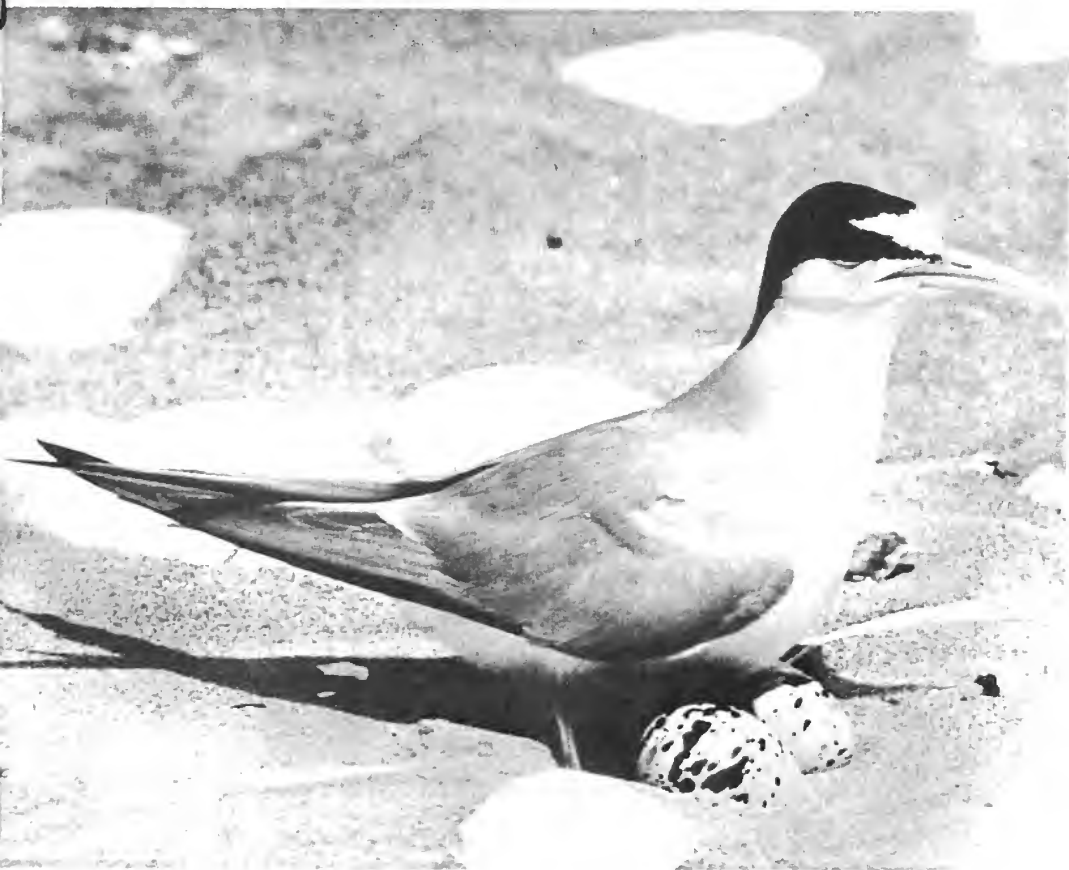


# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

*2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland*



Volume 13

JUNE 1957

Number 2

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

State President: Richard D. Cole, 625 Valley Lane, Towson 4, Md.  
State Secretary: Shirley H. Geddes, 503 Overbrook Rd., Balto. 12, Md.  
State Treasurer: Richard M. Douglass, 511 Talbot St., Cumberland, Md.  
First Vice President: William Shirey, 121 Fairview Ave., Frederick, Md.  
Second Vice Presidents: A. J. Fletcher, Evelyn Gregory, Herbert C. Heineman, Richard L. Kleen, Carl C. Long, W. Bryant Tyrrell, Elmer G. Worthley.  
Trustees: Edith Adkins, Dr. J. T. Ambler, Edwin Barry, Rodney Jones, Dr. Chas. Stine, Stephen Simon, Marvin Hewitt, Naomi Hewitt, John Richards, Melvin Partridge, Mrs. Ronald Nevius, Elsie Hovey, Goldie Thomsen, Mrs. Rebecca Munnikhuysen, Walter Braun, Capt. J.E.M. Wood, John Workmeister, Mrs. Helen Miller.

LOCAL CHAPTERS

Allegany County Bird Club	Frederick Branch, M. O. S.
Avid Avists of Anne Arundel Co.	Harford County Bird Club
Balto. Chapter, M.O.S., Inc.	Takoma Park Nature Club
Caroline County Bird Club	Talbot County Bird Club

Out-of-state membership (Maryland Birdlife only)	\$2.00
Junior membership (under 18 years)	\$ .50

CONTENTS, JUNE 1957

Report of State-wide Bird Count	P. W. Jones & C.S. Robbins	27
Summary of 1957 Baltimore Walks	Charles M. Buchanan	35
The Season - Jan., Feb., March, 1957	Chandler S. Robbins	37
M.O.S. Annual Convention	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Fletcher	40
Junior Activities		
Cardinal Fights His Reflection	Tony Michel	41
Highlights From Annual Business Meeting	Richard D. Cole	41
New Members		43
Coming Events		44

COVER: Least Tern and eggs. Photographed by Dr. C. J. Stine.

HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampe, Art Editor

M A R Y L A N D B I R D L I F E

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

Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Refuge, Laurel, Md.  
Editorial Board: Mrs. Roberta Fletcher, Mrs. Mabel Hoyler,  
Richard L. Kleen, Gordon Knight, Mrs. Martina Luff,  
Mrs. Helen Miller, Charles Stine, W. Bryant Tyrrell  
Junior Editorial Board: Wilbur Rittenhouse, Gordon Knight, James Voshell  
Production: Gladys Cole, Richard Cole, Mrs. Edna Currier,  
Allen Currier, Martha Schaffer, Shirley Geddes



# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

*Published quarterly by the  
Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.  
2101 Bolton Street, Baltimore 17, Maryland*

---

Volume 13

JUNE 1957

Number 2

---

## REPORT OF STATE-WIDE BIRD COUNT, MAY 4, 1957

Percy W. Jones and Chandler S. Robbins

A poor day in the midst of a poor migration season stimulated Maryland bird counters to put forth their best efforts. In spite of long and hard hours of field work, several participants reported the lowest totals yet recorded in their respective areas. The small numbers of transient song birds can be blamed entirely upon the weather. To be sure, May 4 was a fine cloudless day; but bird seekers learn to examine the weather more critically, knowing how dependent migrating birds are upon the various kinds of air masses, fronts, wind conditions, temperature, and precipitation areas. We do not expect an influx of birds from the south when winds over Maryland are blowing briskly from the north, or when temperatures are far below seasonal norms, or when persistent rains in states to the south of us cut off the supply of potential migrants.

On May 4 we were under the influence of an enormous high pressure cell of polar origin which had been centered over Hudson Bay since the first of the month. This mountain of cold dry air was of unusual intensity, and it kept a steady stream of Canadian air pouring over Maryland. Where this cold heavy air came in contact with warm moist air in Georgia and the Carolinas, heavy rains persisted over a three to four day period. The cold weather reached its greatest intensity on the day of our count, tying or breaking all-time low temperature records for May 4 in our area. Freezing temperatures were recorded as far east as Howard County, and Denton, on the Eastern Shore, had a low of 33°. High readings for the day ranged between 50° and 60°.

An earlier warm spell had caused the trees to leaf out earlier than usual, making it hard to find those birds that were not singing. This same April warm period had sent most of our wintering birds on their northward way. The May transients had hardly begun to appear before the cold weather set in. Migratory movement on the night preceding our count and on the day of the count was at the very minimum. And to top it off, a persistent wind of 10 to 20 miles per hour made observation difficult. So, you see, the odds were heavily stacked against us.

In view of these most unfavorable conditions, it is gratifying to find that we recorded a total of 217 species in Maryland on the 4th. This is second only to last year's 229. The total number of individuals,

37,525, also compares favorably with last year's 36,763. In order to achieve such scores, however, we had to increase our coverage (party-hours) by more than 50 percent. There was a small increase in observers this year, with 132 persons contributing to the 19 counts given in Table 1. The Caroline County group, with 22 participants in 15 parties, had the best coverage, and the longest list for an inland area.

As in the past, the best lists are presented in Table 1, and details of coverage for all lists, including those taken on the following day, are given at the end of the article. The list is similar in many respects to that of a year ago, when we also had the misfortune to have no active migration. Counts for the following warblers were within 20 percent of last year's totals: Black and White, Prothonotary, Blue-winged, Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Oven-bird, Northern Water-thrush, Kentucky, Yellow-throat (277 both years), and Yellow-breasted Chat. Warblers showing the greatest drop from last year were: Nashville (32 in 1956 to 1 in 1957), Blackburnian (85 to 5), Chestnut-sided (65 to 22), and Redstart (305 to 134). The only warbler with an appreciable increase was the Black-throated Blue (26 to 61). With the above figures to guide you, see whether, on the basis of your field experience this spring, you can guess some of the 9 other passerine species that doubled in abundance over last year (excluding species with fewer than 10 individuals last year). Then, name some of the 7 species that dropped to less than half of last year's total.

Those in the first category are the Bank Swallow (55 in 1956 to 195 in 1957), Cliff Swallow (25 to 56), Fish Crow (56 to 164), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (71 to 155), Warbling Vireo (17 to 38), Bobolink (14 to 180), Cardinal (577 to 1189), Savannah Sparrow (53 to 116), and Chipping Sparrow (264 to 574). The 7 species that registered the greatest drops were the Olive-backed Thrush (61 to 5), Gray-cheeked Thrush (10 to 0), Veery (33 to 4), Cedar Waxwing (99 to 25), Purple Finch (203 to 0), Goldfinch (2,754 to 1,186), and Slate-colored Junco (19 to 3). The thrushes and waxwing were late in arriving this year and only small numbers were reported during the migration period. The Purple Finch simply did not come south this winter; and the warm weather of late April sent the Juncos on their way, leaving few stragglers to be recorded on May 4. The drop in Goldfinches need cause no alarm; the 1956 count was exceptionally high, and the 1957 tally is closer to normal.

In 1956, 18 species were found by all 20 parties whose lists were included in the table. An equal number appeared on all lists in 1957. All were summer (or permanent) residents except the Myrtle Warbler and White-throated Sparrow. One might expect that with state-wide coverage on a fairly uniform basis year after year the same 1 or 2 species would head the list each time. But this has not been the case. The Red-wing has had the highest count on 3 years, and the Goldfinch, Double-crested Cormorant, Bobolink, and Starling on 1 or 2 years. In 1957 the Purple Grackle was the most numerous bird reported, followed by the Red-wing, Starling, Barn Swallow, and English Sparrow in that order.

The Ocean City list always contains many species not found by any

Table 1. State-wide Bird Count, May 6, 1957

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TOT		
	All	Was	Em	Uni	Owg	Rav	Rel	FPK	How	Pat	Gib	Ann	Cal	K.I.	Qua	RCO	Caro	Tal	Ooc			
Common Loon							1		1		1				5				41	49		
Red-throated Loon																			4	4		
Horned Grebe											2				3			1		6		
Pied-billed Grebe							1			2			1	1						5		
Cannet																				48	48	
Double-cr. Cormorant																				218	218	
Great Blue Heron						2				4	3	4	18	9	5	1	12	567	9	434		
Snowy Egret																				1	1	
Green Heron	2	2	2	2							3	2		2	32			4	1	16	70	
Black-cr. Nt. Heron														7						2	9	
Yellow-cr. Nt. Heron																				3	3	
American Bittern							1														1	
Whistling Swan															2	4			4		10	
Canada Goose				1						11					26	15					53	
Brant															20			30			50	
Snow Goose															7						7	
Mallard		24					2			9	10	9			3	21		2		3	83	
Black Duck	1	8					12			6	11	2	11	76		4		9	4	17	181	
Gadwall															4						4	
Baldpate															4	5					9	
Blue-winged Teal				1											11						12	
Wood Duck		1	2		1	1		2		27						2	1				37	
Redhead											1										1	
Canvas-back											1	6			17						24	
Greater Scaup																						
Lesser Scaup											7	2									56	
Am. Golden-eye											1							7			8	
Buffle-head			1																		1	
Old-squaw															9						9	
Surf Scoter																				1	1	
White-winged Scoter															3						3	
American Scoter																				1	1	
Ruddy Duck											152	89			4						245	
Hooded Merganser															2						2	
Red-br. Merganser												2			9				1	29	41	
Turkey Vulture	10	22	2	10	12	20		3	53	11	7	9	55	263	4	40	163	25	30	759		
Black Vulture				1					2				6	31		1	8	2			51	
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1					2				2						6	
Cooper's Hawk	1	1													1		1				5	
Red-tailed Hawk										1	3		1	22		2		6	1	2	39	
Red-shouldered Hawk	4				3			2		1	5					1		4		2	22	
Broad-winged Hawk	1	2				2				1											8	
Bald Eagle													10	3	1	1		1			16	
Marsh Hawk				1									1	10				2		1	15	
Osprey		2					1					4	2		6	67	12	7	3	15	119	
Duck Hawk	1																				1	
Pigeon Hawk	1																				1	
Sparrow Hawk	1								2	1						1					5	
Ruffed Grouse	4	3	3																		10	
Bob-white	5	15	5	5		8	1	2	25	12	50	12	21	82	2	8	71	4	14	342		
Ring-neck Pheasant						5									1						6	
King Rail															1						1	
Clapper Rail																				3	3	
Virginia Rail											1										1	
American Coot						3				3				34		6				6	52	
Am. Oyster-catcher																					1	1
Piping Plover																					2	2
Semipalmated Plover																					20	20
Killdeer	12	4	10		2	1	1		10	11	6	3	23	217	1	2	32	7	29	371		
Black-bellied Plover																					23	23
Ruddy Turnstone																					5	5
Woodcock		8										7									15	
Wilson's Snipe																		2			1	3
Hudsonian Curlew																					7	7
Spotted Sandpiper		2	2	2		3	2	4	14	3	3	3	3	14			5	6			66	
Solitary Sandpiper	1			1			3	2	10	27		1	1	9					2		57	
Willet																					36	36
Greater Yellow-legs										3			1	40	1	1	8	5	22		81	
Lesser Yellow-legs										1	1		1	68			3	1	3		78	
Purple Sandpiper																					1	1
Pectoral Sandpiper															1						1	1
Least Sandpiper										2	2				113		2		10		129	



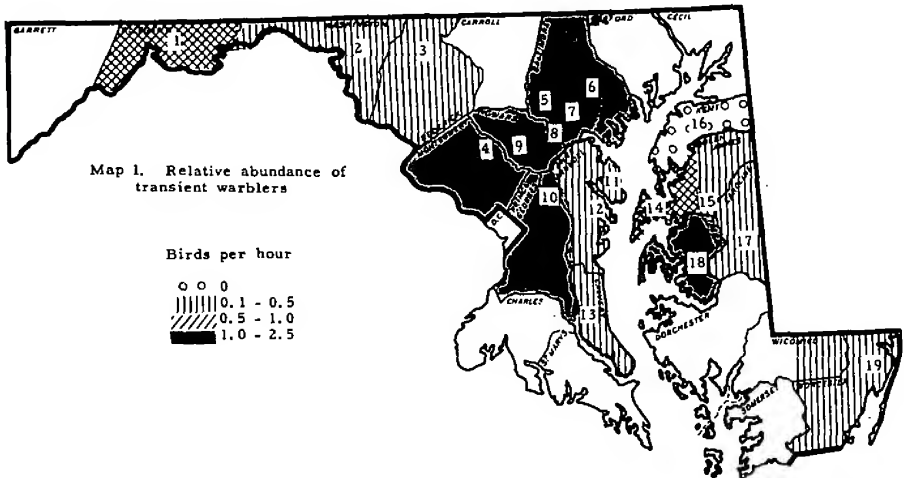


Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TOT
	All	Was	Emm	Uni	Owg	Rav	Roll	FPK	How	Pat	Gibs	Ann	Cal	K.I.	Qua	KCo	Caro	Tal	OcC	
Cedar Waxwing	2										21	2								25
Starling	30	100	50	12	100	6	2	2	180	85	100	50	91	23	15	170	278	120	55	1469
White-eyed Vireo	3		1			8			7	6	8	3	17				18		11	82
Yellow-throated Vireo	5	6		1		2			5	8			2							29
Blue-headed Vireo	1									2										3
Red-eyed Vireo	8	15	6	2		4			15	56	30	5	35	19	1		32	9	15	252
Warbling Vireo	2	26					1		3				1		1		3	1		36
Black & White Warbler	5	3	3	1	2	5		1	8	12	6		14	5			15	7	11	98
Prothonotary Warbler		1													1		15	1	8	26
Swainson's Warbler																				2
Worm-eating Warbler		6		1		2				3								1	3	16
Golden-winged Warbler	3					1							1							8
Blue-winged Warbler			1							3				17				5	1	27
Nashville Warbler									1											1
Parula Warbler	5	4							17	15	10	5	28			4	11	8	9	116
Yellow Warbler	28	9			2		5	1	3	2	20	1	4	36			7	3		121
Magnolia Warbler								1		6			1	3						11
Cape May Warbler		1							3	2		2			2		1			11
Blk-thr. Blue Warbler	2			12	2	6	2	1	8	9	1		5				2	7	4	61
Myrtle Warbler	1	63	6	35	50	20	13	10	80	125	100	6	16	49	3	12	208	66	10	873
Blk-thr. Green Warbler	11		2		1	10			7	15	1									47
Cerulean Warbler	5					1			2											8
Blackburnian Warbler		2				1					2									5
Yellow-thrtd Warbler											1				2				5	8
Chest.-sided Warbler	1	2			2		1		3	6		1	4				1	1		22
Black-poll Warbler				1								3	2				1			7
Pine Warbler				1						4			5				3	1	1	15
Prairie Warbler	1			1		15			8	12	6		35				14	2	4	98
Palm Warbler									1				2							3
Ovenbird	8	9	6	2		7		2	7	17			6	9			11	11	15	110
No. Water-thrush	1								2	5					1			1	1	11
La. Water-thrush	1	8	3	1		1		2	6	2							3		1	28
Kentucky Warbler		1	6	1					6	10					2		8	4	3	41
Yellow-throat	7	6	10	3	12	25	2	2	26	31	25	2	40	39	4	6	21	10	6	277
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	6	1		15	1	1	11	5	4	2	10	2	6		11	5		82
Hooded Warbler	1	1	6			1			9	25	20		10				1	9	8	83
Canada Warbler	1							2	3	1	1									8
Am. Redstart	15	7				9	11	2	41	24	2	1	9		2		5	1	5	134
English Sparrow	50	129	40	8	100	4	2	4	74	14	36	24	65	23	15	150	453	118	50	1359
Bobolink				1					46	2			106				25			180
Eastern Meadowlark	3	67	20	16		25	12		104	18	14	9	53	181	6	12	145	53	62	800
E. Red-wing	87	84	40	12		75	40	2	223	77	200	32	232	1070	9	100	233	245	145	2906
Orchard Oriole		4		2		2			3	5	3	2	10				12	4		47
Baltimore Oriole	2	8	4	1		2	2	3	2				1	11			17	5		64
Rusty Blackbird										2	2									4
Boat-tailed Grackle											2								31	31
Purple Grackle	36	203	40	10	100	3	1	6	82	39	100	29	298	1050	10	150	667	350	135	3309
Cowbird	14	31	30	20	50	25	3	2	49	25	85	16	53	163	4	35	138	41	56	840
Scarlet Tanager	5	7	6	1		3			10	23	7		3		2		17	4	12	100
Summer Tanager											4		3				2	1		10
Cardinal	23	24	10	7	10	25	5	11	86	26	200	42	70	350	3	18	161	60	38	1189
Rose-br. Grosbeak	2		2	1				3	1	1									1	11
Indigo Bunting	4	9		3		1			12	7	1		11	14	1	1	10		2	78
Blue Grosbeak										1							6	2		9
Z. Goldfinch	53	117	20	15	150	45	6	10	83	33	300	41	43	36	5	8	113	99	27	1186
Red-eyed Towhee	10	14	10	6	12	20	3	1	53	33	200	13	56	73	2	2	64	30	11	593
Savannah Sparrow			2	4					12	10	2		9	7			15	3	52	116
Grasshopper Sparrow		7		2		6	1		39	1			15		1		11	2		85
Henslow's Sparrow									1											1
Sharp-tailed Sparrow														3					16	19
Seaside Sparrow														5					6	11
Vesper Sparrow	5	3	6						12					2	1			8		37
Slate-colored Junco	2									1										3
Chipping Sparrow	21	13	6	30	50	3		7	36	29	50	8	49	120	5	9	124	7	7	576
Field Sparrow	12	18	10	10	6	25		3	49	22	12	12	100	96	6	12	88	11	11	503
White-crown Sparrow	9		4		2					1			4		3		3			28
White-thr. Sparrow	22	8	10	25	5	9	2	35	48	104	75	61	48	170	1	3	74	7	18	725
Lincoln's Sparrow	1					1														2
Swamp Sparrow			4		1	2		1	1	6			1	17	1		1			35
Song Sparrow	32	104	15	10	12	20	3	7	79	22	25	19	26	89	2	35	32	3	48	823
TOTAL SPECIES	87	85	72	77	54	81	43	50	98	104	89	78	101	116	66	62	109	101	123	217
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	908		711		1172		143		2677		3802		2798		202		4875		2493	
PARTY-HOURS	30	31½	13	9	4	15½	3	2	14½	20½	24	19	68	22	10	12	67	12	15	387

other party; this year they had 24 such species, including 11 shorebirds and 6 gulls, terns, and skimmers. Kent Island observers found 9 species not listed by any other party: Snow Goose, Gadwall, Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Hooded Merganser, King Rail, Pectoral Sandpiper, and, of course, the Short-eared Owl. Gibson Island contributed the only Redhead, Virginia Rail, and Least Flycatcher; Allegany County the only Duck and Pigeon Hawks and Bewick's Wrens; Howard County the only Nashville Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow; Emmitsburg, the Bufflehead; Loch Raven, the American Bittern; Lake Roland, the Winter Wren; and Calvert County, the Black-billed Cuckoo.

Fifteen of Maryland's 23 counties were represented in this year's counts. Kent County was included for the first time, and observers in Washington, Calvert, Queen Annes and Caroline Counties provided better coverage than had been obtained in these counties in prior years. As in the past, some lists resulted from the combined efforts of several different parties spread over a whole county, whereas other lists were made by single observers working in small areas. If we are to compare counts in the various parts of the State, we should attempt to put them all on the same basis. The following species totals for the top twelve counties are based on all species recorded for each county on May 4, on the unpublished as well as the published lists:

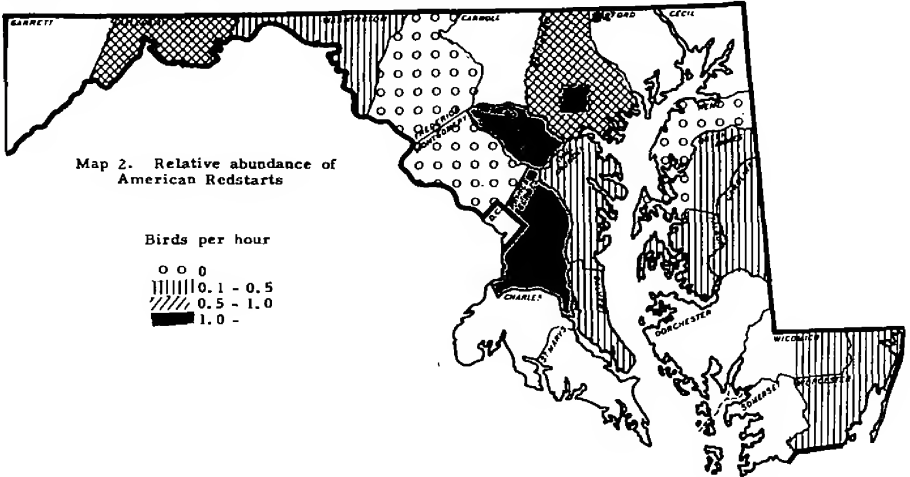
Queen Annes	134	Prince Georges	102	Baltimore	98
Worcester	123	Calvert	101	Allegany	87
Caroline	109	Talbot	101	Washington	85
Anne Arundel	107	Howard	98	Montgomery	80



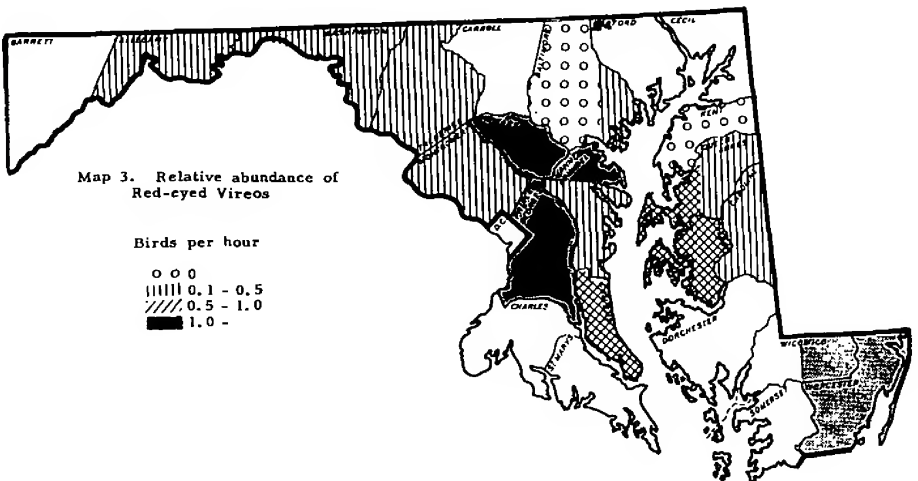
Map 1 shows the approximate center of each area included in Table 1. It also shows, by appropriate shading, the relative abundance of transient warblers in our State on May 4. The following warblers were considered transients (non-breeding migrants) for purposes of this map: Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll,



Palm, Northern Water-thrush, and Canada. Although 4 of these species nest locally in 1 or 2 counties embraced by this study, examination of Table 1 shows that few if any of the nesting individuals were observed on the day of the count. Blank areas on the map are those counties in which no observations were made on May 4.



Map 2 illustrates the recorded abundance of the American Redstart on May 4. The breeding population of this species is usually present by the first of May, and is augmented by many individuals enroute to more northern states. This year, many nesting individuals had not yet arrived by May 4, and very few transients were present. Nearly the same situation prevailed with the Red-eyed Vireo (Map 3).



Resume of Coverage

1. Allegany County. 3 miles on C & O Canal at Cumberland, and 5 miles on Savage Mountain near Frostburg. 8 observers in 2 parties; 30 party-hours. Mrs. Helen Miller, Richard Douglas, John Workmeister, Mrs. William Leason, Mrs. Gordon Taylor, Daniel Folk, Royal Miller, Charlotte Richardson.
2. Washington County. 31½ party-hours (5:50 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.); 167 party-miles (7 on foot, 160 by car). 6 observers in 3 parties. Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Green, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Stauffer, Mrs. Lloyd Mallonee, Howard Dean.
3. Emmitsburg area of Frederick County. 15 party-hours (6 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Dr. John W. Richards.
4. Unity, Montgomery County (Stony Broke Farm, and by car to Mt. Zion, Brookville, and Brighton Dam). 9 party-hours (5 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Seth H. Low.
5. Owings Mills, Baltimore County. 110 acres covered in 4 hours on foot. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Worthley, Rodney Jones.
6. Loch Raven, Baltimore County. 12 hours (4:05 a.m. to 4 p.m.) by Haven Kolb around lower Loch Raven, plus 3½ hours (7 to 10:30 a.m.) at upper Loch Raven by Charles M. Buchanan. Round numbers of 10 or more are conservative estimates; other numbers are actual counts.
7. Lake Roland, Baltimore County. 8 observers together, 8 to 11 a.m. Mrs. Carl G. Francis, Grace Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kemp Bartlett, Jr., Mrs. E. J. Sauger, Mrs. James E. Hooper.
8. Patapsco State Park, Baltimore and Howard Counties. 2 hours. Irving E. Hampe.
9. Howard County. 14½ party-hours; 128 party-miles (4 on foot, 124 by car). Observers together most of the time, 4:25 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. Chandler S. Robbins, Aelred Geis.
10. Patuxent Research Refuge, Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Cos. 20½ party-hours (5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.). 5 observers in 4 parties on foot; most observations made in early morning. Robert E. Stewart, Fred Hermann, A. G. Martin, Leonard M. Llewellyn, Clark G. Webster.
11. Gibson Island, Anne Arundel County. 1,000 acres. 10 observers in 2 parties. 24 party-hours (on foot). C. M. Buchanan, Mrs. J. Dorsey, R. Dwight, Mrs. D. Groom, Mrs. R. Henderson, Judge and Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Dr. C. Lawrence, Miss M. McLean, Mrs. Gail Tappan.
12. Annapolis (Hillsmere, Sherwood Forest, St. Conrad's, North River), Anne Arundel County. 19 party-hours. 7 observers in 4 parties (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.). Prof. and Mrs. David G. Howard, Fr. Edward Stoehr, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Long, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Miner and others.
13. Calvert County. 68 party-hours. 6 observers in 2 parties. 5 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. 232 party-miles (13 on foot, 219 by car). Friel Sanders, Elizabeth Slater, Lorena Wendt, Katherine Keeley, Mary Goldman.
14. Kent Island (and 20 miles inland along Chester River), Queen Annes County. 22 party-hours (5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). 3 observers in 2 parties. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dubois, Vernon Stotts.
15. Queen Anne, Queen Annes County. 10 hours, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wilbur Rittenhouse.

(continued on page 44)

## SUMMARY OF THE 1957 BALTIMORE SATURDAY "BIRD WALKS"

Charles M. Buchanan

The spring of 1957 was a very unexciting one for bird migration. There were a few rather good days, but unfortunately for the timing of these walks, they did not fall on weekends. It is interesting to note, however, that the sum total of 124 species seen on all the walks equals the total of last year, which had more favorable conditions, on the whole, for observation. Also, the weekly totals tie in rather closely with the corresponding weeks of last year. In the 1956 summary it was noted that new housing and road construction at Lake Roland was encroaching on the breeding territories of the Least Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo there. The 1957 Lake Roland reports show a marked reduction of Warbling Vireos and no record at all for the Least Flycatcher.

Except for the final walk on May 18, birds were never seen in anything like good numbers, and even some of the common species such as the Bluebird were seen only once or twice. Among those missing altogether were Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Orchard Oriole (second year in a row), Blue-headed Vireo, and Blue-winged and Cape May Warblers. Records are incomplete for all species seen since the Saturday walks began in 1954, but it is believed that the following birds seen this year represent first records: Red-breasted Merganser (Loch Raven), Barred Owl (Wyman Park), Gray-cheeked Thrush (Wyman Park), Cerulean Warbler (Loch Raven), and, especially noteworthy, Summer Tanager (Loch Raven).

Leaders for the trips were Mr. and Mrs. Hans Krimm for Wyman Park, Mrs. Robert Kaestner, Mrs. Leo Vollmer and Mrs. Carl Francis for Lake Roland and Charles Buchanan at Loch Raven. The data following are set down in more or less comparative form, and therefore it is well to keep in mind that all Loch Raven walks included an early drive from near the dam up to the northern end of the lake where the main part of the walk took place. This larger territory covered and additional time spent is responsible for Loch Raven's high counts.

April 13 - Weather clear and cold, temperature 38° at 6:30 A.M. with light snow flurries in the early morning. A cold spell had set in the previous night. Wyman Park, with 26 species in 2 hours, had the only Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Fish Crow, and shared Hermit Thrushes with Lake Roland. Lake Roland, also with 26 species in 2 hours, had the only Red-shouldered Hawk, Bob-white, Killdeer and Chipping Sparrows and found White-breasted Nuthatches nest-building. Loch Raven made a special attempt to record water birds this weekend, and found 2 Horned Grebes, Great Blue Heron, Black, Wood and Ring-necked Ducks, Red-breasted Merganser and 13 Coots. The Coots were seen again on the following two walks. Also seen were Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks, and, among the migrants, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Louisiana Water-thrush. Aggregate species total - 51.

April 20 - Cloudy, 52° at 6:30 A.M. Wyman Park, 27 species in 2

hours, had the only Purple Martins to be seen on this year's walks, and this time 2 Barred Owls. Lake Roland, 29 species, had the first Catbird, the only Myrtle Warblers, one of the few 1957 Maryland reports of Purple Finch (2) and Black-capped Chickadees (small group). Loch Raven, 48 species in 4 hours, added Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Duck, 7 Broad-winged Hawks, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, 2 Pheasants, and the first House Wren, Black and White Warbler and Yellow Palm Warbler. Aggregate species total - 57.

April 27 - Clear, 66° to 84°, part of a prolonged warm spell which allowed migrants to trickle through rather than build up in waves. Wyman Park, 32 species in 2½ hours, got an early Black-throated Blue Warbler and, oddly enough for the "driest" area, the only Kingfisher. Lake Roland, 38 species, recorded the only Spotted Sandpiper and the first Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole and Indigo Bunting. They shared Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throat and Redstart with Loch Raven. Loch Raven, 52 species in 3 hours, got 2 Green Herons, Cooper's Hawk, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, and the first Kingbird, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Parula, Prairie and Hooded Warblers, Oven-bird, Yellow-breasted Chat and Scarlet Tanager. Aggregate species total - 65.

May 4 - Sunny but very cool, 40° at 7:00 A.M. with north winds. Described as one of the poorest "Bird Days" on record. Wyman Park, 39 species in 3½ hours, recorded the only Veery and shared Worm-eating Warblers with Loch Raven, 2 apiece, and found Mourning Doves nesting. Lake Roland, 41 species, added Mallard (2) to this year's list, and the first Solitary Sandpiper and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Loch Raven, 65 species in 3½ hours, found a mixed band of migrating swallows, including 14 Tree, 9 Bank and 22 Cliff Swallows. Also seen were Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Golden-winged, Black-throated Green, Cerulean and Blackburnian Warblers among the 17 kinds of warblers seen this day. Aggregate species total - 82.

May 11 - Annual Convention at Ocean City. No Baltimore walks.

May 18 - Clear and warm, 58° at 6:00 A.M. This was the most rewarding day of a poor season, with the first good counts on flycatchers and thrushes and 22 kinds of warblers. Wyman Park, 47 species in 3 hours, got Olive-backed Thrushes along with Loch Raven, and the only Gray-cheeked Thrush and Wilson's Warbler, and still had White-throated Sparrow. Lake Roland, 49 species, finally managed, as did Wyman Park, to record Cedar Waxwing for the lists. Loch Raven, 66 species in 4 hours, had a surprising Canada Goose, Black-billed Cuckoo, Acadian and Alder Flycatchers, Yellow-throated Vireo, Bay-breasted and Kentucky Warblers, Northern Water-thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and climaxed the day with one of the few Baltimore County records for Summer Tanager. All trips had Crested Flycatchers and Wood Pewees, and Magnolia, Black-poll and Canada Warblers in fairly good numbers. Aggregate species total - 84.



JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1957

Chandler S. Robbins

Sandwiched between a warm December and a mild February was a month with more than the usual amount of snow cover, and with a prolonged hard freeze. On Jan. 18 the majority of weather stations in Maryland registered negative mercury readings, with the lowest,  $-16^{\circ}$ , reported from Unionville and Fort Meade. As a result of a series of Arctic air masses that pushed into our State from Jan. 14 through Jan. 19, temperatures at many stations remained continuously below freezing for 6 consecutive days. Even at the southern extremities of the State the mercury stayed below the freezing mark for 2 full days. Such conditions are bound to work a hardship upon stragglers of those species that normally winter to the south of us, and upon species that rely in part on flying insects for food.

Hérons.--For 4 out of the past 5 winters, one or more Green Herons have wintered in tidewater Maryland. This year's bird was found on Jan. 30 by Joe Spurry at St. Michaels, and is the first winter record for Talbot County.

Swans and Geese.--Blue Geese wintered again at Blackwater Refuge, and 2 were seen in the Miles River at Newcomb on Feb. 23 by Meade Lloyd, Roland Lloyd, Cottie Cottrell and Dick Kleen. The principal northward movement of Whistling Swans took place during the warm spell from March 11 through Mar. 18; the majority of reports during this period came from the Patuxent River valley between Patuxent Refuge and Unity.

Brant.--In the December 1956 issue we ran a brief note about 1,553 Brant that had been banded last summer on Southampton Island in northern Hudson Bay. Only one of the 253 birds carrying a yellow neck band was reported seen in Maryland, but 16 banded birds were shot in Maryland by hunters. These reports came from Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester Counties. It is interesting that only 4 of the recoveries were from the vicinity of the coast. There are few previous reports of Brant in Maryland outside of the usual wintering areas; so Stephen Simon's report of a very heavy Brant migration at night during mid-March over Monkton in northern Baltimore County is of special interest. Thomas Barry's summary of recoveries of Southampton Island birds shows that their main fall migration probably comes almost straight south through James Bay, Lake Ontario, the interior of New York State, and the Susque-

hanna River valley. If most of the Brant migrate through our area by night that would explain the paucity of observations from counties at the head of the Chesapeake.

Diving Ducks.--Of local interest was a Ring-necked Duck at Bellevue on Mar. 26; it was the first Harry Armistead had seen in Talbot County in 7 years of birding there. Mrs. W. L. Henderson and Mrs. Gail Tappan, who have been feeding scaup and other ducks in front of their Gibson Island homes for several years, reported that Greater Scaup Ducks built up to a peak of 2,000 on Feb. 11. On the same day an equal number of Canvas-backs arrived; about half of these remained and fed on grain put out on the shore. Buffle-heads were more numerous than usual at Gibson Island; 60 were counted on Mar. 24, together with 100 Old-squaws. All mergansers were scarce at Gibson Island.

Hawks.--Mrs. Henderson and G. Blakiston located 5 Bald Eagle nests in one hour on Mar. 17 at "Briarly" in Saint Marys County; 10 adult birds were in sight at one time! In addition to the adult Golden Eagle seen at Blackwater Refuge on Feb. 3 (Voshell, Maryland Birdlife 13:21), an immature bird was spotted at the same place on Feb. 10 (Kleen). Osprey arrivals were orderly, except for a record-breaking date of Mar. 4 near Tilghman's Island (Kleen): Mar. 20 at Williston, Mar. 22 at Denton, Mar. 24 at Gibson Island, Mar. 26 at Grasonville, and Mar. 28 at Centreville; there was no correlation of arrival dates for this species with warm weather or favorable winds.

Pheasants.--A Ring-necked Pheasant seen at Baltimore Corner in northern Caroline County, Mar. 13 (Marvin Hewitt), is worth recording, as legitimate records of this introduced bird in Caroline County are few. It is questionable whether the species can become established this far south.

Shorebirds.--Killdeer wintered in the Frederick Valley in exceptional numbers. Eighty were counted on the Jan. 1 Catoctin Christmas Count, as compared with a previous high of 35 in 1952. The first spring Killdeer were recorded on Feb. 25 at Patuxent Refuge (Paul Springer) and Monkton (Simon). The first Woodcock reports of the year were on Feb. 23 at St. Michaels (Cottrell), Feb. 24 at Beltsville (Clark Webster), and Feb. 27 at Berwyn. In Baltimore County they were not found until Mar. 15. Fred Schmid observed the first Wilson's Snipe at Patuxent Refuge on Mar. 13. A high count of 60 Purple Sandpipers was obtained at the Ocean City jetty on Mar. 31 by Robert E. Stewart and Irston R. Barnes.

Phoebes.--Wintering Phoebes were found during this period as far north as the Emmitsburg area (3 on Catoctin Christmas Count, Jan. 1), Patuxent Refuge (Jan. 18, Helen Webster), and Denton (Jan. 16, Mrs. A. J. Fletcher). There was an early arrival at Denton on Mar. 4 (Alicia Knotts), but first arrivals in most localities were associated with the warm spell of Mar. 12-18.

Swallows.--In addition to the scores of Tree Swallows that spent the early winter in southern Dorchester County, there is a single record



for Talbot County; one was seen near Easton on Feb. 20 by Dr. Tom Ambler. The earliest spring arrival was dated Mar. 16 at Denton (Jerry Fletcher). Purple Martins reached Preston (Hewitt), Greensboro (H. Hubbard), and Williston (B. Maloney) on Mar. 22, arriving in advance of a Tropical air mass from the Gulf of Mexico. Two Rough-winged Swallows set a new arrival date for Gibson Island on Mar. 29 (Mesdames Henderson and Tappan).

Catbirds and Thrashers.--Wintering Catbirds were noted as far north as Annapolis, Gibson Island, Bellevue, and Queen Anne, and Brown Thrashers north to Fullerton (Haven Kolb) and Queen Anne (Wilbur Rittenhouse).

Robins, Kinglets.--All sections of the State east of the mountains were invaded by Robins on Feb. 23; almost every observer gave this as his first date. Ruby-crowned Kinglets wintered north to Monkton (banded by Simon), Queen Anne, and Denton.

Meadowlarks and Orioles.--The Meadowlark is a rare wintering species on the Allegheny Plateau; but on Jan. 2 Leonard Llewellyn found 3 of them at Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County. More than the usual number wintered in the Frederick Valley; 64 were tallied on the Catoctin Christmas Count. The David Howards' Baltimore Oriole at Annapolis was joined by 2 others, all males; and all were still present at the close of the period.

Winter Finches.--Where were "our" Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches this winter? Since no Evening Grosbeak was reported from Maryland all winter, some of you probably checked Steve Simon's Christmas Count summary in the April issue of Audubon Field Notes to find out which area recorded the highest count for this species this Christmas. Upon finding that the high tally came from Walker in northern Minnesota, you would assume, quite logically, that these were not our birds--but rather, that the eastern segment of the population was scattered through the vast coniferous woods of northern Quebec or Ontario in areas where no Christmas Counts are taken. Actually, one of the Maryland Evening Grosbeaks was at Walker, Minn.; a female I banded at Laurel on Apr. 24, 1956 was trapped on Mar. 24, 1957 at Harold R. Hanson's banding station at Walker! The absence of Purple Finches creates even more of a mystery; although a bit irregular here in winter, we count on a spring flight of Purple Finches as a regular feature of the months of March and April. This spring there was no flight at all. The total spring count from all observers did not exceed the State Christmas Count total of 4 individuals. All other northern finches were entirely absent from our State.

Dickcissels and Sparrows.--The only Dickcissel of the season was a male discovered at Hyattsville on Mar. 17 by Neil Hotchkiss. The White-crowned Sparrow continues to increase as a wintering species in Maryland, and to spread into more localities on the Eastern Shore. As many as 74 (twice the previous high) were enumerated on the Catoctin Count, Jan. 1; at least 5 wintered at the home of Wilbur Rittenhouse at Queen Anne, one at the feeder of Catherine Barner near Easton, and others at Denton as in past seasons. In addition to the Snow Bunting reported at Blackwater by Voshell in the last issue, 5 were studied at Gibson Island on Feb. 27 and 28 (Mesdames Henderson and Tappan).

## M. O. S. ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher

The Tenth Annual State-wide Meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held at Ocean City, Maryland from May 10th to 12th, 1957. This is the third consecutive meeting at Ocean City, following a long series at Camp Greentop in the Catoctin Mountains. The place of next year's meeting is not yet decided.

The 1957 meeting was characterized by emphasis on field activities, important in the best birding area of the State. Leaders on trips to Sinepuxent Bay, the Barrier Beach and to Pocomoke Swamp were Mrs. Carl Lubbert, Mrs. Elmer Worthley, Steve Simon, Chan Robbins, Bob Sundell, Charles Buchanan and Dick Cole. In addition, a banding station was maintained in West Ocean City by the Coles and Fletchers, and Dr. Elmer Worthley led a popular botany trip into the Pocomoke Swamp area.

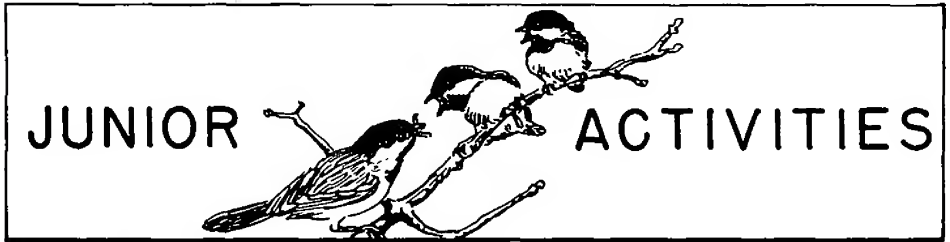
Inside activities, held at the Hastings Hotel, included the Annual Meeting, an illustrated lecture by Dr. Worthley on Friday evening, and another lecture with slides on Saturday evening by Mr. Merrill S. Cottrell of Millville, N. J. Dr. Worthley showed a series of slides prepared by Dr. Charles J. Stine of Baltimore who was unable to attend. Dr. Stine is well known for his photographs in *Maryland Birdlife* and for his contributions to natural history data of Maryland in several fields. Mr. Cottrell, an "out-of-state" member of the Society and prominent nature photographer of the South Jersey region, spoke on his experiences and his techniques used in taking the beautiful and instructive pictures which were shown to the group.

An item of interest to all members of the Society was the subject of raising dues to prevent a decline in Society activities owing to increasing costs. After airing this matter fully in a lengthy session at the business meeting, it was finally voted to raise State dues to \$2.00 per member.

An attack of Mumps prevented the president from attending, but the success of the meeting was assured by his careful organization. A wire was sent expressing our regret to Mr. Richard L. Kleen. One other disappointment was the scarcity of migrating land birds, backed up by a low of only 12 birds captured at the banding station. The very cool weather, following a very warm period, contributed to this lull.

Oyster-catchers, observed several times on the sand bars under the Ocean City bridge, were a great find. A total of 152 species was observed. Most observers added a few birds to their life lists. One hundred fifty-two persons registered for the meeting--about one-fourth of our membership. The Allegany Bird Club, coming the greatest distance, was best represented with 11 of their 29 members present. Facilities for meeting were good, and everyone present enjoyed the meeting.

--R. 1, Denton



### CARDINAL FIGHTS HIS REFLECTION

Tony Michel

During the first week in February, 1957, we were startled by a male Cardinal (Richmondia cardinalis) that was flying at our sunroom windows. Each time his beak struck the glass with such force that we thought he would hurt himself. The bird kept it up and so we decided to look into the matter. There are three windows facing south with a white pine tree and a bird feeder facing them. The Cardinal would sit on the feeder or in the tree and fly at the windows for as much as an hour at a time, three or four times a day, pausing now and then to whistle. Apparently he had chosen his nesting territory at this early date, and was defending it from all other male Cardinals, including his own reflection.

He did this every day beginning shortly after daylight. By the middle of March his excitement seemed to reach a peak and he would fly at each of the three windows in succession without perching between crashes. Eventually he discovered a trailing vine on which he could sit and peck his reflection in the glass. After that, his eagerness decreased until now, in the second week in April, he rarely flies at the window more than once a day.

6 Lombardy Place, Towson 4

---

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

A registration of 152 members with each Chapter well represented, made it the most balanced meeting the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. has ever held and while everyone did not get to personally shake hands with everybody else, at least they got the chance to get acquainted with many of the folks who make up our membership from all over Maryland.

Three amendments to our By-laws were made:

1. On recommendation of our Finance Committee the annual dues were raised \$1.00. Article III-Membership, Section (e) Active members, now reads: Those who shall pay annual dues of \$2.00.

2. On recommendation of our legal advisor, Mr. E. H. Burgess, Article IV was amended to read: Local Chapters and the word Chapter is substituted for the word Units in two places in the Article.

3. Article V-Trustees, Section 3 was amended to read: The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Sanctuary Committee consisting of five members chosen from the members or officers of the Corporation. Note: Membership on this Committee was originally limited to Trustees or Officers; the amendment makes it possible for any member of M.O.S., Inc. to serve.

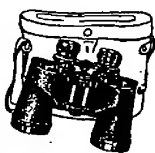
The Trustees in their meeting passed a resolution to open the Active Membership to couples with one dues payment, one copy of Maryland Birdlife, etc. They also appointed a Sanctuary Committee and a Nominating Committee, as follows: The new Sanctuary Committee is composed of Stephen W. Simon, Commander E. P. Wilson, Mrs. Helen Miller, Dr. William D. Noble and Sidney Peverley. The Nominating Committee for the 1958 officers consists of Captain J. E. M. Wood, Mrs. Roberta Fletcher, George Drumm, Charles Buchanan, Dick Kleen, Mabel Hoyler, Bill Leeson and W. Bryant Tyrrell.

A list of the new Trustees and Officers appears inside the front cover.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Better Binoculars for Birding!**

**WE offer you**



SIX models especially adapted - in our Shop - for birding!

THREE different grades of glasses - with unusual quality comparison!

ALL binoculars on 30 day trial! ALL - irrespective of price - with our Famous 1-year Free-Service Guarantee!

(Send for price list with full details)

\*\*\*\*\*

ALL MAKES precision repaired. If yours does not function perfectly, send it for FREE Collimator check and report

\*\*\*\*\*

FREE "Know Your Binoculars" booklet & "How to Check Alignment" leaflet  
 Reprinting our articles published in Audubon Magazine  
 (Also read our NEW article in March-April 1957 Audubon Magazine)

\*\*\*\*\*

If you have a binocular problem, write us - we answer questions personally

**MIRAKEL OPTICAL CO.**  
 14 WEST FIRST STREET  
 MOUNT VERNON 9, N. Y.

*The Reicherts*  
 Binocular Specialists Since 1923

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW MEMBERS

- Miss Jean Camper, 103 Washington St., Cumberland, Md.  
 Miss Gladys Clark, 209 Lincoln Ave., Takoma Park 12, Md.  
 Mrs. E. Hall Covell, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-1759  
 Mr. Daniel Gibson, Chestertown, Md.  
 Mrs. Leon Ginsberg, 3707 Chatham Rd., Baltimore 15, Md. LIBrty 2-1766  
 Mrs. Marnie Goldsborough, Easton, Md.  
 Mrs. W. D. Gould, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-1758  
 Mrs. Thomas T. Gwin, Frederick Pike, ELlicott City, Md. ELicot Cty 215-M  
 Miss Jean Hanrahan, St. Michaels, Md. RIVerview 5-5422  
 Mr. & Mrs. Casper Hart, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-3254  
 Mrs. Chamberlaine Hayward, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-0369  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Henderson, Trappe, Md. GRGreenfield 6-3247  
 Mrs. Alexander H. Hollyday, Royal Oak, Md. RIVerview 5-2271  
 Mrs. Merle R. Hoon, Royal Oak, Md. RIVerview 5-2271  
 Mrs. Meredith Janvier, 111 Deepdene Rd., Baltimore 10 HOPlms 7-7840  
 Mr. Paul Jefferson, Royal Oak, Md. RIVerview 5-4915  
 Mr. & Mrs. C. Lowndes Johnson, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-1378  
 Mr. Robert Kerr, 706 Franklin Ave., Baltimore 21, Md.  
 Miss Susan Lee, 90 MacDougal St., N.Y.C.  
 Mr. Melvin Marshall, Newcomb, Md. TALbot 2-2402  
 Mr. Everett Mashburn, 4048 Nichols Ave., S.W. Wash., D.C. JOHnsn 3-6946  
 Mr. Garry McMillan, Wakely Terrace, Box 247 A, Route 3, BELair, Md.  
 Mrs. Delaplaine Meribah, Maplecroft, Marion Sta., Pa.  
 Miss Mary Alice Miller, Wakely Terrace, Route 3, BELair, Md.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Miller, Springs, Pa.  
 Mr. Irwin E. Miller, Grantsville, Md.  
 Mrs. T. W. Myers, 4 E. Beech Drive, Baltimore 20, Md.  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Nostrand, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-2592  
 Mrs. William Plate, St. Michaels, Md. RIVerview 5-2254  
 Mrs. R. P. Russell, 503 N. Wolfe St., Baltimore 5, Md. ORLeans 5-7778  
 Dr. John Schneider, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-1349  
 Mr. Charles Schwaninger, Easton, Md.  
 Mr. Frederc R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Va.  
 Miss Jean Scudder, Route 2, Federalsburg, Md. Denton 290-W-3  
 Miss Maude Smalley, Grantsville, Md.  
 Mrs. John Stelle, Trappe, Md.  
 Mrs. George Stewart, Easton, Md.  
 Miss Wilhelmina L. Taylor, 610 Oak Hill Rd., Catonsville 28, Md.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Walker, Easton, Md. TALbot 2-1210  
 Rev. Merval W. Weaver, 117 W. 2nd St., Frederick, Md.  
 Dr. Carnes Weeks, R.D. #2, Box 188, Easton, Md.  
 Mrs. Verda Yoder, Springs, Pa.

Note: Change MOhawk to MONument for Frederick members in past 2 issues.