

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

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



Volume 18

MARCH 1962

Number 1

THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Maryland

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## CLAY-COLORED SPARROW ADDED TO MARYLAND LIST

Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.

On 11 November 1961 an immature male Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) was collected from a flock of Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*) in a pasture near Libertytown, Frederick County. The specimen has been deposited in the U.S. National Museum.

The occurrence of this Midwestern species in the State is not recorded in *Birds of Maryland*, and Mr. Chandler S. Robbins informs me that he knows of no previous sight record of this species in Maryland. This absence is surprising since the Clay-color has occurred with increasing frequency in New Jersey since about 1953. As many as five birds (two banded) were recorded there in 1958.

New Jersey dates range from September 2 to October 5; all are from coastal localities. Most records are from early September, before the main period of sparrow migration. All five specimens and one bird banded and released represented, without exception, birds of the year.

Probably the absence of the Clay-color in Maryland is more apparent than real. Early September field work, especially in brushy lots along the barrier beach, should reveal that this species occurs regularly.

14 D. Brookside Drive, Clifton, N.J.

## SYNOECY OR THE TITMOUSE AND THE TABBY

Dorothy Vernon Smith

In late May of 1960, at its annual picnic, the Talbot County Bird Club was witness to a crime - a theft committed in full view and a theft in which the thief was puny in comparison with his victim. The thief was the cockiest little Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) on the walk; the victim, Flower, the family cat; and the loot, a dozen or more silvery gray hairs, choice bits for feathering the family nest. In court the lawyer for the defense could have pled that the crime arose from instinct, deep-rooted and beneficial, and that it was committed in the interest of better family living. Gentlemen and ladies of the jury, he would ask your clemency on historical and personal grounds.

Over the ages birds, like men, have used their fellow creatures as a source for feathering their nests. In "Pirates and Predators" (1959 p. 198) Colonel Meinertzhagen summarizes studies of the birds' use of mammals for nesting materials. He cites a study by Harris (Auk 63: 590, 1946) which tells of the American Crow plucking hair from cattle - 'Each crow had a beak full of white hairs...from the cow's back', while the cow remained her nonchalant and undisturbed self. Records have been made of tits taking hair from a bushbuck and wool from sheep. Colonel Meinertzhagen quotes one paper by Riney (Condor 53: 178-185, 1951) dealing with bird-deer relationships and listing 11 species of American birds in whose nests the hair of the deer has appeared.

The lordly male himself is not exempt from these predators. David Lack, as quoted in Rachel Carson's "The Sea Around Us", visited the Galapagos Islands a century after Darwin and found that the native flycatchers tried to remove hair from the heads of the men, to use for nesting materials.

Always the Greeks have a word for it- but this time the Greeks have failed. Words there are - tongue-twisters like symbiosis, synoecy, synecchthry, and the Latin-derived commensalism. But none fits the titmouse's activities to the "T". Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language, 2nd ed. Unabridged (1947) gives as its secondary definition of "Synoecy" the following: "association between two species benefiting the one without harm to the other". Whether Flower, the cat, would yield the point "WITHOUT HARM TO THE OTHER" is something only Flower can tell us. And perhaps 'tis as well we cannot understand her language.

So our attorney-at-law could plead that his client, the titmouse, practiced Synoecy or its ilk in the way of his forebears. And then he might conclude the case with a personal plea describing the verve and style of the performance before the assembled Talbot County Bird Club, to say nothing of its perfect publicity timing.

He would tell how, at the aforesaid picnic in Mrs. Offut's garden, Flower had curled herself up for a nap on the kitchen roof, gently slop-toward the garden. From a nearby shrub the titmouse flew onto the roof behind Flower. Off the roof, on again, fluttering, dancing, head on one side then on the other, on he came toward the sleeping cat. From the bush the lady in the case ventured out to look over the situation and retreated, leaving the field to her better half. Then beak forward, the titmouse charged and as quickly made recovery in triumph, bearing off to the shrub bits of gray fluff. Roused by the theft of good cat fur, Flower turned her head, cast a malevolent look to the rear, and boredly resettled herself for more pleasant slumber.

Back dashed Mr. Ti, full of bravado, to repeat his feat; forward came the Bird Club to applaud. Another moment of shadow-boxing; another successful sally literally onto the flanks of the enemy; then the titmouse retired with his beak filled with good nesting material, and the show was over!

Let us admit that, robber or not, few can equal the Talbot tit in audience sense and dramatic timing for his victorious foray. The Talbot County Bird Club was deeply appreciative of his fine entertainment, and with pleasure awards to Mrs. Offut's titmouse its "Audubon Oscar" of 1960.

## MY WEEK AT THE AUDUBON CAMP OF CONNECTICUT

Billie Taylor

The week of June 18-24 went much too fast. I could have stayed all summer and never have felt for a minute that I was missing anything in the world outside Audubon Center. In fact, I doubt if there would have been time to miss the outside world. Just the 127-acre Audubon Wildflower Sanctuary would require more than one summer vacation to really explore.

"Who is going with you?" had been asked many times before I left. My answer was, "I'm going alone and I doubt if I'll know anyone at the camp." But I was wrong. When the Audubon station wagons arrived with us (the campers) from the Greenwich Railroad Station, the first person I saw looked familiar. Mr. Duryea Morton, Director of Audubon Center and Audubon Camp of Connecticut, had been a student assistant at the Audubon Camp of Maine in 1947 while I was there for two weeks. It was a pleasure to work with him and to meet his charming wife, who was the camp hostess.

It was interesting to meet the other campers. Of the 34 who comprised the first session of the 1961 season, held especially for camp counselors, 15 were students, 7 were youth organization leaders, 4 were teachers, and the other 8 had miscellaneous interests. Eleven states were represented: Connecticut 7, New York 7, Maryland 4, New Jersey 4, Pennsylvania 4, Massachusetts 2, Texas 2, Illinois 1, Indiana 1, Ohio 1 and Rhode Island 1.

Busy days followed. Days of exploring, learning, and sharing in the out of doors. I especially liked the variety of observation and activities. They included insects, birds, plants, mammals, soil, water, rocks and weather.

The campers were divided into two equal groups for the majority of the field trips, spending equal amounts of time with the different leaders. Regardless of which member of the teaching staff accompanied the group-- Mr. Morton, Director; Mr. Leonard J. Bradley resident naturalist of Audubon Center and in charge of Audubon Wildflower Sanctuary; or Mr. Richard L. Cunningham, who is presently serving as Research Biologist for National Audubon Society in Florida, doing extensive study on the Bald Eagle--each showed, in addition to being a well-informed all-around naturalist, an enthusiasm for stressing the interrelationships of our natural resources and man's dependence upon all of them. Add this to a keen sense of humor and untiring patience and you have a picture of our, interesting, exciting and very worthwhile field trips.

Those who were interested in furthering their understanding of the many facets of nature observed could find books in the library to answer their questions or increase their information. Quite a busy place during free periods!

Laboratory sessions followed our trips collecting rocks, insects, and pond life, to give a closer inspection to each specimen and to verify our listings before labeling.

The Trailside Museum gave many examples of teaching techniques. Techniques to study and learn so well that one could adapt them to the situations 'back home!' Work-it yourself exhibits were popular, especially the electric games. (Popular, that is, until it was time to get on the train. We each made an electric game you see. That box, along with newly pur-



chased books, charts, and folders, caused me no end of trouble before I arrived home. I was tempted to leave them in each of four railroad stations. How glad I was the next week that I had persevered! The girls at camp stood in line waiting to 'play the game.' The redcaps had worries, too. My large case caused no comments. But my train case caused every porter to say, "My, this is heavy!" I did not want to be left standing alone with those two bags so I refrained from saying, "That rose quartz was too beautiful to leave at camp, so I brought my garnet, biotite, tourmaline, apatite, albite, and gneiss, too!")

But to get back to the Audubon Camp!

With ninety species of birds nesting in the 430-acre area, we had a busy week trying to see all of them. My disappointment in not getting any birds for my life list was completely forgotten the evening a pair of American Woodcocks put on a "really good show" for us. Someone spotted them in the field near the woods and the word spread like wildfire. Just as I arrived by way of a clearing, both birds flew by almost close enough for me to touch. In a few minutes they flew back. I had an excellent view of their heavy bodies, long bills, short tails, barred crowns, rounded wings, and their warm brown color with a "dead leaf pattern". I learned that the favorite food of the woodcock is earthworms. The woodcock sticks its long sensitive bill into the ground to search for them. When a worm is located the bird has only to open the tip of its flexible bill to grasp it. The woodcock is unusual in that it cares for its young for a year. What amazes me is how it can carry its young in flight. That I want to see.

A single Barn Swallow nest built over the entrance to the Lodge, which served as a dormitory and a meeting place for campers, was a first for me. I have observed many of them but they were always in groups.

Our evening programs were varied. Lectures, films, and slides presented information on natural history. One film, "George Washington's River", gave a vivid portrayal of pollution of the Potomac River. It shows methods by which cities and industries can clean up their wastes and their streams. Our Chapter used the film at our monthly meeting in February.

Social activities also were featured. Square and folk dancing on the last evening ended the week with a jovial air.

I have shared such a small part of what really happened. To understand what I mean, you must attend camp at Audubon Center. Walk through the hemlock, maple, beech, and oak forest. Observe all "the flora and the fauna" Listen carefully to your leaders and before you know it ecology unfolds before you. It is not a case of learning many unrelated names, but the "relationship of living things to their environment and to each other."

In closing I want to paraphrase a statement of Audubon philosophy. Since I teach the young - I dedicate myself to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of the young that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

Also, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the anonymous donor of the Helen B. Miller Audubon Camp Scholarship for a wonderful week.

75 Broadway, Frostburg

## THE CARDINAL CALLED THE "BALTIMORE"

Hervey Brackbill

In 1946 the Pennsylvania German Society published, as Volume 52 of its Proceedings, a 337-page volume entitled "Bird Names and Bird Lore Among the Pennsylvania Germans," written by William J. Rupp, of Spinnerstown, Pa. In the account of the Cardinal (Richmondena cardinalis) there appears on Page 221 this footnote:

"The following is a translation of an advertisement in Der Bauern Freund, Sunneytown, Pa., May 20, 1829: 'Wanted. A number of young gray Mocking Birds and also a number of Red Birds (called Baltimore), for which 50 cents apiece will be paid if brought to printing office of Bauern Freund.' This appeared in 'The Perkiomen Region,' Dec. 1, 1921, Vol. 1, No. 1, and the editor, Thomas R. Brendle, then of Green Lane, Pa., added the note that 'the Cardinal is still called Baltimore by people around Sunneytown.'"

That the Cardinal should be called "Baltimore" so surprised and interested me that on September 27, 1948--which was soon after I came across this--I wrote to the Rev. Mr. Brendle, who at that time was living at Egypt, Pa., and asked if he had ever heard any reason given for the use of that name. Under date of September 29 he replied:

"From the year 1913 to 1926 I lived in Sunneytown and the adjacent town of Green Lane. I heard the names 'Baltimore' and 'Lady Baltimore' given to the Cardinal one winter when a number of the birds came from the woodlands north of Sunneytown to feed around the homes in the town. The ground was covered with snow, and the birds were quite conspicuous.

"At that time I was interested primarily in Pennsylvania German names of birds and paid little attention to the English names. Later when I came across the advertisement for the birds in the German newspaper 'Bauern Freund' I sensed an interesting question, namely, how the name came to be used in a wholly German community. Surely, it did not originate there.

"I shall be in Sunneytown in November and I shall endeavor to discover, if possible, the 'folk' reason for the name."

To my disappointment, I never heard from the Rev. Mr. Brendle again. And a letter to Mr. Rupp at Quakertown, Pa., also brought the response, under date of October 19, 1948, that: "We do not know why this name was used and no one has been able to say why. I have since found out that sometimes it was 'Lady Baltimore.'...One can only guess on the matter."

One of the guesses Mr. Rupp then made was: "Had somebody travelled to Baltimore in those early days, found the Cardinal a popular cage bird in your city, and then come home to call the Sunneytown Cardinal 'so en Baltimore Voggel' ('such a Baltimore bird') for want of a better name?"

Possibly that guess struck somewhere in the area of the truth, for during further efforts to track the name down I found that in "The Birds of East Pennsylvania and New Jersey," by William P. Turnbull, published in 1869, one of the names given for the Cardinal was "Virginia Nightingale." This at least makes it clear that in eastern Pennsylvania the Cardinal was associated with the South.

But even though the name "Baltimore" remains unexplained, the fact that it was used is in itself interesting.

2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore 7

### A CASE OF INQUILINISM ?

Richard L. Kleen

On the afternoon of February 5, 1961, while hiking on Church Neck near St. Michaels, Talbot County, I noted a Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*) in the act of cleaning out a nesting cavity in a small loblolly stump. The stump was about seven feet high and the nesting hole was about four feet from the ground.

The bird was under observation for a period of ten minutes and during that period it removed wood scrapings with almost metronomic regularity. About twenty-four times a minute the nuthatch would project his head from the hole. The bill would contain wood chips which were protruding from either side of the bill. The bird would then give a furious jerk to the head, the mandibles would open, the wood chips would fly over an area of twelve or fifteen square feet, the mandibles would shut with a snap easily audible at a distance of twenty feet, and the head would disappear into the nesting hole only to reappear two or three seconds later.

Two aspects of this observation were of interest to me. One was the regularity of the actions; there appeared to be a *rhythm* to them which was interrupted very few times. Even upon turning my back to the tree stump, I could anticipate to the fraction of a second the snap of the mandibles for periods lasting over thirty seconds. The other aspect of interest was the fact that nesting activity was being carried out at all. Though the temperature was an almost springlike 48° that afternoon, there was three inches of snow on the ground. Since the earliest egg date for the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Maryland is April 15, this nesting hole should be worth additional observation.

Two days later I revisited the site at night and shined a light down the hole in an attempt to discover if the nuthatch were using the cavity as a bedroom. I noted a bird in the hole, but it was not what I expected. This bird had spined retrices so I knew it was a woodpecker - doubtless a Downy because of its small size. A Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus pubescens*), probably the same bird, was seen on two subsequent night visits to the nesting hole. On no further occasion was the nuthatch observed.

St. Michaels





OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1961

Chandler S. Robbins

Our warm, dry September was followed by a change to more nearly normal conditions in October and November. Cold fronts, which had been few and far between in September, passed through Maryland at frequent intervals in October, bringing the late fall migrants in well-defined waves. The U. S. Weather Bureau, in its Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin of Dec. 4, boldly published a map of predicted temperature departures for the month of December; unfortunately, there is little resemblance between this map and the map of observed temperature departures in the Jan. 1 issue. Maryland temperatures, instead of averaging above normal in December, were 2° below normal, much of the cold coming in the last ten days of the month.

Dates or counts that are unusual for any section of the State are underscored for the benefit of observers who wish to keep their copies of Birds of Maryland up to date.

Fall departure dates for 1961 are summarized by counties in Table 1. To facilitate future reference, this table includes dates for species that left Maryland in September as well as those with departure dates in the three months covered by the rest of this report. The table includes only those species for which departure dates were received from four or more counties. A "W" indicates that the final departure date for migrants was obscured by the presence of wintering individuals. In some counties daily operation of banding stations made it possible to distinguish transient individuals from winter residents; whenever late transients could be identified as such they are included in the table. The principal contributors to this table by counties were: Western Md. (Allegany, Washington and Frederick Counties)--Pan Minke, Alice Mallonee, Fritz Scheider; Baltimore City and County--C. Douglas Hackman, Betsy Schaffer; Harford County (Rock Run Wildlife Sanctuary)--C. Douglas Hackman, Melvin Garland; Prince Georges--David Bridge, Vernon Kleen, Chandler Robbins, John Fales; Anne Arundel County--Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Mrs. Gail Tappan, Harold and Hal Wierenga; Cecil--Vernon C. Rossman; Kent--Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, G. L. Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Webster; Caroline--Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, Mrs. Carol Scudder, Edwin V. Unger, Mrs. Alicia Knotts, Marguerite Butenschoen; Queen Annes and Talbot--Terry Moore, Jan Reese, Richard Kleen; Worcester--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Douglas Hackman, Mel Garland, Pan Minke, Samuel H. Dyke, Chandler Robbins.

Table 1. Fall departure dates, 1961

| Species                  | W.Md  | Balt  | Harf  | Mont  | Pr.G  | Anne  | Cecil | Kent | Caro  | QA&T  | Worc  |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Green Heron              |       | 9/9   |       |       | 10/15 | 10/26 |       |      |       | 9/10  | 10/20 |
| Little Blue              |       |       |       |       |       | 9/10  |       |      | 8/21  | 9/10  | 9/30  |
| Common Egret             |       |       | 8/29  |       | 10/7  | 12/10 |       |      |       | 10/19 | 9/30  |
| Snowy Egret              |       |       |       |       | 10/7  | 9/11  |       |      |       | 9/5   | 10/20 |
| Canada Goose             | 10/21 |       | 10/15 |       | 10/22 | 10/22 | 11/9  |      | 11/8  |       | 11/11 |
| Broad-winged Hawk        | 9/16  | 10/25 | 9/30  | 9/17  | 10/10 |       |       |      |       |       |       |
| Common Gallinule         |       |       |       | 9/22  | 10/7  |       |       |      | 9/19  |       | 10/20 |
| Osprey                   |       |       | 10/14 |       | 10/22 | 10/12 | 9/29  |      |       | 10/1  | 9/9   |
| Killdeer                 | 9/22  |       | 10/12 | 9/21  | 11/18 | 10/19 | 11/19 |      |       | 11/12 | W     |
| Greater Yellowlegs       |       |       | 10/1  |       | 10/28 | 10/31 |       |      |       | 10/22 | 11/11 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo     | 10/24 | 10/7  | 10/8  | 9/30  | 10/1  | 10/4  |       | 10/1 | 11/4  |       | 10/20 |
| Black-billed Cuckoo      |       | 9/16  |       |       | 10/30 | 8/25  | 9/3   |      | 10/9  |       | 10/1  |
| Common Nighthawk         |       |       | 10/1  | 9/23  | 9/10  | 9/22  |       |      |       |       | 9/26  |
| Chimney Swift            | 10/14 | 10/7  | 10/14 | 10/19 | 10/17 | 10/15 | 10/10 |      |       |       | 9/26  |
| Ruby-thr. Hummingbird    | 9/16  | 9/17  |       |       | 9/16  | 10/8  | 9/13  | 9/19 | 9/26  |       | 9/13  |
| Red-headed Woodpecker    |       | 9/17  |       | 10/24 |       | 10/25 | 10/22 |      |       | 11/19 | 9/29  |
| Eastern Kingbird         |       |       | 8/14  |       | 9/13  | 9/23  | 9/9   |      |       |       | 9/14  |
| Gr. Crested Flycatcher   |       | 9/23  | 9/1   | 9/11  | 10/7  |       |       | 9/17 | 9/11  |       | 9/23  |
| Eastern Phoebe           | 10/21 |       | 12/3  | 9/22  | 10/22 | 10/12 | 10/19 |      | 10/8  | 10/22 |       |
| Yellow-bell. Flycatcher  |       | 9/19  |       |       | 9/17  |       |       | 9/7  |       |       | 9/22  |
| Acadian Flycatcher       |       | 9/16  |       |       | 9/17  | 9/7   | 9/9   |      | 9/9   |       |       |
| Least Flycatcher         |       |       |       |       | 9/16  | 9/29  | 8/31  | 9/5  | 9/2   |       | 9/29  |
| E. Wood Pewee            | 9/19  | 10/12 |       | 9/22  | 9/30  | 9/29  | 9/20  | 9/29 |       |       | 10/1  |
| Tree Swallow             |       | 9/17  | 10/7  |       | 9/16  | 10/17 | 9/4   | 9/8  | 11/4  | 10/22 | 10/20 |
| Barn Swallow             | 8/17  | 9/17  | 9/29  |       | 9/20  | 10/21 | 9/6   |      |       |       | 10/29 |
| Purple Martin            | 9/2   |       |       | 8/19  | 8/28  |       |       |      | 8/15  | 9/30  |       |
| House Wren               | 10/2  | 9/17  | 9/29  |       | 10/7  | 10/8  | 9/21  | 9/16 | 9/30  | 10/22 | 10/1  |
| Cardinal                 | 10/8  | 10/7  | 10/15 | 10/8  | 10/28 | 10/29 | 10/8  | 10/1 |       | 10/22 | 10/1  |
| Brown Thrasher           | 9/16  | 10/7  | 10/9  | 10/25 | 11/26 | 10/28 | 10/6  | 9/30 |       | 10/22 | 10/20 |
| Wood Thrush              |       | 10/7  | 10/11 | 10/9  | 10/9  | 10/10 |       | 10/1 | 10/26 |       | 9/29  |
| Hermit Thrush            |       | 11/2  | 10/28 |       | 10/29 | W     |       | W    | 10/26 | W     | W     |
| Swainson's Thrush        |       | 10/26 | 10/11 | 10/3  | 10/10 | 10/8  | 10/9  | 10/1 | 10/7  |       | 10/1  |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush      |       | 10/7  | 10/12 | 9/30  | 10/13 |       | 10/4  | 10/1 | 10/9  |       | 10/1  |
| Veery                    |       | 9/19  | 9/16  |       | 10/8  | 9/23  | 9/9   | 9/16 | 9/23  |       | 9/30  |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet     | 10/2  | 10/27 | 12/3  | 11/21 | 11/18 | 11/2  | 10/25 | 10/1 | 9/25  | 11/25 | W     |
| White-eyed Vireo         |       | 9/9   |       |       | 9/16  |       | 9/22  | 10/1 | 9/2   |       | 10/20 |
| Solitary Vireo           |       | 9/23  | 10/11 |       | 10/22 |       |       | 9/29 | 10/9  |       | 9/29  |
| Red-eyed Vireo           |       | 9/16  | 10/14 |       | 10/1  | 10/4  | 9/17  | 9/30 | 10/9  |       | 9/30  |
| Black-&white Warbler     |       | 9/19  | 9/29  | 9/30  | 10/8  | 10/1  | 9/16  | 9/30 | 9/30  |       | 9/30  |
| Worm-eating Warbler      |       | 9/10  | 8/29  |       | 8/19  |       | 8/16  |      | 8/25  |       | 9/10  |
| Tennessee Warbler        |       | 9/16  | 10/10 |       | 10/8  |       |       | 9/30 | 9/30  | 10/1  | 10/1  |
| Nashville Warbler        |       | 9/16  | 10/10 |       | 10/1  |       | 10/8  | 9/23 | 9/5   |       | 9/25  |
| Parula Warbler           | 9/19  | 9/16  | 10/13 | 10/3  | 9/24  | 10/9  |       | 9/30 | 9/29  |       | 10/20 |
| Yellow Warbler           |       |       |       |       | 8/22  | 9/20  |       | 9/16 |       |       | 9/29  |
| Magnolia Warbler         |       | 9/21  | 10/12 |       | 10/1  | 10/9  | 9/17  | 9/30 | 9/29  |       | 9/30  |
| Cape May Warbler         |       | 10/7  |       | 9/30  | 10/14 | 9/29  | 9/23  | 9/29 | 10/7  |       | 10/1  |
| Black-thr. Blue Warbler  | 10/9  | 9/24  | 10/9  | 9/19  | 10/15 | 10/1  |       | 10/1 | 10/7  |       | 10/20 |
| Myrtle Warbler           |       |       | 11/4  | 12/2  | 12/4  | 11/8  | 11/6  |      |       |       | 9/29  |
| Black-thr. Green Warbler | 9/22  | 9/16  | 10/11 | 9/30  | 10/28 |       | 9/23  | 9/30 | 9/29  |       | 9/30  |
| Blackburnian Warbler     | 9/16  | 9/16  | 9/26  |       | 9/24  |       |       | 9/17 |       |       | 9/29  |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler   |       | 9/16  |       | 9/30  | 9/17  |       |       | 10/1 | 9/18  |       | 9/23  |
| Bay-breasted Warbler     |       | 9/16  |       |       | 10/1  |       |       | 9/27 | 9/24  |       | 9/23  |
| Blackpoll Warbler        | 10/8  | 10/7  | 10/10 |       | 10/14 |       |       | 10/1 | 10/14 |       | 9/30  |
| Pine Warbler             | 9/16  |       |       |       | 9/17  | 9/21  | 10/5  | 9/16 |       |       | 10/1  |
| Palm Warbler             |       |       | 10/14 |       | 10/22 | 10/12 |       |      |       | 10/22 | 10/20 |
| Ovenbird                 |       | 10/7  | 10/11 |       | 10/16 | 11/2  |       | 10/1 | 9/25  | 10/22 | 9/30  |
| Northern Waterthrush     |       | 9/9   |       |       | 10/7  |       | 9/24  | 9/28 | 9/11  |       | 10/1  |
| Connecticut Warbler      |       | 9/28  | 10/1  |       | 10/28 |       | 9/17  |      | 9/14  |       | 9/28  |
| Yellowthroat             | 9/16  | 9/25  | 10/15 |       | 10/17 | 10/11 | 9/19  | 9/30 |       | 10/22 | 10/1  |
| Yellow-breasted Chat     |       | 9/9   | 10/14 |       | 10/22 |       | 10/25 | 10/1 | 9/9   |       | 10/1  |
| Canada Warbler           |       | 9/16  |       |       | 10/1  |       | 9/17  | 9/4  |       | 9/3   | 9/30  |
| American Redstart        |       | 9/23  | 10/7  | 9/30  | 10/8  |       | 9/10  | 9/30 | 9/26  |       | 10/1  |
| Bobolink                 |       | 9/17  | 10/10 | 9/19  | 9/17  |       |       |      | 10/6  | 10/22 | 10/1  |
| Baltimore Oriole         |       | 12/22 | 9/26  |       |       | 11/24 |       | 9/16 | 10/25 | 9/9   | 9/29  |
| Scarlet Tanager          | 9/16  | 9/19  | 10/8  | 10/7  | 10/8  | 10/5  | 9/17  | 9/30 | 9/25  | 9/10  | 10/1  |
| Summer Tanager           |       |       |       |       |       | 9/10  |       |      | 9/27  | 9/6   | 9/15  |
| Rose-br. Grosbeak        |       | 9/23  | 10/13 | 9/22  | 10/1  |       | 9/23  | 10/1 | 9/26  |       | 9/29  |
| Indigo Bunting           |       | 9/9   | 10/11 | 9/22  | 10/7  |       |       | 9/30 | 10/9  |       | 10/1  |
| Chipping Sparrow         |       |       | 10/12 | 10/24 | 11/23 | 11/2  | 10/15 |      | 11/5  | 11/12 | 10/20 |
| Fox Sparrow              |       |       | 11/19 | 11/15 | 11/18 | 11/21 | 11/15 |      | 11/4  | 11/27 | W     |

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters. On the late afternoon of Nov. 11, Dr. Fritz Scheider made a 90-minute tally of loons migrating southward off the Ocean City beach; his results: 130 Common Loons and 1,200 Red-throated. Four days later he saw a Red-necked Grebe in Sinepuxent Bay--the only observation of this species in Maryland in 1961. Two Greater Shearwaters flying 200 yards offshore were carefully studied from the beach at 94th St., North Ocean City, on the very late date of Nov. 4 (Hackman and Garland).

Herons. Several late herons were reported this fall. Single Green Herons were present as late as Oct. 15 at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Baltimore and Patuxent Bird Clubs), Oct. 26 in Anne Arundel County (Harold and Hal Wierenga), and Nov. 5 at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Baltimore and Talbot County Bird Clubs). A Common Egret remained at Gibson Island through Dec. 10 (Mrs. W. L. Henderson, Mrs. Gail Tappan). Two Snowy Egrets were still present at Patuxent on Oct. 7 (Scheider) and 6 at Blackwater on Nov. 5. The first November occurrence of the Cattle Egret in Maryland was reported on Nov. 5, when Sam Dyke and Fritz Scheider found 2 of this species at Heine's Pond, the site of the first Maryland record in 1953.

Swans and Geese. The Mute Swan that disappeared from Royal Oak on Oct. 24 returned on Nov. 20 and remained through the winter. The first Whistling Swans (9) reached the Bay Hundred district of Talbot County on Oct. 9 (Jan Reese); they were not seen elsewhere in the State until Oct. 20. Mrs. Henderson reported over 1,000 swans at Gibson Island on Nov. 25-26, and an unusually high proportion of cygnets among them. The peak movement of Canada Geese took place during Oct. 7-15, when flocks were seen daily over Rock Run Sanctuary. Douglas Hackman's highest count was obtained on Oct. 14, when he recorded 36 flocks over the Sanctuary, totaling over 3,700 birds. These birds apparently left the vicinity of the Great Lakes after passage of a cold front, but their forward movement was faster than that of the front and they arrived in Maryland amidst rain squalls below a low cloud ceiling; low-flying birds also were noted by many observers in other parts of the State. Small Canada Geese (probably of the race hutchinsii) were noted at Remington Farms on Oct. 5 (1 bird, Clark Webster) and in Talbot County on Nov. 23 (5 birds, Jan Reese). Arrival dates of Oct. 5 for Snow Goose and Oct. 8 for Blue Goose at Remington Farms near Chestertown are the earliest ever recorded for these species in Maryland (Clark Webster). A Snow Goose stayed several days on Cash Lake at Patuxent Research Center (seen on Oct. 28, Patuxent and Anne Arundel Bird Clubs), and 1 was seen in a flock of Canada Geese at Concord on Oct. 19 (Carol Scudder). On the morning of Nov. 11 Samuel Dyke estimated over 1,000 Snow Geese migrating southward over Ocean City during a four-hour period. Snow and Blue Geese continue to increase as wintering birds along the east side of Chesapeake Bay. On Dec. 30, 147 Snows and 290 Blues were counted in Lower Kent County (Christmas count).

Ducks. The Fulvous Tree Duck, that has been seen regularly since July 19 at the West Ocean City pond, remained throughout the present period, providing the first winter record for the State. For the eighth year (out of 10) a drake European Widgeon is wintering at Gibson Island;

it arrived this year on Nov. 2 (Mesdames Tappan and Henderson). Two Common Eiders, a female and an immature male, were seen frequently at the Ocean City inlet. Two female Harlequin Ducks were seen at the inlet on Nov. 4-5 (Hackman; Dyke, Scheider) and 1 was found there on Dec. 27 (Jackson Abbott, David Cutler and others). Unusual concentrations of several species were reported on the Dec. 31 St. Michaels Christmas count: 9,548 Whistling Swans, 61,715 Canada Geese, 15,544 Redheads, 11,293 Canvasbacks, 368 Ring-necked Ducks, and 1,410 Common Goldeneyes.

Vultures, Hawks. The best hawk count of the period was made at Rock Run Sanctuary, Harford County, on Nov. 11: 25 Red-tails, 21 Red-shoulders, 2 Rough-legs, 1 immature Bald Eagle, and 2 unidentified accipiters (Hackman). A Broad-wing migrating over White Marsh on Oct 25, is the second latest on record for Maryland; this bird, as well as 11 other hawks of 4 species, passed over Hackman's home in one hour at midday. On Dec. 27, 64 Black Vultures were counted in the Ocean City Christmas Count circle; this is by far the largest concentration ever reported from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Other high totals obtained on the Christmas counts were: 72 Red-tails, 19 Red-shoulders, and 47 Sparrow Hawks in Lower Kent County on Dec. 30; 56 Red-tails, 4 Pigeon Hawks, and 66 Sparrow Hawks at St. Michaels; 18 Red-tails, 16 Rough-legs, and 78 Marsh Hawks in Southern Dorchester County on Dec. 26.

Eagles. The only Bald Eagles reported from west of the Chesapeake were at Gibson Island (1 adult and 1 immature on several dates by Mrs. Henderson), at Sandy Point (maximum of 2 by the Wierengas), and at Rock Run Sanctuary: 1 on Nov. 4 (Erana Lubbert), 1 immature on Nov. 12 (Hackman), and 2 immatures on Nov. 19 (Hackman). Eastern Shore reports prior to the Christmas count period were: Kent Island on Oct. 29 (Charles Buchanan); Talbot County, 1 adult on Oct. 26 and Nov. 14 (Reese); Blackwater Refuge, maximum of 2 adults and 1 immature on Nov. 5 (M.O.S. trip); and Savannah Lake, 2 adults on Nov. 12 (Scheider). On the Christmas counts there were 3 in Lower Kent County, 10 in Talbot County, 12 in Southern Dorchester County, 1 in Caroline County, and 1 adult at Ocean City. A Golden Eagle was seen on the Southern Dorchester County count, and 1 was electrocuted at Warwick on Oct. 29 (N. Hox in Audubon Field Notes).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, and Gallinules. Bobwhites were reported as scarce in the Bay Hundred district of Talbot County, but very satisfactory numbers were found on Christmas counts at Catoctin Mountain (111), Lower Kent County (121), St. Michaels (195), and Ocean City (204). The Catoctin counters obtained a high count of 23 Ring-necked Pheasants. A Clapper Rail was noted as late as Dec. 2 in Talbot County (Reese), but by Christmas time the cold weather had depleted the population of all Maryland rails to the extent that except for 10 Virginias in Southern Dorchester County, only single rails or none were found on the tidewater counts. Two Common Gallinules at the Patuxent Research Center on Oct. 7 were late for this inland locality (Scheider).

Shorebirds. Sam Dyke reported an interesting migration record for the Woodcock; at dawn on Nov. 11 one flew in from the ocean at the Ocean City Inlet. A good variety of shorebirds was found at Ocean City on the

Oct. 20 A.O.U. field trip: 35 Semipalmated Plover, 4 Piping Plover, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, 3 Knots, 25 Pectoral Sandpipers, 1 White-rumped Sandpiper, 1 Long-billed Dowitcher, 10 Western Sandpipers, and seven of the common species in normal abundance. The best find of the season in the Order Charadriiformes was a Hudsonian Godwit that was studied at Sandy Point, Anne Arundel County, on Oct. 12 by Harold and Hal Wierenga. The Semipalmated and Piping Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, and Least, Western, and Semipalmated Sandpipers are becoming so regular on the Ocean City Christmas count that we almost take them for granted in a day of intensive coverage of that coastal area; five of these six species were seen on this year's count in numbers ranging from 2 to 11. The Semipalmated Plover was missed. More unusual was the finding of 5 Knots at Ocean City on Dec. 27 (Scheider, Hackman, Garland) and a dowitcher in Southern Dorchester County on the preceding day. A Least Sandpiper (Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson) and a Lesser Yellowlegs (Daniel D. Gibson) in Lower Kent County on Dec. 30 were first winter occurrences for the upper portion of the Chesapeake.

Gulls, Terns. Sam Dyke estimated 1,000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Ocean City Inlet on Dec. 12. Forster's Terns were unaccountably scarce at Gibson Island during the fall, but 1 was seen in Talbot County as late as Dec. 2 (Reese). An astonishing number wintered along the Maryland coast, where 70 were enumerated on the Ocean City Christmas count as compared with the previous high tally of 8. Royal Terns were seen as far up the Bay as Hillsmere Shore in Anne Arundel County, where the Wierengas noted them on six dates from Oct. 15 to Nov. 2, with a maximum of 11 birds on Nov. 2.

Cuckoos, Owls. A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was banded for the A.O.U. field trip at Ocean City on Oct. 20 by Pan Minke, one was seen at Fairplay in Washington County on Oct. 24 (Alice Mallonee), and one at Denton on Nov. 4 (Roberta Fletcher). While watching migrants at the Ocean City Inlet on Nov. 11, Dr. Scheider saw a Short-eared Owl fly in from the ocean in late afternoon and disappear behind the houses of the city. For most non-flocking species the Maryland Christmas counts furnish a measure of relative abundance from year to year when properly corrected for the slight variations in coverage. An important exception should be pointed out in the owls, for which specialized coverage is required. In the past few years there has been a marked increase in the number and proficiency of owl callers and in the effort expended to hear owls on the Christmas counts. For example, 15 Screech Owls were recorded 6 years ago; 27, 4 years ago; 42, 2 years ago; and over 125 this year (including 41 in Talbot County, 25 at Triadelphia Reservoir, 21 at Catoctin, 14 at Ocean City, and 12 in Southern Dorchester County). The Great Horned Owl in Kent County dropped to 25 this year because of poor weather conditions, but 38 were heard in Talbot County, 35 in Southern Dorchester County, and 14 at Ocean City. If we ever perfect a system for calling Saw-whet Owls, we shall be amazed at the increase in their apparent abundance; single individuals were listed on two Maryland counts and both birds were seen, not heard. The presence of more Short-eared Owls than usual, however, actually does reflect their abundance this winter; this diurnal species was seen as follows: 11 in Southern Dorchester County, 8 at Seneca, 2 at Ocean City,



and 1 at Catoctin.

Woodpeckers. It is a pleasure to report a continued increase in Pileated Woodpeckers. New high totals were obtained on the Southern Dorchester County (19), Allegany County (11), and Catoctin (5) Christmas counts. A scattering of Red-headed Woodpeckers lingered into the winter in spite of the scarcity of acorns. This species was found for the first time on the Southern Dorchester County count, one wintered at Remington Farms in Kent County, 4 were seen on the Catoctin count, and one was seen at Oxford, Talbot County, on Nov. 19 (Richard Kleen). One seen at Crownsville on Oct. 25 may have been a late migrant (Dr. Hildegard H. Reissmann). High Christmas counts included 175 Yellow-shafted Flickers, 104 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 47 Hairies and 216 Downies at St. Michaels.

Flycatchers, Swallows. A late Western Kingbird was seen at the Ocean City banding station on the late date of Nov. 5 (Hackman, Mrs. Cole and others). Eastern Phoebes continued to be scarce on the Christmas counts, but 1 was found as far inland as Catoctin. The W. and R. Hendersons saw a flock of 15 Barn Swallows fly past their boat in the Chester River near Queenstown in a howling gale on Oct. 21. One was seen at Ocean City as late as Oct. 29 (Scheider).

Jays, Chickadees. The heavy southward migration of Blue Jays continued through the first half of October. On Oct. 8 the Patuxent Bird Club counted 2,671 flying past the Rocky Gorge observation tower two miles northwest of Laurel. Because of the poor mast crop, many of our local Blue Jays also departed; by Christmas time the population was below normal in most parts of Maryland. The Black-capped Chickadee invasion reached as far south as Montgomery, Prince Georges, Anne Arundel, Talbot, and Kent Counties.

Nuthatches, Creepers. A good scattering of Red-breasted Nuthatches and large numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches terminated their southward movement in Maryland. Numbers of the White-breasted species on the Christmas counts were quite impressive: 109 at Catoctin, 95 at St. Michaels, 41 in Kent County, 27 (all-time high) at Ocean City, and 12 (tie) in Southern Dorchester County. The St. Michaels counters tallied 56 Red-breasted Nuthatches. The Ocean City netters banded 77 Brown Creepers on Oct. 20; this species wintered in normal numbers.

Thrushes, Kinglets, Vireos. There were several late thrush reports, as follows: Swainson's at Kent Island on Oct. 29 (Buchanan), Gray-cheeked at Rock Run Sanctuary on Oct. 11 (Hackman) and Baltimore on Oct. 12 (Betsy Schaffer), and Veery at Gibson Island on Oct. 18 (Mesdames Henderson and Tappan). Eastern Bluebirds continued very scarce; there were 65 on the Ocean City Christmas count and 32 at St. Michaels, but only 5 or fewer on most of the other counts. Among the 40 species seen in larger numbers than in any of the 8 preceding years of the St. Michaels Christmas count were 282 Golden-crowned and 16 Ruby-crowned Kinglets; the Loblolly Pines of Talbot County are especially attractive to the Golden-crowned Kinglets. A very late White-eyed Vireo was banded at the Ocean City Operation Recovery station on Oct. 20 by Pan Minke.

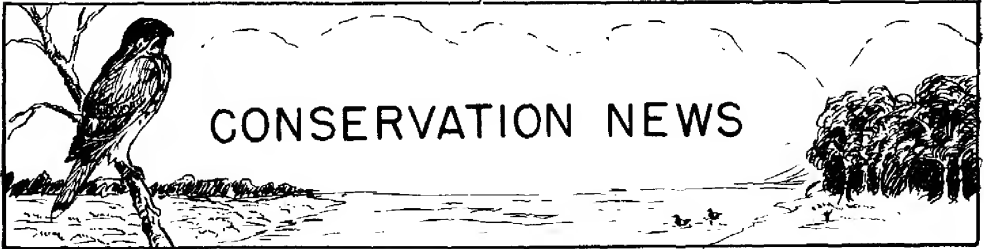
Warblers. Operation of several banding stations into the month of October netted several late records of migrating warblers: Parula at Ocean City on Oct. 20 (Garland), Black-throated Green at Patuxent Research Center on Oct. 28 (2 seen, Kenneth Libby) and Kent Island on Oct. 29 (seen, Buchanan), Ovenbird at Gibson Island on Oct. 22 (1 seen, Mrs. W. L. Henderson) and at Sandy Point on Nov. 2 (seen by Harold and Hal Wierenga), Northern Waterthrush at Loch Raven on Oct. 14 (1 seen, Buchanan), Connecticut at Patuxent on Oct. 28 (recapture of bird banded on Oct. 15, Robbins), Yellow-breasted Chat at Ocean City on Nov. 4 (recapture by Hackman of bird banded on Sept. 27), and Wilson's Warbler at Patuxent on Oct. 17 (1 seen by Scheider).

Orioles, Tanagers. Only one winter oriole has been reported to date: a male at Towson on Dec. 22 only (Mrs. Philip Myers, Jr.). One late Baltimore Oriole was at the feeding station of Friel Sanders and Elizabeth Slater at Churchton on Nov. 24. A female Summer Tanager seen at Gibson Island on Oct. 4 and Oct. 8 broke the State fall departure record (Vera Henderson, Elise Tappan, Etta Wedge).

Grosbeaks. Cardinals were especially abundant on the Eastern Shore necks; 968 were counted in Lower Kent County, and 662 at St. Michaels on the Christmas counts. Evening Grosbeaks arrived at record-early dates: a female at the Ocean City banding station on Oct. 8 (earliest Maryland record, Dyke), 17 at Laurel on Oct. 10 (Robbins). Numbers built up slowly as most of the early birds seemed to pass on through our State; the highest November counts were 35 at Rock Run Sanctuary on Nov. 11 (Hackman) and 30 at Tilghman on Nov. 12 (Reese). Even by Christmas time Evening Grosbeak totals remained low, except in Allegany County where this was the commonest species (265 individuals) on the Christmas count. The Pine Grosbeak was seen only in the two westernmost counties: 1 on Iron's Mountain east of Cumberland on Nov. 25 (Mel Garland and Pan Minke) and 1 at Herrington Manor in Garrett County on Nov. 19 (George A. Hall).

Other Finches. A Dickcissel patronized the feeding station of Friel Sanders at Churchton on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1. This species was noted for the first time on the Catoctin (Bert Haines) and Ocean City (David Cutler) Christmas counts. Pine Siskins were very scarce except near tide-water on the Eastern Shore (maximum 60 at Ocean City on Nov. 5, Hackman). American Goldfinches also were comparatively low in numbers except for a count of 400 in the Bay Hundred district of Talbot County on Nov. 12 (Reese).

Sparrows, Buntings. The first Maryland Christmas count records of Grasshopper Sparrows were established this year. One was seen in a brushy field at West Ocean City (Cutler and others) and 3 were studied at leisure on a wire fence at Rocky Ridge in Frederick County when the fields were completely snow-covered (Robbins, Libby). Snow Buntings were seen regularly at Sandy Point from Oct. 28 (Harold and Hal Wierenga) on, with a high count of 55 on Dec. 3 (Prof. and Mrs. David Howard). A single Lapland Longspur was identified at Fort Detrick in Frederick (Joseph R. Jehl).



#### WILDERNESS BILL

This bill passed the Senate overwhelmingly in the last session of Congress. It is now buried in the House Interior Committee; Hon. Wayne N. Aspinall is Chairman of this Committee. For names of other members of the Committee and for more information see page 332 of the November-December issue of Audubon Magazine. For six years a bill to preserve wilderness areas for posterity has been debated. With sufficient popular support, this bill can be brought out of Committee and on to the floor of the House and passed. It is number S. 174.

#### GOLDEN EAGLE PROTECTION BILL

This bill, H.J.Res. 479, is before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife. The Hon. Frank W. Baykin is Chairman of this Subcommittee; names of the other 11 members are in the February 1 issue of Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide. The National Audubon Society and other conservation groups are pushing this legislation, but it needs additional support.

#### HOW TO WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN NATION AND STATE

Several members have asked the Conservation Committee of the Baltimore Chapter to tell them the proper way to write to their elected representatives in Washington and Annapolis. Ideas of what is absolutely correct vary from state to state, and organization to organization. The important thing is that your representatives do want you to write; this is your privilege and your responsibility. You may use this guide in writing to those who represent you, but you do not need to worry about using 100 per cent correct form.

Send either a card or a letter. If you send a letter, use only one side of the paper. Mention only one issue in one letter or card. Be brief. Be sincere. Be yourself. Know your facts. Be as hard-hitting as you like, but toss a bouquet when it is deserved.

#### How to address them

(National)

#### President

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

(State of Maryland)

#### Governor

His Excellency, the Governor  
Annapolis, Md.

Senator

Hon. John Doe  
Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C.

Congressman

Hon. John Doe  
House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C.

State Senator

The Honorable John Doe  
State House  
Annapolis, Md.

Delegate

The Honorable John Doe  
State House  
Annapolis, Md.

Salutations: My dear Mr. President; Dear Senator Doe; Dear Governor Doe; Dear Senator Doe, and Dear Mr. or Dear Delegate Doe.

Mrs. O.J.Theobald  
Conservation Chairman, Baltimore Chapter  
13 Maryland Ave., Towson 4 VA 3-6867

ALLEGANY COUNTY CHRISTMAS COUNT

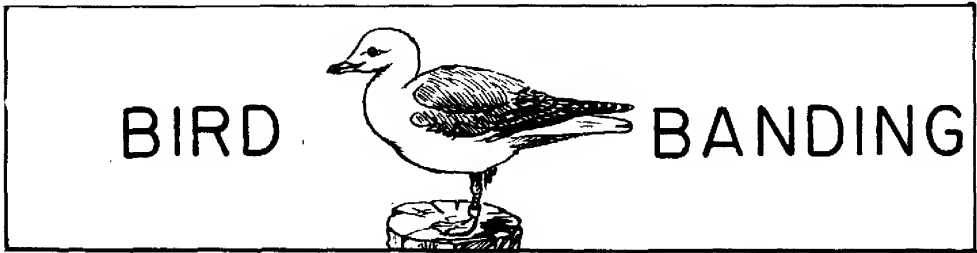
This count does not appear in the Audubon Field Notes and therefore will be included in this issue of Maryland Birdlife.

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD.--The area extends from Big Savage Mountain east to the C & O Canal at Little Orleans. Dec. 27; 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Humidity 90%; cloudy, drizzling and snow later in the afternoon; temp. 37° to 43°F.; intermittent fog and mist. Eight observers in four parties. Black Duck, 10; Red-tailed hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bobwhite, 31; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 11; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 41; Blue Jay, 15; Common Crow, 80; Black-capped Chickadee, 118; Tufted Titmouse, 54; White-breasted Nuthatch, 31; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 3; Starling, 185; House Sparrow, 208; Cardinal, 37; Evening Grosbeak, 265; Pine Siskin, 8; Am. Goldfinch, 38; Slate-colored Junco, 134; Tree Sparrow, 29; Field Sparrow, 9; White-throated Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 16; White-crowned Sparrow, 6; Purple Finch, 10. Total, 33 species; about 1,283 individuals.--Mrs. C. Gordon Taylor, Mrs. Dan Fold, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Reynolds, Anderson Martin, Miss Nan Livingston, Gary Minke, Pan Minke, Mr. & Mrs. John Workmeister.

THANKS AND THANKFUL

RELATED THANKS to Mrs. Raymond Geddes and Mrs. Malcolm Thomas for compiling, editing and the final typing of the Membership List, which appeared in the December issue.

THE HASTINGS-MIRAMAR, site of our Annual Convention, was not seriously damaged by the March 7 storm, which caused heavy damage to other parts of Ocean City. The "Operation Recovery" netting area was flooded; some of the vegetation probably will die from exposure to salt water, but there is no serious erosion. There is a NEW INLET through Assateague Island just north of the Maryland-Virginia State Line.



### BIRD BANDING AT ROCK RUN SANCTUARY

Mel Garland

The aluminum band is fastened around the leg, the wing is measured, the fat deposit between the breastbone checked and given a numerical rating, and the bird is weighed and the information recorded. Another bird is now ready to be released at the Rock Run Banding Station. Additional information concerning eye color, plumage, and unusual characters is recorded for a number of species and during the breeding season all birds are checked for broodpatches.

Banding at Rock Run has been carried on by licensed banders ever since a few breeding birds were banded during the 1960 summer at the sanctuary. The one thousandth bird was banded at the station on December 3, 1961, and quite a few have been added to the growing list of about eighty species since this date.

A number of most interesting birds have been banded at the sanctuary. The Nashville, Palm, Tennessee, Mourning and Connecticut Warblers and a Saw-whet Owl have been added to the sanctuary list by the banding program. Two other interesting birds to receive numbered bracelets were the Screech Owl and the Sharp-shinned Hawk; after banding these magnificent birds of prey, one can readily understand how their food is captured. Also ten of our smallest bird species, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, received miniature bands and were released to go on their busy way to the great clumps of jewelweed growing on the sanctuary.

Two exciting recoveries of birds banded elsewhere were made at Rock Run. A White-throated Sparrow, number 27-105524, was banded by Mrs. James Downes on September 21, 1961 at South Londonderry, Vermont, and was recaptured there on September 27. Eleven days later this bird was caught at Rock Run Sanctuary. A Black-capped Chickadee, number 101-99245, which was banded by Burton Whitman at Brunswick, Maine, on October 2, 1961, was captured at the sanctuary on November 26 and repeated on December 3 and 9. Twenty-five other birds of this species were banded at Rock Run during the influx of this species in the 1961-62 winter.

An Operation Recovery Station was manned in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for seventeen days during September and October. Over this period 498 birds of 49 species were banded. A spring banding program has been started at the sanctuary and will be operated during March, April, and May.



Banders plan to make a breeding-bird census at Rock Run during the summer months of 1962, and there is hope that the Operation-Recovery Station at Rock Run will be in operation during the months of August, September, and October with much better coverage than was possible in 1961.

The information collected by the banders at the sanctuary is available to ornithologists who are studying such things as the relationship between wing length and age and sex, the relationship of fat deposits to departure of migrants, and the color of eyes and plumage characteristics as they relate to the age and sex of certain species. As soon as any new data on determining age or sex is discovered it is used by other banders in their studies.

A male Indigo Bunting, number 64-18429, banded at Rock Run on August 7, 1960, returned on May 26, 1961. The season ahead is awaited most anxiously by all the banders. Will any of the ten Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded in 1961 be recaptured after spending the winter in Mexico or Panama? Will any of the birds that passed through the sanctuary boundaries on their way south be recaptured traveling to northern breeding grounds? Perhaps, Indigo Bunting number 64-18429 will return to the sanctuary again in 1962. We wait, but while we are waiting more birds are banded and more information is being collected at the Maryland Ornithological Society's Rock Run Wildlife Sanctuary.

36 Burke Ave, Towson

## COMING EVENTS

- Apr. 1 TALBOT breakfast hike, 7 A.M. Easton Library.
- Apr. 3 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- Apr. 5 FREDERICK meeting, 8 P.M. Lecture by Dr. William V. Schultz from AEC on Radio Neulides, Radiation, and Birds.
- Apr. 5 TALBOT special AUDUBON film, Mt. Pleasant School, 8 P.M.
- Apr. 7 BALTIMORE banding demonstration at Cylburn, 8 & 10 A.M.
- Apr. 8 ALLEGANY trip to Lake Gordon. Meet Nave's XRds. Dan Volk
- Apr. 8 TALBOT breakfast hike, 7 A.M. Easton Library.
- Apr. 8 PATUXENT woodcock trip to Greenbelt; meet 8A Ridge Rd. 6:40 P.M. Leader: David Bridge
- Apr. 10 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- Apr. 13 BALTIMORE annual meeting and election, Pratt Library, 8 P.M.
- Apr. 14 BALTIMORE trip to Camp Woodbine, 8 A.M. Betsy Schaffer.
- Apr. 15 BALTIMORE and PATUXENT trip to Patuxent Research Center. Meet Montgomery Wards, 7 A.M. Chandler S. Robbins.
- Apr. 15 TALBOT breakfast hike, 7 A.M. Easton Library.
- Apr. 15 FREDERICK bird walk, 1:30 P.M. Baker Park. Band Shell.
- Apr. 17 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland. 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- Apr. 18 BALTIMORE bird walks at Cylburn 7 & 9 A.M. Mrs. Carl Lubbert
- Apr. 18 ALLEGANY "Warblers" C. S. Robbins, 7:30 P.M. 75 Brdwy.
- Apr. 20 TALBOT meeting Easton Library, 8 P.M. Comdr. E. P. Wilson.

- Apr. 21 BALTIMORE children' bird walk at Cylburn 8 A.M.
- Apr. 21 PATUXENT owl trip to Howard County. Meet 9th & Montgomery Sts, Laurel, 3:00 A.M. Leaders: Ted Stiles and David Bridge.
- Apr. 21 BALTIMORE two trips-Loch Raven, 8 A.M. Mr.Charles Buchannan. Lake Roland 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- Apr. 24 PATUXENT monthly meeting, Laurel City Hall, 7:45 P.M.
- Apr. 24 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- Apr. 25 BALTIMORE bird walks at Cylburn, 7 & 9 A.M. Mrs. Carl Lubbert.
- Apr. 27-28 Eastern Bird Banding Assn. Convention, Cape May, New Jersey.
- Apr. 28 BALTIMORE two trips - Loch Raven, 8 A.M. Mr. Charles Buchannan Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- Apr. 29 BALTIMORE trip to C & O Canal. Meet Great Falls 8:30 A.M. Mrs. Joshua Rowe and Mrs. O.J.Theobald.
- Apr. 29 TALBOT breakfast hike, 7 A.M. Easton Library.
- May 1 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- May 2 BALTIMORE bird walks at Cylburn, 7 & 9 A.M. Mrs. Carl Lubbert
- May 3 FREDERICK meeting, 8 P.M. Bert Haines on Birds of Florida.
- May 5 STATE WIDE BIRD COUNT. Count individuals as well as species in area of your choosing. Turn in list, together with party-hours, at Ocean City Convention or mail to Editor by May 15.
- May 5 ALLEGANY meeting, 511 Talbot St. Cumberland.
- May 6 TALBOT breakfast hike, 7 A.M. Easton Library.
- May 8 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- May 9 BALTIMORE bird walks at Cylburn, 7 & 9 A.M. Mrs. Carl Lubbert
- May 10 BALTIMORE trip to Woodstock, Howard Co, 8 A.M. Mrs. Lubbert.
- May 11-13 ANNUAL M.O.S. CONVENTION, Hastings Hotel, Ocean City.
- May 13 FREDERICK bird walk, 1:30 P.M. Baker Park. Band Shell.
- May 15 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- May 16 BALTIMORE bird walks at Cylburn, 7 & 9 A.M. Mrs. Carl Lubbert.
- May 19 BALTIMORE banding demonstration, Cylburn, 7 A.M. Mrs. R.D.Cole
- May 19 BALTIMORE trip to Beckley's Bridge. Meet 8 A.M. Hutzlers park ing lot. Dr. Elizabeth Fisher.
- May 19-20 PATUXENT warblers-in-the-hand trip, 8 Ridge Rd., Greenbelt.
- May 20 BALTIMORE trip to Patapsco State Park. Meet at end of No.3 bus line in Halethorpe, 7 A.M. Mr. Irving Hampe.
- May 22 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- May 23 BALTIMORE bird walks at Cylburn 7 & 9 A.M. Mrs. Carl Lubbert.
- May 27 BALTIMORE trip to Rock Run, 8:30 A.M. Mr. Douglas Hackman.
- May 27-28 ALLEGANY trip to Cranberry Glade, Marlinton, W.Va. Mr. Wm. M. Leeson.
- May 29 BALTIMORE trip to Lake Roland, 8 A.M. Mrs. Robert Kaestner.
- Jun. 8-10 STATEWIDE ADULT WEEKEND AT PLEASANT VALLEY? Garrett Co.
- Jun. 11-16 JUNIOR NATURE AND CONSERVATION CAMP, Pleasant Valley.
- Jun. 15-17 JUNIOR NATURE CAMP at Camp Woodbine, Woodbine, Maryland.

### MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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