MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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MAY - JUNE 1946

No. 3

THE PATAPSCO STATE PARK SPRING TRIP May 12, 1946

The scheduled bird walk of May 12, 1946 began auspiciously at the Halethorpe bus terminal. A Baltimore Oriole greeted the group by singing from the treetops nearby. A short automobile ride to Relay and the group lined up on the old viaduct scanning the treetops below for migrants. This viaduct is one of the finest places in spring to see the migrating warblers. This morning, however, our luck was not with us; very few warblers were seen. A pair of Downy Woodpeckers was observed entering a nesthole in a tree just below the viaduct.

Our list grew slowly as the party headed up the Patapsco.valley. At the Avalon bridge several of the party observed a Prothonotary Warbler. This species seems to be a rare migrant in this area, although five more birds were observed later in the day.

The party broke up at this point with only two bird students to finish out the day. The best observations were made in the afternoon. A heavy downpour dampened our spirits but the sun finally came out and with it the migrants. They were everywhere. The late afternoon was most productive. Birds were seen and heard on all sides.

Turning homeward at dusk, the final observations were made, bringing our list up to 103 different kinds of birds seen in one day in the Patapsco State Park.

> List of Birds observed at Patapsco State Park, Md. 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. May 12. 1946

Great Blue Heron - 1 Green Heron - 2 Black-crowned Night Heron, Im. - 1 Sparrow Hawk - 4 Wood Duck - 2 American Merganser - 1 Turkey Vulture - 6 Cooper's Hawk - 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk - 2 Red-tailed Hawk - 2

Broadwinged Hawk - 2 Osprey - 1 Bob-white - (heard) Killdeer - 1 Woodcock - 2 Spotted Sandpiper - 1 Rock Dove - 6+ Mourning Dove - 12

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 Black-billed Cuckoo - 2 screech Owl - 1 Great Horned Owl - 1 Barred Owl - 1 Whip-poor-will - (heard) Nighthawk - 2 Chimney Swift - 50+ Belted Kingfisher - 2 Flicker - 10 Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1 Hairy Woodpecker - 1 Downy Woodpecker - 6 (2 nestholes) Kingbird - 2 Crested Flycatcher - 2 Wood Pewee - 1 Bank Swallow - 20 Barn Swallow - 6 Roughwinged Swallow - 12 Blue jay - 2 Crow - 30+ Carolina Chickadee - 4 Tufted Titmouse - 4 White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 House Wren - 3 Carolina Wren - 1 Mockingbird - 2 Catbird - 12 Brown Thrasher - 6 at Avalon (nest 5 aggs) Robin - 30+ Wood Thrush - 10 Veery - 1 Bluebird - 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 2 Cedar Waxwing - 20+ Starling - abundant White-eyed Vireo - 3 Yellow-throated Vireo - 6 Blue-headed Vireo - 1 Red-eyed Vireo - 12+ Warbling Vireo - 6 Black & White Warbler - 1

Prothonotary Warbler - 6 Worm-eating Warbler - 2 Blue-winged Warbler - 1 Parula Warbler - 12+ Yellow Warbler - 2 Magnolia Warbler - 12 to 15 Black-throated Blue Warbler - 4 Myrtle Warbler - 20 Black-throated Green Warbler-30+ Cerulean Warbler -3 Blackburnian Warbler - 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler - 3 Bay-breasted Warbler - 2 Black-poll Warbler - 50+ Pine Warbler - 1 Prarie Warbler - 3 Ovenbird - 2 Louisiana Water-thrush - 2 Kentucky Warbler - 6 Md. Yellow-throat - 6 Yellow-breasted Chat - 2 Hooded Warbler - 1 Canada Warbler - 14 Redstart - 20+ English Sparrow - (common around buildings) Meadowlark -2 Orchard Oriole - pair Baltimore Oriole - 8 Purple Grackle - 40∔ Cowbird - 3 Scarlet Tarrager - 2 Cardinal - 12 Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1 Indigo Bunting - 15 Goldfinch - 40 Towhee - 3 Vesper Sparrow - 1 Slate-colored Junco 20 to 30 Chipping Sparrow - 12 Field Sparrow - 2 White-throated Sparrow - 30+

Irving E. Hampe

Song Sparrow - 20+

CASPIAN TERN AT BIRD RIVER

While making the daily morning round-up of the nature trail on our place at Bird River on April 22, we noticed what we first thought to be a herring gull cruising over the open water between the cattails in Swan Creek, one mile upstream from the Gunpowder Railroad

bridge. Abreast of us in the bright 7 o'clock sunlight, its black cap and great orange-red bill stood out like a color plate, and Bill McHoul immediately exclaimed "Caspian tern!", remembering the large flocks we had watched at St. Augustine, Florida, the year before. And Caspian it was.

It circled twice over the headwaters of the creek, paraded past us twice at close range, sighted a breakfast morsel and hit the water in good tern fashion, but with all the added bulk of the Caspian behind it. The result was a six-inch trout, held crosswise of the bill, a bit insecurely. The bird headed immediately down the creek fifteen feet above the water, let the fish slip from its bill but retrieved it before it got away. With a new grip on the prey, head-end into its bill, our tern was last seen in straight flight out into the Gunpowder.

Orville W. Crowder

THE SEASON

February 15, 1946 to April 15, 1946

The latter part of February was quite normal in its weather with winter temperatures and a couple of light and quickly vanishing snows. March, however, began immediately with unseasonable warmth. Temperatures above seventy were frequent throughout the month and the general level of temperature was high, with but very few relapses and no really cold spells such as we generally expect in the month. As a result vegetation developed with remarkable rapidity. Silver maples in Baltimore were in bloom March 4; alder pollen was abundant March 6; arbutus was flowering March 25; and shadbush was in full flower March 30. These dates give some indication of the precocity of the season. There was a decline in temperatures during the first half of April but it served only to slow up a little the phenomenal development of vegetation which was 10 days in advance of the normal by the end of the period under review.

The warm weather in March did not seem to have such influence on birds as it did on plantlife. The warmth was somewhat early to affect the main body of migrants and the cooler weather in April appears to have brought most of them about on schedule. Unfortunately we have not sufficient data to depict the effect upon wintering waterfowl. Crowder reported redheads, baldpates, and scaup still plentiful in Eastern Bay on Feb. 17, while Hampe found only flocks of 20 to 30 of scaup and old-squaw on the Choptank March 3. A quick departure is suggested by the rarity of waterfowl stopping at Loch Raven during the spring.

Some raptor notes are of interest. No bald eagles were seen on Bird River in the winter until Feb. 18 (Growder). Courtship behavior by a pair of Cooper's hawks was observed Feb. 23 at Loch Raven (Kolb). The first calls from the barred owl were heard Feb. 21 at

Bird River, (Crowder). A nesting of the great horned owl is reported from Halethorpe on April 13 (Hampe). Two eggs and a nestling just hatched were found in a nest of the long-eared owl at Loch Raven on April 14 (Kolb).

The main body of migrating robins went through Baltimore during the last week of February and first few days in March. The migration ended rather abruptly and early; no doubt this was due to the warm weather. As usual, resident robins were first seen many days later in the suburbs than were migrants in adjacent country. Thus the first one was not noted until March 5 in Govans. Singing was first noted on March 7 at Halethorpe (Hampe) and March 12 at Govans. A nest with 4 eggs was found at Arbutus on April 6 (Hampe).

Hampe reports bluebirds inspecting a nest hole March 3, fighting starlings over the nest hole March 26, beginning the nest March 30, and female beginning incubation with the laying of the third of a set of 4 eggs April 7. A nest of a phoebe containing one egg was found at Loch Raven on April 6 (Kolb). Song sparrows were singing lustily on Feb. 18 (Kolb) and Hampe reports courting behavior on March 6. A cardinal had set up a territory by March 10 at Halethorpe (Hampe). Courtship behavior by downy woodpeckers was observed March 28 (Hampe) and by cowbirds April 6 (Kolb). At Bird River Crowder found the first woodcock Feb. 18 and noted courtship flight March 6.

Miscellaneous items of interest are: Several horned grebes at Romancoke Feb. 17 (Crowder); 37 whistling swan at Cambridge March 3 (Hampe); Forster's terms at Romancoke Feb. 17 (Crowder); a hermit thrush delivering some fine song at Loch Raven March 26 (Kolb); a strong wave of golden-crown kinglets at Loch Raven April 14 (Kolb).

H.K.

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT

RECEIPTS

Dues received March 1, 1945 - April 10, 194	6 \$129.10	
EXPENDITURES		
81 notations 89 handwritten	3.95 .89 .16 .45	
The Natural History Society of Md. 12-17-4 Cutting stencils and running off the July-Aug. Md. Bird Life 4		

The Natural History Society of Md. 12-17-45 Cutting stencils and running off the	\$\$ 6 . 50
May-June Md. Bird Life 5.00	
Stencils and paper 1.50	7.80
The Natural History Society of Md. 1-26-46	7.80
Cutting stencils and running off the	• •
SeptOct. Md. Bird Life 5.00	
Stencils and paper 1.50	
100 Postcards Feb. 8 meeting 1.00	
2 stencils for Jan. 11 & Feb. 8 meeting .30	
The Natural History Society of Md. 246	7.80
Cutting stencils, supplies and running	
off NovDec. Md. Eird Life	
Postage and incidentals March 1, 1945-March 1, 19	46 25.5 5
Treasurer's supplies March 23, 1946	•30
Receipt book .10	
Envelopes .10	
Stationary .10	
	Acres a c
Total	\$57115
Polomos Ammil 10 1046	\$71.95
Balance April 10, 1946	Ф\T•90
Savings Deposit, First National Bank \$54.25	
Cash 17.20	
	#m 05
Stamps •50	\$71.9 5

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert P. Strack (Signed)
Treasurer

ABSTRACT OF MEETINGS

April 12, 1946

Mr. Crowder presided. A number of interesting observations made during the past month were presented by various members from the floor. The speaker for the evening was Mr. Crowder who discussed the family of wood warblers. After general remarks on the group, each of the species to be found in Maryland was treated particularly with respect to the season of occurrence, nesting habits, and recognition points. This talk was one of a series on the larger families of birds. There were 26 members present and 7 visitors; 4 new members were obtained at this meeting.

May 10, 1946

Mr. Crowder presided. The period devoted to observations during the past month was most lively with numerous contributors. Some time was taken up with a review of articles of general interest in the current ornithological magazines. The speaker for the evening

was Miss Pearl Heaps who had for her topic the nesting of birds. Using our familiar local species as examples wherever possible she gave a complete discussion of nest-building activities and the behavior closely associated therewith. Her remarks were illustrated by a collection of actual nests. There were 20 members present and 5 visitors; one new member was enrolled.

NOTES AND NEWS

Members who are three months in arrears are automatically dropped from the rolls according to our Constitution. Hence, all March members not paid up for 1946 are regretfully eliminated from our mailing list as of June 30.

Circumstances beyond our control prevented the publication of the membership list as promised in our March-April number. However, the list appears with this issue. It contains all members who joined the Society from its beginning until June 30, 1946. A good many inaccuracies have probably crept in and we will be most grateful to all who will point out corrections.

Because but a small portion of our membership is able to attend our monthly meetings it has been suggested that an abstract from the minutes be published. We begin to do this in the present number. Your comments on the plan are invited.

45-35-35-35-35-35-35-35

It seems fitting to record here our indebtedness to the Natural History Society of Maryland for so many favors that it might be said that without the aid of that organization we should scarcely be able to function at all. Not only do we use the lecture hall of the Natural History Society for our regular meetings but we also take advantage of the services of its stenographer and typist to get out our notices and Maryland Birdlife. Materials are furnished to us at cost but the use of the mimeograph machine and many incidental services are most freely and graciously donated to us. We may take this opportunity of expressing to Mr. E. B. Fladung, president of the Natural History Society of Maryland, our sincere appreciation for this assistance.

H2K?

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

Corrected to June 30. 1946

Dates indicate month joined. (j) - denotes Junior Members. All addresses are Baltimore unless otherwise noted. Numbers are those of postal zones.

Akehurst. Corville M. (j) Fullerton. Md. April, 1945 Alderson, Mrs. John M. 2436 Pickwick Road (7) May, 1946 Argow, Rev. W. Waldemar 200 Woodlawn Road (10) March. 1945 Bartlett, Robert (j) 502 East 41st Street (18) March, 1945 Baxter, Pfc. Paul 518 N. Broadway (5) March, 1945 Beasley, Ray J. 4629 Keswick Road (10) March, 1945 Beasley, William 1220 Bolton Street (17) March, 1945 Beckett, Miss M. L. (j) 724 McKewin Avenue (18) February, 1946 Biemiller, Miss Arlie (j) 205 Witherspoon Road (12) March, 1945 Birckhead, Miss Augusta M. 529 Dunkirk Road (12) March, 1945 Birckhead, Miss Mary 529 Dunkirk Road (12) March, 1945 Blogg, Percy Alpha Photo & Engraving Co. 230 W. Fayette Street (1) March. 1945 Bond, Gorman M. 5414 Main Street Elkridge, Md. April, 1946 Boring, Miss Eva 4030 Evans Chapel Road (11)

April, 1945

Bowen. Robert M. 5003 Leeds Avenue Halethorpe 27. Md. April, 1946 Brackbill, Hervey 4608 Springdale Avenue (7) March, 1945 Brackbill, Mrs. Hervey 4608 Springdale Avenue (7) March, 1946 Brooks, Joseph, Jr. 3529 Newland Road (18) March, 1945 Brown, Mrs. Clayton C. 2313 Monticello Road (16) April, 1945 Buchanan, Charles M. (j) 104 W. Melrose Avenue (10) March. 1946 Buchheister, Carl 1239 Madison Avenue New York 28. N.Y. January, 1946 Buck, T. C., Jr. 3514 Clifton Avenue (16) April. 1946 Bures, Joseph 8 Fenway South, Apt. C (21) April, 1945 Burker, Mrs. Lucille Leslie 601 Stevenson Lane (14) May, 1946 Burner, Florence 5350 Reisterstown Road (15) March. 1945 Calder, Alice E. 404 E. Lake Avenue (12) May, 1945 Caspari, Miss Harriet 701 W. Lake Avenue (10) March, 1945 Coggins, Miss Helen J. 323 Broxton Road (12) March. 1945

March, 1945

Cotsworth, Mrs. John Rockland-Brooklandville; Md. March, 1945 April, 1945 Cowan, Mrs. Harriet 3701 Forest Park Avenue (16) April, 1945 March, 1945 Crowder, Orville Chase, Md. March, 1945 April, 1946 Dargan, Lucas M. Patuxent Research Refuge Bowie, Md. March, 1946 Dell, Miss Katherine E. 6014 Smith Avenue (9) April, 1946 October, 1945 Dobbins, Miss Anne B. R.F.D. #4 Elk Ridge, Md. March, 1945 April, 1945 Dowell, Dr. Anita S. Cambridge Arms Apts. (18) March, 1945 April, 1945 Edwards, Nelson March, 1945 3054 Arunah Avenue (16) April, 1945 Emlen, Dr. John T. 8 Wyndhurst Avenue (10)March, 1945 March, 1945 Fishpaugh, Miss Ruth March, 1945 519 Winston Avenue (12) March, 1945 Fladung, Edmund B. March, 1945 5006 Midwood Avenue (12) March, 1945 Francis, Mrs. Carl G. April, 1945 8739 Satyr Hill Road (14) Hohman, Henry J. May, 1946 Francis, Miss Sizanne E. 8739 Satyr Hill Road (14) May, 1946 Friedel, Miss Alice April, 1945 1043 N. Broadway (5) March, 1945 Hoover, Ray F. March, 1945 Gantcher, Mrs. Albert Hoover, Mrs. Ray F. Riderwood 4, Md. 828 Jack Street (25)

Gay, Mrs. Leslie Hollins Road (10) Gephart, Miss Anne L. 6104 Maywood Avenue (9) Germuth, Dr. Fred G. 5704 Second Avenue (27) Golder, Mrs. Carolyn M. Ambassador Apts. (18) May, 1946 Greene, Mrs. Morvell R. 102 Alleghany Avenue Towson 4, Md. Hampe, Irving E. 5559 Ashbourne Road (27) Hampe, Mrs. Irving E. 5559 Ashbourne Road (27) Harrington, T. G. Riderwood 4, Md. Harris, Walter K. 206 Chatsworth Avenue Reisterstown, Md. Harrison, Walter, Jr. 3026 Abell Avenue (18) Heaps, Miss Pearl 1916 Park Avenue (17) Hecht, Miss Beatrice Arlington Park Apts. (15) Kingsville, Md. April, 1945 Holliday, Este F. (j) Cowpens Rd., Towson 4, Md. Riderwood 4, Md.

March, 1945

Israel, Thomas B. 203 Patuxent Road Laurel, Md. March, 1946 James, Miss Betty Ambassador Apts. (18) May, 1946 Jewett, Frederic W. 2926 Chenoak Avenue (14) May, 1946 Jewett, Mrs. Frederic W. 2926 Chenoak Avenue (14) May, 1946 Jewett, Miss Natalie (j) 2926 Chenoak Avenue (14) May, 1946 Jewett, Miss Maratha W. (j) 2926 Chenoak Avenue (14) May, 1946 Kaestner, Mrs. Alice S. (18)612 East 34th Street March, 1945 Kelly, Miss Olga 5804 Roland Avenue (10) February, 1946 Kent, Millard C. 541 Dunkirk Road (12) March, 1945 Kent, Mrs. Millard C. 541 Dunkirk Road (12) March, 1945 Klinke, Rudolf 5700 Bellona Avenue (12) April, 1945 Kolb, C. Haven, Jr. 5021 Midwood Avenue (12) March, 1945 Kolb, Mrs. C. Haven, Jr. 5021 Midwood Avenue (12) March, 1945 Kuch, Mrs. Herman F., Jr. 816 Olmstead Road (8) April, 1946 League, J. Nevitt, Jr. Box 14, Chase, Md. March, 1946 Leber, Mrs. Claude E. 1712 Bolton Street April,1945 Lenderking, Miss Ruth E. 634 Gorsuch Avenue (18) March, 1945

Levering, Miss Ellinor Ruxton 4, Md. April, 1946 Levin, Benjamin S. 1944 Walbrook Avenue (17) May, 1946 Mainster, Raymond W. 3716 Croydon Road April, 1945 Manzske, Ernest Timmonium, Md. April, 1945 March, Mrs. Frederick W. 4707 Fairhaven Avenue (26) April, 1945 McCredy, J.R. 510 W. Joppa Road Towson 4, Md. April, 1945 McCredy, Mrs. J. R. 510 W. Joppa Road Towson 4, Md. April, 1945 McHoul, William S. (j) 438 Titman Place (2) March, 1945 Meade, Mrs. Alice M. 700 Belgian Avenue (18) March, 1945 Mehr, Miss Helen T. 541 Dankirk Road (12) April, 1945 Mitchell, Mrs. D. B. 4604 Haddon Avenue (7) April, 1946 Moment, Dr. Gardiner Goucher College (18) March, 1945 Moorefield, Mrs. William 5700 Bellona Avenue (12) March, 1945 Muller, Miss Emily M. 350 Rosebank Avenue (12) April, 1945 Murray, Mrs. Claude E. 1713 Bolton Street (17) April, 1945 Murray, George C. (j) 3739 Nortonia Road (15) April, 1945 Murray, Mrs. Merrill G. 3739 Nortonia Road (15) April, 1945

May. 1946

Muse. Mrs. H. Lee Reid. Mrs. E. Emmet Loch Raven, Md. 203 E. 33rd Street (18) April, 1945 Richards, Mrs. Elmer March, 1945 Musselman. Miss Eleanor S. 4005 Carlisle Avenue (16) 100 Woodlawn Road (10) February. 1946 April, 1945 Robbins, Chandler S. Newell: Dr. H. W. Patuxent Research Refuge (12)901 E. Belvedere Avenue Bowie, Md. May, 1946 February, 1946 Rouchard, Edmond Newell, Mrs. H. W. (12)6 S. Calvert Street (2) 901 E. Belvedere Avenue March, 1945 Newell, Miss Jaclyn (j) 901 E. Belvedere Avenue March, 1945 Rusk, Miss Margaret (12)128 Woodlawn Avenue (28) March, 1945 April, 1945 Newell, Miss Marcia (j) Russell, Mrs. Frank 901 E. Belvedere Avenue The Terraces (12)March, 1945 Mt. Washington 9. Md. Niles. Mrs. Eva B. March: 1945 2204 Lyndhurst Avenue (16) March, 1945 Saffran, Fred 4509 Bayonne Avenue March, 1945 O'Brien, Gordon Schaffer, Miss Edith Cedar Garden Road (29) 1318 Linden Avenue (17) April, 1946 Oertel, Carl, Jr. 6313 Blackburn Court (12) March, 1945 Selckmann, August 1808 N. Chester Street (13) April, 1945 April, 1945 Old, Frank 1915 Park Avenue (17) Severin, Miss Helen E. 2415 Everton Road (9) March, 1945 March, 1945 Shantz, Miss Elizabeth P. √ Passmore, J. H. 703 Deepdene Road (10) 108 McCormick Avenue (6) March, 1945 April, 1945 Patrick. Walter A. Shock. Mrs. N. W. 6505 Maplewood Road (12) The Terrace Mt. Washington 9, Md. April, 1945 Shoff, Miss Alice March, 1945 Peirsol, Mrs. Mary 695 Gladstone Avenue (10)4810 Anntana Avenue April, 1945 Silbernagel, John April, 1945 Penniman, Nicholas, III 508 Mt. Holly Street (29) March, 1945 806 Mercantile Trust Bldg. (2) April, 1945 Simon, Andrew 7727 York Road Towson 4, Md. Ramsey, A. O. McDonough School March. 1945 Simon, Miss Katherine McDonough, Md. 7727 York Road May, 1946 Ramsay, Bert Towson 4, Md. (j) McDonogh, Md. April, 1945

Simon, Richard A. (j)7727 York Road Towson 4, Md. April, 1945 Simon, Stephen W. 7727 York Road Towson 4, Md. March, 1945 Slingluff, Jesse 1000 Maryland Trust Bldg. (2) March, 1945 Smith, Miss Minnie C. 721 Colorado Avenue (10) January, 1946 Stabler, Mrs. Margaret 2000 Park Avenue (17) April, 1945 Stewart, Robert E. Patuxent Research Refuge Bowie, Md. February, 1946 Stokes, Allen W. 1102 S. Park Street Madison 5, Wisconsin December, 1945 Stokes. Mrs. Allen W. 1102 S. Park Street Madison 5, Wisconsin December, 1945 Stollenwerck, Mrs. Frank 621 E. 34th Street (18) April, 1945 Strack, Herbert 529 Sussex Road Towson 4, Md. March, 1945 Strack, Mrs. Herbert P. 529 Sussex Road Towson 41 Md. March, 1945 Strack, Willard (j) 529 Sussex Road Towson 4, Md. March, 1946 Sutton, F. W. Stevenson Lane Towson 4, Md. March, 1946

Tillinghast, Mrs. Gardiner Riderhill Road Ruxton 4, Md. March, 1945 Tillman, Mrs. Richard
Tillmanor, Ruxton 4, Md.
March, 1945
Trine, Miss Carroll L. (j)
2818 Onyx Road (14)
March, 1946
Trine, Mrs. Sidney J. Trine
2818 Onyx Road (14)
March, 1946
Triplett, William H.
5209 Edmondson Avenue (29)
March, 1945
Wiencke, Edgar F.

2530 Calverton Heights Avenue

April, 1946
Wilbur, Mrs. Ida Lucke
1913 Cedric Road (16)
May, 1946
Willis, Mrs. Beaufort
4505 Arabia Avenue (14)
April, 1945
Wood, Mrs. Ernest
6000 Pimlico Road (9)

Work, Joseph W. 639 Plymouth Road (29) April, 1946

April, 1945