near Frederick on April 29. The bird was later released (Miller). The last significant numbers of **American Coots** before final migration were 200 at Loch Raven on March 11 (Simon) and 51 on Deep Creek Lake on April 14 (Skipper). The **Sandhill Crane** near Poolesville completed its second year in residence at a local horse farm.

**Plovers.** Among the interesting reports of **Black-bellied Plovers** were 50 at Blackwater on April 29 (Czaplak), 22 in Kent County on May 3 (Parks), 20 at North Branch on May 10 (Simons), 200 at North Assateague on May 19 (Czaplak), 1 flying up the Potomac at Seneca on May 21 (M. O'Brien), 6 at Denton on May 23 (Fletchers), 1 at Royal Oak on May 25 (Reese), 3 in DC on May 29 (Czaplak), and 15 in a field near Pocomoke City on May 28 (Swift). The first **Semipalmated Plovers** of the season were 1 at North Branch on April 29 (Simons) and 1 heard flying over UMCF on the next day (Atkinson). High counts of Semi Plovers were 37 at Denton

on May 23 (Fletchers), 17 at North Branch on May 26 (Simons), 25 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry) and 7 at UMcF on May 31 (Solem, Magnusson). Czaplak found 8 **Piping Plovers** on May 19 at North Assateague where that species maintains a tenuous hold. High counts of **Killdeers** were 61 near Lilypons on March 16 (Warfield) and 150 at UMcF on April 1 (Atkinson). Early Killdeer nestings included a nest with 4 eggs near Salisbury on April 1 (D. Broderick), a nest with 3 eggs at Broadford Reservoir on April 20 (Skipper), and a pair with 2 downy young at Chestertown on April 23 (Reese).

*Oystercatchers, Stilts.* Warfield marked the migration of **American Oystercatchers** with 35 flying north at Assateague on March 11. An oystercatcher at Deal Island WMA was unusual on May 5 (Stasz, Iliff). **Black-necked Stilts** returned to Deal Island WMA, with 6 birds on April 29 (Dyke) increasing to 18 on May 12 (M. O'Brien). Stilts also returned to Blackwater with a single bird seen on May 7 (M. O'Brien) and May 12 (Armistead +). A stilt at Jug Bay was a big surprise on May 22 (Droege).

*Sandpipers.* Early **Greater Yellowlegs** were 1 at Centennial Park on March 6 (Farrell) and 2 at Tanyard on March 8 (Engle), but the high count for this spring was 43 at Jug Bay on April 24 (Dawson +); a late bird was at Back River on May 31 (Simon). Early **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 2 at Fairlee on March 11 (Grubers) and 1 at Denton on March 17 (Hewitt); high counts were 50 at Jug Bay on April 20 (Mumford) and 16 at North Branch on May 4 (Twigg). Some very early **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported, with 1 at Lilypons on March 25 (Bob Oberfelder) and 1 at Cumberland on April 2 (Twigg). The high counts for Solitaries were 14 in DC on May 5 (Czaplak +) and 13 at North Branch on May 10 (Simons). Notes on **Willetts** included 1 at Bushwood Wharf, St. Mary's County on May 12 (Boxwell), a bird of the eastern subspecies at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Kaestner, Letzer), and a bird of the western subspecies at North Assateague on May 19 (Czaplak). High counts of **Spotted Sandpipers** were 21 at Fort Smallwood on May 11 (Mozurkewich) and 28 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). The only **Upland Sandpipers** reported were 1 at Green Manor Turf Farm, Howard County on April 22 (Magnusson, Farrell), 1 at Leonardtown on April 24 (Reese), and 2 near Thurmont on May 19 (Smith). There were only two reports on **Whimbrels**, with 5 at North Assateague on May 19 (Czaplak) and an incredible 595 in flight near Bellevue on May 25 (H. Armistead +). The most interesting reports of **Ruddy Turnstones** were of 9 at the mouth of Woodland Creek on the Miles River (Reese), 1 at North Branch on May 18 (Twigg) and May 27 (Simons), 1 at PRNAS on May 22 (Vacek), and 3 at Point Lookout on May 26 (Stasz, Iliff, Taliaferro).

The only reports of **Red Knots** were of 50 at North Assateague on May 19 (Czaplak) and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). Czaplak found 5 **Sanderlings** at Cambridge on March 25. High counts of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 60 at Lilypons on May 11 (Warfield), 200 at Tanyard on May 25 (Engle), 120 at Cambridge on May 26 (M. O'Brien), 55 at North Branch on May 27 (Simons), and 2500 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). **Western Sandpipers** are very rare here in spring migration but there were four reports this year: 1 at North Beach on April 26 (Stasz), 5 at Jug Bay on May 5 (Mumford +), 4 at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Kaestner, Letzer) and 1 at Back River on May 27 (Yokel). The Back River bird, the only one described, was in breeding plumage. The first **Least Sandpipers** of the year were 4 at Easton on April 17 (M. O'Brien), followed by local highs of 12 at Edgewood on April 30 (Eastman), 55 at Tanyard on May 1 (Engle), 150 in Kent County on May 3 (Parks), 131 at Back River on May 11 (Scarpulla), 40 at North Branch on May 11

(Simons), and 50 at North Assateague on May 19 (Czaplak). Late Least were 1 at Back River on May 31 (Simon), 4 at UMCf on May 31 (Solem, Magnusson) and 1 at North Branch on June 1 (Simons). Reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** were of 1 at North Branch on May 18 (Twigg) and 3 on May 30 (Simons), 1 at North Assateague on May 19 (Czaplak), 8 at Back River on May 27 (Yokel), and 11 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). Early **Pectoral Sandpipers** were 1 at Jug Bay on March 23 (Mumford), 2 at Denton on March 26 (Hewitt), and 1 at Centennial Park on March 28 (Farrell); the only notable high count was 20 at Jug Bay on April 20 (Mumford). Czaplak found 32 **Purple Sandpipers** remaining at Ocean City on May 20. Some notably early movements of **Dunlins** were 1 at Cambridge on March 17 (Ringler), 2 at Jug Bay on March 23 (Mumford), 1 at North Branch on March 30 (Simons), 1 at North Beach on March 31 (Stasz), 1 at Lilypons on April 1 (Howard Youth), and 1 at Centennial Park on April 6 (Farrell). Czaplak noted the peak of the Dunlin migration with 300 on North Assateague on May 19.

The only **Ruff** of the season was seen at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Kaestner, Letzer). Hewitt reported 2 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Denton on the extraordinary date of March 17, with the next report being of 2 at Ocean City on April 28 (Reese). There was also 1 at North Branch on May 10 and May 30 (Simons +). High counts of **Common Snipes** were 90 at Tanyard on March 18 (Ringler, Blom), 69 at UMCf on April 7 (Atkinson), 36 at Mountain Lake, Garrett County on April 17 (Pope), and 80 at Jug Bay on April 20 (Mumford). A very late snipe was at UMCf on May 28 (Atkinson). Nesting **American Woodcocks** were a nest with 4 punctured eggs at Hammel Glade Swamp, Garrett County on March 30 (Skipper) and an adult with 2 young at Massey's Crossing, Worcester County on May 5 (Slaughters). The only notable concentration of woodcocks was 7 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 25 (Meyerhoff). Single female **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at Blackwater on May 12 (H. Armistead +) and Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). Female **Red-necked Phalaropes** numbered 1 at North Branch on May 22-27 (Simons +), but an excellent 7 were at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry).

**Dark-headed Gulls.** The first sightings of **Laughing Gulls** this year were 1 at Chestertown on March 8 (Grubers), 5 at Point Lookout on March 17 (Stasz, Mumford, Iliff), and 9 at Easton on March 15 (Effinger); high counts were 1500 at Easton on April 11 (M. O'Brien) and 1000 in Round Bay on April 21 (Taliaferro). Inland, there were 6 **Laughing Gulls** at DC on April 15 (Czaplak) and 11 at Centennial Park on April 22 (Ott, Bockstie). An adult **Little Gull** was at North Beach on April 6 (Stasz), 1 at Back River on April 13-22 and 2 on the 14th (Yokel +), 1 off Hart-Miller on April 22 (Scarpulla +), and at least 1 at Edgewood on April 30 (Eastman). **Bonaparte's Gulls** made an impressive showing this year, particularly inland where record numbers were reported. The highest concentrations were 2000 at Rugby Hall on April 7 (Taliaferro), 266 in DC on April 7 (Czaplak), 1415 at Back River on April 7 (Scarpulla), 215 in St. Clement's Bay, St. Mary's County on April 9 (M. O'Brien), 1500 on South River on April 9 (Iliff), and 525 at North Beach on April 10 (Stasz). High inland counts of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 110 at Centennial Lake on April 6 (Farrell), 25 in Garrett County with 15 at Broadford Reservoir and 10 along Herrington Manor Road on April 10 (Pope), and 102 at Seneca on April 13 (Todd). Also notable were 40 **Bonies** at Easton on April 11 (M. O'Brien), 45 at Melitota on April 12 (Grubers), 50 at Edgewood on April 30 (Eastman), 1 in St. Mary's County on May 26 (Stasz, Iliff, Taliaferro), and 1 at North Branch on May 30 (Simons).

**White-headed Gulls.** High counts of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 1200 at PWRC on March 1 (Obrecht), 5000 near Easton on March 5 (Reese), and 6000 at Chestertown on

March 11 (Grubers). The strong overland migration of Ring-bills was noted with 99 at Cumberland on March 5 (Simons), 75 flying west over Green Ridge on March 10 (Blom, Ringler), 125 near Lilypons on March 25 (Hilton), 115 at Cumberland on April 17, and 275 at Deep Creek Lake on April 20 (Skipper). In Allegany County single **Herring Gulls** were at North Branch on March 31 and April 14, and 3 at Cumberland on April 25 (Simons). High estimates for Herring Gulls were 2000 at Alpha Ridge on March 3 (Solem +) and 1500 at Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry). Single **Iceland Gulls** in first-winter to first-summer plumage were seen at Alpha Ridge on March 3 (Atkinson), Choptank on March 3 (Steve Ford), Beulah Landfill, Dorchester County on March 4 (Reese), and Cambridge on March 25 (Czaplak). Reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** dwindled to an adult at Tilghman on March 18 (Blom +), an adult at Brighton Dam on March 25 (Ringler), and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Kaestner, Letzer). Reports of **Glaucous Gulls** were a first-winter bird at Alpha Ridge on March 3 (Atkinson), 1 of unknown plumage at Ocean City on March 3 (Wicomico Bird Club), an adult at Triadelphia on April 1 (Magnusson), 1 of unknown plumage at Sandy Point on May 5-12 (Wierenga, Davidson), and 1 first-summer bird at Snow Hill on May 12 (M. O'Brien). **Great Black-backed Gulls** numbered 200 in DC on March 3 (Czaplak), 210 at Conowingo on March 11 (Armistead +), and 160 at Ocean City on April 27 (Reese). The hit of the season throughout the region was the adult winter-plumaged **Ross' Gull** discovered at Back River on March 3 by Scarpulla. It remained through the 12th, was rediscovered on April 13 by Yokel, and was last seen on April 24.

*Terns, Skimmers.* The only **Gull-billed Terns** reported were 1 at Assateague on May 17 (O' Briens +) and 2 at Ocean City on May 19 (Czaplak). Early **Caspian Terns** were 1 at Point Lookout on April 1 (Webb +) and 1 at Centennial Park on April 4 (Farrell); there were high counts of 23 in DC on April 14, 62 at Triadelphia on April 22 (Farrell, Magnusson), and 225 at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Kaestner, Letzer). Other inland Caspians were 3 at Loch Raven on April 12 (Jenkins), 1 at Piney Run on April 15 (Ringler), 4 at Seneca on April 20 (M. O'Brien), and 1 at Broadford Reservoir on May 3 (Skipper). Lingering Caspians were 1 at Ocean City on May 17 (O'Briens +) and 2 at North Beach on May 25 (Stasz). Early **Royal Terns** were 1 at Annapolis on April 3 (Iliff), 1 at North Beach on April 5 (Stasz), and 16 at Ocean City on April 6 (Reese); numbers built to 123 at North Beach on May 4 (Stasz) and 140 at Ocean City on May 19 (Czaplak). A Royal Tern at Oxford on May 30 (Effinger) was unusual. The first **Common Terns** of the season were 1 at North Beach on April 5 (Stasz) and 1 at PRNAS on April 16 (Rambo); 4 were at Seneca on April 21 (O'Briens) and 21 on the Potomac in DC on May 5 (Czaplak +). Early **Forster's Terns** were 1 at North Beach on March 17 (Stasz), several in St. Mary's County on April 1 (Webb +), and 2 at Edgewood on April 4 (Eastman). Inland reports of Forster's Terns included 3 in DC on April 15 and 5 on May 5 (Czaplak), 1 at Seneca on April 20 (M. O'Brien), 3 at Loch Raven on April 20 and 1 there on May 22 (Simon, Jenkins), 4 at Denton on May 3 (Hewitt), and 1 at Centennial Park on May 5 (Atkinson +). An unidentified small *Sterna* was at North Branch on May 26 (Kiddy). The first **Least Terns** of the season were 2 at Choptank on April 28 (Steve Ford) and 1 at PRNAS on May 3 (Rambo). The only **Black Terns** reported this spring were 9 on Broadford Reservoir on May 12 (Pope), 4 at Annapolis on May 12 (Iliff), 4 at Centennial Park on May 13 (Solem), and 1 at North Branch on May 18 (Twigg). Reese estimated 250 **Black Skimmers** at Ocean City on April 27. Single skimmers at Deal Island WMA on May 21 (Smith) and Hart-Miller on May 28 (Dixon, Barry) were at unusual locations.

*Doves, Parrots, Cuckoos.* Following mild winters **Mourning Doves** will nest early, and such was the case this year as Walbeck observed a flightless bird out of the nest at



Annapolis on March 9. Mozurkewich saw a **Monk Parakeet** at Fort Smallwood on April 26 and Stasz saw a **Blue-headed Conure** at North Beach on April 21-25. Both cuckoos were among the land birds to move into the state early this year. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Rockburn Branch Park on April 18 (Meyerhoff), another banded at Adventure on April 24 (Donnald), 1 at Seneca on April 29 (M. O'Brien), and 3 in southern Dorchester County on May 12 (H. Armistead +) were notable. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** began with 1 at Federalsburg on April 16 (Glime), 1 in western Howard County on April 26 (Wallace), and 1 at Sycamore Landing on April 28 (Hilton). The **Barn Owls** had 4 eggs in the nest at Irish Grove on April 6 (Webb +), but this was destroyed when a tornado demolished the barn on May 10. Michael O'Brien noted 4 Barn Owls at the Choptank River marshes on the night of April 23-24. Nesting of **Eastern Screech-Owls** was seen with a pair and fledgling in DC on the remarkably early date of March 19 (Czaplak), and 5 downy young near Easton on May 16 (Reese). Two young **Great Horned Owls** were in a nest at Horn Point, Dorchester County on March 16 (Merrit +). The last reports of **Short-eared Owls** for the season were 2 at Matthews on March 18 (Blom, Ringler), 1 at Easton on March 18 (Webb +), 1 at Fort Smallwood on April 8 (Mozurkewich), and 1 at Hains Point on April 15 (Czaplak). The last of the wintering **Northern Saw-whet Owls** was seen at Hughes Hollow on March 3 (P. O'Brien). In Garrett County, single Saw-whets heard at Cranesville Swamp on May 12 (Walbeck) and Meadow Mountain on May 15 (M. O'Brien) are probably breeding birds.

*Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.* Early **Common Nighthawks** were 1 at Cumberland on April 25 (Twigg) and 1 at Chestertown on May 1 (Parks). Reports of **Chuck-will's-widows** that were slightly out-of-range were 1 heard at Kensington on May 9 (Dawn & Chuck Parker) and 1 at Soldiers' Delight on May 13-27 (Webb +). The first **Whip-poor-wills** heard were 1 at Hollywood on April 23 (Rambo) and 2 at Edgewood on April 24 (Swift). Early **Chimney Swifts** were 1 at Centennial Park on April 7 (Magnusson), 1 in DC on April 9 (Czaplak), and 2 at Salisbury on April 13 (Lawler); the largest number reported was 700 at DC on May 6 (Czaplak). A very early **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Tyaskin on April 2 (Denit) and the next was seen at Easton on April 22 (Reese). A high count of 7 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was at Point Lookout on May 28 (Rambo). Hilton heard young inside a **Hairy Woodpecker** nest in DC on May 15, and 2 adult **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen feeding 2 young at Bethlehem on May 19 (I. Drummer).

*Flycatchers.* The mild early spring produced some remarkably early flycatcher records this year. It was the best spring ever for **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, beginning with 1 at Phoenix on April 24 through May 5 (Simon), 1 at Broad Creek, Harford County on May 12 (June Vaughn), 1 in DC on May 14-17 (Czaplak), 1 at Wheaton on May 19 (Hilton), 1 at Henryton on May 20 (Solem, Farrell), 1 banded at Irvine on May 25 (Ross), and concluding with 1 on the Middle Patuxent River in Howard County on May 25-27 (Solem +). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were also quite early with single birds at Widgeon on April 19 (Batchelder), Nolands Ferry on April 22 (Churchill), and Federalsburg on April 26 (Glime); Czaplak noted a late migrant in DC on May 29. Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at Finzel singing on May 15 (M. O'Brien), at Wheaton on May 19 (Hilton), banded at Adventure on May 21 and May 31 (Donnald), and in DC on May 23 (Czaplak). Early **Acadian Flycatchers** were single birds on April 26 at Cylburn (Edith Conley +) and Pennyfield (M. O'Brien). An early **Alder Flycatcher** was at Mountain Lake on April 29 (Pope) and 3 were at Wolf Swamp on May 16 (M. O'Brien). Rarely detected in migration, other Alder Flycatchers were at Fletcher's Boathouse, DC on May 19 (Hilton), Hughes Hollow on May 20 (O'Briens), and Schooley Mill Park on May 27 (Boone). Coastal Plain reports

of **Willow Flycatchers** were single birds at Rugby Hall on May 11 (Taliaferro), in Charles County on May 26 (Stasz, Iliff, Taliaferro), at Annapolis on May 27 (Iliff), and PRNAS on May 29 with 3 there on June 2 (Rambo). **Least Flycatchers** were more numerous than ever this spring with early reports of 1 at Rockville on April 27 (M. O'Brien), 1 at North Branch on April 30 (Twigg), and 1 in DC on May 2 and 3 there on May 5 (Czaplak). Other significant numbers of Least were 10 on Meadow Mountain, Garrett County on May 15-16 (M. O'Brien) and 4 at Cyburn on May 24 (Yokel). There were early **Eastern Phoebes** at Seneca on March 4 (Warfield), 2 at Jug Bay on March 5 (Bystrak), and 1 at Point of Rocks on March 6 (Warfield); there were high counts of 15 at Annapolis on March 27 (Iliff) and 15 at Oregon Ridge Park, Baltimore County on April 8 (Swift). Early **Great Crested Flycatchers** were 1 at Denton on April 15 (Nuttle) and 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 18 (Geuder). John Wortman described a **Western Kingbird** at Aberdeen Proving Ground on March 17, an extraordinary date for this very rare spring migrant in Maryland. High counts of **Eastern Kingbirds** were 91 at Fort Smallwood on May 5 (Mozurkewich) and 59 in DC the same day (Czaplak +).

*Larks, Swallows.* The only lingering flock of **Horned Larks** reported was 36 at Turkey Neck, Garrett County on March 8 (Pope). The first **Purple Martins** of the season were 4 in DC on March 17 (Czaplak) and the high was 135 at Tanyard on May 1 (Engle). **Tree Swallows** were very early throughout the state, including 2 at Chestertown on Feb. 24 (Parks). The following March records were also notable: 3 at Hughes Hollow on the 3rd (P. O'Brien), 2 at Jug Bay on the 6th (Mumford +), 1 at Piscataway on the 8th (Gheblian, Fulton), 4 at Fort Smallwood on the 11th (Davidson, Wierenga), 3 at North Beach on the 12th (Stasz), 1 at Deep Creek Lake on the 14th (Skipper), 1 over the Potomac in Frederick County on the 18th (Miller), and 1 at Centennial Park on the 21st (Bockstie). High counts of Tree Swallows were 300 at Conowingo on April 1 (Eastman), 300 at Jug Bay on April 3 (Mumford +), 200 at Centennial Park on April 4 (Farrell), 300 in DC on April 7 (Czaplak), 500 at Seneca on April 7 (P. O'Brien), 1500 at Rugby Hall on April 8 (Taliaferro), 500 at Melitota on April 12 (Grubers), 270 at Broadford Reservoir on April 17 (Pope), and 3000 at North Beach on April 22 (Stasz). Early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were single birds at Hughes Hollow on March 18 (M. O'Brien), Henderson on March 23 (Hewitt), Centennial Park on March 24 (Farrell), and Lilypons on March 25 (Ringler). High counts of Rough-wings were 50 at North Beach on April 23 (Stasz) and 30 at Jug Bay on May 4 (Fallon). Very early **Bank Swallows** were 15 at Church Hill on April 11 (Grubers), 1 at Jug Bay on April 13 (Mumford), 1 at Smithville on April 14 (Scudder), and 1 at Broadford Reservoir on April 15 (Pope); high counts were 100 at North Beach on May 2 (Stasz) and 50 at Centennial Park on May 22 (Farrell). The first **Cliff Swallow** of the season was exceptionally early at Centennial Park on April 2 (Bockstie). Stasz noted migrant Cliff Swallows at North Beach on May 1-11 with 3 on May 7. High counts of **Barn Swallows** were 125 at Kennedyville on April 12 (Grubers) and 600 at North Beach on April 22 (Stasz).

*Corvids, Nuthatches, Creepers.* High counts of migratory **Blue Jays** at Fort Smallwood were 1550 on April 26 and 960 on May 6 (Mozurkewich). The high inland count was 200 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 28 (Ott). Reese noted Blue Jays nest-building at St. Michaels on April 12 and **Fish Crows** nest-building there on March 16. Boxwell estimated 90 Fish Crows at Jug Bay on March 26 for the last flock of the season. Hilton saw a **Common Raven** at Sugarloaf Mountain on April 22 and 28. The last **Red-breasted Nuthatch** of the season, at New Germany on May 15-17 (M. O'Brien +), may have remained to breed. Interesting reports of **Brown-headed Nuthatches** were 2 at St. Michaels on March 14 (Reese) and 4 at Denton on April 19



(Nuttle). The peak number of **Brown Creepers** reported was 10 at Herrington Manor on March 15 (Pope), and the latest presumed migrant was 1 at McKeldin on May 8 (Ringler).

*Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.* Skipper found a **Carolina Wren** in Garrett County at Turkey Neck on March 14, providing more evidence that this species is making a comeback there. The Armisteads found a **Carolina Wren** nest with 3 young near Bellevue on April 28. Early arriving **House Wrens** were 2 at Centennial Park on April 5 (Meyerhoff) and 1 at Irish Grove on April 7 (Webb +). High counts of **Winter Wrens** in migration were 13 at McKeldin on April 9 (Ringler) and 8 at Rockville on April 10 (M. O'Brien). The only reports of **Sedge Wrens** were 5 at Irish Grove on April 8 (Stasz +) and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Kaestner, Letzer). The 3 **Marsh Wrens** at Jug Bay on March 5 (Bystrak) were probably wintering there, but single birds at Eastern Neck on April 13 (Blom, Ringler), at Mount Vernon on April 17 (Batchelder), and at Tanyard on April 25 (Engle) may have been early migrants. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** averaged about a week later than usual in passing through this spring, with highs of 50 at Mouth of Monocacy, Montgomery County on April 7 (Ringler, Terry), 35 at Oregon Ridge on April 8 (Swift), and 40 at McKeldin on April 9 (Ringler); late single birds were at Columbia on April 21 (Atkinson), Green Ridge on April 22 (Simons), Mill Creek on April 23 (Reese), and Annapolis on April 26 (Iliff). The only high count of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** reported was 30 at Jug Bay on April 13 (Mumford), and there was a very late bird at Pleasant Valley 4-H Center in Garrett County on May 19 (Kirkwood). High counts of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were 25 at King's Creek on April 21 (Effinger) and 37 at Fort Smallwood on April 26 (Mozurkewich).

*Thrushes.* The high count of migrating **Eastern Bluebirds** was 100+ at Fort Smallwood on March 11 (Davidson, Wierenga). An early **Veery** was on Green Ridge on April 24 (Twigg); the peak of migration was the night of May 19-20 when hundreds were heard over Rockville (M. O'Brien). A very early **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at Cylburn on May 1 (Yokel); other interesting reports were 1 near Lilypons on May 17 (O'Briens +), 1 at McKeldin on May 22 (Ringler), 1 in western Howard County on May 24 (Chan Robbins), about 25 heard flying over Rockville on the night of May 27-28 (M. O'Brien), 1 banded at Harford Glen on May 28 (Kirkwood), and 1 at Black Hill Park on June 2 (Czaplak). April reports of **Swainson's Thrushes** were 2 at Rockville on the 27th (M. O'Brien) and 1 at North Laurel on the 28 (Ostenton). Hundreds of Swainson's Thrushes were heard over Rockville on the night of May 19-20 (M. O'Brien) and late birds were 2 at Pasadena on May 31 (Ricciardi), 1 in DC on May 31 (Janni), and 1 at Black Hill Park on June 2 (Czaplak). Hilton found 8 **Hermit Thrushes** at Constitution Gardens in DC on April 15 for the season's high. The high count of **Wood Thrushes** was also in DC with 75 on May 5 (M. O'Brien +). High counts of **American Robins** were 1000 at Fort Smallwood on March 11 (Davidson, Wierenga), 200 at UMCF on April 7 (Atkinson), and 1500 at Rockville on April 13 (M. O'Brien). The earliest nesting robin of the year was 1 carrying nesting material at St. Michaels on March 16 (Reese).

*Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes, Starlings.* The earliest presumed migrant **Gray Catbird** was at Denton on April 17 (Nuttle). Also of note was a catbird imitating a **Least Flycatcher** at Broadford Reservoir on May 12 (Pope). The first migrant **Brown Thrashers** were 1 at Greensboro on March 15 (Hewitt), 1 at Schooley Mill Park on March 18 (Magnusson), and 1 at King Farm on March 25 (P. O'Brien). Several large flocks of **American Pipits** were found this spring, with the most notable being 100 at Fort Smallwood on March 11 (Davidson, Wierenga), 80 at Centreville on March 11

(Effinger), 35 at Cumberland on March 24 (Kiddy), 100 at Bradenbaugh in late March and early April (Kirkwood), and 170 at UMCF on April 7 (Atkinson). There were also some very late pipits in the state, with 8 at Rockburn Branch Park on May 13 (Meyerhoff), 1 at Ocean City on May 19 (Czaplak) and 1 in DC on May 29 (Czaplak). The largest numbers of **Cedar Waxwings** reported were 385 at Fort Smallwood on May 18 (Mozurkewich) and 150 in DC on May 30 (Czaplak). Hershberger saw a pair of **Loggerhead Shrikes** near Lewistown on March 31 and observed a fresh nest at Lilypons on April 7. Iliff reported the only other shrikes for the season with 1 flying over Finzel on April 29 and 1 at Annapolis on May 12. Hilton observed young **European Starlings** out of the nest in DC on May 20.

**Vireos.** Early **White-eyed Vireos** were single birds in DC on April 12 (Czaplak), at Easton on April 13 (M. O'Brien), Jug Bay on April 13 (Mumford), and Schooley Mill Park on April 18 (Chase). Once again there was a very early **Solitary Vireo** on Green Ridge, this year on March 26 (Simons); 2 at Annapolis on May 19 (Iliff) were very late. Local high counts of 5 Solitaries were made in Garrett County on April 20 (Skipper) and DC on May 5 (Czaplak +). Early **Yellow-throated Vireos** were 1 on Green Ridge on April 22 (Simons), 1 at Sycamore Landing on April 24 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Parsonsburg on April 25 (Pitney), and 1 at UMCF on April 26 (Solem, Bockstie); another was nest-building at Pocomoke State Forest on April 29 (Effinger). The first **Warbling Vireo** of the season was at Pennyfield on April 23 (P. O'Brien), and Coastal Plain reports were 1 at Arnold on May 1 (M. O'Brien) and 1 near Blackwater on May 5 (H. Armistead +). Czaplak noted a late migrant Warbling Vireo in DC on May 23. A **Philadelphia Vireo**, very rare in spring, was seen at Mountain Lake on May 19 (Pope).

**Vermivora Warblers.** Among the early **Blue-winged Warblers** were 1 in DC on April 24 (Czaplak), 1 at Savage Mill Trail on April 25 (Solem, Mariano), 2 at Seneca on April 25 (O'Briens), and 1 at Cumberland on April 26 (Simons). High for the season were an impressive 18 Blue-wings at Royal Oak on May 6 (Reese). Though widespread in the rest of the state, Blue-wings are rare in Garrett County where this season's only report was at Pleasant Valley 4-H Center on May 12 (Skipper). Early **Golden-winged Warblers** were 1 at Cumberland on April 26 (Twigg) and 1 at Pennyfield on April 26 (O'Briens). The only other migrant Golden-wings reported were 2 in Charles County on May 6 (Webb +), 1 in DC on May 6 (Czaplak), and 2 at Rugby Hall on May 12 (Taliaferro). Of the hybrids a **Brewster's Warbler** singing a Blue-wing song was at Lake Roland on April 29 (Dan Haft) and a **Lawrence's Warbler** was at Cumberland on May 13 (Twigg). Early **Tennessee Warblers** were 1 in Montgomery County on April 26 (Bonham), 1 on Green Ridge on April 28 (Simons), and 1 in DC on April 29 (Hilton); late migrants on May 25 were 1 in DC (Czaplak) and 2 at Jug Bay (Mumford). The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** seen this spring was at Cyburn on May 19 (Yokel). Early **Nashville Warblers** were 1 at Rockville on April 25, where there were 6 on May 6 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 28 (Simons), and 1 at Carey Run Sanctuary, Garrett County on April 29 (Iliff); a very late bird was at Point Lookout on May 27 (Boxwell).

**Dendroica Warblers.** The first **Yellow Warblers** were seen on April 21 at North Branch (Twigg) and Rugby Hall (Iliff), followed by 1 at Lilypons the next day (Hilton). A very early **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Schooley Mill Park on April 16 (Chase); 2 were at Annapolis on April 26 (Iliff), 1 in DC on April 27 (Janni) and 1 on Green Ridge on April 27 (Kiddy). Also notable were 10 in DC on May 5 (Czaplak +) and 1 late bird there on May 26 (Janni). An early **Magnolia Warbler** was at Battery Kemble Park on April 29 (Janni); 12 at Royal Oak on May 6 (Reese) was the highest

count, and 1 at Kindler, Howard County on May 31 (Solem, Magnusson) the last. April reports of **Cape May Warblers** were 1 at St. Michaels on the 25th (Reese), 1 at Pennyfield on the 26th (M. O'Brien), 1 in Kent County on the 26th (Parks), 2 at Battery Kemble Park on the 29th (Janni), and 3 on Green Ridge on the 29th (Kiddy). The high for Cape Mays was 11 at Cylburn on May 12 (Yokel) and the last 1 was at Point Lookout on May 27 (Boxwell). On April 26 single **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were seen at Phoenix (Simon), Annapolis (Iliff), and Pennyfield (M. O'Brien), followed by 2 at Savage Mill Trail the next day (Solem, Magnusson). The high for Black-throated Blues was 12 at Cylburn on May 5 (Yokel) and the last 1 was at Annapolis on May 27 (Iliff). High numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 110 at Centennial Park on March 30 (Farrell), and 220 at Cylburn on May 8 (Yokel), while the latest bird was at Jug Bay on May 25 (Mumford). April 24 was the arrival day for these **Black-throated Green Warblers**: 1 at Bray Hill (Skipper), 1 at Great Falls (P. O'Brien), 1 at Sycamore Landing (M. O'Brien), and 2 in DC (Czaplak); the high count was 14 at Cylburn on May 8 (Yokel) and the latest was 1 at Loch Raven on May 28 (Simon). Early **Blackburnian Warblers** were 1 at Rockville on April 25 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Fletcher's Boathouse on April 28 (Janni), and 1 at New Germany on April 29 (Iliff); Reese found 6 at Royal Oak on May 6 for a high number on the Eastern Shore, and the last were seen on May 28 with 1 at Phoenix (Simon) and 2 at MPEA (Atkinson). Extraordinary in Howard County were a **Yellow-throated Warbler** heard singing at Henryton on the very early date of March 18 (Jo & Bob Solem) and 1 seen the next day at Centennial Park (Bockstie). Hilton saw a migrant Yellow-throated on the Mall in DC on April 29.

Early for the Piedmont was a **Pine Warbler** at Triadelphia Reservoir on March 10 (Farrell), and unusual in Garrett County were 2 at Turkey Neck near Deep Creek Lake on April 20 (Skipper). A very early **Palm Warbler** was at Centennial Park on March 24 (Atkinson, Ott, Bockstie). High counts of 10 Palms were at Pennyfield on April 20 (M. O'Brien) and Centennial Park on April 22 (Swift). The only reports of western Palm Warblers were 1 at Pennyfield on April 20 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on May 6 (Ringler, Tripi); the latest report of any Palm Warbler was 1 at Broadford Run on May 8 (Skipper). An early **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Pennyfield on April 29 (M. O'Brien); Yokel had the high of 8 on May 17, and the latest were 3 on May 26 both at Cylburn. April reports of **Blackpoll Warblers** were of single birds at Pennyfield on the 28th (M. O'Brien), Denton on the 28th (Nuttle), Phoenix on the 30th (Jenkins), and Ellicott City on the 30th (Ott). High counts of Blackpolls for the season were 30 at Jug Bay on May 25 (Mumford) and 26 in DC on May 27 (Czaplak). Very rare sightings for the Eastern Shore were single **Cerulean Warblers** at Pocomoke Swamp on May 3 (Slaughters), Blackwater on May 5 (Armistead +), and Gross Coate, Talbot County on May 6 (Effinger).

*Other Warblers.* Early **Black-and-white Warblers** were single birds at Great Falls on April 1 (Tripi), Federalsburg on April 6 (Glime), and Muddy Hole Road, Wicomico County on April 8 (Iliff). High counts of **American Redstarts** were 20 at Jug Bay on May 25 (Mumford) and 20 at Point Lookout on May 26 (Boxwell); a late migrant was at Sandy Point on June 5 (Ricciardi). Early **Prothonotary Warblers** were 1 on Gunpowder Falls near Hereford on April 8 (Janet Granofsky) and 1 at Point Lookout on April 15 (Boxwell). Early **Worm-eating Warblers** were 1 in Kent County on April 16 (Parks), 1 banded at Adventure on April 24 (Donnald), and 1 on Green Ridge on April 24 (Twigg). On the Eastern Shore, where Worm-eating Warblers can be scarce, Michael O'Brien found 4 on Maiden Branch Road in Dorchester County on May 3 and Reese found 6 at Royal Oak on May 6. The only report of **Swainson's Warbler** was 1 heard on Nassawango Creek on May 29 (Swift). Early **Ovenbirds**

were 1 at Annapolis on April 15 (Iliff) and 1 at Rockburn Branch Park the next day (Ott, Bockstie). Margaret Donald's team of banders at Adventure banded 71 **Northern Waterthrushes** for the season between April 22 and May 31. The only March reports of **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were 1 on the record early date of the 17th on Nassawango Creek (Dyke) and 1 in Kent County on the 31st (Parks). An early **Kentucky Warbler** was at Myrtle Grove on April 22 (Boxwell). An impressive 25 **Mourning Warblers** were reported this spring, including these early birds: 1 at Pennyfield on May 11 (Bonham), 1 banded at Adventure the same day (Donald), 1 at Henryton on May 12 (Magnusson) and 1 at Big Run, Garrett County on May 12 (Walbeck, McKearnan). Early **Common Yellowthroats** on April 8 were 1 on Muddy Hole Road, Wicomico County (Iliff) and at Greensboro (Scudder). The first **Hooded Warblers** of the season were 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 23 (Geuder), 3 at Jug Bay on April 24 (Dawson +) and 1 at Phoenix on April 24 (Simon); the high count for the season was 18 on Green Ridge on April 28 (Simons). The earliest **Wilson's Warbler** of the season was in Montgomery County on April 27 (Bonham), and the latest birds were 1 in Garrett County on May 28 (Webb +) and 1 at Kindler, Howard County on May 31 (Solem, Magnusson). The high count of **Canada Warblers** was 14 at McKeldin on May 22 (Ringler). Reese noted the first **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the season at Piney Point, St. Mary's County on April 24.

*Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Dickcissel.* The only **Summer Tanagers** reported outside that species' breeding range in the state were a male at East Potomac Park on April 29 (Hilton) and 1 at Cyburn on May 11 (Yokel). An exceptionally early **Scarlet Tanager** was at Tyaskin on April 9 (Denit). April reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were numerous, with the earliest being 2 at St. Michaels on the 25th (Reese), 1 at Rockville on the 27th (M. O'Brien), and 1 at Joppatowne on the 28th (Swift); the highest count was 10 at Royal Oak on May 6 (Reese). **Blue Grosbeaks** also often go unreported in April, but this year there was 1 in Kent County on the 15th (Parks) followed by 1 at Denton on the 26th (R. Fletcher), 1 at Schooley Mill Park on the 28th (Atkinson), 1 at Wittman on the 28th (Effinger), 2 near Bellevue on the 28th (Armisteads), and 1 at Pinto Marsh on the 29th (Simons). Early **Indigo Buntings** were 1 at Berlin on April 16 (Mary Humphreys), 1 at Rockville on April 23 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Ellicott City on April 25 (Ott), and 1 at Bray Hill on April 27 (Skipper). Reports of **Dickcissels** were 1 at a feeder in Gaithersburg on March 24 (Kelsey Swanson), 1 at Tanyard on April 25 (Nuttie), 1 heard flying over Rockville on the night of May 19-20 and a singing male near Cambridge in late May (Wierenga).

*Sparrows.* The last **American Tree Sparrows** of the season were 1 at North Beach on March 31 (Stasz +) and 1 at Chesapeake City on April 13 (Ringler, Blom). Early reports of **Chipping Sparrows** were particularly numerous this year, with 1 at Lower Mount Vernon on March 4 (Batchelder), 7 at Parsonburg on March 5 (Pitney), 1 at Ellicott City on March 13 (Ott), 1 at Annapolis on March 13 (Iliff), 1 at Federalsburg on March 15 (Glime), and 4 at Centreville on March 17 (Effinger). There were high counts of 33 **Chipping Sparrows** in DC on April 18 (Czaplak), 110 **Field Sparrows** at Remington Farms on March 11 (Grubers), and 10 **Vesper Sparrows** at UMCF on April 7 (Atkinson). The earliest **Vespers** were 1 at Broadford Reservoir on March 22 (Pope) and 4 in southern Frederick County on March 24 (P. O'Brien). The only Eastern Shore report of **Vesper Sparrows** was 2 near Fleming Mill Pond on April 8 (Iliff). Atkinson found the earliest **Savannah Sparrows** of the season with 5 at UMCF on March 11 and the most there on April 7, approximately 275 birds. Also early were 2 **Savannahs** at Centreville on March 17 (Effinger), and late were 2 at Rockburn Branch Park on May 20 (Ott). The earliest **Grasshopper**



**Sparrows** of the season were 1 at Rugby Hall on April 21 (Iliff) and 3 at Easton on April 22 (Reese). Reports of **Henslow's Sparrows** were 1 at Rockburn Branch Park on April 28 through May 12 (Ott +), 1 at Deal Island WMA on May 5 (Slaughter), and 2 heard on Chestnut Grove Road, Garrett County on May 12 (Walbeck, McKernan). The first **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** of the season was heard singing at night at King's Creek on April 23 (M. O'Brien). Stasz found a migrant Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow at North Beach on May 15. The first reports of **Seaside Sparrows** for the season were 1 at Sandy Point on April 10 (Iliff) and 3 at North Beach on April 21 (Stasz). The last **Fox Sparrows** of the season were 1 on Green Ridge on April 13 (Kiddy), 1 at Centennial Park on April 15 (Harveys), 1 at East Potomac Park on April 15 (Hilton), 1 banded at Adventure on April 16 (Donnald), and 1 in Kent County on April 22 (Parks). The high count of **Song Sparrows** for the season was 80 at Rockville on April 13 (M. O'Brien). Early **Lincoln's Sparrows** were 1 at Schooley Mill Park on April 29 (Magnusson) and 1 banded at Adventure on May 1 (Donnald). High counts of **Swamp Sparrows** were 20 each at Easton on April 24 (M. O'Brien) and Jug Bay on April 27 (Mumford). The high count of **White-crowned Sparrows** for the season was 56 wintering birds at Remington Farms on March 11 (Grubers); late birds were 1 at Rocky Gap on May 16 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Phoenix on May 20 (Simon), and 1 at Finzel on May 20 (Kirkwood). Very late **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 1 at Denton on May 14 (Alicia Knotts) and 1 at Ellicott City on May 24 (Bockstie). The last reports of **Lapland Longspurs** near Lilypons were 9 on March 24 (P. O'Brien) and 4 on the 26th (Hershberger).

**Icterines.** Early **Bobolinks** were 1 near Bittinger on April 25 (Pope) and 2 at Kingston on April 27 (M. O'Brien); high counts for the season were 250 at UMCF on May 5 (Atkinson), 182 at Fort Smallwood on May 6 (Mozurkewich), and 250 near Lilypons on May 13 (Yokel). A late migrating flock of 620 mostly female **Red-winged Blackbirds** was at UMCF on April 14 (Farrell). The only report of a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a male at Rising Sun on March 3 (Fogleman). High counts of **Rusty Blackbirds** for the spring were 100 at Hughes Hollow on March 24 (P. O'Brien), 28 at Pinto Marsh on April 3 (Twigg), and 28 at Jug Bay on April 20 (Mumford). **Boat-tailed Grackles** outside the Maryland breeding range were a male flying south past North Beach on April 9 (Stasz) and 1 at Black Marsh on April 28 (Yokel) and May 12 (Kaestner, Letzer). Early **Orchard Orioles** were 4 at Pennyfield on April 23 (P. O'Brien) and 1 at Tyaskin on April 23 (Denit). Early **Northern Orioles** were 1 at North Branch on April 14 (Twigg) and 1 at Denton on April 17 (Nuttle), nest-building was observed at Lake Roland on April 28 (Ringler, Tripi).

**Finches.** Though **Purple Finches** were scarce in most areas this spring, Simons estimated 50 on Green Ridge on April 1. Also on Green Ridge the last **Red Crossbill** was seen on March 3 (Simons). The only report of a **Common Redpoll** was 1 at a feeder in Cumberland on March 15 (Kiddy). **Pine Siskins** were numerous only in the western two counties, with feeder counts of 35 in Cumberland on March 5 (Kiddy), 200 at Bray Hill on April 4 (Skipper), and 150 at Mountain Lake Park on April 4 (Pope). Late siskins were 1 in Cumberland on May 15 (Kiddy) and 1 in Garrett County on May 28 (Webb +). Mozurkewich counted 1265 **American Goldfinches** migrating past Fort Smallwood on April 26 and 1440 on May 6. Reports of **Evening Grosbeaks** included 38 at Bray Hill on March 2 (Skipper), 9 at Salisbury on April 22 (Brodericks), 2 at Grasonville on May 3 (Reese), and 1 at Royal Oak on May 6 (Reese).

**Addenda.** These notes for the fall of 1989 were received too late for publication at the proper time. 1 Great Egret, 150 Northern Shovelers, 100 Hooded Mergansers

and 15 Bonaparte's Gulls at Piscataway on Nov. 11 and 300 Gadwalls, 2 Eurasian Wigeons and 100 American Wigeons there on Nov 28 (Gheblian, Fulton); 285 Lesser Scaups at Indian Head on Nov. 9 (Gheblian); about 12 Black Skimmers at Choptank, Caroline County on Sept. 29 (Donald Ford +); 1 adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Savage, Howard County on Nov. 10 (Floyd Murdoch); 1 Loggerhead Shrike near Antietam Battlefield on Nov. 18 and Nov. 24 (Hershberger); and the following birds banded at Adventure Sanctuary (Donnald +); single Black-billed Cuckoos on Sept. 15 and Sept. 20, 5 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Sept. 13-24, 1 Veery on Oct. 3, 40 Gray-cheeked Thrushes from Sept. 21 through Oct. 26 with 5 on Oct. 6, 1 Wood Thrush on Oct 15, 25 Cedar Waxwings on Oct. 21, 1 Philadelphia Vireo on Oct. 7, 1 Tennessee Warbler on Oct. 14, 15 Magnolia Warblers on Sept. 25 and 1 on Oct. 21, 1 Blackpoll Warbler on Oct. 21, 1 Black-and-white Warbler on Oct. 20, 1 Ovenbird on Oct. 16, 1 Northern Waterthrush on Oct. 20, 1 Connecticut Warbler on Sept. 24 and 3 on Sept. 27, 1 Hooded Warbler on Oct. 5, 1 Yellow-breasted Chat on Oct. 1, 4 Lincoln's Sparrows from Sept. 11 through Oct. 23.

*6272 Pinyon Pine Court, Eldersburg, MD 21784*

## **ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS**

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### **TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER**

This year our membership has increased to 136 and we have seen additional activity both at our meetings and our bird trips. Our members have birded all over the United States, including Alaska and a host of other countries: Scotland, England, Italy, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Canada and Mexico. We had 33 birders in the field on our Christmas Count and the dinner following was well attended. Our May count continues to suffer a little because so many of our members are sailing and traveling at this time of year, but we are working to make this count more prominent.

The Marengo Woods Sanctuary has been transferred to MOS and awaits posting. The property is a 48 tract of woodland bordered by Marengo Road and Gregory Road. We are presently working on plans for a "barn raising" weekend in the fall to build a new roof on the Mill Creek Sanctuary shelter. We have allocated \$600 for the materials. We were able to secure 28 mounted birds from the Smithsonian Institution to be utilized by the Talbot County School District and our own club for teaching about birds.

Member, Marge Leipold submitted a drawing for the 1990 MOS pin for the conference. Member, JoAnn Laskowski, has been named Environmental Education Coordinator by the Board of Education and is in an outstanding position to take advantage of the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship in Damariscotta, Maine this summer.

I am happy to report that our members continue to be an interested and cooperative group, whom I am proud to lead and I feel excited about the coming year.

*Carolyn B. Mills, President*



## JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

Club Membership is 61. Regular activities include monthly meetings and at least one field trip each month. Members participated in the Christmas Count and the May Count. Conservation activities included letters from the club to Senators and Representatives in support of land and water conservation. One member, Mike Callahan, served as an instructor at the Audubon summer camp in Connecticut.

*Wally Stephens, President*

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

The Washington County Chapter reached the 20th anniversary of the present organization in March and grew to 130 members during the year. Programs were held mostly at the Funkstown Elementary School, on the Fourth Tuesdays of most fall and winter months, and followed the general theme of birds to be found in our County. Emphasis was placed on hawks, waterfowl, wintering species, owls, attracting bluebirds and purple martins, and spring warblers. Fauna and flora of old-growth forests were also presented.

Field trips then explored for most of the species groups listed above. In addition, the Ninth Fairview Outdoor School Weekend was held (44 participants and 120 bird species listed), and we are looking forward to the MOS Conference in Chestertown, Md.

Additional activities included our 19th Christmas Bird Count (38 observers, 73 species), fall and spring Hawk Counts at Monument Knob near Boonsboro, and our 12th May Count (28 observers, 140 species). Members also participated in: Clean-up Day at Carey Run; monitoring and maintenance of Bluebird trails; paper recycling for benefit of the MOS Sanctuary Fund; and conservation issues at local, state and federal levels. A rare bird Hotline was reactivated in time for some excellent sightings.

*Cameron and Norma Lewis, Co-Presidents*

## WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

This past year the Wicomico Bird Club held eight monthly meetings. Seven were regular business meetings with a followup speaker. Average attendance was about 40 people. Our programs covered such topics as owls, shorebirds, and a trip to Africa. The eighth meeting was our annual dinner which was held in March with the speaker being club member John Dennis.

We had 10 monthly field trips, took part in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and contributed to the MOS May Count. Our field trips included visits to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Chincoteague NWR, Blackwater NWR, and the Deal Island and Ocean City areas. This year we held an additional special trip in February to look for owls.

In the fall the club took part in the Irish Grove cleanup. We also had a special gathering at Irish Grove on May 12 to check the damage done by the very high wind storm (a small tornado) the night of May 10. There was extensive damage; the barn

was leveled along with several other buildings. We cleared the downed trees, gathered all the pieces of glass in the yard from the broken windows, and swept up the glass and twigs inside the museum room.

On May 6th between midnight and 6 p.m., we held our annual Big Day. A total of 155 species was seen by the winning team of incipient interlopers Jim Stasz and Marshall Iliff. The cumulative total for the five participating teams was more than 180 species. The award this year was a pewter plate with engraved names of the winning team members. It will be passed on in successive years. The plate will eventually reside at Irish Grove, after there is no longer space for new names.

On May 18th Claudia Wilds gave a special workshop at the Broderick's house. Claudia showed slides and tried to teach us how to take detailed field notes of a bird so that the bird identification has a good chance of being accepted by the Records Committee.

Membership has stayed steady at about 75 people for the past several years.

*Gail Vaughn, President*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CAVITY NESTER COMMITTEE**

The Maryland Ornithological Society Trails (MOST) report for 1989 indicated a sizeable increase in the number of bluebirds fledged. This resulted primarily from an increase in the average number of young fledged per box during the nesting season. Although about 200 more boxes were monitored by approximately the same number of members, the average number fledged per box jumped from 4.073 in 1988 to 5.611 in 1989.

While bluebirds can nest as many as three times during the breeding period and can lay as many as 5 eggs per clutch, the average number of fledglings per year is generally close to 5. Bad weather, predation, infertile eggs and other causes take their toll.

The number of boxes used by House Wrens almost doubled in 1989. Wrens have several habits that do not endear them to bluebird lovers. They fill not one or two, but several nesting boxes full of twigs. They peck holes in bluebird eggs and even manage to throw them out of the nest. Sometimes moving the nesting box away from a shrubby area (wren habitat) may help and sometimes placing a wren nesting box nearby will help. A method to discourage wrens is to use a wren guard at the entrance hole. A wren guard is simply a 3/4" thick predator guard with a slot cut out of the bottom portion. The wren can't land at the entrance hole carrying a twig.

Last year the total number of 5" x 5" boxes should have read 49 and the number of 5" x 5" boxes used by bluebirds should have read 45. The totals for all boxes remain the same, however, since some 4" x 4" boxes were listed as 5" x 5" boxes. I regret the error.

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

### MOST ANNUAL REPORT 1989

Types of Boxes Used	4"x4"	5"x5"	Other	Total
Total no. of boxes	2,042	38	63	2,143
Boxes used by Bluebirds	865	22	30	917
No. of Bluebirds fledged	4,928	98	120	5,146
Boxes used: Chickadees	104	3	1	108
Boxes used: Titmice	36	-	1	37
Boxes used: Nuthatches	-	-	-	-
Boxes used: Swallows	90	-	2	92
Boxes used: Wrens	408	9	3	420
Boxes used: Flycatchers	1	-	-	1
Total no. boxes used:	1,504	34	37	1,575
% boxes used by all species	70.1%	89.4%	58.7%	73.4%
% boxes used by Bluebirds	42.3%	57.8%	47.6%	42.7%
% boxes used by others	27.8%	31.6%	11.1%	30.7%
Total no. reports	165			

*Delos C. Dupree, Chairman*

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE SCIENCE FAIR AWARD 1990

At the 35th Baltimore Science Fair, the Maryland Ornithological Society presented its Award of Achievement to Christopher Pine, student in grade 7 at Our Lady Queen of Peace School in Essex, Maryland. Christopher received a letter of commendation, a copy of *Birds of North America*, by Chandler Robbins, *et al.*, and membership for a year in the Baltimore Bird, MOS. While his study could have been of more interest to pigeon fanciers, with its answers to the question, "Which Pigeon Comes Back First From Different Distances", it showed a developing understanding of the ornithology of pigeons. We felt that the award should encourage and expand this interest. His letter in return to William Newman, President BBC, MOS supported that feeling. We welcome him into the membership.

The 35th Baltimore Science Fair is sponsored by Towson State University, The Kiwanis Club of Towson, Maryland, and The Kiwanis Club of Baltimore City.

### MAEOE

The MOS is a member of the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators. At their annual conference held at Oregon Ridge Park on April 28, 29, 30 we were represented by Dennis Kirkwood of Harford Co. and Gail Frantz of Baltimore. A bird walk was led by 2 MOS members. We encourage continued support of this group.

*Joy Wheeler*

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The library committee has limited its activities to working at Cylburn, arranging surplus issues of *Maryland Birdlife* in chronological order and filling requests for back issues. We strongly recommend that the *MB* address list be brought up to date. Several university and museum libraries have made repeat requests for back issues from 3 and 4 years.

Several of our members have returned their complete sets of *MB* to us. This has proved helpful in supplying some issues now rare. I will publish a list of issues in short supply.

The collection of *MB* is complete at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Room. That name should be permanent, at no charge, on our mailing list. This now makes *MB* available nationwide on Inter-library Loan.

*Joy Wheeler, Chairperson*

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

During the 1989-1990 year, President John Malcolm asked the Long Range Planning Committee to provide background information about the current dues structure which dates to 1983. We were asked to examine annual individual member costs, to project possible increases in expenses over the next several years, and to describe constitutional requirements for a dues change should it be considered necessary.

Although the Maryland Ornithological Society has sizable monetary reserves, most of it is in designated funds precluding its use for current operating expenses. Anticipated budget deficits the last few years have been mitigated by a number of factors unlikely to recur. The constant inflation of postal rates and printing costs, which constitute a major portion of MOS' expenses, appears likely to continue.

This committee provided the president with the requested information. In addition, we made two recommendations. We urged that a special effort be made to obtain a chair for the Gifts Committee in order to have an organized method by which gifts and memorials could be encouraged and received. We also suggested that an attempt be made to fund research grants outside the operating budget but without establishing an endowment fund.

*Joanne K. Solem, Chairperson*

### **RECORDS COMMITTEE**

At its annual meeting on March 29, 1990, the MOS Records Committee made the following changes in the structure of the Committee.

1. At the request of David Czaplak and me (both residents of the District of Columbia) the name of the committee has been changed to Maryland/D.C. Records Committee, and its responsibilities have been expanded to include the review of reports of rarities within the District of Columbia, where no similar committee exists.
2. Effective with the elections at the next annual meeting at the end of March 1991, the Committee will be expanded from eight to nine members, who will serve three-year terms rather than the present four-year terms. As before, no member will be able to serve consecutive full-length terms.
3. Although Erika Wilson has carried out most of the functions of Chairperson as well as Secretary and was apparently considered Chairperson of the Com-

mittee by the Board of Directors of M.O.S., within the committee she was recognized as Secretary only (replaced by E.A.T. Blom as Acting Secretary from August 1989 to March 1990). The committee has determined that the functions should be divided between two positions. The Chairperson, unlike the Secretary, may be (and usually will be) a voting member of the Committee. Both positions have one-year terms, renewable at the pleasure of the Committee.

*Claudia P. Wilds, Chairperson*

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee undertook two major projects this year, selecting grant recipients and organizing the afternoon paper sessions at the conference.

Two grants were awarded:

\$525 to Joan McKernan, Appalachian Environmental Laboratory, Frostburg State University to study Avian Edge-effects along a Central Appalachian Riparian Zone, and

\$475 to Thomas S. Risch, Appalachian Environmental Laboratory, Frostburg State University to do Cross-Fostering Experiments with Colonial Waterbirds.

*Karen Skuldi, Chairperson*

### SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Once again, the Sanctuary Committee has functioned without any formal meetings. However, this has been a busy year at our sanctuaries. In addition to the usual workdays, we have received a new sanctuary in Talbot County, donated conservation easements on two of our sanctuaries, and had severe storm damage at Irish Grove. Starting in Garrett County here is a review of the committee's activities across the state.

**Caroline W. Wilson Sanctuary:**

We are very fortunate to have Connie Skipper volunteer to oversee the stewardship of the Wilson Sanctuary. Connie lives about half an hour away from the sanctuary and will, initially, be working on establishing its boundaries.

**Carey Run:**

The annual workday on April 28, 1990 accomplished its tasks of housecleaning, pruning and repointing the stone foundation. Dan and Charlotte Folk and members of the Allegany Chapter hosted a Kentucky Fried Chicken picnic. Several people spent the night and enjoyed birding the following day.

**tum Suden:**

Rick Blom is still in residence at tum Suden Sanctuary. The Harford Chapter is in the process of developing a master plan for the use of the yard. This plan is to incorporate an outdoor teaching station, a picnic area, a bird bathing area and plant management for wildlife.



**Mandares Creek:**

To show its support for the recently formed Severn River Land Trust, MOS has donated a conservation easement on Mandares Creek to this Trust, which is an offshoot of the Maryland Environmental Trust.

The new Severn River Management Plan, approved by the last legislative session, includes a competitive water ski course in Mandares Creek. We will be monitoring the marsh for any damage.

**Talbot County:**

We have a new sanctuary in Talbot County called Marengo Woods. It is a fifty acre woodland donated to the MOS by fifteen local landowners who wanted to secure the property from being developed. To further insure that his land remains a woodland in perpetuity, MOS has donated a conservation easement on it to the Maryland Environmental Trust. Since a good portion of this sanctuary has standing water on it, there are no plans to establish trails there.

Work is still in progress at Mill Creek Sanctuary to relocate the trails. The proposed development on the property adjacent to the sanctuary has run into financial problems and is now in limbo. We will continue to monitor that situation.

Talbot County is also in the beneficiary of two legacies. One, from John Wanuga, will result in some \$63,000.00. The other, from Doris Oakley, is forthcoming and of unknown amount. Both of these legacies were left to the MOS to be used for buying land in Talbot County. The Talbot Chapter will decide what land is to be bought with this money.

**Irish Grove:**

The two annual workdays were very productive. At the November 4, 1989 workday we continued working on the trail through the marsh to the north end of the property, installing several foot bridges. Ruth Denit, once again, provided two big turkeys for the mid-day meal. Several people spent the night at the sanctuary and enjoyed slide presentations and birding on the following day. The April 7, 1990 workday concentrated on removing much of the big Chinese Elm tree that had fallen during the ice storm in December. We also marked a marsh trail on the south side of Round Pond.

On May 10, 1990 a tornado like storm hit the building complex at Irish Grove. The house sustained minimal damage with some broken windows, one chimney down, shingles blown off, some siding damage, part of the front porch knocked out and loss of the electrical meter box. There was extensive damage to the outbuildings. The barn and the storage shed behind it were demolished. The corncrib/latrine was blown over. The banding shed was moved off its foundation. The screened dining area was knocked lopsided with a hole in its roof. Several trees around the house and the outbuildings were blown over. Amazingly, the tool shed survived this malstorm without a scratch. Whatever hit Irish Grove was an isolated event as there was no other damage done by this storm in Somerset County!

The insurance on the house will cover the expenses for having its repairs done by professionals. However, the outbuildings were not insured.

Several members of the Wicomico Chapter spent several hours on May 12 cleaning up the debris that was scattered all around the place. On May 19, Jim Stasz

headed a work party that cleared up much of the barn wreckage, tacked down loose roofing material, and erected a temporary latrine.

We have two workdays scheduled this fall for Irish Grove. The first, on September 15 & 16, will be devoted to working on the house and environs. The second workday, scheduled for November 3 & 4, will be more concentrated on repair and/or removal of the outbuildings.

*Dorothy Mumford, Chairperson*

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

This year, in response to the request of several candidates for one-week ecology scholarships rather than the usual two-week scholarships, the Scholarship Committee has awarded three one-week Helen Miller Scholarships for attendance at National Audubon Summer Ecology Workshops. We are pleased to announce the winners of these scholarships.

Carolyn Lipscomb, a Teacher-in-charge of Outdoor Education at Harford Glen Environmental Center, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending an Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut.

Susan Moore, a Park Naturalist and Regional Park Programmer for Washington, Frederick and Montgomery Counties, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending an Audubon Ecology Workshop in Maine.

Noelle Walker, a biology Major at Salisbury State University, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending an Audubon Ecology Workshop in Maine.

Linda Bystrak, Director, Teacher, and Naturalist at the Fairhill Nature Center, is winner of the Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship sponsored by the World Nature Association and will be attending a two-week Audubon Ecology Workshop in Maine.

The Scholarship Committee also is pleased to announce the winners of our three Ornithology Scholarships.

Kate Irvine, Director of Students for Bay Action of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship and will be attending the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

Joanne Laskowski, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Talbot County School System, is winner of the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship and will be attending the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

Monica Cofield, Biology Major at Salisbury State University is winner of the Edith Bourne and Jimmy Wood Memorial Scholarship and will be attending the Field Ornithology workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

We have reason to be proud of these excellent scholarship winners. The Scholarship Committee is very grateful to all the chapters who have found candidates for these scholarships and very grateful to all those in our membership who support the Scholarship Program of our Society.

*Mildred Gebhard, Chairperson*

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