

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

*Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.*



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Number 1

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**CONTENTS, MARCH 1960**

Bird Banding at Monkton, Baltimore County, Md.	Stephen W. Simon	3
Age Record of Red-tailed Hawk	Robert E. Stewart	10
Western Tanager--An Unexpected Visitor in Annapolis	Marguerite and David Howard	10
Banding Record of Harris' Sparrow in Maryland	Frederick C. Schmid	11
White-throated Sparrows Change Wintering Places	Hervey Brackbill	12
Some Comments on Christmas Counts Editorial	Jerry and Roberta Fletcher	13 16
1959 County Bird Lists	Ronald R. Feller	17
The Season--Oct., Nov., Dec. 1959	Chandler S. Robbins	22
Autumn Record of Bell's Vireo	Richard P. Riesz	27
Report on Nestling Redwing Project	Brooke Meanley	28
Recapture of a Juvenile Towhee	David Bridge	29
Allegany County Christmas Count		29
New Members		29
Coming Events		31

COVER: Banded Adult Male Cape May Warbler by Stephen W. Simon

HEADINGS: By Irving E. Hampes, Art Editor



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Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.  
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## BIRD BANDING AT MONKTON, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Stephen W. Simon

### Location

A bird banding station was operated from the spring of 1954 through the summer of 1958 at Bluemount Nurseries, Blue Mount Road, Monkton, Md. The property is located on a ridge in northern Baltimore County, 900 feet above sea level. A 10-acre open field is surrounded on all sides by woods.

### Nets and Traps

Nets and traps were operated between the woods and the open field in scrub growth to take advantage of the "edge effect." Most of the birds were captured in the three Seth Low all purpose traps and Japanese mist nets located as in Fig. 1. Usually four nets were in operation at one time. It was found that the first net running perpendicular to the edge of a field into scrub and woods caught most of the birds. The flight paths of birds in the area changed from season to season, so the nets were placed where they crossed these paths. Nets were tried in other locations, but those on the map are the ones that were most commonly used.

The all-purpose traps were baited with scratch feed and sunflower seed in the winter; and water-drip systems in the summer. Sparrow, chardonneret, Potter, and Fluck woodpecker traps were used from time to time. A Verball pole trap for hawks and owls, and a large top-entrance house trap for vultures were tried without success.

### Birds Banded

Table 1 shows that the number of birds banded at Bluemount totaled 4,961 birds of 87 species. Banding started in the late spring of 1954, but most of the 266 birds banded that year were caught in the fall. The highest number of birds, 1,518, was banded in 1955. In 1956, 1,187 were banded; 1,197 were banded in 1957. The number dropped to 793 in 1958 because banding ceased in August. More time and effort were spent on banding in 1955, resulting in the highest yearly total. Each following year the time spent in netting and trapping decreased in relation to the number banded because of better placement of nets and traps.

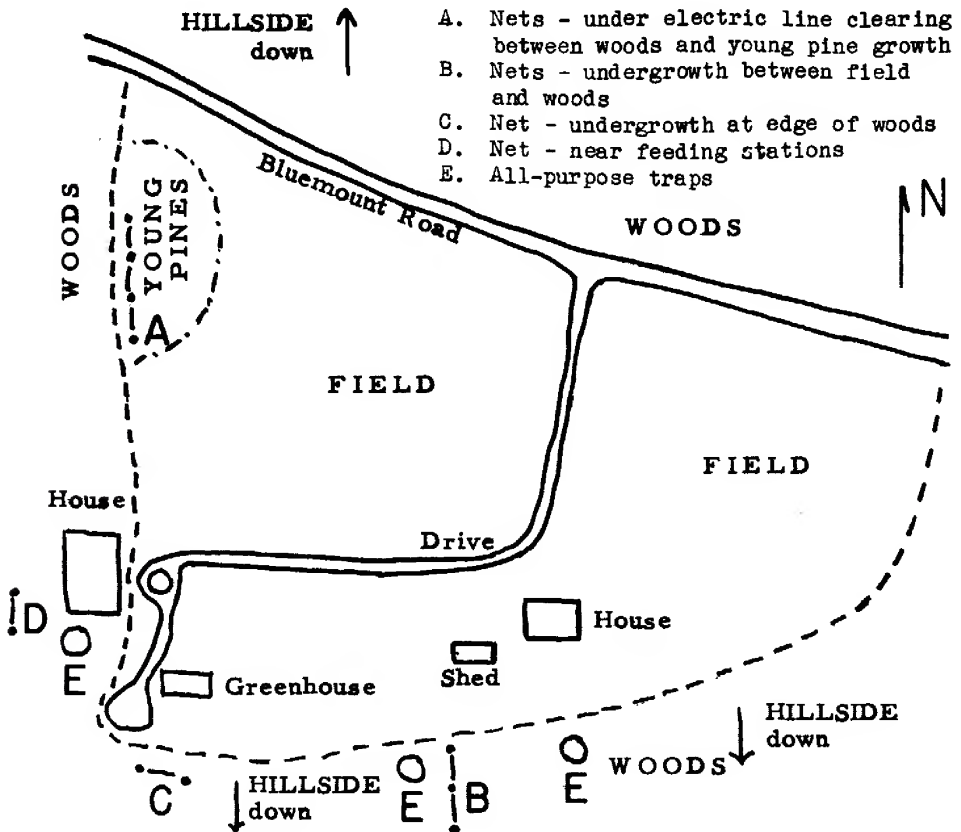


Fig. 1. Trap and net locations, Bluemount Nurseries, Monkton

During the four years of banding, there was an observable increase in nesting birds in the area. The habitat became more favorable for species that nest around houses, since the ornamental shrub plantings were maturing. Mockingbirds nested on the property for the first time in 1958. Each year more nesting boxes were put into use. Carolina Chickadees used wren-type boxes freely and the increase in banding of Eastern Bluebirds in 1958 was a result of banding the young in the boxes. Downy Woodpeckers increased in numbers. On the other hand, there was a decrease in the number of Field Sparrows, as more of the fields formerly left in grass and weeds were plowed.

In order of the number of individuals banded, these are the six highest species: Slate-colored Junco, 1,369; White-throated Sparrow, 1,025; Purple Finch, 224; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 168; Swainson's Thrush, 152; Field Sparrow, 124. Most of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets were caught in nets at location A. Kinglets placed in small traps under the nets drew more kinglets to the nets. The relatively large numbers of Tennessee Warblers also were caught at this location.

### Recoveries

A recovery is a banded bird that is found dead a distance from the trapping station. Two birds have been recovered so far that were banded at Monkton. The first was the adult male Cape May Warbler shown in the cover photo. It was banded on May 5, 1955; and a little less than a month later, on June 1, 1955, it was recovered near Chatham, New Brunswick, Canada, where it flew into J. L. Wishart's car. Presumably it was in its nesting territory.

The second recovery was a Hermit Thrush banded on October 3, 1955, and found dead on October 25, 1955, at Winnsboro, South Carolina, by J. L. Gladdin. These are the first recoveries of these two species that show where the birds were headed after passing through Maryland.

### Foreign Retraps

A foreign retrap is a bird that a bander catches that was banded by another operator. Table 2 summarizes these data. William Pepper wrote me that his Slate-colored Junco did not repeat or return to his station after it was banded.

### Returns

Returns are those birds that are retrapped at the station after an absence of 90 days or more. Table 1 lists the returns by species.



Fig. 2. All-purpose trap in operation at Monkton. Photo by the author

Table 1. Summary of Captures

Species	New Bandings						Repeats		Returns
	Total	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Times	Ind'ls	
Sparrow Hawk	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bobwhite	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-
Saw-whet Owl	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Whip-poor-will	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-shafted Flicker	6	-	3	3	-	-	1	1	1
Yellow-belly Sapsucker	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	36	-	4	5	9	18	18	9	2
Eastern Phoebe	18	4	7	3	4	-	3	3	-
Yellow-bel. Flycatcher	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acadian Flycatcher	4	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Least Flycatcher	4	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Wood Pewee	4	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-
Blue Jay	120	4	31	17	26	42	24	16	1
Black-capped Chickadee	84	35	11	1	21	16	304	59	1
Carolina Chickadee	99	16	13	13	36	21	203	69	22
Tufted Titmouse	39	5	6	3	12	13	166	25	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	19	5	5	2	4	3	53	13	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Brown Creeper	14	1	3	1	2	7	8	6	-
House Wren	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	5	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	-
Carolina Wren	11	-	2	3	6	-	18	7	-
Mockingbird	9	-	-	-	-	9	2	2	-
Catbird	81	2	22	14	22	21	1	1	-
Brown Thrasher	7	-	1	1	3	2	4	4	-
Robin	62	9	24	9	13	7	-	-	-
Wood Thrush	28	-	7	10	3	8	4	4	2
Hermit Thrush	97	6	52	21	18	-	3	3	-
Swainson's Thrush	152	5	40	66	29	12	-	-	-
Gray-cheeked Thrush	26	-	7	7	11	1	-	-	-
Veery	19	-	7	5	1	6	1	1	-
Eastern Bluebird	19	-	3	-	4	12	6	5	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	-	5	6	10	-	-	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	168	2	33	76	55	2	3	3	-
Cedar Waxwing	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-eyed Vireo	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solitary Vireo	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	40	2	14	12	6	6	1	1	-
Black-and-white Warbler	12	-	2	3	2	5	-	-	-
Worm-eating Warbler	7	-	1	-	1	5	-	-	-
Blue-winged Warbler	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tennessee Warbler	36	1	3	25	4	3	-	-	-
Parula Warbler	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Magnolia Warbler	54	-	7	22	13	12	1	1	-
Cape May Warbler	16	-	4	6	6	-	-	-	-
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	28	1	4	14	5	4	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	26	-	7	12	7	-	-	-	-
Blk.-thr. Green Warbler	14	-	2	9	3	-	-	-	-
Blackburnian Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Species	New Bandings					Repeats		Returns	
	Total	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Times		Ind'ls
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bay-breasted Warbler	7	-	1	3	3	-	-	-	-
Blackpoll Warbler	19	-	5	6	8	-	-	-	-
Prairie Warbler	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	51	-	17	14	13	7	3	3	-
Northern Waterthrush	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kentucky Warbler	6	-	4	2	-	-	1	1	-
Connecticut Warbler	3	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Mourning Warbler	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Yellowthroat	28	-	18	7	3	-	4	3	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	11	-	5	3	2	1	9	2	-
Hooded Warbler	3	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Canada Warbler	23	-	11	-	-	12	-	-	-
American Redstart	21	-	7	10	1	3	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	3	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	30	1	3	4	3	19	1	1	-
Cardinal	79	4	18	18	22	17	171	40	16
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Indigo Bunting	27	-	12	5	2	8	10	5	2
Purple Finch	224	7	102	27	55	33	-	-	2
American Goldfinch	66	-	27	31	1	7	7	7	3
Rufous-sided Towhee	118	4	43	37	25	9	31	17	4
Slate-colored Junco	1369	118	477	397	287	90	1245	340	43
Tree Sparrow	32	4	10	10	2	6	95	14	5
Chipping Sparrow	67	-	11	10	2	44	26	11	-
Field Sparrow	124	9	63	21	22	9	52	29	4
White-crowned Sparrow	4	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	1025	17	278	106	367	257	386	239	2
Fox Sparrow	79	-	6	46	13	14	28	21	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	6	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	99	2	37	34	21	5	99	38	-
TOTALS	4961	266	1518	1187	1197	793	3190	1027	126

There were 126 returns representing 17 species. Some individuals returned several times.

Chandler S. Robbins, by letter, has suggested that return data can be used as an indication of nesting success. This is especially helpful in species that cannot be aged by external characters. If the percentage of returns can be established for a wintering species at a large enough number of banding stations, then trends in nesting success from year to year could be detected. If in one year the total number of wintering individuals of a given species banded at the various cooperating stations is low while the return rate for that species is relatively high, then it can be concluded that there was a poor nesting season--unless, of course, there is reason to suspect highly selective mortality resulting from unusual weather conditions during the fall migration.

Table 3 gives the percentage of returns from an original population

Table 2. Foreign Retraps

Species	Where Banded	Bander	Date Banded	Monkton Date
Purple Finch	S. Londonderry, Mt.	Mrs. James Downs	7/17/54	3/12/55
Purple Finch	Ardmore, Pa.	Horace Groskin	3/17/54	3/17/55
Am. Goldfinch	Ardmore, Pa.	Horace Groskin	2/26/55	1/17/58
Slate-col. Junco	Philadelphia, Pa.	Wm. Pepper, Jr.	11/4/55	4/4/58
Purple Finch	Lexington, Mass.	Felix Cutler	9/13/57	4/15/58

of two species over 1, 2, and 3 years. The data do not cover a long enough period to show year-to-year comparisons, but are a basis for comparing the results with other banders. The data for the chickadees analyzed here are based on the fall, winter and spring season bandings and returns, rather than on a calendar year, as a calendar year would include data from parts of two different populations.

The data for the Slate-colored Junco are based on wintering birds only, *i.e.*, those that were banded or repeated between December 1 and February 28. Only the returns that were a part of a winter population when they were banded and that returned or repeated between the two dates were included. For example, a junco banded in October which does not repeat the same winter, but returns within the winter months the following year is not included.

Table 3. Return Percentages

Winter:		54-55	55-56	56-57	57-58
Total banded	Carolina Chickadee	23	12	14	50
	Slate-colored Junco	64	97	62	29
Returned from previous winter	Carolina Chickadee		6	3	3
	Slate-colored Junco		5	8	0
Returned from 2 winters before	Carolina Chickadee			4	1
	Slate-colored Junco			3	2
Returned from 3 winters before	Carolina Chickadee				5
	Slate-colored Junco				0
1st year returns:	chickadee 6/23, 3/12, 3/14=24	junco 5/64, 8/98, 0/62=5.8			
2nd year returns:	4/23, 1/12 =12	3/64, 2/97 =3.1			
3rd year returns:	5/23 =22	0/64 =0.0			

### Repeats

Repeats are birds that are recaptured within a 90-day period. A total of 1,027 individuals of 38 species repeated 3,190 times. A bander handles some individuals many times. One junco repeated 47 times between November 16, 1956 and March 25, 1957. Unless birds are color-banded or individually marked in some other way for field identification, the repeat is the only way to learn how long individuals stay in the area. Of the 240 transient warblers banded, only one, a Magnolia Warbler, repeated. It was banded on September 22, 1957 and repeated on September 28, 1957. It stayed in the area, then, at least 7 days. Only 3 out of 152 Swainson's Thrushes repeated. Two repeats were on the same day they were banded.



ded; the third was banded on September 20, 1957 and repeated 9 days later. Table 1 lists by species the total number of repeats and the number of individuals that repeated.

Let us follow the complete history of a Cardinal to show its repeats and returns. This adult male Cardinal was the second bird banded at Bluemount on May 28, 1954, the second day of banding operations. The bird returned 11/5/54, repeated 2/3/55, 3/26/55, 4/2/55, 4/18/55, 7/15/55; returned 1/16/56, repeated 1/16/56, 3/10/56, 3/16/56; returned 12/28/57; and returned again 4/15/58 and repeated 4/27/58.

#### Other Results of Monkton Banding

Besides the data described above, other types of information can be gathered by banding birds. Many arrival dates at the station were determined by birds trapped before they were seen in the field. The same applies to departure dates. Some of these dates appear in Maryland Bird-life, Audubon Field Notes, and Birds of Maryland. Of particular interest was the late departure date for a Slate-colored Junco; one was banded on May 30, 1956.

The arrival, departure and peak bandings can be compared to the normal periods of migration for the same species in Birds of Maryland. The first banding dates for the Swainson's Thrush were 9/4/55, 9/19/56, and 9/14/57; the final dates were 10/11, 10/12, and 10/10. The peak banding dates were 9/22, 9/19, and 9/25. To compare with Birds of Maryland, this would read as September 4-19 to October 10-12; peak September 19 to 25. Birds of Maryland (page 249) shows the normal period to be September 5-15 to October 5-15; peak September 15 to October 5.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet first fall banding dates were 9/22/55, 10/2/56, and 9/26/57; the final dates were 11/2, 11/5, and 10/23. The peaks were 10/26/55, 10/6/56, 10/12/56, and 10/23/57. This would read as September 22--October 2 to October 23--November 5; peak October 12 to October 26. Birds of Maryland (page 256) dates are September 20-30 to November 10-20; peak October 5 to October 30.

The first banding dates for Fox Sparrows in the spring were 3/7/56, 3/4/57, and 3/4/58. The departure dates were 4/2, 4/30, and 4/19. Only one peak record, 3/9/56, was significant. This would read March 4-7 to April 2-30; peak March 9. Birds of Maryland (page 368) gives the dates February 10-20 to April 5-15; peak February 25 to March 25. Thus, in the case of the more commonly trapped birds, dates recorded through banding agree closely with those reported by field observers.

Birds were studied closely while in the hand, to see plumage differences and physical abnormalities. A male Scarlet Tanager was banded that had a bright orange-yellow rather than red plumage. Close-up color photographs were taken of this individual and others to have a permanent record of the different plumage. The Black-capped Chickadee was studied as a special project, and in the fall of 1957 the Monkton station cooperated with Operation Recovery.

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R. D. 2, Box 264, Ashland, Ohio

## AGE RECORD OF RED-TAILED HAWK

Robert E. Stewart

A Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) was banded (34-629290) as an adult at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Md., on November 27, 1946 by the writer. On January 4, 1959 this bird was recaptured and released by B. J. Fritz near Beltsville at the Agricultural Research Center. At the latter location, which is about three miles from the place of banding, the bird was found dead on January 15, 1960 by Wade Roby, who is having it mounted.

Taking into consideration that this Red-tailed Hawk was banded as an adult, it must have been at least  $14\frac{1}{2}$  years old at the time of death. A perusal of the banding recovery records indicates that this is the oldest age record for this species in the wild. It is of interest to note that the original band was still in good condition.

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel

## WESTERN Tanager--AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR IN ANNAPOLIS

Marguerite and David Howard

On December 2, 1959, we were eating our lunch by the porch window where we could watch the bird activity outside. Twice in November we had observed a Baltimore Oriole in the yard. In each case the Mockingbird had driven it away, but we were hopeful that it still might be in the neighborhood.

Suddenly we were aware of a yellow bird at the bird bath fifteen feet away. We both exclaimed exultantly, "Oriole!" Then quickly we snapped to attention. There was something wrong--the bird didn't fit an oriole pattern. Instead of the varying shades of yellow that we expect on the throat and breast of an oriole, this bird's entire breast and

rump were evenly colored a clear bright yellow. Instead of the thin blue-black bill of an oriole it had a light-colored bill--yellowish and thick. It had dark wings, back, and tail, but it couldn't be a Scarlet Tanager because it had wing-bars.

Unfortunately the Mockingbirds tried to drive it away, but it was in the neighborhood for three hours and during that time we observed it in an apple tree eating unharvested fruit. From the observations we made on December 2, 4, and 6 we are sure our visitor was a Western Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana), the first to be reported in Maryland.

137 Monticello Avenue, Annapolis

#### BANDING RECORD OF HARRIS' SPARROW IN MARYLAND

Frederick C. Schmid

On December 22, 1959 after a light snow, an immature Harris' Sparrow (Zonotrichia querula) was trapped, banded, photographed, and released on the Conservation Farm of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Maryland. In the Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia (R. E. Stewart and C. S. Robbins, 1958) the status of the bird is given as hypothetical: "At least 2 were closely observed at Elkridge, Howard County, Md., on Oct. 21, 1956 (G. M. Bond, I. E. Hampe, et al.)."

Two subsequent records of Harris' Sparrow in Maryland have been published: one bird wintered at Darnestown in Montgomery County, Jan. 1 to May 9, 1958, and was studied by many observers (Robbins, Maryland Birdlife 14: 18), and one was seen by Miss Charlotte Richardson at her feeding station in Frostburg, Allegany County, on May 3, 1958 (Low and Robbins, Maryland Birdlife 14: 41).

The Patuxent bird was caught in a walk-in trap with ground entrances and a modified crow trap type of roof. The trap was close to crop and hay fields of approximately 25 acres with a long contour hedge of Silky Cornel (Cornus Amomum) a little to one side of this acreage and close to the farm residence that has a few old trees. This situation makes for a travel lane and resting place for birds preferring shrubby edges and fields. In the trap with the Harris' Sparrow were 16 Blue Jays, 6 Cardinals, a White-throated Sparrow and a Slate-colored Junco.

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel

#### Nature Photographers Take Note

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club is sponsoring an International Exhibition of Nature Photography in April 1960. One of the purposes of this venture is to bring to the attention of the public the need of saving our few remaining natural beauty areas. M.O.S. members are invited to enter color slides in either 2x2 or 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ x2 $\frac{3}{4}$  mounts before March 25. For entry blanks write John B. Giles, Exhibition Chairman, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Main Post Office Box 384, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

## WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS CHANGE WINTERING PLACES

Hervey Brackbill

Back in the early days of bird banding S. Prentiss Baldwin demonstrated that individual birds of some species return year after year to the same wintering places, just as they do to the same breeding territories; and since then so much more evidence of this has accumulated that we have come to consider such behavior the rule among birds. Like most rules, though, this one has its exceptions, for we know also that at least a few species are wanderers outside the breeding season; the Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak are probably the examples most familiar to Marylanders. Banders know that many of their finches and grosbeaks roam about fairly widely during single winters, and that even those which do winter with them in one year may winter in a quite different region the next.

For instance, a Purple Finch that Miss Dorman H. Weaver banded at Pomfret Centre, Conn., on February 21, 1956, turned up in one of my traps on January 19, 1958, and then stayed with me through April 18. That is, on the same date in these two years the finch was at places about 285 airline miles apart. Similarly, in Bird-Banding 21: 97, 1950, Horace Groskin reports that on April 7, 1942, he trapped at Ardmore, Pa., a finch that had been banded at Demarest, N. J., 90 miles north, on April 6, 1939, and he lists two others that he banded at Ardmore on April dates and that in later years were found in Vermont and Massachusetts on January and March dates.

The White-throated Sparrow, however, is one of the species that we expect to find wintering regularly at the same place. It is, indeed, the species with which Baldwin first demonstrated such returns (Auk 39: 216, 1922), and I have in Bird-Banding 25: 148-149, 1954, given a few of my Baltimore records for such return winterers. It was a surprise, therefore, to learn that a White-throat I trapped in Baltimore on October 21, 1959, had been banded by Franklin McCamey at Storrs, Conn., on January 20, 1959. Already in early fall this bird was some 285 airline miles south of the place at which it had been caught in the middle of the previous winter.

Searching for a precedent, I found one, but only one. In the Bulletin of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association 3: 48, 1927, Mrs. Frank D. Hubbard tells of a White-throat that was banded at New Haven, Conn., December 9, 1925, retrapped at the same spot through January 25, 1926, and at another place in New Haven on April 13 of that year, and then on March 5, 1927, was found in Kinston, N. C.

I am wondering whether other banders have in their records, unpublished, instances of such irregular wintering--by White-throats or any other species--and whether this behavior may be more common than we now know. It would be well worth putting such instances on record, preferably in Bird-Banding, where all bird students will (or at least should) see them.

## SOME COMMENTS ON CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Jerry and Roberta Fletcher

Sixty years of Christmas Counts have seen an amazing growth in the number of counts and in the vast army of participants. Of the nearly 600 counts in the United States and Canada, about 15 take place in Maryland. Many of these Maryland counts have been taken for at least 5 or 10 years, and the authors believe that much useful and interesting information can be gathered from the accumulated data.

Following this report is a 10-year summary of the Caroline County counts. A total of 96 species has been observed during the 10-year period, 32 having occurred on every count. It is probable that Ring-billed Gull was missed the first year because it was misidentified; we have not had as many Herring Gulls since. But how did we miss an obvious and plentiful species, such as Redwinged Blackbird? Some changes are due, no doubt, to a shift in geographic range, but it is quickly apparent that weather conditions account for most changes. A few species, such as Evening Grosbeak, had never been reported for the county until recent years. Others, such as the Red-headed Woodpecker, have not been observed during the past 10 years.

As the quality of the observers improves, the significance of the results increases, and more nearly reflects a true picture of the winter population. The writers feel that our counts for the past 10 years indicate the probability of locating the species in the area with fair accuracy. The number of Caroline participants has grown from 4 to a maximum of 23, and now is fairly constant at about 14. The original 4 counters have participated in all 10 counts. While there are too many variables to credit the counts with high statistical significance, the results do have some scientific value. If these counts had been conducted 100 years ago, what species might have been recorded? Would we have doubted the observers? What will future students of birds in our area think of our reports? These questions will aid us in assuming a responsibility for maintaining the highest quality possible.

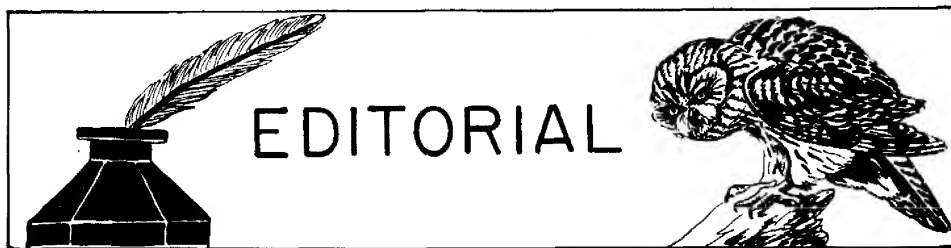
Observers were impressed with the prevalence of Blue Jays this year. Every Maryland count that has been running a number of years at least doubled last year's total for this species. There was a good sprinkling of Evening Grosbeaks, and Purple Finches were all over the place in respectable numbers. But the Eastern Phoebes have not yet recovered from the hard winter of 1957-58.

If this study is interesting for a single count area, it becomes positively fascinating when all the counts in the State are studied. The task is too great for our time and ability, but just to compare the other counts with ours is both stimulating and challenging. Nearby Kent County found many species not observed in Caroline. They added Brant to the County list; they also saw 6 Dunlins, their first winter record. The highest number of species observed in the State this year was 139 at Ocean City. Weather has been least accommodating at McCoole in Allegany County, with ice and snow a constant barrier; but this count has been carried on for years, and should give a good index of the winter population up there. We can share each other's counts by reading the reports in Audubon Field Notes. We are glad we live in a temperate climate! RD 1, Denton

## Ten-year Summary, Caroline County (Md.) Christmas Counts

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	4	16	9	1	5	2	1	3
Great Blue Heron	2	3	7	9	5	3	4	8	4	7
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Common Egret	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whistling Swan	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	84	-	14	225	8	12	23	-	234
Mallard	-	2	29	70	24	-	1	46	14	2
Black Duck	-	77	61	126	16	150	3	180	68	32
American Widgeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Pintail	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wood Duck	2	-	-	1	1	6	1	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	1	9	5	-	14	8	-	-
Scaup (species?)	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Merganser	-	3	8	25	23	15	-	1	1	47
Turkey Vulture	96	250	596	704	268	182	102	238	175	271
Black Vulture	-	-	6	16	-	-	1	5	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	3	9	23	8	7	2	10	15	11
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	2	4	8	6	4	-	3	1	3
Bald Eagle	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marsh Hawk	7	13	20	17	7	19	16	10	16	14
Sparrow Hawk	22	18	66	57	26	24	29	33	14	36
Bobwhite	11	18	11	76	20	47	16	45	67	57
Killdeer	4	1	105	83	25	18	115	29	2	20
Common Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	20
Herring Gull	27	9	-	10	4	2	1	3	17	12
Ring-billed Gull	-	14	20	68	27	31	2	45	30	87
Mourning Dove	114	191	309	370	286	242	239	93	507	181
Screech Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	3	1	5	4	3	3	4
Barred Owl	-	-	-	2	-	5	2	3	-	2
Belted Kingfisher	3	3	4	6	7	6	5	9	4	15
Yellow-shafted Flick.	4	8	22	35	22	8	21	17	16	30
Pileated Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	8	13	22	18	19	29	25	22	46
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	5
Hairy Woodpecker	-	2	7	9	3	2	3	11	7	12
Downy Woodpecker	12	10	19	41	33	31	31	32	22	66
Eastern Phoebe	8	1	4	7	1	4	-	1	-	-
Horned Lark	61	57	119	127	3	9	96	18	26	78
Blue Jay	21	3	55	26	87	40	14	55	46	120
Common Crow	52	181	216	180	197	105	184	148	263	168
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	5
Black-capped Chickad.	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	66	47	90	97	177	100	144	121	80	140

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Tufted Titmouse	16	9	26	30	31	33	33	35	56	89
White-br. Nuthatch	-	2	-	1	11	-	-	9	2	9
Red-br. Nuthatch	-	3	-	1	36	5	-	11	-	1
Brown Creeper	3	4	4	7	19	14	8	11	6	15
Winter Wren	-	1	12	10	1	7	3	5	7	10
Bewick's Wren	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Wren	18	5	32	56	46	32	39	51	10	26
Mockingbird	14	10	40	61	33	40	26	77	35	54
Catbird	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	3
Brown Thrasher	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Robin	1	14	369	9	27	443	9	16	171	152
Hermit Thrush	8	-	9	14	2	12	2	2	5	6
Eastern Bluebird	36	58	71	96	91	76	128	154	52	100
Blue-gray Gnatcatch.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	7	7	29	40	12	33	29	40	23	45
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
Water Pipit	-	38	250	49	150	75	-	150	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	3	4	-
Loggerhead Shrike	2.	5	10	8	11	6	6	-	2	3
Starling	338	1075	1088	1447	1106	1460	1045	2124	1602	811
Myrtle Warbler	10	-	2	13	11	3	14	7	14	31
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	3	1
Palm Warbler	-	-	4	19	8	-	-	1	1	-
House Sparrow	118	307	377	607	446	529	948	560	435	595
Eastern Meadowlark	153	147	360	671	250	247	183	152	579	189
Redwinged Blackbird	-	161	709	1303	987	581	146	3137	441	668
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	1	31	-	-	50	-	-	6
Common Grackle	1	66	59	77	8	1258	-	3962	59	342
Brown-headed Cowbird	30	431	121	43	42	-	-	439	224	327
Cardinal	39	74	231	310	149	135	197	185	148	257
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	24
Purple Finch	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pine Siskin	-	-	11	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	35	151	247	225	353	204	146	551	77	182
Rufous-sided Towhee	12	1	19	5	30	3	24	1	45	36
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	9	3	7	-	-	48	7	2
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	1
Slate-colored Junco	150	174	563	934	686	511	307	359	594	375
Tree Sparrow	4	-	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	35	18	98	272	97	51	95	49	108	94
White-crown Sparrow	-	-	5	18	21	26	3	-	26	15
White-throat Sparrow	52	49	376	705	695	572	329	22	683	432
Fox Sparrow	-	-	5	6	6	2	1	4	15	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	8	11	-	2	3	3	6	5
Song Sparrow	28	9	125	149	134	55	60	59	88	145
Total species	47	54	61	74	70	60	61	75	65	70
Total individuals	1634	3836	7091	9503	7068	7544	4940	13736	6963	6789
Total party-hours	20	49	52	55	59	47	58	52	47	
Total observers	4	10	18	23	18	11	11	12	13	14
Min. temperature	25	34	28	20	30	36	48	48	36	34
Max. temperature	47	32	44	50	52	48	58	56	30	48
Sky condition	clr	cldy	over	clr-	clr-	over	rain	clr	cldy	cldy
			cast	cldy	cldy	cast			-clr	-clr



### WELCOME BIRD BANDERS

The Maryland Ornithological Society will be host, on the weekend of April 22-24, to the Eastern Bird Banding Association, which will hold its 37th Annual Meeting at Annapolis. There will be a papers session on Saturday, followed by a Sunday field trip to the Bird Banding Office at Patuxent and a banding demonstration at Stony Broke Farm. This will be the third time that EBBA has met in Maryland, but the first time in Annapolis.

The M.O.S. is proud to number among its membership some 50 licensed bird banders and almost an equal number of spouses and children who assist in one way or another such as by baiting traps, reading band numbers, or burning the midnight oil to complete reports. This issue of Maryland Birdlife has been written almost entirely by banders, and a complimentary copy will be presented to each bander who attends the EBBA meeting.

All M.O.S. members are welcome to attend the Friday evening reception and art exhibit from 7 to 10 p.m. in the State House, and the public sessions of the EBBA meeting between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in the House of Delegates chamber in the State House. The program, which will be interesting to banders and non-banders alike, will consist of a series of short papers. Several will be illustrated with colored slides. Many of the most active banders in the East will participate. A limited number of tickets for the Saturday evening banquet at the Arnold Fire Hall will be available to non-banders (\$2 for adults, \$1 for children 10 and under). Overnight accommodations will be provided at moderate cost in the armory for those who bring sleeping bags or blankets.

MOS members are invited to attend the all-day banding demonstration at Seth Low's farm near Unity on Sunday. Bring a picnic lunch. Driving instructions will be provided. Because of crowded facilities at Patuxent it is suggested that local people visit the Banding Office some other time.

Those who plan to attend any part of the meeting are urged to drop a card to Mrs. J. E. M. Wood, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, 101 Old Crossing Lane, Annapolis, as soon as possible and preferably before March 15, to let her know which activities you wish to attend: (1) Friday reception; (2) overnight accommodations--specify armory or motel; (3) Saturday papers sessions; (4) Saturday luncheon (details not yet available); (5) banquet; (6) Saturday night accommodations; (7) Banding Office tour; (8) banding demonstration at Stony Broke Farm near Unity. There will be a \$1 registration fee to cover meeting expenses.



## 1959 COUNTY BIRD LISTS

Ronald R. Feller

Intensive county by county coverage was not as widespread this year as it was last year. This is evidenced by the fact that only nine counties increased their totals from last year, while in fourteen counties the number of species observed decreased. This is almost a complete reversal of last year when fourteen counties increased and only nine counties decreased their totals. Cecil County recorded the sharpest drop--from 151 to 26. Only four counties gained the coveted 200 species mark. Worcester again led the way with 244. Talbot, Anne Arundel, and Prince Georges followed with 219, 204, and 201 respectively.

Several new species were added to the six-year total. They were the Western Grebe in Montgomery and Howard Counties, the Curlew Sandpiper and Common Eider in Worcester County, the Western Tanager in Anne Arundel County, and the Pine Grosbeak in Prince Georges County.

Two hybrid warblers were observed this year--the Brewster's in Baltimore County and the Lawrence's in Caroline County.

The total number of species recorded in Maryland in 1959 was 288. Below are the county by county totals.

Garrett	106	Montgomery	192	Queen Annes	136
Alleghany	131	Prince Georges	201	Caroline	178
Washington	113	Anne Arundel	204	Talbot	219
Frederick	159	Calvert	133	Dorchester	188
Carroll	117	Charles	105	Wicomico	148
Baltimore	188	St. Marys	127	Somerset	166
Harford	93	Cecil	26	Worcester	244
Howard	132	Kent	175		

Thanks are in order to those contributors whose observations made this article possible. Those who contributed the most records for the respective counties were: Garrett--Pan Minke; Alleghany--William Leeson, Pan Minke; Washington--Mrs. Alice Mallonee; Frederick--Dr. John Richards; Baltimore--Hank Kaestner, Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner, C. Douglas Hackman; Harford--Thomas A. Imhof; Howard--Chandler S. Robbins, Mrs. C. C. Munro; Montgomery--Seth H. Low, Lucille V. Smith; Prince Georges--Ronald Feller, David Bridge, Robert E. Stewart; Anne Arundel--Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Friel Sanders, Elizabeth Slater, Capt. J. E. M. Wood; Calvert--Friel Sanders, Elizabeth Slater, John Pales; Charles--Allen Stickley; St. Marys--James Banagan; Cecil--no list received; Kent--Daniel D. Gibson, Mrs. E. Mendinhal; Queen Annes--Mrs. Carl Lubbert, Terry Moore; Caroline--Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, C. Scudder; Talbot--Richard L. Kleen; Dorchester--Harry Armistead; Wicomico and Somerset--Samuel H. Dyke; Worcester--Samuel H. Dyke, Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Chandler S. Robbins.











OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1959

Chandler S. Robbins

A mild fall and an abundant food supply set the stage for an unusually interesting winter, ornithologically. Not only were mean temperatures on the positive side of the long-term average, but, more significantly, the few cold periods were modest in nature and short in duration. No hard freeze occurred until Nov. 18, and by mid-December there had been only four nights when Baltimore thermometers registered less than 30°. There was only one day during the three-month period when the mercury remained compressed below the freezing mark throughout the day. At most stations snow was too scanty to be measured in inches, and the small amounts that fell remained on the ground for less than one day at low elevations. A long Indian Summer in the early part of October is reflected in the large number of record-breaking late departure dates in this month. All but the smallest, most sheltered ponds and marshes remained unfrozen during the entire period; marsh wrens, rails, shorebirds, and Sharp-tailed Sparrows wintered in good numbers. Finally, an influx of northern finches, Black-capped Chickadees and eiders added flavor to the winter avifauna of the Free State. For the first time in several years many birds blinded by the Friendship Airport ceilometer fell to their death and were reported to the Game and Inland Fish Commission. Warden Jim McNamara estimated 2,000 dead birds on the morning of Oct. 11 following a heavily overcast night with low ceiling, showers and light fog; a sample of 35 birds collected included 10 Yellowthroats, a Wood Thrush, a Tennessee Warbler, and all species listed for Oct. 10 under Anne Arundel County in Table 1.

Fall Departure Table. Table 1 gives a summary of "last seen" dates in those counties for which the most field observations were available. A "W" indicates that the species wintered so commonly that the last date for transient individuals was not obtained. Species unrecorded during the fall migration period are marked with a zero (0), and those for which no significant departure date is available are marked with a dash (--). Thanks are expressed to all members who contributed their field notes. Those who furnished the largest number of latest records for their respective areas are acknowledged individually below in the list of persons whose dates appear after three or more species: Washington County--Mrs. Alice Mallonee; Baltimore City and County--Douglas Hackman, Haven Kolb, Hank Kaestner; Montgomery--John Weske, Lucille V. Smith, John H. Fales; Prince Georges--David Bridge, Ronald Feller,

Table 1 - Fall Departure Dates, 1959

Species	Wash	Balt	Mont	Pr G	Anne	Calv	Caro	Talb	LES*
Green Heron	--	9/11	--	--	10/12	--	--	10/23	9/14
Canada Goose	11/ 7	--	11/26	10/21	11/ 8	11/10	10/28	W	W
Osprey	--	10/11	9/18	10/23	--	9/ 5	--	10/10	9/18
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10/18	10/ 3	9/22	9/14	--	8/29	10/21	10/25	10/24
Common Nighthawk	--	9/21	9/25	--	9/23	--	9/19	--	9/11
Chimney Swift	10/15	10/10	10/17	10/12	10/ 3	10/11	10/ 1	10/ 5	--
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	--	9/19	9/14	--	--	9/26	--	9/26	9/21
Eastern Kingbird	--	9/ 8	8/17	--	10/ 8	8/22	9/ 6	8/31	9/18
Eastern Phoebe	--	10/13	10/26	10/26	11/ 1	9/26	12/ 5	10/25	--
Eastern Wood Pewee	9/11	9/28	10/ 3	--	10/ 7	9/27	10/11	10/ 5	9/26
Barn Swallow	8/20	9/26	9/21	--	--	8/23	9/13	9/20	--
Purple Martin	--	9/25	8/ 3	--	--	8/27	9/ 3	9/27	--
House Wren	10/ 4	9/30	10/ 8	--	10/ 8	--	--	9/27	9/13
Catbird	10/ 7	10/18	10/ 8	10/ 9	10/24	--	--	W	W
Brown Thrasher	9/28	10/10	10/17	10/24	11/15	--	--	W	W
Wood Thrush	--	10/ 3	--	10/12	10/23	--	10/11	10/10	9/20
Hermit Thrush	--	--	10/31	--	11/10	--	11/13	10/25	W
Swainson's Thrush	9/25	10/11	9/29	10/22	10/10	--	10/19	10/23	9/26
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	--	0	10/17	10/ 7	0	10/ 9	10/10	9/26
Veery	0	9/20	9/18	10/18	9/21	0	0	9/20	9/26
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10/21	--	10/26	10/25	12/ 1	--	10/26	11/15	W
White-eyed Vireo	--	9/26	--	--	--	9/ 4	10/11	9/27	9/19
Yellow-throated Vireo	--	9/26	--	--	9/17	--	9/ 8	--	--
Red-eyed Vireo	9/ 8	9/26	--	9/19	10/10	--	10/ 9	9/26	9/27
Black-&-white Warbler	9/21	9/20	10/ 8	9/14	10/10	9/26	9/26	11/30	9/25
Parula Warbler	9/23	9/26	--	--	--	--	9/15	9/27	9/26
Magnolia Warbler	9/14	9/26	9/30	10/ 4	9/17	--	9/22	10/10	9/27
Cape May Warbler	0	--	9/26	10/ 2	10/ 7	0	10/13	10/18	9/27
Blk-thr. Blue Warbler	0	--	9/12	10/11	10/10	0	9/14	9/19	9/26
Myrtle Warbler	--	--	10/15	--	11/ 4	--	--	W	W
Blk-thr. Green Warbler	--	10/ 4	10/15	10/ 9	--	--	--	9/27	9/20
Blackburnian Warbler	9/11	9/20	0	0	0	0	9/22	0	9/25
Chestnut-sided Warbler	--	9/18	--	--	--	0	9/15	10/10	9/12
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	0	0	9/16	0	9/26	0	10/10	9/27
Blackpoll Warbler	--	--	--	10/ 3	10/ 3	--	--	10/ 4	9/27
Prairie Warbler	--	--	--	--	10/ 8	8/29	--	9/19	9/24
Ovenbird	--	9/26	--	10/ 3	--	--	10/10	10/18	9/26
Northern Waterthrush	0	9/26	9/13	10/25	9/22	0	9/28	9/26	9/26
Connecticut Warbler	0	9/26	--	--	10/ 4	0	--	9/26	9/25
Yellowthroat	--	10/11	10/ 1	10/ 4	10/15	9/26	10/11	10/31	9/27
Yellow-breasted Chat	--	9/11	--	--	9/11	--	9/19	10/ 5	9/27
American Redstart	--	--	10/18	10/ 4	10/10	--	10/11	10/10	9/27
Baltimore Oriole	--	--	--	--	11/15	9/ 5	9/ 5	9/21	9/27
Common Grackle	11/ 9	10/22	11/ 7	--	W	W	11/23	W	W
Scarlet Tanager	--	9/26	10/27	--	10/10	9/ 3	--	10/ 5	9/26
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	--	10/ 7	10/ 3	--	10/10	0	0	--	9/25
Blue Grosbeak	--	0	--	9/ 5	--	--	10/10	--	10/24
Indigo Bunting	9/23	10/24	10/ 1	--	10/ 3	--	9/24	10/ 5	9/27
Rufous-sided Towhee	11/25	10/18	10/30	10/24	10/22	W	W	W	W
Chipping Sparrow	--	--	10/29	10/12	11/10	--	--	11/ 7	--
Fox Sparrow	--	11/26	11/10	11/11	11/16	--	11/23	W	W

Chandler S. Robbins, John H. Fales; Anne Arundel--Mrs. Vera Henderson, Mrs. Elise Tappan, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Capt. J. E. M. Wood; Calvert--John H. Fales, Elizabeth Slater, Friel Sanders; Caroline--Carol E. Scudder, Mrs. Roberta B. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt; Talbot--Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. Lubbert, Richard L. Kleen, W. M. Davidson; Lower Eastern Shore (\*Wicomico and adjacent counties)--Mrs. Gladys H. Cole, Dr. R. K. Burns, Elizabeth Slater, Friel Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher.

Grebes, Geese, Ducks. One big surprise of the season was the discovery of a Western Grebe on Triadelphia Reservoir by John E. Willoughby on Nov. 23; the western vagrant, which was still present in January, will be discussed in a subsequent note by Mr. Willoughby. Blue Geese and Snow Geese were much more common than in previous years at Blackwater Refuge in Dorchester County and at Remington Farms in Kent County. As many as 38 Blues and 35 Snows were seen at one time on the Southern Dorchester County Christmas Count, and 70 Blues and 20 Snows wintered at Remington Farms (Clark G. Webster). Never before in Maryland history have more than five eiders been found in this State in the same winter. Imagine the surprise of the Ocean City Christmas Counters when they found two flocks totaling 11 King and 8 Common Eiders at Ocean City inlet on Dec. 29! Smaller numbers of both species were still present there on Jan. 24 (Kleen). Three Brant and a Blue Goose were choice finds on Triadelphia Reservoir on Nov. 8 by John Weske; 3 Brant were seen in Queen Annes County on Nov. 1 by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lubbert.

Gallinules, Shorebirds. A late Florida Gallinule was seen at the Marshall Dierssen Refuge near Seneca on Nov. 1 by Sterling Edwards and others. A good variety of shorebirds wintered along the coast. The Least Sandpiper was recorded on the Ocean City Christmas Count for the 12th consecutive year, the Piping Plover (6 birds) and Semipalmated Sandpiper (15 birds) each for the 7th consecutive year, the Semipalmated Plover (7 birds) for the 4th consecutive year, and the Western Sandpiper for the 6th year. A stray Northern Phalarope that spent several days at a Cumberland swimming pool and was last recorded on Nov. 28, is by far the latest ever recorded in Maryland (John F. Workmeister).

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns. Maryland records of the Parasitic Jaeger still can be counted on the fingers of one hand, although this species undoubtedly passes within a few hundred yards of Maryland's outer beach nearly every year. One seen at Ocean City on Oct. 24 by Samuel H. Dyke was later than the period when this species is expected to occur; thus, this date may stand for many years as the latest departure record for the State. The rare Iceland Gull was found at Ocean City on Dec. 29 by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson. Also of special note on the Ocean City Count were the second winter occurrence of the Common Tern (1 bird by David A. Cutler) and the highest winter count for the Forster's (22 individuals).

Cuckoos. For some strange reason, as yet unexplained, dozens of late reports of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (scattered all the way from Nova Scotia to Texas) were submitted to the Regional Editors of Audubon



Field Notes this fall. Maryland had its share of these records. The only previous cluster of late dates for this species occurred in 1954 (Birds of Maryland), when the four latest departure dates for the State were obtained. Some of the 1954 birds seemed definitely associated with the passage of hurricane Hazel. Although hurricane Gracie (Sept. 29--Oct. 1, 1959) had lost most of her punch by the time she reached our latitude, she did arrive during the migration peak of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo; and it is possible that large numbers of disoriented birds flew many miles in the wrong direction under the solid overcast that extended north to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Under circumstances such as this, one laments the fact that field observers in Maryland and in states north of here made no systematic counts of birds seen before and after passage of the storm. Thus its real effects on bird migration can never be appraised. (Inasmuch as your compiler was more than 6,000 miles away at the time the storm passed he can safely blame other Marylanders for their oversight without fear of being chastized himself.) As any cuckoo report after Oct. 20 is unusual, the later ones for 1959 are cited here: 1, Denton, Oct. 21 (Roberta Fletcher); 1, Ocean City, Oct. 24 (Kleen, Dyke); and 1 freshly killed in Talbot County, Oct. 25 (Kleen). Also unusually late for an inland area was 1 seen at Fairplay in Washington County on Oct. 18 (Mrs. Alice Mallonee and Mrs. Sue C. Stauffer).

Kingbirds, Jays. Western Kingbirds were missed during their usual September migration period along the coast, but 1 was found on the Chesapeake Bay shore at Tilghman on Sept. 13 by Harry Armistead. The same observer saw a late migrant along the Little Choptank River in Dorchester County on Nov. 1. And a third individual was studied on Oct. 25 at Deep Neck in Talbot County (Kleen). The increasing number of reports of this western bird along the eastern borders of Chesapeake Bay suggests that it may be of regular occurrence there. Why is there but one record for the counties along the west shore of the Bay? Although the Blue Jay migration was described as one of the best in recent years, few actual counts are available. A "big wave" of more than 100 at Gibson Island on Oct. 28 is indicative of a prolonged migration period. An abundance of acorns has helped to retain a record number of jays into the winter months. Judging by a mammoth tally of 1,018 individuals on the Triadelphia Count, the center of abundance is in the Maryland Piedmont.

Chickadees, Mockers. Black-capped Chickadees moved southward into the northern tier of Maryland counties, but only stray individuals were detected farther south: 1 early bird at Gibson Island on Oct. 20 (Mrs. Henderson); 1 at Brookeville in Montgomery County on Oct. 31 (Weske); and 2 or 3 birds each on the Annapolis and Ocean City Christmas Counts. Thanks to the lack of cold weather, this is a banner winter for Catbirds. More than ever before were found on the Ocean City, Southern Dorchester County and Denton Christmas Counts; a Catbird was noted for the first time on the Triadelphia Count (John Webb), one was seen in late December at Emmitsburg in northern Frederick County (Dr. John W. Richards), and 3 were spotted at Palmers (James Banagan). Brown Thrashers were found in more than the usual numbers for that species, but were outnumbered by Catbirds, which is unusual for Maryland.

Thrushes, Waxwings. David Bridge and Ronald Feller contributed two extremely late thrush migration dates from Greenbelt: A Swainson's on Oct. 22 (latest for Prince Georges County) and a Veery on Oct. 18 (latest by two days for the State). Dick Kleen saw an even later Swainson's in Talbot County on Oct. 23. Those who have been concerned over the plight of the Eastern Bluebird will be pleased to read of a concentration of 460 along a 6-mile stretch of road on Tilghman Island on Nov. 8 (Kleen). Although this is the largest number ever reported in one day from anywhere on the Eastern Shore, we must bear in mind that concentrations produced in strategically located areas by favorable weather conditions at the height of the migration season can give a false impression of the actual status of a species. Robins are especially common and widely distributed in Maryland this winter. Cedar Waxwings are well scattered, but not in sufficient numbers to evoke comment from contributors. The only large flock mentioned was seen at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Nov. 9 by Mrs. Lois Horn.

Warblers. Although no Orange-crowned Warbler was found on the 1959 Christmas Counts, two were recorded during the three-month period: 1 in Talbot County on Oct. 18 (Kleen), and 1 in the Howards' garden in Annapolis on Nov. 9 (the second latest Maryland date on file for a non-wintering individual). Other record-breaking dates, either for a county or for the entire State, were established as follows: a Black-and-white Warbler seen in Talbot County on Nov. 30 by Dick Kleen presumably was an exceptionally late migrant; a Blue-winged Warbler at the Lubberts' "Bird Haven" in Talbot County near Wye Mills on Sept. 26 was the third latest for Maryland; a Northern Waterthrush in full molt banded at Greenbelt on Oct. 25 by David Bridge extended the State departure record by 9 days, and an immature American Redstart seen at Darnestown on Oct. 18 by Lucille V. Smith tied the State record.

Orioles, Tanagers. Although dozens of Baltimore Orioles have been found wintering in Maryland, it was not until this winter that an Orchard Oriole was positively identified here at this season. Two different birds, both in distinctive male plumage, were carefully studied on the Annapolis Christmas Count, one by Harold and Hal Wiarenga, the other by Gladys Cole. A third bird, believed to be this species, but in female plumage, is wintering in Silver Spring under the watchful eye of Hilda Smith. Baltimore Orioles, on the other hand, are fewer than usual this winter. The only Christmas Count report came from Annapolis, and no other was found after Nov. 15, when Professor and Mrs. Howard observed a late transient in their Annapolis garden. To make up for the absence of orioles at their feeders, the Howards were rewarded with the first Maryland sighting of a Western Tanager, as described elsewhere in this issue. Other noteworthy tanager records were a very late Summer Tanager, seen by Samuel H. Dyke at Vienna in Dorchester County on Oct. 28, practically a month after the latest date in Birds of Maryland; and 2 male Scarlet Tanagers (in winter plumage) studied by Lucille V. Smith at Darnestown on the record-breaking date of Oct. 27.

Northern Finches. A heavy influx of northern finches generally is heralded by a sprinkling of unusually early arrival dates. This was not

the case in 1959. What promises to be the best Evening Grosbeak year on record began unobtrusively on Nov. 8 (Brookeville, John Weske) and Nov. 9 (Cumberland, Dick Douglass). Only about one additional report per week was received during the last half of November and most of December; then, during Christmas week the invasion struck with full force. By the first week in January the species had been recorded in more than half of Maryland's counties, and was frequenting dozens of feeding stations. Purple Finches also are present in abundance, and there have been scattered reports of Pine Siskins. Fred Schmid identified a single Pine Grosbeak on Dec. 6 at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the first record at that station. A few Red Crossbills and Common Redpolls arrived in early January and will be discussed in the next report; they are mentioned in advance so all observers will be alerted to watch for them.

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

#### AUTUMN RECORD OF BELL'S VIREO FOR MARYLAND

Richard P. Riesz

On September 8, 1956 at Assateague Island (south of Ocean City, Maryland) I banded a bird that I believe to have been a Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii). The following notes on this bird were taken at the time: "split buffy eye-ring; white chin, breast, and belly; single buffy wing-bar; sides yellow-green; first primary  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  length of second; bluish legs; iris chocolate brown."

The bird was not collected, but the unusual nature of the record caused me to visit the American Museum of Natural History in New York shortly thereafter. Dr. Dean Amadon kindly allowed me to examine the museum's collection of vireo skins. This examination fortified my conclusion that the bird was in fact a Bell's Vireo, although my initial determination of "immature" (on the basis of the buffy wing-bar) seems now to be speculative.

The primary feather ratio of length clearly excludes all species but the Bell's and White-eyed Vireos, while the chocolate brown iris and lack of a well-defined stripe leading from the bill to the eye seem to eliminate the White-eyed Vireo.

Some of this reasoning about identification is certainly deductive and no substitute for a specimen, but it seems clear that this may be a valid "hypothetical" record of this species for the State of Maryland.

101 Twin Falls Road, Berkeley Heights, N. J.

\* \* \*

NOTE: The MOS maintains a file of nesting records of Maryland birds. We wish to have a card for every nest you find and for every record of young birds just out of the nest. Nest cards may be obtained free from your local chapter or from Mrs. Shirley Geddes, 503 Overbrook Rd., Baltimore 12.

## REPORT ON NESTLING REDWING PROJECT

Brooke Meanley

The Cooperative Redwinged Blackbird Nestling Banding Program of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center had a very auspicious beginning in its first year of operation (1959). Approximately 1,100 nestling Redwings were banded by some 44 of 59 participating banders in 15 of the Eastern Seaboard States. There undoubtedly will be some additional nestling bandings reported with the 1959 banding schedules. Marylanders ranked fifth in number of nestling Redwings banded.

This first year's banding effort represents a great deal of hard work, for which we are deeply grateful. By comparison, in 1957 only 183 nestling Redwings were banded in the eastern United States and eastern Canada (the 1958 banding total is still incomplete).

Because of the successful first year's effort, the project is to be continued in 1960. We are hopeful that banders will band a larger number during the coming nesting season.

Table 1. Nestling Redwinged Blackbirds Banded by Cooperators in Eastern United States in 1959

State	No. Banded	Habitat in which banded						
		Cat-tails	Mixed fresh marsh	Brackish marsh	Salt marsh	Button bush swamp	Shrub border	Upland field
Conn.	20	9	3	--	--	--	8	--
Del.	8	--	3	--	3	--	2	--
Fla.	6	--	--	--	--	6	--	--
Ga.	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
Me.	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
Md.	71	2	49	--	--	--	20	--
Mass.	49	--	--	--	--	46	3	--
N. H.	14	11	--	--	--	3	--	--
N. J.	142	9	16	--	39	--	69	9
N. Y.	336	137	5	--	3	--	52	139
Pa.	160	2	99	--	--	--	11	48
R. I.	20	--	20	--	--	--	--	--
S. C.	5	--	5	--	--	--	--	--
Va.	181	22	5	128	18	8	--	--
Total	1021	192	207	128	63	63	165	203

## RECAPTURE OF A JUVENILE TOWHEE IN WINTER

David Bridge

The Rufous-sided Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus) is a bird that is found throughout the year on the coastal plain of Maryland. It is generally believed that the towhees breeding here winter to the south of us. The towhees present here in the winter are thought to breed to the north of us.

Something to the contrary now has appeared. A Rufous-sided Towhee (number 572-24009) banded as a juvenile on September 16, 1959 at Greenbelt was recaptured on December 31, 1959 in adult plumage two miles to the northeast of where I had banded it.

I am going to attempt to band a large number of towhees during 1960 in an effort to determine the extent to which locally raised birds winter. It also will be interesting to see whether any of the breeding adults also winter.

8-A Ridge Road, Greenbelt

## ALLEGANY COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This Count was not eligible for publication with the other Maryland Counts in Audubon Field Notes because of insufficient coverage and 20-mile diameter. Dec. 26; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cloudy with mild winds and rain; 35°. C & O Canal and vicinity. Observers together; total party-hours, 5. Great Blue Heron, 1; Bobwhite, 10; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 20; Common Crow, 16; Black-capped Chickadee, 18; Tufted Titmouse, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 21; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 4; Robin, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 9; Starling, 2500 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 400 (est.); Common Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 40; Purple Finch, 1; Am. Goldfinch, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 35; Field Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 1. 29 species; about 3,131 individuals. Bill Leeson, Richard Douglass, Pan Minke, Gary Minke, Buck Reynolds.

## NEW MEMBERS

- Albany, Randy, 115 Boone Trail, Severna Park, Md.  
 Alexander, Burton, 2712 Southern Ave., Baltimore 14  
 Anderson, Mrs. Thomas M., Jr., 1356 Pentwood Rd., Balto. 12 ID3-3738  
 Anthony, Mr. & Mrs. James, Chestertown, R.D., Md.  
 Bristow, Mrs. Robert I., 22 Goodrich Rd., Annapolis, Md.  
 DeWitt, Miss Kathrine, 75 Shipwright St., Annapolis, Md.  
 Flyger, Dr. Vaughn, Rte. 1, Box 858, Arnold, Md.  
 Ford, Mrs. Mildred, 5100 Williston Road, Balto. 29, Md.  
 Goldsborough, Mr. & Mrs. Philip L., Rte. 1, Box 164, Epping Forest, Annapolis, Md.  
 Grant, Mrs. J. Edward, Harlan St., Bel Air, Md.

- Harris, Mrs. George T., Chestertown, Md.  
 Harris, Miss Novis, Chestertown, Md.  
 Helfenstein, Miss Mary Grace, 7C Watkins Acres, Frederick, Md.  
 Hunley, Mrs. James G., 2517 Pickwick Road, Balto. 7, Md. MO4-8126  
 Isaacs, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas, Plymouth Drive, Cumberland, Md.  
 Johnson, Mrs. Robert W., III, Brooklandville, Md. VA3-7987  
 Karpov, Mr. & Mrs. B. G., Paradise Rd., Aberdeen, Md.  
 Katz, Mrs. Belma P., 2613 Oakleigh Ave., Balto. 15, Md.  
 Kelmenson, Master Richard, Caveswood Lane, Owings Mills, Md.  
 Knode, Mrs. Fannie B., Pines-on-Severn, Arnold, Md.  
 Koliopulos, Miss Elizabeth, 425 N. Potomac St., Hagerstown, Md.  
 Lablanc, Mrs. Ann, R. F. D. 3, Cumberland, Md.  
 Latimer, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H., Chestertown, Md.  
 Long, Mr. & Mrs. Winslow, Chestertown, Md.  
 McDonald, Mr. & Mrs. Ellice, Broad Reach, Chestertown, Md.  
 McVicker, Mr. John R., 417 Louisiana Ave., Cumberland, Md.  
 Malcom, Miss Adele, 114 Greene St., Cumberland, Md.  
 Mayhew, Charles, 403 Thomas Ave., Frederick, Md.  
 Metcalf, Mrs. E. A., 906 Wellington Rd., Balto. 12, Md. DR7-6477  
 Miller, Alan B., 556 Locust St., Oxford, Pa.  
 Milway, Miss Helen, Rte. 3, Box 130, Bel Air, Md.  
 Moore, Mrs. Harvey, 3339 N. Charles St., Balto. 18, Md.  
 Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. John, & Mr. Walter Booth, Chestertown, Md.  
 Nicodemus, Mr. & Mrs. Frank, Walkersville, Md. VI5-2801  
 Offutt, Thomas W., Fleetwood Farm, Owings Mills, Md.  
 Petty, Dr. & Mrs. Charles S., 2317 Poplar Dr., Balto. 7, Md. WI4-2564  
 Porter, Mrs. Andrew W., Anderby, Royal Oak, Md.  
 Price, James, MacPhail Road, Bel Air, Md.  
 Reifschneider, Dr. & Mrs. Herbert E., 3409 Greenway, Balto. 18, Md.  
 Rend, Mrs. Doris, Fairview, Easton, Md.  
 Riley, Mrs. E. Gordon, Route 1, Severna Park, Md.  
 Robertson, Mr. & Mrs. W. G., Woodbrook Lane, Balto. 12, Md. DR7-9529  
 Rubach, Mrs. Carl, 17 E. Ridgely Rd., Lutherville, Md.  
 Schaeffe, Mrs. Sophia, 113 W. 3rd St., Frederick, Md.  
 Schneider, William N., 3300 Glenmore Ave., Balto. 14, Md.  
 Scudder, Billy, Federalsburg, Md.  
 Scudder, Mrs. Carol E., R.F.D. 1, Federalsburg, Md.  
 Simons, Joseph I., Ridgely, Md.  
 Smith, Miss Lucille V., Cherry Lodge, Rte. 3, Gaithersburg, Md.  
 Steiner, Mrs. Karen, Millington R.D., Md.  
 Steinert, Mrs. Otto, Chestertown R.D., Md.  
 Stevens, Mrs. Byam K., Centreville R.D., Md.  
 Sutton, Miss Harriet, 4115 Wisconsin Ave., Wash., 16, D.C.  
 Tanger, C. Y., Rohresville, Lancaster Co., Pa.  
 Tanger, C. Y., Jr., Rohresville, Lancaster Co., Pa.  
 Tierney, Mrs. J. J., Chestertown R.D., Md.  
 Torek, Paul, Point Field, Oxford, Md.  
 Trippe, Mrs. Barclay H., Auburn, Rte. 4, Easton, Md.  
 Webster, Mrs. Ada, Chestertown R.D., Md.  
 Webster, Mr. & Mrs. R. C., 414 N. Center St., Cumberland, Md.  
 Wilson, Miss Dorothy, 113 W. 3rd St., Frederick, Md.  
 Zimmerman, Ned, 401 1st St., Glen Burnie, Md.

# COMING EVENTS

- Mar. 2 KENT monthly meeting, Washington College, Chestertown, 8 P.M.  
Speaker: Charles D. Evans, "Waterfowl Breeding Ground Survey".
- Mar. 3 FREDERICK monthly meeting, C. Burr Artz Library, 8 P.M.  
"Birds of Midway and Kure Islands" by Chandler S. Robbins.
- Mar. 4 HARFORD dinner meeting. Presbyterian Church, Churchville, Md.  
Guest speakers: Prof. & Mrs. David G. Howard of Annapolis.
- Mar. 5 BALTIMORE walk, Cylburn, 8 A.M. Leader: Miss Helen Fessenden.
- Mar. 6 BALTIMORE trip Susquehanna Flats. Meet Edgewood Diner, Rte. 40,  
8 A.M. Leader: Mr. Rodney Jones.
- Mar. 12 BALTIMORE trip Sandy Point. Meet Sandy Point Park, 8 A.M.  
Leader: Mrs. J. E. M. Wood.
- Mar. 13 BALTIMORE trip Pot Spring Road to see courtship flight of wood-  
cock. Meet Hutzler's 5 P.M. Leader: Mr. Haven Kolb
- Mar. 14 TAKOMA PARK regular meeting.
- Mar. 18 ANNE ARUNDEL lecture, "Bird Migration" by Dr. Vaughn Flyger.  
Meet 8 P.M., new State Office Bldg. auditorium.
- Mar. 18 BALTIMORE monthly meeting, Pratt Library, 8 P.M. Speaker: Mr.  
John Alderman, "Life Cycle of the Osprey".
- Mar. 19 BALTIMORE walk, Cylburn, 8 A.M. Leader: Mr. George Belden.
- Mar. 20 STATE BOAT TRIP for ducks, St. Michaels area. Make reservations  
Mr. Richard L. Kleen, Box 122, St. Michaels, Md. Phone: RI 5-4821  
Cost \$2.00
- Mar. 20 FREDERICK field trip. Meet Baker Park 1:30 P.M.
- Mar. 23 ALLEGANY monthly meeting, Bd. of Education Bldg. 7:30 P.M.
- Mar. 25 TALBOT regular meeting, Easton Library, 8 P.M. "Easy Bird House  
Construction".
- Mar. 25 BALTIMORE Identification Seminar, Cylburn, 8 P.M. "Shorebirds" by  
Mr. Seth H. Low.
- Mar. 26 ANNE ARUNDEL early birding, annual election. Meet 7:45 A.M.  
Hall's Valley Park Farm, Edgewater. Harvey and Claire Hall.
- Mar. 31 TALBOT Screen Tour, "Pastures of the Sea", Easton Playhouse 8 P.M.
- Apr. 2 BALTIMORE walk, Cylburn, 8 A.M. Leader: Mr. Hank Kaestner.
- Apr. 5 ANNE ARUNDEL mailing deadline for election results to M.O.S.
- Apr. 7 FREDERICK monthly meeting, C. Burr Artz Library, 8 P.M.
- Apr. 8 BALTIMORE monthly meeting and annual election of officers, Pratt  
Library, 8 P.M. Speaker: Mrs. Hoyt, "A Year With Birds at  
Aviana".
- Apr. 9 ANNE ARUNDEL early birding. Meet 7:45 A.M. Brewer Creek. Leader:  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Miner.
- Apr. 9 BALTIMORE trip Upper Loch Raven. Meet Hutzler's 7 A.M. Leader:  
Mr. Charles Buchanan
- Apr. 10 ALLEGANY annual trip to Lake Gordon. Meet Naves Crossroads for  
instructions on data at 2 P.M.
- Apr. 10 FREDERICK field trip. Meet Baker Park 1:30 P.M.
- Apr. 15 BALTIMORE Identification Seminar, Cylburn, 8 P.M. Mr. Seth Low.
- Apr. 16 BALTIMORE walk, Cylburn, 8 A.M. Leader: Mrs. John Murison.
- Apr. 20 ALLEGANY monthly meeting, Bd. of Education Bldg., 7:30 P.M.  
Election of 60-61 officers.
- Apr. 23-24 Eastern Bird Banding Assoc. annual meeting to be held at Annap.

- Apr. 23 ANNE ARUNDEL early birding, 7:45 A.M. 608 Monterey Ave., Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Garner
- Apr. 24 FREDERICK Bird Banding, Dawn to Dark.
- Apr. 29 BALTIMORE Identification Seminar, Cylburn, 8 P.M. "Warblers" by Mr. Chandler S. Robbins.
- Apr. 30 BALTIMORE walk, Cylburn, 7 A.M. Leader: Mrs. Richard D. Cole.
- May 1 FREDERICK field trip. Meet Baker Park. Dawn to Dark.
- May 1 PICNIC Seth Low's farm, Tridelphia. Meet Edmondson Village 7 A.M. Bring lunch. Banding demonstration. Leader: Mrs. Norwood Schaffer.
- May 5 FREDERICK monthly meeting, C. Burr Artz Library, 8 P.M.
- May 6 BALTIMORE Warbler Identification Seminar, Cylburn, 8 P.M.
- May 6 HARFORD dinner meeting, Presbyterian Church, Churchville, Md. Election of 60-61 officers. Film: "Glamour Birds of Florida".
- May 7 STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT. Make count in area of your choice. Turn in list and coverage details at State Convention next week.
- May 7 ANNE ARUNDEL trip to Great Falls of the Potomac. Leader: Mr. & Mrs. Conrad. Meet 9 A.M., Museum area, Great Falls.
- May 8 BALTIMORE trip to Pretty Boy Dam and Beckwith Bridge area. Meet Hutzler's 8 A.M. Leader: Dr. Elizabeth Fisher.
- May 14 BALTIMORE walk, Cylburn, 7 A.M. Leader: Mrs. J. W. Rowe.
- May 14-15 STATEWIDE CONVENTION AT OCEAN CITY, MD. Hastings Hotel.
- May 15 ALLEGANY trip to New Germany area. Meet Esso Bulk Plant 8 A.M.
- May 21-22 BALTIMORE trip to Harper's Ferry, Md. Hostess: Mrs. Francis.
- May 22 ALLEGANY canal walk. Meet 2 P.M. front of Fort Hill High School.
- May 26 BALTIMORE trip to Woodstock. Meet Woodstock Bridge 8 A.M. Leader Mrs. Carl Lubbert.
- May 28 ANNE ARUNDEL trip to Broad Creek Headwaters. Meet 8 A.M. City Water Works.
- May 28-29-30 BALTIMORE Memorial Day Trip. Fortesque, Brigantine, and Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Leader: Mrs. Richard D. Cole.
- May 29 FREDERICK annual picnic and outing.
- June 3 BALTIMORE monthly meeting, Pratt Library, 8 P.M.
- June 11-12 ALLEGANY weekend at Pleasant Valley.
- June 13-18 ALLEGANY Nature and Conservation Camp at Pleasant Valley for Children.
- June 25-26 FREDERICK Two Day Foray to Conowingo Dam area.

M A R Y L A N D   B I R D L I F E

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