

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland



Volume 11

JUNE 1955

Number 2

THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Md.

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COVER: Common Tern. Photograph by Charles J. Stine, Jr.

HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hamps

MARYLAND BIRD LIFE

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ADDITIONAL BIRDS OF CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Kenneth B. Corbett

The following is a supplement to "A List of the Birds of Caroline County, Maryland" by Crazer G. Poole, Bulletin Natural History Society of Maryland, 12 (4): 51-56 and 56-58, 1942. These notes are selected from the writer's records of sight observations made during irregular visits to Caroline County from 1936 through April, 1955, these visits having been less frequent and of shorter duration in the more recent years. Certain impressions or opinions have been formed concerning the occurrence of birds in the area but, owing to the irregularity of the observations and in the interest of accuracy, specific dates and localities are given and no attempt to establish the seasonal and numerical status of the several species is made. The area covered consists principally and roughly of a circle having a radius of about two miles centered on the Adam S. Holsinger farm located on the back or "river" road from Denton to Ridgely about midway between these towns.

This supplement adds 37 new species and one subspecies to the 114 species recorded by Poole. As with Poole's list, this supplement "is as authentic and certain as possible, any doubtful records having been omitted."

COMMON LOON. April 11, 1950 -- one bird was seen on the Choptank River just north of the railroad bridge at Denton.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. June 2 to 4, 1950 -- one adult was seen several times over the Choptank River at Downs' Wharf.

WHISTLING SWAN. April 5, 1952 -- one pair on the Choptank River about one mile above the Denton bridge.

CANADA GOOSE. April 5, 1952 -- eight birds were on the Choptank River together with the above species. Flights of geese during migration periods were noted a number of times but were not specifically recorded.

BALDPATE. April 7, 1951 -- three males and four females were feeding and resting on the Choptank River opposite Downs' Wharf.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. September 19, 20, 1953 -- two pairs were observed on the Choptank River at Wilson's Mill.

SHOVELLER. April 7, 1951 -- two males and several females were mingling with Baldpates opposite Downs' Wharf.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK. January 12, 1952 -- six birds were on the Choptank River opposite Downs' Wharf. On April 5, 1952 several were mingling with the Whistling Swans and Canada Geese on the Choptank River about one mile above the Denton bridge.

OLD-SQUAW. April 5, 1952 -- one male with the other waterfowl on the Choptank River about one mile above the Denton bridge.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. April 5, 1952 -- a male flew upstream past the other waterfowl on the Choptank River about one mile above the Denton bridge.

AMERICAN MERGANSER. April 7, 1951 -- six birds flew upstream past Downs' Wharf very low over the Choptank River and alighted on the water about opposite Wilson's Mill. On March 13, 1954 several of this species were scattered on the Choptank River about one mile above the Denton bridge.

BLACK VULTURE. January 20, 1951 -- one bird flying over the Choptank River and woods opposite Downs' Wharf.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. April 21, 1946 -- while at Downs' Wharf, I watched an aerial "dog-fight" lasting about one minute between a small and a much larger unidentified hawk. After the fight the smaller hawk swooped low over me and it proved to be this species. On April 21, 1949 one pair was found in the same location and while their actions suggested nesting, a nest could not be found.

BALD EAGLE. May 3, 1940 -- one adult at Downs' Wharf. June 3 and 4, 1950 -- one adult each day across the Choptank River from Downs' Wharf. On May 2, 1953 one adult soared over Camp Mardela which is two miles south of Denton. An interesting sidelight of this last observation is that Dr. John Price of the North Museum was lecturing at the time along a nature trail to a conference of camp directors on how to make the best use of nature trails by taking advantage of opportunities as they arise.

PIGEON HAWK. March 18, 1942 -- one bird in a clearing in the woods just north of Downs' Wharf. Another bird was found on the Adam S. Holsinger farm on March 13, 1954.

COOT. April 22, 1949 -- a single bird was on the Choptank River just north of Downs' Wharf.

UPLAND PLOVER. April 20, 1949 -- one bird on the Adam S. Holsinger farm. July 3 to 5, 1954 -- five or six at the same spot as the 1949 observation.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. May 10, 1941 -- several birds on the mudflats which were formerly the bottom of the dam at Wilson's Mill.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. May 3, 1940 -- several on the mudflats which formerly were the bottom of the dam at Wilson's Mill. April 21, 22, 1949 and April 7, 1951 -- several birds on each date on the mud banks of the Choptank River opposite Downs' Wharf.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS. May 3, 1940 -- several individuals associated with the preceding species on the mudflats which formerly were the bottom of the dam at Wilson's Mill. April 7, 1951 -- three birds were seen about the mud banks of the Choptank River opposite Downs' Wharf. September 19, 20, 1953 -- four of this species on the bottom of the old dam at Wilson's Mill.

COMMON TERN. September 19, 20, 1953 -- several birds over the Choptank River at Wilson's Mill.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. August 25, 1946 -- one bird in Greensboro cemetery. June 30, 1951 -- one along the edge of the woods at the back of the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. May 3, 1940 -- a single bird in the woods immediately about Downs' Wharf.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. June 28 to July 4, 1943 -- six birds were seen several times on the Adam S. Holsinger farm but no nest or young were found. April 24, 1955 -- about eight individuals in company with a flock of American Pipits were found in the same location.

FISH CROW. The author has many records of this species along the Choptank River above Denton bridge in the months of January through June in a number of years but none in any later month of the year.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. January 12, 1952 -- several birds in the woods in the immediate vicinity of Downs' Wharf.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. June 2, 1950 -- one bird in the swamp near the end of the macadam on the "river" road to Ridgely about one-half mile north of Denton bridge.

VEERY. May 3, 1940 -- several birds in the woods at the back of the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

AMERICAN PIPIT. November 26, 1936 -- a sizeable company in the open fields at the intersection of routes 312 and 313 (Baltimore Corner). April 24, 1952 -- about twenty birds associated with Horned Larks in a plowed field on the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO. April 20, 1949 -- one bird on the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. April 21, 1949 -- one bird in the woods at Downs' Wharf on the Choptank River.

NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH. May 10, 1941 -- one bird in the woods between Downs' Wharf and Wilson's Mill. September 19, 1953 -- one bird near Wilson's Mill.

KENTUCKY WARBLER. June 2, 1950 -- one bird on the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

BLUE GROSBEAK. June 29, 1939 -- four birds, all males in adult plumage, were seen on the Adam S. Holsinger farm. August 17, 1946 -- one pair in adult plumage on the edge of the woods on the same farm. May 30, 1952 -- one pair in the same location.

PURPLE FINCH. May 3, 1940 -- a small group along the "river" road from Denton to Ridgely. March 18, 1942 -- a small company on the Adam S. Holsinger farm. November 25, 1945 -- several birds along the "river" road from Denton to Ridgely.

SAVANNAH SPARROW. April 20, 1949; April 9, 1950; April 24, 1955 -- numbers varying from several to about thirty birds, all seen on the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. January 12, 1952 -- several immature birds in the woods about Downs' Wharf. December 6, 1953 -- several adult birds associated with White-throated Sparrows in the woods at the back of the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

SWAMP SPARROW. April 4, 1947 -- several birds on the Adam S. Holsinger farm.

North Museum, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa.

1954 COUNTY BIRD LISTS

Charles M. Buchanan

The year 1954 was the first one in which observers throughout the State were asked to submit, for purposes of comparison, county lists of birds seen during the year. Because this project did not come into being and was not announced until the spring of 1954, it may be that some observers were unable to send in complete records. For this reason, and because some counties are not covered by people all year 'round, the total species counts for several counties are well below what they should be.

Maryland's 23 counties are arranged from west to east and north to south in the table, to show the effects of the State's geography on its bird distribution. For example, warblers in general become less well represented from northwest to southeast, with the exception of the Yellow-throated and Swainson's Warblers, birds with distinctly southern affinities. It can be seen also that the scarcer flycatchers have a strong tendency to avoid the Eastern Shore. And the penetration of southern herons into Maryland can be compared to the distribution of the other members of the family.

One of the primary aims of this compilation is to develop a distribution pattern. Admittedly, this is a difficult task with only 1954's records at hand. It is obvious that all but the top few counties would be represented with much larger lists if they had resident observers working on a year 'round basis. Also, there is a good deal to be gained from comparison with prior years' records, and of course this is only the beginning of such a build-up of records. Another difficulty in shaping a distribution pattern is that so far there is no provision for making a distinction between nesting birds and migrating birds, a fact hard to reconcile when considering the changes that occur between Garrett County and the Atlantic Ocean. As an example, the Alder Flycatcher under Baltimore County is not a transient as might be supposed, but represents an eastward extension of the bird's breeding range in Maryland.

Several things could be mentioned, however, that might not be immediately obvious to the reader. The winter of 1954-55 was noted for the numbers and variety of irregular northern migrants which came into Maryland. For example, note the Goshawk in Frederick and Washington Counties, the Saw-whet Owl in 5 counties, the Brown-capped Chickadee record, the Red-breasted Nuthatch in 15 counties, the Northern Shrike in Anne Arundel and Garrett Counties, the Evening Grosbeak in 12 counties, the Pine Grosbeak in 5 counties, each crossbill in 3 counties, and of course the Black-capped Chickadees well distributed throughout the State. On the other hand, the Snowy Owl was seen only in Anne Arundel County.

It might be of some interest to see how frequently some of the sandpipers turn up in inland counties on migration. It's not surprising to see the Spotted Sandpiper listed in 19 counties or the Solitary in 14, but both the Least Sandpiper and the Semipalmated Sandpiper were seen in 13 counties. The Lesser Yellow-legs shows a wider distribution than the last three birds mentioned, having been seen in 16 counties.

From the table following it will be seen that Worcester County leads the State with 245 species. Maryland's only ocean-front county, it is thoroughly worked over from Ocean City and vicinity to the Pocomoke Swamp by many people several times a year, and this is sufficient to credit it with the most species. Anne Arundel County, with active birding people both at Annapolis and Gibson Island and a fine location for migrating

shorebirds at Sandy Point, is not far behind with 237 species. Next in order comes Montgomery County, constantly worked by several very active people, and in which the Brown-capped Chickadee made its first appearance in Maryland; and then Prince Georges County, which includes the Patuxent Research Refuge. Baltimore and Talbot Counties round out the 200-species-or over group.

Totals for all counties are presented here for ready comparison:

Garrett	138	Montgomery	212	Queen Annes	92
Alleghany	134	Prince Georges	208	Caroline	185
Washington	184	Anne Arundel	237	Talbot	201
Frederick	186	Calvert	130	Dorchester	167
Carroll	128	Charles	190	Wicomico	99
Baltimore	202	St. Marys	180	Somerset	29
Harford	129	Cecil	143	Worcester	245
Howard	163	Kent	126	Grand Total	279

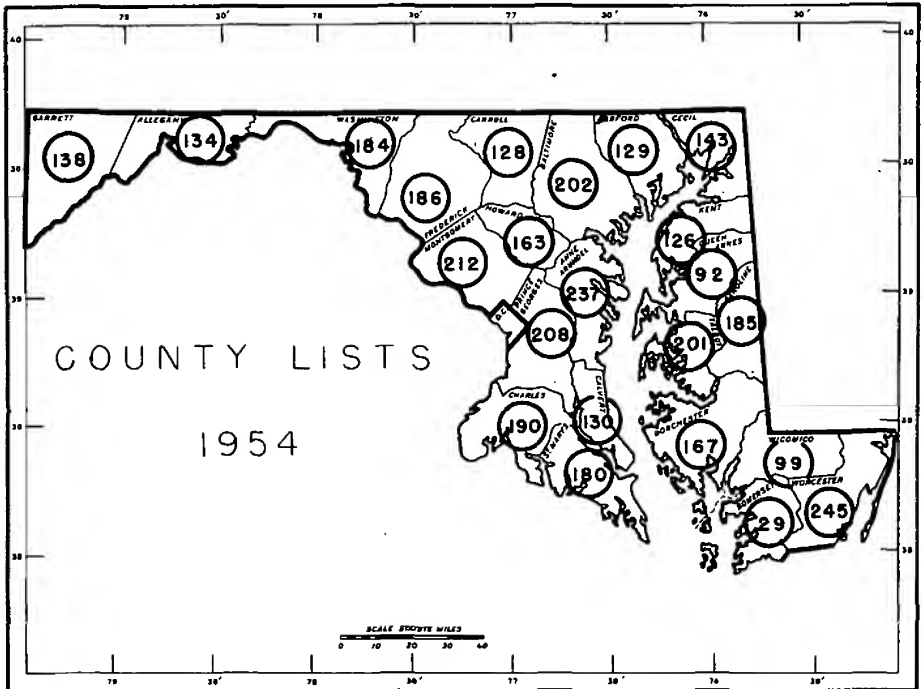
To mention a few statistics, only 10 species were recorded from all 23 counties! The tiny total of 29 species for Somerset County accounts for most of this, lacking as it does the Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Robin, Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, Cardinal and Goldfinch, to name a few; and the hit-or-miss Queen Annes County list, checked off only by people driving through, accounts for the rest of it. Of the 18 species seen in only one county, Worcester County is responsible for 12, including European Teal, Arkansas Kingbird, and Lark Sparrow. Talbot County had Leach's Petrel, Dorchester listed Northern Phalarope, Baltimore had Sooty Tern, Anne Arundel contributed Snowy Owl, Montgomery added Brown-capped Chickadee, and Prince Georges had Bachman's Sparrow. In all, 279 species were reported in Maryland during the year.

Over 40 single observers and several groups of observers have contributed lists, and a few records were obtained from recoveries of banded birds. The bulk of the reports, however, were sent in by the following:

- Alleghany Co. - Lois McCollough, Eleanor Minke, and Leonard Llewellyn.
- Anne Arundel Co. - Mrs. W. L. Henderson Mrs. G. Tappan, Lewis Oring.
- Baltimore Co. - Charles Buchanan, Douglas Hackman, Edwin Willis.
- Calvert Co. - Jack Hallman, Elizabeth Slater, and Friel Sanders.
- Caroline Co. - M. Hewitt, Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, A. May Thompson.
- Carroll Co. - Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dubois and Dr. John W. Richards.
- Cecil Co. - J. W. Day.
- Charles Co. - Allen R. Stickley, Jr., John Terborgh, Renwick R. Kerr.
- Dorchester Co. - Chandler S. Robbins and Robert E. Stewart.
- Frederick Co. - Dr. and Mrs. John W. Richards.
- Garrett Co. - Leonard Llewellyn, Lewis Oring, E. Slater, F. Sanders.
- Harford Co. - Orville W. Crowder and Dr. Caroline tum Suden.
- Howard Co. - Chandler S. Robbins, Seth H. Low, and Gorman M. Bond.
- Kent Co. - Rodgers T. Smith.
- Montgomery Co. - Jack Hallman, Seth Low, Lewis Oring, and Karl Stecher.
- Prince Georges Co. - Chandler Robbins, Robert Stewart, and Lewis Oring.
- Queen Annes Co. - various short lists.
- Somerset Co. - Robert E. Stewart.
- St. Marys Co. - John Terborgh, Renwick R. Kerr, and John W. Taylor, Jr.
- Talbot Co. - Richard L. Kleen.
- Washington Co. Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Stauffer.
- Wicomico Co. - Chandler S. Robbins.
- Worcester Co. - David A. Cutler, Orville W. Crowder, Lewis Oring.

In the future it is hoped that, with more records submitted and comparative data available, a more thorough analysis of each year's records will be possible.

104 West Melrose Ave., Baltimore 10



THREE-BROODED CARDINALS

Hervey Brackbill

The essential length of the nesting cycle of the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) is about one month - about 4 days for building, 5 for laying, 12 or 13 for incubation, 9 or 10 for feeding young in the nest. In Baltimore I have commonly found nests with eggs or young from April to August. On April 15-16, 1945, a set of eggs hatched; on August 5-6, 1947, a brood left the nest; on September 27, 1952, a juvenile was still partly dependent on its parents for food.

It seems, therefore, that when all goes well with the nestings at least three broods must generally be raised by this species. But although I have been color-banding Cardinals and hunting their nests since 1942, it was not until 1953 that I obtained proof of a pair's raising three broods. On May 10 and 11 two young left the first nest of this pair in the Howard Park section of Baltimore; on June 20 the parents were caring for a tailless fledgling necessarily from a second nest that I did not find; and on August 4 three young left a third nest.

It may be noted that Amelia R. Laskey (*Wilson Bulletin* 56:42, 1944) says "four nestings in a season are not uncommon" about Nashville, Tenn. and that Ansel B. Miller (*The Cardinal* 6: 21-22, 1943) recorded four broods raised by a pair at Springs, Huntingdon County, Pa., the young leaving the nests on May 25, June 28, July 30 and September 3. Certainly, then, four broods can be expected in Maryland, at least occasionally.

2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore 7

A CHRISTMAS TRIP TO MEXICO

John H. Kaufmann

Four of us left Towson, Maryland on Saturday morning, December 19, 1953. We drove straight to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, arriving there about 5 A.M. on December 21. While at Aransas we saw 3 Whooping Cranes (2 adults and one immature), and about 75 Sandhill Cranes. We drove to Harlingen that night, and crossed the Border at about noon on December 22. We drove to Tampico, on the Gulf Coast, and birded both on the coast and at inland lakes and marshes. We saw Glossy and White Ibises, Jacanas, Black-necked Stilts, Roseate Spoonbills, White-tailed Iite, Anis, Derby and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Bonaparte's Euphonias, Sharpe's Seed-eaters, and the first Sooty Shearwater for which we can find a record on Mexico's East Coast.

On December 25th we drove south to Tuxpan, 100 miles along the coast. Seen along the way were 13 species of hawks: Sharp-shinned, Zone-tailed, Mexican Roadside, Short-tailed, Marsh, Mexican Gray, Osprey, Blackish Crane Hawk, Laughing Falcon, Bat Falcon, Aplomado Falcon, and Audubon's Caracara. We also saw Chachalacas, Red-crowned Parrots, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Yellow-billed Cacique, Green Jay, and many more tropical species, including a rare Chestnut-bellied Heron.

On the 26th we drove inland to Tamagunchale, over 8,000 foot mountains. We stayed in the vicinity of Tamagunchale for three days, and while there participated in the annual Xilitla Christmas count, organized by Mr. Irby Davis of Harlingen, Texas. The first day we spent in the dry woodland at 6,000 feet, and saw such upland birds as Bearded Wood Partridge, Acorn Woodpecker, Townsend's Warbler, Painted Redstart, and Brown Towhee.

On the 28th we worked the tropical forest on the slope of the mountains, and got such species as Green Paroquet, Blue-crowned Motmot, Emerald Toucanet, Masked Tityra, White-winged Tanager, and Ivory-billed Woodhewer.

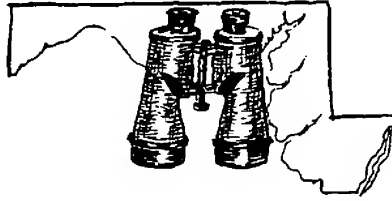
During the next day we worked along the Axila River at the base of the mountains. Here we saw Anhingas, Squirrel Cuckoos, a Pauraque, Rose-throated Becard, Amazon and Ringed Kingfishers, Black Phoebe, and Spot-breasted Wrens. There was a nest of Curve-winged Sabre-wings (hummingbirds) with 2 young in it at the tourist court where we stayed outside of Tamagunchale. We left Tamagunchale on December 30, drove to the Border at Laredo, and reached home at 3 A.M. on January 2.

In 10 days we saw over 250 species, of which 135 were life birds for me.

531 Park Ave., Towson

"Seasonal Distribution of Bird Populations at the Patuxent Research Refuge" is the title of a 109-page booklet by Robert E. Stewart, James B. Cope, C. S. Robbins, and John W. Brainerd. Published in 1952, it gives a summary of bird population research on 229 species at Patuxent Refuge from 1930 to 1950. It includes extreme and median migration dates, and numerical status of most species throughout the year. Copies may be obtained through the Book Committee for \$1.00; discount to paid members.

FIELD



TRIPS

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB TRIPS, 1954 SUMMARY

Elmer G. Worthley

The 1954 trip reports as compiled by Miss Florence H. Burner, 5350 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore 15, Md., show a total of 246 species recorded on Club trips during the year. Fourteen of these birds were seen only in New Jersey (Cape May, Sept. 18-19) and five only in Pennsylvania (Hawk Mountain, Oct. 30-31). The remaining 227 species represent more than four-fifths of all the species reported from Maryland during the year.

The Club Trips began on Feb. 7, 1954 with a rewarding trip to Kent Island. Out of the 56 species observed the European Widgeon and the Blue Goose were the "rarae aves" of the day. Other notables included Swamp Sparrow, Robin, Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher, Black Vulture, Bonaparte's Gull, Horned Lark (both Northern and Prairie), Rusty Blackbird, and numerous Field Sparrows.

Data on 16 field trips included number of species of birds seen and number of people participating. The combined Ocean City - Elliott Island trip with 20 people taking part forced that portion of the Coastal Plain to yield 150 species of birds which was the highest number for any Baltimore Club trip. This May 21 to May 23 excursion had such interesting records as: Least Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Black Rail, Hudsonian Curlew, Willet, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher, White-rumped Sandpiper, Gull-billed and Royal Terns, Chuck-will's-widow, Swainson's Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Those who attended the Open House at the Worthley's, Owings Mills, Md. on September 26, were able to see the Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler. Many unusual and rare plants were to be seen on this trip. The insectivorous Pitcher Plant, Round-leaved Sundew, Threadleaved Sundew, Harris' Goldenrod, Black Ash, Anise-scented Goldenrod, Wild Rice, Poison Sumach, Box Huckleberry, Curly-grass, Alternateleaved Dogwood and many others helped some of the birders towards a fuller knowledge of the world that birds inhabit.

The Cape May trip turned up a Cattle Egret on Sept. 19. On top of Hawk Mt. on Oct. 30 the "Hawkers" were treated to a flock of Evening Grosbeaks that swept past the summit. Mrs. Alice Kaestner turned in a list of 111 species seen in the Lake Roland area.

Bonita Avenue, Owings Mills

Christmas Count dates : December 24 through January 2

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1955 EVENTS

- September 4 Fall plants of the serpentine barrens, Soldiers' Delight.
 11 Sandy Point State Park & St. Conrad's Friary.
 10-18 Banding study of migration along the eastern coast.
 14 Audience Round Table on summer birding. Home of M. H. Partridge, Frederick, Md. 8 P.M.
 16 Talbot County meeting at Easton. "Hawks" by R. L. Kleen.
 16-17-18 Cape May, N.J. week-end. Lectures, field trips, etc. sponsored by Audubon Center of South Jersey.
 17-18 State-wide trip to Hawk Mountain, Pa.
 17-18 Allegheny unit. Hawk flight observations in western Md. mountains.
 24 Upper Loch Raven. Leader: Charles Buchanan. Meet at Hutzler Parking lot, Towson, Md., 8 A.M.
 24 Hike to Linganore led by Sarah Quinn. Meet at Band Shell, Baker Park, Frederick, Md. at 7:30 A.M.
 26 Monthly meeting, Caroline County Bird Club, Camp Mardela, Denton, Md. Talk by Dick Kleen on "Hurricanes and their Effects on Birds." 8 P.M.
- October 1 Moon watch at Dr. Tanner's, 510 Military Rd., Frederick.
 1 Moon watch. Caroline County Bird Club.
 2 Fall bird banding trip to Seth Low's farm, Unity, Md. All day program starting at dawn.
 8 Lake Roland. Led by Mrs. Alice Kaestner. Meet 8 A.M. at Lake and Roland Aves., Baltimore.
 9 Talbot Co. Club - migration hike to Royal Oak.
 12 Frederick unit meeting at home of W. N. Shirey, 121 Fairview Ave., Frederick, Md. 8 P.M.
 14 Baltimore unit meeting. Pratt Library, Cathedral & Mulberry Sts. 8 P.M.
 14 Talbot unit meeting. "Tools of the Birder" by members.
 16 Bird and botany field trips at Worthley's home, Bonita Ave., Owings Mills, Md. 2 P.M.
 22-23 Frederick unit trip to Hawk Mountain.
 22-23 Talbot unit junior member, Hawk Mountain weekend.
 27 Monthly meeting of the Caroline County Bird Club. Greensboro. Film on "Life in a Pond" by Cecil Kenny. 8 P.M.
 29-30 Baltimore unit trip to Hawk Mountain. See local program or call Valley 3-2650

