

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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Cover: Sub to near-adult Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*) in flight, 60 miles east of Ocean City, on February 1, 1975.  
 Photo by Richard A. Rowlett.



## FIRST RECORDS OF ATLANTIC PUFFIN AND YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS OFF MARYLAND

*Richard A. Rowlett*

A pelagic trip aboard a chartered sports fishing "headboat" off Ocean City, Maryland, on February 1, 1975, was highlighted by first sightings of Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*) for Maryland. Both species were well studied by 45 corroborating observers and documented by photographs.

In February and March, 1975, a total of 43 Atlantic Puffins were identified off the Delmarva Peninsula; 37 of these were in Maryland waters, one off Delaware (Feb. 9), and five off Virginia (Feb. 6.) Seven Atlantic Puffins and one near or sub-adult Yellow-nosed Albatross were seen on February 1, from 1200 to 1400 hours, in an area centered at about 38°19'N, 73°52'W, at the "head" of Baltimore Canyon, 57-60 miles due east of Ocean City. Another charter trip to the same area off Ocean City, on the following day with 45 observers, yielded 16 Atlantic Puffins, but failed to relocate the albatross. Additional sightings of puffins were made by me during a joint research cruise with the United States Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on February 6, 7, and 9. The last sightings of puffins were made on March 16, when seven were seen on a chartered pelagic trip with 45 birders.

A summary of the oceanic species and numbers observed during the nine days spent at sea off Delmarva from January through March, 1975, is presented in Table 1.



Two immature Atlantic Puffins on a glassy calm Atlantic on March 16, 51 miles ENE of Ocean City, 38°22'N, 74°02'W. All photos by the author.

Table 1. A summary of 9 days of pelagic observations during the winter of 1975. All figures are totals seen off Maryland unless otherwise indicated. Common and typically littoral species are omitted.

Species	Date <sup>1</sup>	January			February			March			Total <sup>2</sup>
		12	1	2	5	6	7	8	9	16	
YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS <i>Diomedea chlororhynchos</i>		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
MANX SHEARWATER <sup>3</sup> <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
NORTHERN GANNET <i>Morus bassanus</i>		161±	220±	275±	200±	125±	111±	300±	53±	170±	**
RED PHALAROPE <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		113-	-	1	-	27	5	-	-	-	146-
GREAT SKUA <i>Catharacta skua</i>		3	9	4	-	2	7	-	3	3	31
JAEGER SP. <i>Stercorarius</i> sp.		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
GLAUCOUS GULL <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
ICELAND GULL <i>Larus glaucoides</i>		-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	-	6
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		295±	200±	134±	102±	345±	530±	140±	350±	7	**
RAZORBILL <i>Alca torda</i>		2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
DOVEKIE <i>Plautus alle</i>		6	6	24	-	5	1	-	-	-	42
ATLANTIC PUFFIN <i>Fratercula aetica</i>		-	7	16	-	5	3	-	5	7	43
LARGE ALCID SP.		-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4

<sup>1</sup>All Feb. 5 observations were off Delaware; all Feb. 6 off Virginia; all Feb. 9 off Delaware except for 2 skuas and 4 puffins off Md.

<sup>2</sup>This total indicates the number of sightings, which is not necessarily the number of individuals seen during the period. Chances are that many of the gannets, kittiwakes, and maybe even some of the skuas seen on successive trips may be the same wintering individuals. The odds of seeing the same alcids or phalaropes on successive trips seem remote.

<sup>3</sup>Details will be in September 1975 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

In most instances, the puffins were encountered as singles, but occasionally they were in pairs. The birds appeared reluctant to fly ahead of the boat, and dove to get out of the way.

All puffins observed were immature individuals. They were characteristically of short and stocky build with bills resembling Razorbills (*Alca torda*) in length and thickness. Only by carefully noting the large dirty gray facial area and the shape of the all dark bill, especially the ridge of the upper mandible which curves gently downward from

the base high on the forehead, could we be certain of the alcids' identity. During dives, and in rare instances when the puffins were in flight, boldly striking bright orange legs and feet were noted. This latter feature contradicts literature examined by me. Witherby *et al.* (1941) indicate that only breeding adults have orange legs and feet, while those of immatures are flesh colored.

The only previous record of the Atlantic Puffin off the Delmarva Peninsula is a vague reference to a sight observation of a bird at Back Bay, Virginia, on January 1, 1955 (Murray, 1957).

During the winter of 1975, the Atlantic Puffin was the "most common" alcid observed on pelagic trips off Maryland. All of these observations were made beyond 40 miles from shore. In fact, it became apparent on the EPA/Coast Guard cruise off Delmarva, as we zig-zagged back and forth from 15 to 50 miles off shore, puffins could almost be expected once we were more than 40 miles out. Other species that were seen only beyond 40 miles were small numbers of Dovekies (*Plautus alle*), Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), and Great Skuas (*Catharacta skua*)<sup>1</sup>.



Immature Atlantic Puffin  
51 miles ENE of Ocean  
City on March 16.

Since the puffins were so often exhibiting a sedate habit and reluctance to fly even when pursued, I am suggesting that perhaps these birds may have drifted into our off-shore waters simply by swimming and floating here, aided by the diluted effects of the Labrador Current. The prevailing current along the outer continental shelf is from the northeast, and provided it flows as little as one knot, this could give a puffin ample time to "float" here from perhaps the Canadian maritimes. The only individual I observed flying freely on its own accord was on the morning of February 7. From my observation post on the bridge of the Coast Guard vessel, 35 feet above the water line, with excellent light and visibility, and a 35 mph wind from the north, a puffin appeared from the north and passed 200 yards in front of the bow, disappearing to the south. Its flight was almost a whirr of rapid, shallow wingbeats as the bird nearly skimmed the water surface. The bright orange legs were boldly accentuated in the bright morning sunlight and contrasted with the essentially black body, white belly, and gray facial area.

On February 1, while we were enjoying our puffin find, then only 15 minutes old, Peter Pyle yelled, "Albatross!" Much to everyone's total astonishment an albatross was indeed sitting on the water with a flock of about 50 gulls and gannets, 30 yards away, on the side of the boat opposite the puffins where everyone else's attention was concentrated.

<sup>1</sup>Until shown otherwise, the skuas referred to in this note are to be regarded as Great Skuas (*Catharacta skua*). Owing to the difficulty of field identification, the occurrence of non-breeding southern hemisphere forms of skuas cannot be ruled out (Rowlett, 1974).

As the bird lifted off the water, it was immediately recognized to be one of the smaller albatrosses of a group collectively known as "mollymawks," in that it possessed a dark back and tail. Against the dark sea, the latter mark was sometimes difficult to see without concentrating on it.

The heavy bill, by comparison to the gannets and gulls, was black except for a dingy, but conspicuous greenish-yellow stripe running along the ridge of the upper mandible (culminicorm) from the forehead to near the tip, where it merged into black tinged slightly by reddish. When the albatross lifted off the water, it banked up and away revealing the underwing linings and the large webbed pink feet. The wing linings were extensively white except for a narrow dark border along the leading edge and the dark tips to the primaries. Convinced that the bird was a Yellow-nosed Albatross, we proceeded to observe and study it in detail for the next two hours. A curious plumage feature which showed up in all color and black & white photographs which I examined is the presence of a conspicuous dusky collar on the hind neck. None of us who observed the bird in life can recall this feature as being as bold as it appears in the photos. Murphy, 1936, and Rowan, 1951, describe the head and neck areas of the adult Yellow-nosed Albatross as being white with the occiput, nape and cheeks tinged pearly gray. The yellow stripe on the culminicorm is brilliant yellow, shading to rosy pink at the tip. Warham *et al.* (1966) point out that adults possess dark feathers around the eye which give the appearance of a small triangular patch pointing downward. Since immature birds have wholly black bills and pure white heads (Warham *et al.*, 1966), I suggest that the Yellow-nosed Albatross observed on February 1, was probably a sub- to near-adult.

The albatross did not appear at all alarmed by our continued "harassment." It mingled with a flock of 100-200 other seabirds consisting of Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*), Herring (*Larus argentatus*) and Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*), Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), and Great Skuas. We were chumming the entire time with coarsely ground beef fat (suet) and bread. Although the gulls competitively scrapped for each bit of chum tossed over, and the gannets dove presumably for bait fish attracted to the chum, the skuas and the albatross appeared to show little more than passive curiosity. The albatross was never observed feeding.

It did occasionally engage in "duet" flights with adult Great Black-backed Gulls which, incidently, it superficially resembled. These flights, complete with arcs and sails in tandem were more than once responsible for our brief erroneous thinking that two albatrosses were present. When the albatross was not involved in one of these "duets," it tended to fall into a particular pattern of behavior. Resting on the water, it would allow the boat to approach, often as close as 12 feet before taking to flight. Frequently at these moments, it was necessary to lean over the rail at the bow to look down on it. A regular pattern of flight style was noted, which is best described by Watson (1966) and is characteristic of all albatrosses. The bird would run along the surface for 15 feet or so flapping until it gained momentum



and wind to rise into the wind, coast across it, banking ventral side to us, lose altitude but gaining speed, dip to the leeward, bank to turn, rising into the wind once more, then repeat this cycle or land on the water again. Usually, these flights lasted less than five minutes.



Yellow-nosed Albatross resting on the water beside the boat.

The weather on February 1 was overcast, wind northeast at 5-15 mph, air temperature was in the low to middle 40's, and the sea was running 1-3 feet with a slight chop.

Another charter trip on the following day, February 2, left the dock in a moderate to heavy snow storm for the first two hours. Winds were north, 10-20, with seas becoming choppy and rough, 3-7 feet, while the air temperature was in the middle 30's. We reached the same location at the "head" of Baltimore Canyon, 38°19'N, 73°52'W, at 1230 hours, and spent about 1½ hours searching to no avail for the albatross. Although more puffins and Dovekies were seen than on the preceding day, the flock of non-alcid species had diminished, and sightings of skuas were only brief distant isolated events.

Previous to this sighting, there have been 15 reports of the Yellow-nosed Albatross in the western Atlantic of North America, ranging from Texas to Quebec (McDaniel, 1973). Only five of these are documented by specimens or photographs. The normal breeding range of the Yellow-nosed Albatross is in the south-central Atlantic in the Tristan da Cunha Group, and Gough, and islands in the Indian Ocean. It typically ranges north in the South Atlantic to the Tropic of Capricorn off Brazil and 15° S off southwestern Africa (Watson, 1966).

Appreciation is extended to the more than 180 participants who contributed financially and visually to the 1975 winter charter trips off Ocean City. I am again grateful to Darryl Nottingham, captain of the headboat "Mariner," who as always is helpful in every way to make our trips as successful as possible. I am grateful to the United States Coast Guard, and Dr. Donald Lear from the Environmental Protection Agency, chief scientist of the joint research cruise in February for allowing me to join that effort. Robert L. Ake and Maurice V. Barnhill provided information regarding puffin records in Virginia and Delaware. Doug Cook opened his home darkroom facilities to me and offered tireless efforts with developing and printing of the photographs, for which I am grateful. Finally, I extend my most sincere personal thanks to Dr. George E. Watson of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., who examined photographs and confirmed the identity of the albatross, provided helpful assistance in my search of the literature, especially in regards to plumage features, and for his critical and respected review of this manuscript.

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 10, 1975

The Annual Meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held at the Diplomat Motel, Ocean City, Maryland on Saturday, May 10, 1975. The President, Mr. Barclay E. Tucker, called the meeting to order at 8:55 P.M. It was established that a quorum was present.

A twofold motion was introduced by Dr. Herriott and approved--that we suspend reading of the Minutes of the last meeting, since they had been printed in *Maryland Birdlife*, and authorize the Executive Council to approve Minutes of this meeting.

Following a motion by Mr. Hewitt, acceptance was given to Mr. MacGregor's Treasurer's Report. This summary of a successful financial year will appear in *Maryland Birdlife*.

President Tucker expressed appreciation for the assistance rendered by so many dedicated volunteers, citing especially the chairmen of both regular and special committees, the trustees with their excellent attendance at meetings, our fine Executive Secretary, and Messrs. Parks and Robbins for their services in connection with this convention. He spoke of some of the outstanding highlights of the past season: the definitive statement drafted by the Pest Bird Policy Committee; the excellent report of the Conservation Easements Committee; the formation of our new chapter in Dorchester County; the acquisition of Manderes Creek Sanctuary and the possibility of another at Thomas Point in conjunction with the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks; our affiliation with World Nature Tours; and the participation of several of our chapters in the April program of the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

Unanimous assent was given to a motion by Mrs. Mendinhal that we suspend reading of the committee reports, which are scheduled to appear in *Maryland Birdlife*.

Following a motion by Mr. Parks, the members voted to amend Article XIV, Section 1 of the By-Laws to read:

These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of at least three-fifths of the Board of Trustees in favor of such amendment, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been distributed in writing to the members of the Board of Trustees not less than 30 days prior to the meeting.

Upon request, Mrs. Rowe read the proposed change to Article III, Section 1, subsections (d), (e) and (f), whereby the annual dues for sustaining memberships would be raised from \$6 to \$10, single memberships from \$3 to \$5, and family memberships from \$4 to \$6. This proposed amendment was due to be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval (and ultimately was passed by that body).

The Secretary then read Chapter nominations for trustees (Chapter president is listed first): Allegany, Mr. Dale B. Fuller, Mrs. C. Gordon Taylor; Anne Arundel, Mr. Richard E. Heise, Jr., Mrs. Patricia Flory, Mrs. Laddie Flyger; Baltimore, Mr. John H. Cullom, Mrs. C. Lockard Conley, Miss Jane Daniels, Mrs. Raymond Geddes, Jr., Dr. Roger Herriott, Mrs. Edward A. Metcalf, Dr. Benjamin F. Poscover, Mr. John Poteet, Jr., Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Mrs. Joshua Rowe; Caroline, Mrs. Wilber Engle, Mr. Stephen Westre; Dorchester, Mr. Maurice Rimpo, Mr. Milton Webster; Frederick, Mr. William N. Shirey, Mr. August Selckmann; Harford, Mr. Eldred Johnson, Col. Leland Devore, Mr. John Wortman; Howard, Mrs. Martha Chestem, Mr. Larry Hood; Kent, Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson, Mrs. Edward Mendinhall; Montgomery, Mr. Paul W. Woodward, Mr. Robert Hahn, Dr. J. William Oberman, Miss Claudia P. Wilds; Patuxent, Mrs. Ellen Gizzarelli, Mr. Elwood Fisher; Talbot, Mr. Ray Bryan, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Price; Washington, Mr. Robert Keedy, Mr. Edward Peters; Wicomico, Mr. D. Maurice Davis, Mr. Charles Vaughn.

Approval was given to a motion by Mr. Parks that the slate of trustees for the 1975-1976 season be accepted as read.

Dr. Zeleny, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the 1975-1976 season:

President	Mr. Barclay E. Tucker
First Vice President	Mr. Charles Vaughn
Second Vice President	Mr. Donald Messersmith
Treasurer	Mr. W. Gordon MacGregor
Secretary	Mrs. Helen Ford

A motion was introduced by Mr. Fletcher and passed, that the slate be accepted and nominations closed. Another motion by Mr. Fletcher was approved, instructing the Secretary to cast a ballot for the election of these officers.

Following a motion by Mrs. Cole, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

*Helen M. Ford*, Secretary

#### CONVENTION FIELD TRIP SUMMARY, MAY 9-11, 1975

Members attending the 1975 Annual Convention at Ocean City were offered the usual large selection of field trips, including pre-dawn forays for crepuscular species, the dawn chorus in the Pocomoke Swamp, all-day excursions to Wallops Island, Chincoteague Refuge and Irish Grove Sanctuary, a quiet paddle on the Pocomoke River, a boat ride down Sinepuxent Bay, and many different 2- to 4-hour guided trips exploring the various coastal habitats. At each meal the trip leaders gave brief summaries of the birds seen so that members would know where to find each of the goodies.

Since the motel served the Sunday noon meal in their small dining room we were unable to meet together to compile the weekend list in the customary manner. Instead, a committee of trip leaders made the

compilation from the various lists that were turned in, and the entire Convention weekend list is presented here:

Common and Red-throated Loons, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue, Green and Little Blue Heron, Cattle, Great and Snowy Egrets, Louisiana, Black-crowned Night and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Least and American Bitterns, Glossy Ibis.

Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Brant, Mallard, Am. Black Duck, Gadwall, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Am. Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, White-winged, Surf and Black Scoters, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser.

Turkey and Black Vultures, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Merlin, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, King and Clapper Rails, Common Gallinule, Am. Coot.

Am. Oystercatcher, Semipalmated and Wilson's Plover, Killdeer, Piping, Lesser Golden and Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Am. Woodcock, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers, Red Knot, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Western, Least, White-rumped, Pectoral and Purple Sandpipers, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Greater Black-backed, Herring, Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls, Gull-billed, Forster's, Common, Roseate, Least, Royal, Caspian and Black Terns, Black Skimmer.

Rock and Mourning Doves, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Barn, Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers.

Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common and Fish Crows, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches.

House, Carolina and Marsh Wrens, Northern Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Am. Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, E. Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, Solitary, Red-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos.

Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Swainson's, Worm-eating, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Pine and Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded, Wilson's and Canada Warblers, Am. Redstart.

House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard and Northern Orioles, Boat-tailed and Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers.

Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, House Finch, Am. Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah, Grasshopper, Sharp-tailed, Seaside, Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows.

The weekend total was 204 species, of which 189 species were found in Maryland and the remaining 15 in nearby Virginia or Delaware.

#### BLUEBIRD COMMITTEE REPORT

The combined MOS-ANS bluebird project had its most successful year in 1974. Reports were received from 75 collaborators who had set out and monitored approximately 1,480 nesting boxes, nearly all in Maryland and Virginia and mostly within 50 miles of Washington or Baltimore. An estimated 3,154 young Eastern Bluebirds were fledged from these boxes, nearly double the number reported in 1973 which was the previous record year.

Numerous "bluebird trails" have been established under the project in our region, and remarkable increases in bluebird population have been apparent in those limited areas where the trails have been operated successfully for several years. Continued expansion of the project should put us well on our way toward our objective of restoring the bluebird population in our region to some semblance of what it was in earlier times.

The scope and influence of our activities is not by any means limited to Maryland or to the Central Atlantic States but is practically nation-wide. Publicity in nationally distributed periodicals has resulted in thousands of requests for our "Bluebird Nesting Box Plans and Instructions" from nearly every State and several Canadian Provinces. Distribution of this material is made virtually without cost to MOS since nearly all requests are accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes and the instruction sheets have all been printed through the courtesy of Edward Peters of our Washington County Chapter to whom we are very much indebted.

The Wilderness Society was permitted to reprint our MOS bluebird sheets and distributed additional thousands of them on request. The St. Paul (Minnesota) Audubon Society has this year issued and distributed its own "Bluebird Trails" brochure. This was prepared with our help and incorporates much of the MOS instruction material.

As a result of our bluebird article in a recent issue of *South Carolina Wildlife* a man in Indiana who makes bluebird nesting boxes of the MOS design in his basement workshop was promptly deluged with orders for more than 1,250 of the nesting boxes. Nearly all of the orders were from South Carolina. This is a most encouraging indication of the rapidly growing public interest in bluebirds and in wildlife conservation in general.

We are honored that the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology

has adopted our bluebird nesting box design and is now offering these boxes for sale, unassembled, in its latest catalog.

The Camp Fire Girls are now in the second year of their "Save the Bluebirds" nation-wide project. Instructions to their leaders are based on those issued by MOS. This project should help the bluebirds materially. But perhaps even more important is the fact that it should instill into the minds of hundreds of thousands of young girls at their most impressionable age a greater love of nature and an appreciation of the serious problems facing some of America's finest wildlife.

Your Bluebird Committee fervently hopes that partly as a result of its activities the "Bluebird of Happiness" may survive to enrich the lives of our grandchildren as it did the lives of our grandparents. This is a privilege that has been largely denied to our present generation.

*Lawrence Zeleny, Chairman*

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Certificates designed by Doug Hackman and printed by Ed Peters were distributed to those 60 MOS members who completed the Leadership Training Program.

On March 15, the Committee met with Chapter program chairmen to discuss common interests. Two major outcomes of this meeting were: that the Education Resource Guide being designed by the Education Committee would be well received by the program chairmen; and that the Chapters exchange their annual programs with each of the other MOS Chapters.

It was recommended to President Tucker that a Committee be formed to study the possibility of establishing an MOS Library. The chairman of this Committee would also serve on the Education Committee.

A questionnaire was designed and distributed to the Chapters to gather information to assist the Education Committee in future planning. Topics covered were the Educational Resource Guide, the MOS Library, the design of educational courses, and educational trips.

Proposed activities for 1976 include analyzing the information on the questionnaire for the purpose of future planning, and arranging more Statewide activities such as: (1) a Chesapeake Bay Ecology Trip--proposed dates are July 3 to July 10, 1976; (2) a State of Maryland Ecology Trip--proposed dates are June 20 to June 26; (3) an Area Study Trip--a trip designed to be a scientific study of bird life in a specific area. It would involve a group of about 25 and the study could be completed in one day; (4) a Lister's Trip--a trip for adding certain birds to lists; *i.e.* a gull trip, a trip to Pine Barrens, etc.; and (5) a weekend at Irish Grove.

*Ben Poscover, Chairman*



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 1975

OPERATING FUND

Fund Balance April 30, 1974		\$ 8,046.29
Receipts:		
Dues	\$5,206.00	
Convention Income	539.50	
Sale of Publications	23.77	
Sale of Private Sanctuary Signs	501.50	
Interest Earned	750.67	
Interest Earned on Sanct. Main. End. Fund	1,302.71	
Amateur Gardeners Club, for Scholarship	235.00	
Assistance on Mailing Permit (Balt. Chapter)	15.00	
Miscellaneous Income	<u>20.45</u>	<u>8,594.60</u>
		\$16,640.89
Expenditures:		
MARYLAND BIRDLIFE, Printing & Mailing	\$2,091.00	
Convention Expenses	222.64	
Audubon Camp Scholarships	925.00	
Executive Secretary's Salary	2,500.00	
Administrative Expense	321.81	
Printing	235.66	
Osprey Fund Disbursements	140.60	
National Audubon Affiliation	25.00	
Liability Insurance (Two Year's Premiums)	583.00	
Private Sanctuary Program Signs & Postage	412.31	
Utilities, Irish Grove	165.87	
Rent, Rock Run (15 Months)	150.00	
Sanctuary Maintenance	1,356.74	
Property Insurance	53.00	
Taxes	<u>71.55</u>	<u>9,254.18</u>
Fund Balance April 30, 1975		\$ 7,386.71

SANCTUARY INVESTMENT

Carey Run	(\$48,021.95 less mortgage of \$9,229.26)	\$38,792.69
Mill Creek		14,446.86
Irish Grove		84,779.20
Pelot		13,019.88
Manderes Creek (Assessed value plus survey costs)		3,544.00
Rock Run (Leasehold)		0

Sanctuaries are listed at cost (or at appraised value, if an outright gift) plus the cost of subsequent improvements.

HELEN MILLER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Fund Balance April 30, 1974		\$4,022.05
Receipts:		
Contributions Received	\$100.00	
Interest Earned	<u>240.00</u>	<u>340.00</u>
Fund Balance April 30, 1975		\$4,362.05

SANCTUARY FUND

Fund Balance April 30, 1974		\$ 3,134.05
Receipts:		
Contributions, Incl. Life Memberships		
Unrestricted	\$1,061.81	
Ins. Policy Proceeds (Bertram Haines)	2,000.00	
For Carey Run Addition	7,303.85	
Manderes Creek Sanct. (Appr. Value)	2,824.00	
For Manderes Creek Sanct. Survey	<u>720.00</u>	<u>13,909.66</u>
		\$17,043.71
Expenditures:		
Paid on Mortgage	\$5,008.74	
Interest on Mortgage	991.26	
Property Surveys (Pelot & Manderes Cr.)	3,596.00	
Capitalization of Manderes Creek Sanct.	<u>2,824.00</u>	<u>12,420.00</u>
Fund Balance April 30, 1975		\$ 4,623.71

## Reconciliation of Accounts and Assets at Year-end

Fund Balances:		
Operating Fund	\$ 7,386.71	
Helen Miller Scholarship Endow. Fund	4,362.05	
Sanctuary Fund	4,623.71	
Sanctuary Maintenance Endow. Fund	<u>24,500.00</u>	\$40,872.47
Fund Assets		
Checking Account	\$ 1,112.48	
Savings, Loyola Federal	12,146.44	
T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund	9,500.00	
Niagara Mohawk Power Co. Bonds (7.375%)	4,983.15	
Gen. Telephone Co., S. E. " (7.750%)	5,129.92	
Ohio Bell Telephone Co. Bonds (7.875%)	4,987.81	
Dayton Power & Light Co. " (8.000%)	<u>3,012.67</u>	\$40,872.47

*W. Gordon MacGregor, Treasurer*

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the financial records of the Maryland Ornithological Society Inc., as of April 30, 1975 to the extent felt necessary. In our opinion the aforementioned financial records accurately present the financial position of the Society.

(Signed) *Rodney B. Jones, Chairman*  
*Gerhard W. Hotz*

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

### ALLEGANY CHAPTER

The vigor of an organization is a difficult quantity to assess. But from the normal indices, the Allegany Chapter would seem to remain in the prime of life. The occasional signs of senescence are more than compensated for by the accretion of new and enthusiastic members and by the willing, reliable and experienced participation of long-term members.

Without question, the Adult Birdwatching Classes taught by Ken Hodgdon at Allegany Community College have invigorated the Chapter. The students have brought extra enjoyment to joint activities with the Chapter and many have become dues-paying members of the MOS.

Interest in the birdlife of Allegany County is at an all-time high. This fact is attested to by the number of avian articles appearing in the local newspapers, by the reports of bird sightings by the general public, and by the inquiries and requests made to Chapter members.

In conservation and environment matters, the Chapter's opinion and advice is solicited by outsiders. We feel that ours is the best known and most highly regarded wildlife organization in the County.

The Chapter's most important project of the past year has been the raising of money to purchase a large, durable mower/brush cutter for Carey Run Wildlife Sanctuary. Through proceeds of a bake sale and raffle of a Mel Garland painting, by individual donations, and by the contribution from the MOS Sanctuary Fund, the purchase is now assured. By early summer of 1975, the machine should be operating in the enhancement of the Sanctuary.

Upon the death of member Aden Everstine in December, many of his friends made donations in his memory to the Winter Feeding Program at Carey Run Sanctuary.

*Dale B. Fuller*, President

### ANNE ARUNDEL CHAPTER

This was a good year for the Anne Arundel Chapter. Weather cooperated for most field trips, except, as usual, for any handled by the president. Membership remained fairly constant at approximately 112, with losses of some familiar faces and gains of some new ones. Gasoline was more plentiful than last year, so field trips were scheduled around the State. Although our monthly programs, featuring illustrated lectures and refreshments, were well attended, field trips involved the same relatively small number of members.

The Snowy Owl appeared again; some brave members sloshed around in mud in search of the Le Conte's Sparrow; others went out of their way to see the Short-eared Owl. Speaking of owls, we were treated to a lengthy

close-range view of the Barred Owl at Piscataway in September. Tapes played at Irish Grove produced an aroused Clapper Rail. More recently after a grueling hike up and down hills at Adventure, walkers had spectacular views of the Prothonotary Warbler and the Northern Oriole in the brilliant spring sunlight along the C & O Canal towpath.

Field trips included Bombay Hook, Java Farm, Piscataway, Manderes Creek, Carey Run, Camp Letts, Hawk Mountain, Blackwater, Ivy Neck, South Mountain, Sandy Point, Annapolis Neck (and Pat Flory's delicious home-made Oyster Stew), Cove Point-Solomons-Benedict (and great seafood platters at Shorter's), Ocean City (Winter weekend), Pelot, Irish Grove, Rolling Ridge Farm (lunch with Lee and Wendell Phillips, tasty German potato salad), Adventure and C & O Canal. The season was opened and will be closed with an annual picnic, enjoyable traditions of our chapter.

Program speakers included Paul McKenzie (Warblers), Col. Bodenstein (Conservation Issues), Hugo Gemignani (AACC Nature & Ecology Museum), Chan Robbins (Bird Surveys), Jan Reese (Ospreys) and Dick Heise (movies of Sanibel and Corkscrew birding). Held regularly for the benefit of our sanctuary fund, the annual Wildlife Lecture featured Mr. Jeffrey Kuhn, biologist and teacher, who narrated his movies of "The Other Everglades." This excellent lecture clearly revealed why Mr. Kuhn is under consideration for Audubon Lectures. In addition to birds and wildlife, Mr. Kuhn provided excellent footage and narration on the grass fires and their ecological impact.

With much regret we learned that one of our most respected, active and long-time members, Phyllis Steen, will be moving to another part of the State with husband Gordon. Our loss will, however, be another chapter's gain.

Responsibilities relative to the new MOS Manderes Creek Sanctuary in our county, and exploration of the possibility of joint county-bird club management of Thomas Point Park (42 acres at the bay end of Annapolis Neck Peninsula) as a wildlife sanctuary, pose new challenges for this chapter in the coming year.

*Richard E. Heise, Jr.*, President

#### BALTIMORE CHAPTER

(Committee Chairperson names are in parentheses)

The membership as of April 1, 1975 has dropped from the 910 figure of a year ago to 808. This is not entirely surprising in view of the 15 percent increase in dues and the effect of inflation on incomes.

The Program (Mrs. Daniel B. Wheeler) included a wide range of activities such as 50 fieldwalks, 5 evening lectures at Cylburn, 2 social evenings at Grace Methodist Church, 2 weekends and day's bus trip to the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Lake Roland and Loch Raven continue to receive the closest regular attention in the fall and spring.

Weather curtailed several important trips but cooperated magnificently on most occasions. The high point of the year was the 99 species seen at Chincoteague this spring weekend under the leadership of Charles Vaughn. The program has been full and well received by the membership.

The Audubon Wildlife Films (Lansing Fulford) were offered on four occasions at the Dumbarton Junior High School with an average attendance of 502. An increased attendance of Juniors was attained due in part to raising the age limit to seventeen, and to lowering the season ticket for Juniors to \$2.00. The programs are appropriate blends of wildlife pictures, ecology and conservation. The series was well received and continues to be our best way of communicating with both members and non-members.

Extension Services (Mrs. Francis W. Lang) have been sought. Illustrated talks were presented to Garden Clubs, Senior Citizens, School and Church groups. A set of slides was loaned to Harford County Community College for the fall semester.

The Youth Activities (Mrs. Norwood K. Schaffer) group has been very busy this year. The Chapter's Junior Nature Camp at Kings Landing Camp in June of 1974 was a great success owing to the organization of Dr. Benjamin Poscover and his associates. Mr. Robert Wood will supervise the camp this year. Mrs. Katherine Smith leads daily walks for school children during October and November and again from March to June 1. Thus far this year, 54 classes have brought out 1339 children and that number will climb much higher by June 1--perhaps to 1700.

Saturday activities are overseen by a group headed by Mrs. Alan Ross. Seventeen meetings have been scheduled. Bird banding demonstrations have preceded six of the Saturday meetings. This is a great drawing card and may account for a marked increase in attendance this spring.

Five special trips for junior members have been conducted to areas away from Cylburn such as Bombay Hook, Soldiers Delight, and Rock Run Sanctuary. The last trip was led by Rodney Jones on April 26. Junior members are also permitted to help with Cylburn programs. They lead walks, make museum exhibits and are developing ideas about public programs.

This is probably the Chapter's finest service to the Community. Mrs. Schaffer, Miss Smith and Mrs. Ross have earned the gratitude of us all including the Junior members.

Newsletter (Marian Butler) - After a number of years of editing the Newsletter, Mrs. C. Lockard Conley turned the responsibility over to Marian Butler who has served admirably. The Newsletter, which appears monthly, contains accounts of trips, meetings, unusual sightings of birds, announcements of things to come, new books available at the bookstore and messages from state and local officers. However the fine Newsletter would not be received were it not for the able operation of a mimeograph by our Productionist Mrs. Thomas Shipley and the stuffing and mailing of the many hundreds of them by Mrs. Martin Larrabee and her group of volunteers. We owe these quiet workers a mammoth vote of thanks.



Publicity (Mrs. Anthony Perlman) this year has centered largely on the Audubon Wildlife Films which attract the public; the proceeds go to support state sanctuaries and Audubon Camp Scholarships. Nearly 8000 printed or mimeographed folders and flyers were sent to schools, public organizations, etc. to let their members know of these excellent films. Radio and television announcements have also spread the word of these films, as have articles in both Baltimore newspapers.

There have also been public displays of M.O.S. activities at Baltimore County Public Library in Towson, Federated Garden Club, Baltimore City Fair and random community and neighborhood gathering spots.

General and Bird Information (Mrs. Raymond Geddes, Jr. and Mrs. Harold Archer) - Since November 1973 the Chapter has had a listing in the Baltimore telephone book. The incoming calls have averaged three a day--some interested in membership, but most from the general public requesting information. We feel this has been a very worthwhile undertaking and is a service to the community.

Ninth Annual Christmas Count (C. Douglas Hackman) - Fifty observers worked on December 28 to find 84 species and about 30,000 individuals. Although the count appeared low to many it tied the previous high. Sighting 11,000 starlings accounts for the high total. Seven Screech, 5 Great Horned and 2 Barred Owls constituted the best owl count ever.

This volunteer program is a wonderful combination of persons doing something they enjoy and giving service to the community. Birding leads to a better understanding of Ecology.

*Roger M. Herriott, President*

#### CAROLINE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Caroline Chapter began its 1974-75 activities in September with a workday at the Pelot Wildlife Sanctuary under the leadership of Sanctuary Chairman, Jerry Fletcher. Throughout the year several other workdays have been held there and various groups have been guided on field trips. At present, a committee is compiling a list of plant and bird-life in the sanctuary area. We hope to have this list available in the near future.

Our chapter has 34 members, many of whom participated in both the Christmas count and the statewide bird count in May. Programs at our regular meetings have included a nature film, "Prowlers of the Everglades" and a report by Capt. D. G. Phillips of the Department of Natural Resources on "Pollution in the Choptank River," a topic of interest to our chapter since much of our county lies in the Choptank River Watershed.

Slide programs were presented by Tom Robbins, a Caroline County recipient of the Helen Miller Scholarship, on his "Trip to Audubon Camp in Maine." Doug Hackman crossed the bay to present a program on "Birds of Pacific Islands" and their relationship to island ecology. Our own Steve Westre gave a slide lecture on the "Micro-Community of a Fallen

Log" and M.O.S. Education Chairman, Ben Poscover, presented a nature slide series. Our June meeting will be a picnic and nature walk at the Pelot Wildlife Sanctuary.

*Ethel Engle*, President

#### DORCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER

Appearance of a Snowy Owl in Cambridge was reason enough to form a Dorchester Bird Club, V. Edwin Unger last February told a group of local birders who had been meeting informally since December at the Dorchester Heritage Museum at Horn Point.

Twenty-one charter members were present for a March organizational meeting during which MOS chapter by-laws were adopted. Officers and a trustee were selected at an April meeting in the Dorchester County Public Library in Cambridge.

Monthly programs since December have featured films, talks by MOS and Talbot Chapter members, a discussion of the C&P phone company's osprey pole planting program and comments by Jan Reese on his osprey studies

The club has held three birdwalks and representatives have joined the Talbot Chapter on one of its breakfast hikes.

*Maurice Rimpo*, President

#### FREDERICK CHAPTER

The 67 members of the Frederick Chapter have enjoyed a series of lectures at Winchester Hall. In September, Mr. Selckmann told of "Maryland Land and Water Birds" using slides by Augie Jr. October brought Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stambaugh, sharing their story of "Participating in the Maine Audubon Workshop." Joyce had enjoyed a scholarship from MOS. Mr. G. B. Edwards, our local District Conservationist, spoke on "Landscaping for Birds" at our November meeting.

Another annual Christmas dinner served at the Jefferson Community Hall was highlighted by a slide talk on "Australian Birds" by Chandler Robbins. In January, Rick Krepela, of the National Park Service, showed one of their newest movies, "Petrified Forest." February brought one of our most enjoyable nights, with members showing their favorite slides, giving a varied program on a number of subjects. Ed Unger made the long trip to Frederick in March to tell us about our Sanctuaries.

April brought a real surprise to the membership. The roof blew off Winchester Hall, and our meeting had to be cancelled.

May brought several compensations for the lost April meeting. George Jonkel graciously allowed himself to be rescheduled, and gave a most interesting talk on "A Study of Banding and Migration." We then saw the movie "Colonial Naturalist." Because our County Commissioners were using our meeting room in Winchester Hall, we had found a temporary room in Hodson Hall at Hood College. We have been invited to use this

room on a permanent basis for the coming year, and feel this is an excellent location.

Small, but enthusiastic groups went on 12 field trips locally, and also enjoyed the guided tour of the bird house at the Washington Zoo.

New officers for 1975-76 are William Shirey, President; Charles Mullican, Vice-President; Mrs. Phyllis Hodge, Secretary; and Norm Chamberlin, Treasurer.

*August Selckmann*, President

#### HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

During the 1974-75 season Harford County Chapter has continued to enjoy, under the leadership of President Col. Leland Devore, fine programs at our regular meetings and a great deal of birding and outdoor fellowship on our field trips. Our steadily growing membership now stands at 131.

The season began with the annual picnic at Rock Run in September. In spite of a downpour of rain, a few people showed up. Although no birding was done, picnic suppers were eaten and summer activities exchanged while gathered around the fireplace inside.

Our four regular meetings were well attended. As is our custom, these were dinner meetings held at the Churchville Presbyterian Church. The program at our first meeting in November was a game, put together by our program chairman, Mr. David Smith, in which we tried to identify birds by their song or call from a recording. When identified or everyone gave up, the bird's picture was shown and its name given.

For the January meeting, Mr. B. F. Halla, State Director of the Non-Game Wildlife, spoke to us concerning the organization of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He outlined its recent accomplishments and future plans.

In March, Mr. David Smith again provided the program himself with a most interesting account of his very recent trip to India where he traveled many miles by elephant observing and photographing wildlife.

Our final program in May was a talk by Dr. B. F. Poscover, chairman of the MOS Educational Committee. He spoke about educational opportunities currently available and plans and possibilities for the future.

In addition to the four meetings, field trips have been made to Hawk Mountain, Susquehanna State Park, Perry Point, Bombay Hook, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Eastern Neck, Elk Neck State Park and, still to come, the C&O Canal. Besides these Saturday trips, the "Mini-Birdwalks" at member's homes have been enjoyed by those able to attend on a weekday.

Our chapter is again happy to claim a winner of the Helen Miller Scholarship, Mr. Kermit Updegrave. He plans to go to Wyoming.

At our March meeting the following officers were elected to serve for the next two years: President, Eldred Johnson; Vice President, Dr. Edgar Folk; Recording Secretary, Miss Barbara Bilsborough; Corresponding Secretaries, Mrs. Martin Leatherman and Mrs. John Carver; Treasurer, George Drumm.

Rock Run naturally is of great interest to our chapter. Although the food is now provided by the state, volunteers from our membership have filled the feeders during the winter.

Our chapter can look back over an interesting year and ahead for more to come.

*Barbara C. Bilsborough*, Recording Secretary

#### HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Howard County Chapter had a very successful year despite a disappointing decline in paid membership from 73 to 67. Program attendance was consistently good.

Field trip attendance was greater than in previous years. Erv Klaas arranged a very successful "discover Howard County" series of monthly trips which included visits to the Little Patuxent and Middle Patuxent rivers and a banding demonstration at Old Camp Woodbine. Longer field trips included Hawk Mountain, Little Creek, Bombay Hook and Kent Island. The Nags Head trip for our annual February birding weekend was rather disappointing; rain and fog with very limited visibility resulted in a relatively low count of 86 species (our first count under 100 for our annual winter trip).

Using slides taken by various members of the club, we put together a show entitled "Birds of the Delmarva Peninsula Refuges" to join the slide show "Winter Birds of Howard County" which we put together last year. These 30-minute slide shows were given by club members on more than fifteen occasions to garden clubs, scouting groups and civic organizations as part of our community relations and education programs. We are currently in the process of improving these and also putting together a show on nesting birds of Howard County.

Officers for the coming year were elected in April as follows: President, Martha Chestem; Vice President, Tom Mayer; Secretary, Lucille Peters; Treasurer, Ben Dawson; Trustee, Larry Hood.

*Robert M. Herndon*, President

#### KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The 1974-75 season was one for reorganization of the Kent County Chapter. Because of the death of some of our most active members, the moving away of others and the lack of Junior members, the Chapter held reorganizational meetings in the fall at which we elected new officers and appointed new committees. Regular meetings were resumed at the

beginning of the winter and hopefully, the group is on its way toward resuming the vitality which it has had in the past.

Even during this reorganizational period, the Chapter carried on with its basic projects and work. With assistance of other Chapter members, Ed Mendinhall compiled and edited the fall and spring arrival and departure dates and Dorothy Mendinhall continued her valuable work at the Damsite Banding Station with the able assistance of Margery Plymire. The Christmas count was again successful and the May 3rd count yielded 138 species even though the cold weather this year delayed migration somewhat.

Our strongest efforts are now centered in gaining new interested members and planning ornithologically meaningful field trips and activities such as the shorebird outing to Little Creek, Delaware, scheduled for May 16. We also are endeavoring to set up a service for the local newspapers and radio to disseminate information on local birds and enhance publicity.

In closing, I would take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all M.O.S. members to visit Kent County for birding. Contact any member of the Chapter and we can point out some good birding spots.

*Daniel Z. Gibson*, President

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

The Montgomery County Chapter entered its tenth year as active as ever. This is reflected in an increased membership during 1974-75, in a record 93 observers on our Seneca Christmas Count, and in an average of 74 people at each of 8 monthly meetings. Under the able leadership of Bob Hahn, the youth group also continues to prosper. Our January social was extremely successful with 120 members and guests in attendance.

As usual, most of our programs were given by our own members. We traveled to Africa with David Holmes, to Big Bend National Park with Bill Oberman, to the Falkland Islands with Claudia Wilds, to some Indian Ocean islands with Don Messersmith, to the Galapagos with Margaret Donald, and to the central Pacific Ocean with Paul Woodward. Dr. Eugene Morton discussed the vocalizations of Carolina Wrens, and Dr. Al Geis talked about his work on the relationship between birds and the urban environment of Columbia, Maryland.

This year we tried, somewhat successfully, to organize the May Count so all areas of the county were covered. As a result, many people discovered good birding areas that they had been unaware of previously. Bill Oberman coordinated this effort.

To cap off the year, Chip Bonde was awarded the MOS Scholarship to attend the Maine Audubon Camp.

*Paul W. Woodward*, President



## PATUXENT CHAPTER

Despite a somewhat diminished membership, the Patuxent Chapter continues to pursue many activities. Several members have reported on numerous nests, the bluebird trails are actively maintained, and participation in Christmas Counts and May Count Day remains high.

The second annual workshop coordinated by Jo Solem and held jointly with the Howard County Chapter was a great success with sixty people attending. Some of the topics covered were: Beginning Birding, Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns, Finding Nests, and Botany for Birders.

Several banding demonstrations were held by Danny Bystrak who has been chosen chairman of the new Manderes Creek Sanctuary.

Several of the chapter members have gone on the widely publicized Ocean City Pelagic Trips and seen Puffins, Skuas, and Dovekies plus an assortment of gulls and jaegers. We hope Our Fearless Leader, Rich Rowlett, will plan similar trips in the future. Several of our hardier birders dashed up to Massachusetts to see the Ross' Gull.

Once again through her hard work in the book store, Mrs. Robbins has raised over \$400 to contribute to the M.O.S. Sanctuary Fund.

The monthly programs included Dr. Bodenstern speaking on marshes, Dr. Messersmith on Birding the Indian Ocean, Paul Bystrak on Spring Flowers, and Chandler Robbins on The Spring Migration.

All told, the Patuxent Chapter had a very productive year.

*Ellen Cizzarelli*, President

## TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Talbot Chapter successfully completed a full program that included: regular monthly meetings with appropriate speakers; bird walks in fall and spring; a series of Audubon lectures; a dinner in October to celebrate the 20th year of the Talbot County Bird Club with 85 in attendance; and trips to Ocean City and Irish Grove Sanctuary. Eleven members also participated in a pelagic trip off Ocean City.

At Mill Creek Sanctuary we replaced the sign that had been destroyed by vandals. We also had our usual "clean-up" days at Mill Creek Sanctuary.

We participated in the Statewide Bird Count in May, and in the Christmas Count. The Christmas Count highlight was a total of 100 Screech Owls.

*Ray H. Bryan*, President

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

We held monthly meetings from September through May and a lawn picnic in June. Our programs which were arranged by our able program chairwoman covered such topics as: a bird population study in New Hampshire; a talk on legislation pending before the Maryland Legislature that was of interest to birders; the film "Winged World"; a speaker on educational activities within the M.O.S.; members' own slide program; a program on bird song identification; a slide program on wildflowers; and a film about the C&O Canal called "The Magnificent Ditch."

The National Park Service designated April as "April is for the birds along the C&O Canal." We cooperated with them by furnishing leaders for six different programs which were designed to make people aware of and interested in the birdlife around them. Also as part of this theme we had a display in the winch house at Dam #4 for the month.

We had numerous field trips, and a good turnout of members to help with the May Count. This year we had 24 people participating in the Christmas Count. We ended the day with a dinner report meeting that was enjoyed by all.

Several members maintained bluebird trails. The largest and most successful were maintained by Danny Boone.

*Robert Keady*, President

## WICOMICO CHAPTER

The museum cabinets for the mounted bird collection at Irish Grove were completed and delivered last August. These three cabinets were built by Bill Johnson, past chapter president, and one of his employees. At present the total collection can be housed, but with many more additions there will start to be overflow.

This year the chapter voted to build a screened picnic area at Irish Grove under one-half of the 24 by 50 foot wood shed behind the banding station. Construction should be completed by the fall.

Eleven members turned in lists for the May Count. And, four "ringers" joined the Salisbury Christmas Count to bring total participation to twenty people and a count of 93 species, the best ever.

The highly successful sales booth at the Annual Atlantic Flyway Wildfowl Carving and Arts Exhibit brought the club a net of about \$525. In addition, the Baltimore Chapter Book Store sent books which had gross sales of \$73, the entire sum of which was sent to Baltimore. I estimate we have just about reached the upper limit of profits for this type of sale, but who knows what 1975 will bring?

Membership stayed unchanged from last year at 59, thereby stopping a slow decline over the past several years.

*Charles R. Vaughn*, President

## REPORT OF THE STATE-WIDE BIRD COUNT, MAY 3, 1975

*C. Douglas Hackman*

The 28th annual May Count began rather uneventfully for the majority of the day's counters who were tucked peacefully in their beds, dreaming of trees full of birds come dawn. For the intrepid few the count began at the last stroke of midnight. These few stalwarts, forsaking sleep for something better, were dashing around the countryside hooting for owls, or were heaving stones into marshes to stir up the sleepy-eyed rails, or were hunched down in the dewy, damp discomfort of the bow of a slowly drifting boat straining their ears to detect the passage of unseen migrants.

For the first time in six years, the writer's midnight madness paid off. Each of the first five years of boat-counting in the Gunpowder Marshes of Baltimore County had invariably begun with an extremely long and uncomfortably chilly night that featured precious few calls from migrants and had always ended with a spectacular return journey into the teeth of ever increasing winds that aided the boat's progress in every direction save toward home. Several times, we were literally blown out of the marshes during those years of trying. In spite of the problems and disappointments there had been other compensations that led to a feeling of satisfaction and pleasure. In successive years there was the opossum, the fox, the skunk and the raccoon passing close-by along the river bank in search for food. There were the dainty, ever present "plips" of countless bait fish avoiding unseen predators as well as the thunderous wallowings of carp in the shallows. Then the first crows of distant roosters came unexpectedly at any time from midnight on and occurred with increasing frequency and exuberance as dawn approached. Clear night skies, when they occurred, were blessed with thousands of twinkling lights punctuated with occasional streaks of light that marked the fiery passage of specks of dust, perhaps from other worlds, through our own. And above it all, if we were fortunate, there were the sounds of a migration in progress. With these and other wonders to behold, the mild discomfort of cramp and chill rapidly faded away.

This year, in the five hours between midnight and first light, 24 species were identified from the 707 recorded calls. The vast majority of these calls, as one might imagine, were those of unidentified species. Five hundred and five of the calls were assigned either to warblers of unknown species (130 calls), or sparrows of unknown species (362 calls), or to calls of unknown origin (13 calls). Most noteworthy of the night's count were the totals for the Swainson's Thrush and Veery. The State-wide total for the Swainson's Thrush was 66, 29 of which were recorded on the night count. Of the 110 Veeries recorded, 64 were on the night count. Only 4 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were recorded on the count and none were heard at night. Table 1 is a compilation of the night count from the Gunpowder Marsh.

Table 1. Summary of Night Count, Gunpowder Marsh

Species	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-Dawn	Total
Great Blue Heron	1	2	5	6	2	5	21
Green Heron	2	2		4	2	1	11
Black-crowned Night Heron			5	2	4		11
Canada Goose	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mallard/Black Duck	2	1					3
Virginia Rail		1	1		2		4
Sora				1	1		2
Common Gallinule		1					1
Killdeer	1			1			2
Common Snipe	1						1
Spotted Sandpiper		2			1	1	4
Greater Yellowlegs	1			1		2	4
Barn Owl				1	1		2
Barred Owl	2	1	2		3		8
Whip-poor-will				1	1		2
Marsh Wren		1		1			2
Northern Mockingbird		2	2	1	1		6
American Robin					1		1
Swainson's Thrush	5	4		1	9	10	29
Veery		4	9	4	22	25	64
Common Yellowthroat						5	5
Red-winged Blackbird				2			2
Northern Cardinal					2	2	4
Swamp Sparrow	1	2			3	2	8
Song Sparrow				1	2	2	5
Warbler chip	2	18	50	26	23	11	130
Sparrow chip	10	40	95	127	78	12	362
Unknown call	6		1	2	4		13
Totals	34	81	170	182	162	78	707

Shortly before and after dawn the majority of the day's observers sprang into action in their own favored birding areas. This year's counters recorded 173,565 individuals of 244 species + 1 hybrid during 1450.5 party-hours of coverage (793 hrs. on foot, 589 hrs. by car, 31 hrs. by boat and 37.5 hours by bike). Total party-miles covered were 4904 (697.5 miles on foot, 4110.5 by car, 80 by boat, and 16 by bike).

Coverage, as in the past, was spotty in some areas and intensive in others. All counties except St. Marys were covered. In the county summary that follows, the number of observers is listed in parentheses:

Anne Arundel (43)	184	Worcester (22)	139	Queen Annes. (3)	112
Dorchester (14)	165	Kent (16)	137	Frederick (11)	111
Montgomery (51)	159	Allegany (27)	131	Talbot (4)	106
Baltimore (61)	155	Charles (13)	130	Cecil (5)	95
Prince Georges(33)	152	Harford (19)	127	Somerset (9)	90
Howard (30)	145	Caroline (30)	126	Calvert (3)	87
Garrett (40)	143	Washington (17)	121	Carroll (6)	66
				Wicomico (21)	66

Table 2. State-wide Bird Count

Species	Gar	All	Was	Pre	Mon	How	Cr1	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Tal	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Common Loon	7	2	4	3	-	1	-	6	51	21	-	-	3	-	8	1	-	3	2	-	-	3	115
Horned Grebe	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	18
Pied-billed Grebe	10	2	-	1	2	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	24
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	60	51	-	-	857	985
Great Blue Heron	2	1	1	1	12	-	-	14	25	67	-	17	81	2	49	3	16	33	41	-	2	2	369
Green Heron	16	9	5	5	15	7	-	11	22	41	-	14	3	1	11	3	9	12	19	-	2	10	215
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	20	25
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	15	15	-	-	-	-	18	39	-	45	61	200
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	1	11	27
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	40	-	-	65	107
Louisiana Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	5
Black-cr. Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	11	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	13	-	1	4	40
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Least Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
American Bittern	2	1	-	-	6	2	-	2	2	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	23
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	10	78	95
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	55	-	-	-	-	64
Whistling Swan	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	-	1	-	31
Canada Goose	-	1	7	2	7	4	-	125	26	110	-	126	4	585	1811	2	435	540	125	24	-	15	3949
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Blue Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	2
Mallard	19	8	56	50	61	73	7	23	85	107	-	36	36	6	259	8	51	42	33	4	6	9	979
American Black Duck	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	10	28	-	29	5	4	16	12	9	14	85	2	15	7	244
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	12
Common Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	56
Blue-winged Teal	15	8	14	2	9	-	2	2	46	3	-	29	14	-	6	-	1	-	81	-	-	2	234
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	7
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Wood Duck	7	47	19	14	166	23	-	15	44	15	-	52	14	10	21	1	11	-	2	-	2	2	465
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ring-necked Duck	8	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Canvasback	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	42
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111
Lesser Scaup	86	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	50	-	-	-	167



June 1975

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Crl	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Tal	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Bufflehead	18	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	52	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	102	-	-	-	-	185
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
White-winged Scoter	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1075	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1080
Ruddy Duck	1	15	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	98	-	-	10	-	11	-	-	33	4	-	-	-	176
Hooded Merganser	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	8	25	-	-	1	2	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
Red-breasted Merganser	5	6	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	57
Turkey Vulture	23	6	32	30	55	105	8	27	82	31	9	45	26	5	126	57	206	32	77	17	68	79	1146
Black Vulture	-	-	-	7	6	2	-	-	13	1	-	6	9	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	5	55
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	1	-	4	7	-	2	7	3	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Cooper's Hawk	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Red-tailed Hawk	2	6	3	7	21	18	-	4	11	6	-	11	6	3	6	5	3	1	13	2	-	3	131
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	-	-	3	25	31	-	2	7	15	-	28	5	-	2	-	4	-	-	1	2	1	128
Broad-winged Hawk	5	30	6	3	68	19	1	6	43	16	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	205
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bald Eagle	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	17	-	-	-	26
Northern Harrier	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	3	-	13
Osprey	2	-	6	2	15	-	-	10	6	21	4	2	13	2	25	1	11	100	17	-	3	3	243
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Kestrel	1	4	8	4	4	4	-	9	2	6	-	4	1	7	10	3	5	2	1	-	-	-	75
Ruffed Grouse	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Common Bobwhite	-	7	50	25	134	83	6	11	32	175	9	66	22	23	87	33	128	33	74	5	56	38	1097
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	20	34	14	42	11	5	81	1	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	217
Wild Turkey	14	1	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	21	-	-	-	26
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	6	12
Virginia Rail	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	20	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	81	-	-	-	113
Sora	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	23
Black Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	12
Common Gallinule	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	18
American Coot	59	31	2	1	5	-	-	-	10	4	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	120
American Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	-	6	6
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	10	20
Killdeer	17	28	31	11	15	33	-	12	25	39	3	31	2	17	18	15	55	1	3	5	4	28	393
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	9	15

77

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Crl	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Tal	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Upland Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greater Yellowlegs	2	-	-	1	9	3	-	20	27	25	-	10	9	2	3	1	16	5	53	-	5	9	200
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	4	2	7	10	-	-	6	-	17	-	59	-	-	3	1	5	-	36	-	-	-	151
Solitary Sandpiper	5	8	1	3	29	8	1	4	19	26	-	14	3	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	124
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	2	212	237
Spotted Sandpiper	21	5	5	10	26	4	1	6	23	44	-	15	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	-	-	2	174
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	33
American Woodcock	2	-	-	1	2	5	-	1	10	46	-	6	2	-	6	-	2	-	19	-	-	-	102
Common Snipe	-	8	-	-	2	-	-	1	5	2	-	15	-	-	1	-	3	-	10	-	-	-	47
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	31
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	15	-	3	-	-	20	50
Least Sandpiper	1	9	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	52	-	2	-	58	-	-	1	140
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	17	3	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	-	-	103
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	43	-	-	240	289
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	29	-	-	1	1	11	3	-	11	45	-	-	2	121
Herring Gull	-	63	-	-	-	3	-	36	12	638	6	1	47	8	220	57	1	35	235	3	32	265	1662
Ring-billed Gull	213	6	-	-	7	82	-	96	41	1754	-	35	363	14	135	45	7	25	186	3	50	30	3092
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	315	10	-	12	-	17	14	51	400	253	38	650	390	2150
Bonaparte's Gull	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	130	162
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	36	41
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	18
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	58
Rock Dove	-	18	-	61	250	134	-	117	680	77	-	109	-	-	54	19	57	40	-	-	-	-	1616
Mourning Dove	20	23	70	125	256	290	7	34	395	252	15	160	52	21	137	38	146	50	90	1	12	38	2232
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	17
Common Screech Owl	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	3	4	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	1	31
Great Horned Owl	4	-	-	1	1	4	-	2	7	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	13	-	1	1	39
Barred Owl	4	-	1	1	16	20	-	1	5	1	-	8	5	-	-	-	4	1	7	-	-	1	75

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Cr1	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Tal	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Chuck-will's-widow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	8	-	-	1	21
Whip-poor-will	2	2	-	-	-	18	-	-	8	13	-	9	6	1	7	-	7	-	23	2	1	1	100
Chimney Swift	2	64	45	132	80	157	15	27	117	164	12	76	20	125	19	29	64	25	9	-	20	24	1226
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	-	4	9	-	13	4	-	5	4	17	4	7	5	4	14	3	8	2	1	1	5	2	112
Belted Kingfisher	15	5	3	7	23	15	2	3	20	18	1	4	7	5	6	1	7	7	1	1	-	2	153
Common Flicker	78	63	40	53	87	73	5	51	196	148	1	35	6	7	31	11	29	17	27	8	12	19	997
Pileated Woodpecker	7	12	10	3	30	8	-	-	5	6	-	6	6	-	1	1	3	-	7	-	1	2	108
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	10	11	24	141	101	2	11	84	164	11	84	25	5	52	18	56	5	11	4	4	55	878
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	3	2	2	8	5	1	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	35
Hairy Woodpecker	22	-	1	1	13	9	-	-	8	5	-	5	-	1	17	2	6	1	3	-	-	-	94
Downy Woodpecker	46	40	23	24	137	94	4	19	108	85	5	42	15	2	21	9	33	1	9	6	1	8	732
Eastern Kingbird	19	2	9	6	32	52	4	11	27	29	3	35	10	7	20	6	44	7	12	-	6	8	349
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	2	2	7	61	13	-	9	13	44	1	12	4	4	7	7	16	6	32	2	-	9	253
Eastern Phoebe	20	20	16	17	47	34	7	7	38	8	1	24	9	11	11	3	20	5	-	-	1	7	306
Acadian Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	1	7	-	1	8	2	2	-	5	-	3	-	2	2	54
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Least Flycatcher	35	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Eastern Pewee	2	1	1	-	11	3	-	1	4	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	6	-	1	2	-	1	38
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Horned Lark	3	1	-	-	-	19	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	9	2	4	19	-	2	-	-	41	106
Tree Swallow	64	1	48	16	189	10	-	14	120	1382	46	75	65	21	70	2	134	10	110	-	302	55	2734
Bank Swallow	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	23	121	8	16	-	-	1	-	28	6	10	-	-	-	217
Rough-winged Swallow	4	15	7	14	34	2	4	15	14	53	-	11	3	-	2	-	10	-	1	-	-	3	192
Barn Swallow	135	15	30	65	127	178	2	33	382	274	46	268	77	47	132	28	275	60	175	20	69	210	2648
Cliff Swallow	-	-	20	-	-	11	-	-	40	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	74
Purple Martin	32	4	12	53	61	66	-	24	61	111	29	83	24	25	27	7	142	11	70	-	38	34	914
Blue Jay	136	71	87	271	4028	2950	175	236	5183	9050	1162	3445	237	185	302	114	255	25	38	12	14	27	28003
Northern Raven	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
American Crow	198	64	153	202	425	362	24	64	549	228	18	151	54	18	107	48	149	23	95	6	47	31	3016
Fish Crow	-	-	1	5	43	14	-	10	38	157	3	32	8	3	15	11	13	40	28	-	13	10	444
Black-capped Chickadee	190	54	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	253
Carolina Chickadee	-	-	28	64	239	243	8	28	228	224	10	158	38	21	78	15	117	22	25	22	16	42	1626
Tufted Titmouse	71	98	42	47	207	131	4	33	161	192	8	115	67	9	49	14	117	11	20	12	8	79	1495
White-breasted Nuthatch	53	16	2	5	36	17	2	2	22	2	-	4	-	2	5	-	4	-	-	1	-	2	175
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	-	2	-	3	3	-	1	5	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	24



	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Crl	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Tal	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Blue-winged Warbler	-	-	-	1	4	11	-	1	15	32	-	8	3	-	9	3	2	1	2	-	-	-	92
Tennessee Warbler	1	2	1	-	6	2	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Nashville Warbler	3	2	2	-	14	7	-	1	9	4	-	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Northern Parula Warbler	2	4	-	-	161	86	-	3	42	135	11	96	85	3	5	-	5	1	10	-	2	6	657
Yellow Warbler	51	21	21	7	66	46	-	25	70	56	3	25	4	12	55	18	11	4	14	1	14	8	532
Magnolia Warbler	5	12	-	-	6	-	-	1	3	10	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
Cape May Warbler	1	2	-	1	10	2	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	4	1	-	1	28	9	1	11	10	53	2	3	-	2	6	2	3	2	1	-	-	2	141
Yellow-rumped Warbler	247	50	69	126	960	230	30	81	613	1665	16	506	127	81	167	121	111	18	185	10	86	64	5563
Black-thr. Green Warbler	5	4	-	-	51	11	1	4	10	11	1	11	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115
Cerulean Warbler	2	4	5	-	14	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Blackburnian Warbler	2	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	-	1	-	8	4	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	1	-	8	33
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	12	4	1	4	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	32
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Blackpoll Warbler	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	12
Pine Warbler	4	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	3	10	1	49	10	2	14	1	8	9	30	-	-	18	166
Prairie Warbler	6	2	-	-	32	58	-	4	31	41	-	48	28	-	14	2	10	5	7	5	8	8	309
Palm Warbler	11	-	1	-	6	7	-	2	6	5	-	2	-	-	9	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	54
Ovenbird	11	8	1	3	72	73	-	12	69	177	13	59	27	11	29	12	29	2	17	2	14	77	718
Northern Waterthrush	3	16	6	1	55	4	1	1	7	21	-	6	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	125
Louisiana Waterthrush	18	4	5	3	31	40	-	5	13	2	4	4	14	3	2	6	10	-	-	1	-	11	176
Kentucky Warbler	-	1	-	-	3	15	-	1	3	6	4	11	9	5	-	2	5	-	3	-	-	2	70
Common Yellowthroat	40	5	8	7	162	181	3	42	159	227	16	185	56	15	136	48	87	13	125	5	27	146	1693
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	8	2	3	16	28	-	2	12	26	2	8	10	-	5	2	1	3	4	-	5	1	138
Hooded Warbler	2	-	-	-	3	15	-	-	4	86	2	16	24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	159
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
American Redstart	1	6	1	2	17	58	3	8	22	54	2	42	2	1	6	2	-	-	-	3	4	33	267
House Sparrow	202	74	375	281	207	343	27	234	682	303	54	165	65	312	252	57	411	40	110	48	176	174	4592
Bobolink	4	-	-	11	6	4	-	-	27	3	60	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	174
Eastern Meadowlark	46	20	50	63	64	135	1	52	61	38	19	59	37	47	56	32	83	19	105	-	10	35	1032
Red-winged Blackbird	843	225	193	149	760	851	19	121	1168	1139	120	281	197	105	981	257	866	95	1300	7	151	265	10093
Orchard Oriole	1	-	4	1	10	12	-	9	2	21	7	3	3	2	19	5	14	-	17	-	7	2	139
Northern Oriole	17	22	26	25	83	42	5	14	71	32	3	10	4	14	16	9	19	-	4	2	1	4	423

	Gar	All	Was	Fre	Mon	How	Crl	Har	Bal	Ann	Cal	PrG	Cha	Cec	Ken	Que	Car	Tal	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	Total
Rusty Blackbird	-	7	2	5	105	-	-	1	3	3	-	189	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	317
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	119	73	218
Common Grackle	415	414	768	566	1041	713	67	118	1286	1099	114	606	305	111	748	451	1345	130	960	91	602	545	12495
Brown-headed Cowbird	201	166	29	74	191	154	2	34	232	149	65	101	39	16	46	14	147	15	33	21	117	153	1999
Scarlet Tanager	3	1	3	-	28	16	-	1	13	53	4	18	9	5	6	9	20	4	6	-	-	9	208
Summer Tanager	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	2	-	-	-	3	-	7	-	-	-	24
Northern Cardinal	140	140	106	95	570	482	13	82	614	747	47	225	152	57	242	67	288	28	93	29	140	61	4418
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	23	7	-	-	8	8	-	15	9	19	2	11	2	2	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	113
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	-	20	1	4	9	2	9	4	20	-	8	-	2	4	89
Indigo Bunting	13	16	5	1	39	38	2	4	20	36	9	15	14	9	20	4	15	2	1	2	2	2	269
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Evening Grosbeak	97	40	10	-	25	13	-	-	17	91	-	11	6	-	4	-	-	2	-	10	-	-	326
Purple Finch	58	21	357	57	379	86	17	17	41	38	1	14	-	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1101
House Finch	-	9	34	-	5	-	-	6	10	4	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	72
American Goldfinch	247	452	336	216	1090	478	36	129	665	526	27	306	38	71	94	20	107	13	30	7	24	59	4971
Rufous-sided Towhee	166	69	25	25	152	178	3	32	306	336	12	140	107	15	111	24	143	20	53	11	31	101	2060
Savannah Sparrow	2	4	-	-	14	32	-	10	7	124	10	95	3	-	7	10	12	-	63	-	-	15	408
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	19	36	5	1	3	13	7	15	5	-	2	3	9	-	3	-	-	2	123
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	123
Vesper Sparrow	1	-	-	7	2	10	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	36
Northern Junco	20	25	13	2	5	9	2	4	5	5	1	4	2	-	7	-	6	-	2	-	1	1	114
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Chipping Sparrow	318	137	41	69	82	90	1	92	285	257	18	43	24	18	149	43	115	12	86	12	18	97	2007
Field Sparrow	96	50	29	31	190	184	44	21	104	162	34	116	45	9	116	28	59	8	20	1	15	38	1400
White-crowned Sparrow	32	35	35	7	21	29	-	5	4	18	1	3	11	-	42	29	11	1	8	-	-	3	295
White-throated Sparrow	133	188	147	108	772	332	30	202	590	1447	64	154	86	5	393	135	316	40	300	13	42	218	5715
Fox Sparrow	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Swamp Sparrow	54	1	2	5	67	14	-	2	19	50	1	8	3	1	5	5	9	1	4	-	5	7	263
Song Sparrow	102	83	66	54	198	234	20	57	194	239	23	87	26	64	69	28	25	16	14	5	17	43	1664
TOTAL SPECIES	143	131	121	111	159	145	66	127	155	184	87	152	130	95	137	112	126	106	165	66	90	139	244
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	{ 7033				4901	18801	750			21252	2461		3954	9610			8798	7314		3985		173565	
TOTAL PARTY-HOURS	129½	98	63	39	140	157	8	50	168½	157	12½	104	41½	8	59½	14	96	15½	21	8½	30½	29½	1450½



Individual reports and some county compilations trickled in very slowly this year. The last reports weren't received until early in September which is partly responsible for the lateness of this June issue. Many of the reports that were submitted lacked some essential information. Every count that is submitted, to be complete, should contain: the names of all participants written legibly, starting and stopping times, area covered, party-hours and party-miles, and thorough documentation for rare or unusual species or concentrations. These basic data are needed to make the counts more meaningful and useful in years to come.

The concept of party-hours and party-miles seems to confuse some observers but is actually quite simple. A group of observers, no matter how many, who bird together either by car or foot or some other means, constitute a party as long as all members of the group are within hailing distance of one another. Each hour this group birds together is recorded as 1 party-hour and each mile they travel together is recorded as 1 party-mile. Five birders traveling 5 miles on foot in 5 hours would simply list 5 party-miles in 5 party-hours. If the group should split up for a portion of the time each new group would record its party-hours and mileage in the same manner. Groups that bird on or near county lines should separate their coverage by county and should keep a separate tally of species and party-hours and miles for each county.

Recording of the actual count still presents something of a problem to the compilers. There are still a few counters who annually submit counts that contain such notations as: "a few robins," "lots of starlings" or the near classic "too many to count." At the other extreme is the counter who submits a checklist full of nothing more than x-marks after the name of the species observed. The only value a compiler can assign to any of these notations is 1. Such counts are virtually valueless.

Documentation of unusual sightings or rarities is a continuing problem for compilers everywhere. Each year compilers have to contend with such reports as "Joe Doe saw 5 Tasmanian Three-toed Bullfinches." Without careful documentation such reports are valueless. Joe Doe may or may not have seen such a thing. Certainly, the compiler has no way of knowing. The compiler is placed in a bad position by such reports. If the compiler merely prints each and every sighting, no matter how remote the possibility of such a sighting may be, then the risk of ruining his or her own reputation as a careful birder is great. At the same time the literature would become cluttered with many false or inaccurate reports, hardly a desirable thing to have happen. By not publishing such an observation the compiler also may run the risk of upsetting or discouraging a good birder who actually did see what he reported. Documentation--careful, concise, complete documentation--is the answer to the problem. Rarities most certainly do and will continue to occur with regularity and most of these will be duly recorded in count compilations provided they are supported by substantive descriptions of habitat, plumage, behavior and circumstances of sighting. Finally, a bird does not always have to be rare or unusual in order to require documentation. Sightings of any species observed outside its normal periods of occurrence, exhibiting unusual behavior, occurring

in unusual habitats or circumstances, or occurring in more than usual numbers should be carefully documented.

New high totals were established for 74 species on this year's count. The majority of these new highs are not noteworthy since they don't represent any significant changes in population or abundance. However, the exceptionally high count of 28,003 Blue Jays nearly doubles the previous high of 14,591 set in 1970. The 205 Broad-winged Hawks observed exceeded by far the previous 1973 high of 91. Other species that were observed in numbers nearly twice that of their previous highs were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Of special importance is the total of 64 Mute Swans (55 from Talbot County) observed in 1975. This represents a considerable increase over the previous high of 36 set in 1972. Mute Swans were observed in six counties, two of which are on the Western Shore of Maryland. This species is becoming firmly established as a breeding species in Maryland and is steadily increasing its number and its range. Careful documentation of this species' establishment and expansion in Maryland warrants our full attention.

#### SUMMARY OF COVERAGE

GARRETT COUNTY (Gar). 40 observers. 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Lydia Beller, Helen Crouch, Dot Dawson, Alverta Dillon, Alec Doren, Charlotte Folk, Harold Harmon, Ken Hodgdon, Sheila Hughes, Dorothy and Richard Janney, Betty and Joe Johanning, Gus Johnson, Grace Lichty, Elizabeth Mance, Bill and Nancy Nemith, Gordon and Sally Paul, Bill and Fran Pope, Bill and Juanita Pratt, Alice and Ken Ridder, Frances Smith, Billie Taylor, Jackie Torres, Cynthia and Helen Vitez, Mrs. James Wallace, John Willetts, Esther Yoder, John and Sam Yoder, Lowell and Weldon Yoder, Katie and Noah Zook.

ALLEGANY COUNTY (All). 27 observers. 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Helen Crouch, James Daulers, Bill Devlin, Dick Douglass, Bill, Robbie and Trudy Eichelberger, Cynthia Eiser, Mr. and Mrs. John Eiser, Jack Elliott, Charlotte Folk, Dale Fuller, Elyse Harmon, John Hansen, Ken Hodgdon (compiler), Dr. and Mrs. Richard Johnson, Dorothea Malec, Lamar Minnick, William Rue, Harriet Sheetz, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith, Molly Sommerville, John Willetts, John Workmeister.

WASHINGTON COUNTY (Was). 17 observers. (no times given)

Laura Arant, Mary Corderman, Dan Cutchall, Frances Cutchall, Leontine Doyle, Truman Doyle, Ellen Edwards, Daniel Foltz, Norma Foltz, Mary Keedy, Robert Keedy, Alice B. Mallonee, Richard Paylor, Carol Sheldon, Napier Shelton, Robert Stockslager, Kent Stouffer.

FREDERICK COUNTY (Fre). 11 observers. 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Frances Ann Gilbert, Pat Gowdy, Dave Hansroth, Charles Mullican (compiler), John W. and Ruth O. Richards, Mary Schneider, August Selckmann, Steve Selckmann, William Shirey, Rick Warfield.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Mon). 51 observers. 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sarah Baker, Louise Berry, Chip Bonde, Joy Bowen, Michael Bowen, Olin Browne, Ellen Caswell, Robert Caswell, Paris Coleman, Barry Cooper, Dave Cutler, Dan Delattore, Dave Fallow, Maxmilian Goepp, Delores Grant, Anita Gunn, Dave Hahn, Bob Hahn, Richard Hall, Harry Hogan, Vincent Jones, Joe Keenan, Margaret Keenan, Bonnie Kennedy, Barbara Lund, Stuart, Lucy and Nancy MacClintock, Ed Miller, Don Millman, Ann Mitchell, Harvey Mudd, Marion Mudd, David Nutter, Bill Oberman, Lola Oberman, Ted Oberman, Ray Prybis, Bob Pyle, Pete Pyle, Betty Riedel, Frank Schaff, Judith Shaw, Grace Sims, Bruce Steub, John Vance, William Wendell, Bob Whitcomb, Don Widman, Claudia Wilds, Jim Wilkinson, Vee Willet.

HOWARD COUNTY (How). 30 observers. 4:40 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.  
Martha Chestem, Morris Collins, Frances Dawson, Sam Droege, Alice Fazekas, Andy Hauck, John Healy, Larry Hood, Beverly Hotz, Patricia Johnson, Erwin Klaas, Kathy Klimkiewicz, V. and Mercia Krishnamoorthy, Wayne Landrum, Tim Manns, Marjorie Mountjoy, Thomas Moyer, Rosamond Munro, Philip Muth, Dorothy Rauth, Fred, Nan and Elizabeth Rhineland, Chandler and Eleanor Robbins, Evelyn Roberts, Jay Sheppard, Jo Solem, Mark Wallace.

CARROLL COUNTY (Crl). 6 observers. (no times given)  
M. Susan Bollinger, Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Lyon, Mrs. Mrak, Mary Grace O'Rourke, Margaret C. Stevenson.

HARFORD COUNTY (Har). 19 observers. (no times given)  
Barbara Bilsborough, Bill Braerman, Hammond and Thirza Brandt, Martin Brazan, Toni and Kathy Burke, Margaret Coole, Doug and Linda Hackman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kohout, John Robinson, Dave Smith, Spike and Linda Updegrave, Frances Trego, John and Adel Wortman.

BALTIMORE COUNTY (Bal). 61 observers. 12:01 a.m. to 8:55 p.m.  
Clay Andres, Tom Andres, Gifford Beaton, Martin Brazan, Dot Clark, Douglas and Joan Cook, Bill Corliss, Jim Corliss, John Cullom, Jane Daniels, Jo Ann Dreyer, Jim Emerson, Lansing Fulford, Janet Ganter, Shirley Geddes, Rose Gerring, Marion Glass, Doug and Linda Hackman, David Holmes, Clark Jeschke, Craig and Colin Jeshke, Dr. and Mrs. J. T. H. Johnson, Haven Kolb, Mrs. M. G. Larrabee, Ono Lescure, Bud, Marlene and Gay Letsch, Mrs. Alan S. Markham, Bruce McClary, Randie, David and Jeff Mulholland, Mrs. Perlman, Ben Poscover, Benjie Poscover, George Poscover, James W. Poultney, John Poteet, Brian Reilly, Mrs. Joshua W. Rowe, Doug Santoni, Joe Schreiber, Marge Shipley, Robert P. Smith, Jr., Chris Slaughter, Eddie Slaughter, Eileen Spring and 6 observers, Mrs. Leo J. Vollmer, Etta Wedge, Joy Wheeler.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY (Ann). 43 observers. 4:15 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Veronica Amoss, Ann Anderson, William Anderson, Robert Augustine, Bruce Bilbec, Peggie Bishop, Rena Bishop, Charles Buchanan, Danny Bystrak (compiler), James Cheevers, Amelia Cochran, Richard Compton, Philip A. DuMont, Mary Ellen Ewing, Patricia Flory, Ellen Gizzarelli, Mary W. Goldman, Mark Hoffman, David Howard, Marguerite Howard, Mary Johnson, R. E. L. Johnson, Doug Joyce, Emily Joyce, Steve Joyce, Patricia Lawrence, Patricia Mehlhop, Ben Pagac, Helen Passano, Pat Rogers,

K. Friel Sanders, Mike Schauff, Mary Smith, Nathan Smith, Phil Stoddard, Carol Swartz, Sally Symington, John Symonds, Ben Tappan, Ginny Vroblesky, Jon Vroblesky, Ed Weir, Hal Wierenga.

CALVERT COUNTY (Cal). 3 observers. 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
John Fales, Mary W. Goldman, K. Friel Sanders.

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY (PrG). 33 observers. (no times given)  
Ralph and Steve Andrews, Adam Bean, Jim Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Curren, Chuck DuPree, Luther Goldman, Jerry and Joyce Longcore, Chris Ludwig, Sam Lyon, Elwood Martin, Bill Murphy, William O'Kelley, Robert and Bill' Patterson, Chan and Stuart Robbins, Mike Sorensen, Bruce Steub, Bob Whitcomb, Jim Wick, Charles Williams, Larry Zeleny and 8 unnamed counters.

CHARLES COUNTY (Cha). 13 observers. 5:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.  
Mark Bledsoe, Byron Brezina, Fred and Karen Burggraf, Jim Bruce, Larry Fletcher, Mike Grote, Olive and Marian Sorzano, Len Teuber, Andrew, David and George Wilmot.

CECIL COUNTY (Cec). 5 observers. (no times given)  
Col. and Mrs. L. S. Devore, Edgar E. Folk III, Mildred Gebhard, Helen Reznick.

KENT COUNTY (Ken). 16 observers. 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Margaret Duncan, Dot Ensor, George Founds, Pat Glader, Jim Gruber, Bud Hudson, Ed Kephart, Kay McAlpin, Dorothy and Ed Mendinhall, Floyd Parks, Margery Plymire, Mary Reifschneider, Louise Ruhnka, Winnie Suydam, Pat Wilson.

QUEEN ANNES COUNTY (Que). 5 observers. 5:00 a.m.  
Bill and Floyd Hayes, Robby Hayes, David Holmes, Floyd Murdock.

CAROLINE COUNTY (Car). 30 observers. 12:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Catherine Adams, Roger Adams, Annabelle Bilbrough, Elsie Bilbrough, Irene Bilbrough, Winifred Bright, Margarette Butenschoen, Elizabeth Cannon, Ethel Engel, Wilber Engel, A. J. Fletcher, Roberta Fletcher, Rolin Fletcher, Inez Glime, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Greenawald, Marvin Hewitt, Naomi Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Roberta Leggett, Kathleen McKee, Ethel Poore, Thos. Robbins, L. T. Short, Carol Scudder, Joan Scudder, Dr. Christian Snyder, Isabel Todd, Steve Westre, Irene Wheatley.

TALBOT COUNTY (Tal). 4 observers. 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Elizabeth Armistead, David Krantz, Dennis Quirk, Jan Reese.

DORCHESTER COUNTY (Dor). 14 observers. 12:01 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Harry T. Armistead (compiler), Joseph and Gaye Elliott, Jim Freeman, Daisy Hoglund, David and Alice Little, Lorraine and Lisa Logan, Maurice Rimp, Martha Steele, Dr. and Mrs. James Thomas, Connie Unangst.

WICOMICO COUNTY (Wic). 21 observers. (no times given)  
Mr. and Mrs. Baildon, Brookline (Mass.) Bird Club (12 members),

Sam Cimino, Maurice Davis, Ruth Denit, Emily Morris, Dave Smith, Charles and Gail Vaughn.

SOMERSET COUNTY (Som). 9 observers. (no times given)

Pauline Batchelder, Gladys Cole, Don Jewell, Mary Jewell, Bob Reynolds, Barbara Ross, Martha Simpkins, Randy and Bob Stadler.

WORCESTER COUNTY (Wor). 22 observers. (no times given)

Peggy Bohanan, 12 members of Brookline (Mass.) Bird Club, Lyman Bryan, Mary Bryan, Mary Humphreys, Dave Smith, Steve Stegner, Charles and Gail Vaughn, Ann Wilder, Richard Wilder.

3033 Woodside Ave., Parkville 21234

#### SANCTUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The big news of the year was the acquisition of the Manderes Creek Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County, a gift to MOS by Colonel and Mrs. William Bodenstein of the Anne Arundel Chapter. A detailed description of the area will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Birdlife*.

While I am not unmindful of all the many expenditures of time and labor on the part of our members and our chapters in the maintenance and operation of our sanctuaries, I do want to devote the rest of this report to the recognition of two outstanding achievements this year.

The first is the house-painting job at Irish Grove, sponsored by the Wicomico Chapter and implemented by its members and others from as far away as Baltimore and Patuxent. In just one long weekend, the entire project was completed in expert fashion and at a saving to the Society of well over a thousand dollars.

The second project to be recognized is that of the Allegany Chapter. In addition to the Chapter's continued outstanding use of the Carey Run Sanctuary for a study and training area, it has taken on the herculean task of financing needed improvements. When the call was made for the budget estimate, the local committee enumerated the need for road repairs and for repairs and painting at the sanctuary house, then offered to foot the bill for these items without calling for MOS funds. The big news came when they mentioned the Gravely mower, under discussion for two years. Realizing that our present budget could not handle this item, they went ahead with a couple of fund-raising projects themselves and at this writing, have raised \$850 toward its purchase.

Our Private Sanctuary Plan is still on the move. Over four hundred property owners are now participating, one of whom received recognition in the recent National Wildlife Magazine.

V. Edwin Unger, Chairman

## COMMITTEES FOR 1975-76

AUDITING:	Rodney Jones, Chairman (486-3442) 207 Oak Ave., Baltimore 21208	George Drumm (679-4849) Gerhard W. Holtz (730-7063)
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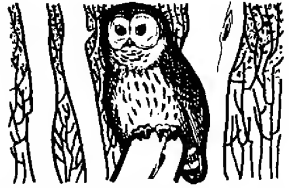
### ASIA:

SRI LANKA	October 30-November 17
INDIA-HIMALAYAS-BHUTAN	November 18-December 12
This will be the first birding trip to ever go to Bhutan. Leader Bob Fleming of Khatmandu.	



## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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Members are encouraged to make greater use of our sanctuaries. Those with overnight facilities require advance registration because of limited sleeping and cooking space.

Rock Run Sanctuary passed through a period of uncertainty after the death of Mr. Paul from whom we had rented it. It is now leased from the State; the property is part of Susquehanna State Park. Supervision of our operation is by the Harford and Baltimore Chapters. The Park Rangers police the area. M.O.S. membership cards should be carried by members to identify them to the rangers, and overnight users should call the Park Office (939-0643) before 4 p.m. to advise that they are staying overnight.

At Irish Grove the capacity for overnight accommodations is 15 people. The fee is \$1 per night (\$2 for non-members). Reservations must be made with Mr. Samuel Cimino, 704 Park Circle, Salisbury, Md. 21801 (749-7852); he will send information to those who make reservations.

At Carey Run the overnight capacity is 15. A donation from overnight visitors is requested. Reservations should be made with Mrs. Gordon Taylor, 75 Broadway, Frostburg, Md. 21532 (689-6791); she will give users the combinations for the two locks.

Two new committees have been created by the Council in response to a suggestion previously submitted by our First Vice President, Charlie Vaughn. One is a Research Committee to consider projects that might be carried out by M.O.S. members and to investigate sources of funding for these. The other is a Long Range Planning Committee, which was created to establish guidelines for the Society's goals in the next 3 to 5 years. The Research Committee is functioning under the chairmanship of Charlie Vaughn, the Long Range Planning Committee under James W. Cheevers.

Another new committee was created as a result of action by the Trustees at their initial meeting following the Annual Meeting in Ocean City. There, the Trustees were addressed by Mr. Greg Welsh of the Coastal Zone Management Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Welsh sought our involvement in developing a land use plan aimed at preserving resources along the coast. He proposed that M.O.S. develop a study of the coastal areas of Maryland where specific species of birds may be threatened because of habitat change and human encroachment. In exchange for a written report of our findings, M.O.S. would receive \$300. Your Trustees favored such action, and Jan Reese is Chairman of the committee to carry out the project. I am advised

that we are awaiting further contact from the Department of Natural Resources.

Last year Mr. Unger was asked by the Maryland Environmental Trust whether M.O.S. would be interested in being considered as a recipient of Conservation Easements. A special committee chaired by Mrs. Dorothy Mendinhall and having as other members Ed Unger, Col. Bodenstein and Floyd Parks made a thorough study of the subject and reported to the Trustees at Ocean City. As a result of that report, the Trustees authorized the creation of a permanent committee to consider offers of Conservation Easements and to administer any easements that the committee decides M.O.S. should accept. Mrs. Julia Metcalf is chairman.

As a result of recommendations by our Education Committee, a committee chaired by Mrs. Joy Wheeler is studying the feasibility of collecting useful information that comes to Cylburn or is generated by M.O.S. and making this information available.

I believe that these new activities portray an active society. Thanks to all who have served to bring about these new endeavors and to those who have agreed to carry them out.

Our able Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dr. Mildred Gebhard, has already contacted all Chapter Presidents about candidates for next year's Audubon scholarships. Candidates' names and qualifications should be in the hands of the committee by December 1. Help your Chapter President to locate deserving candidates.

*Barclay E. Tucker*



#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Helen Miller Scholarship Committee is pleased to inform you of its selection of the following candidates for the three scholarships awarded annually for attendance at the National Audubon Society summer workshops.

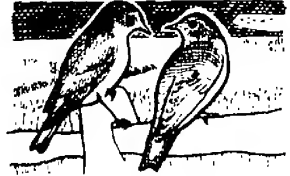
Kermit L. Updegrove, Jr., candidate of Harford Chapter, is winner of the Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Workshop of the West in Wyoming.

Avind E. Bonde, candidate of Montgomery Chapter, is winner of the MOS Scholarship and will attend the Audubon Workshop in Maine.

Joy G. Wheeler, candidate of Baltimore Chapter, is winner of the scholarship sponsored by the Amateur Gardeners Club of Baltimore. She also will be attending the Audubon Workshop in Maine.

The committee wishes to express appreciation to the various chapters for their efforts in promoting candidates for these scholarships. There were thirteen candidates who collectively appear to be the best qualified group of candidates we have ever had. We have chosen three excellent people as recipients for these three scholarships.

*Mildred E. Gebhard, Chairman*



## THE SEASON

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1975

*Chandler S. Robbins*

Mildness was the keynote of the winter season in Maryland. All states east of the Mississippi River were favored with above-normal temperatures in January and February. Central Maryland averaged 6° above normal in January, and 3° to 4° above normal in February. In March we had an average daily temperature deficiency of 1° to 2°. Precipitation, which varies considerably from one part of the State to another, remained within 50 percent of normal in each month and came mostly in the form of rain, except in the mountains. Exceptional mildness in the latter half of February caused many birds to begin their migration ahead of schedule, but this migration was cut off by a return to cold weather that lasted through the first two-thirds of March.

A summary of the earliest arrival dates by counties is presented in Table 1 with the counties arranged from northwest to southeast. As usual, a zero (0) indicates no report for the species in that county, a "w" means that the first migrants could not be distinguished from wintering individuals, and a dash (--) signifies that the species was observed, but not on a significant arrival date. Since so few reports were received from the Lower Eastern Shore counties, observations from Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester Counties are combined under the heading "LES."

The great majority of the migration dates in Table 1 were submitted by the following persons: Garrett County--Mrs. Frances Pope; Allegheny--James Paulus, Mike Mastrangelo; Washington--Robert and Mary Keedy, Daniel Boone, Mrs. Frances Cutchall; Baltimore--Mrs. Peggy Bohanan, Hervey Brackbill; Howard--Mrs. Joanne Solem, Mrs. Rosamond Munro, Mark Wallace; Montgomery--Paul Woodward, Robert W. Warfield, Dr. Thomas Valega; Prince Georges--Leonard Teuber, Sam Lyon, Chandler Robbins, Danny Bystrak, Dr. Larry Murphy; Anne Arundel--Mrs. Rena Bishop, Hal Wierenga, Danny Bystrak, Mark Hoffman; Charles--Dr. George Wilmot, David and Andrew Wilmot, Olive Sorzano, Leonard Teuber; Kent--Mrs. Dorothy A. Mendinhal, Mrs. Margery Plymire, James Gruber; Caroline--Marvin W. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Mrs. Ethel Engle, Steve Westre, Roger Adams, Oliver Smith, Isabel Todd; Talbot--Jan Reese; Lower Eastern Shore--Harry Armistead, Floyd Parks, Charles Vaughn, Mrs. Gladys Cole.

Table 1. Earliest Spring Arrival Dates, 1975

Species	Median													
	5-yr 1975	Garr	Alle	Wash	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Kent	Caro	Talb	LES
Horned Grebe	3/30 3/15	4/ 2	2/21	2/10	4/13	0	--	--	2/27	2/ 7	4/ 6	--	4/ 2	W
Pied-billed Grebe	3/23 3/ 2	3/31	2/ 8	2/21	3/20	--	3/31	4/22	3/30	3/ 1	3/ 1	2/26	--	W
Great Blue Heron	3/18 3/ 2	2/22	W 4/ 5		3/25	W 2/21	5/ 1	1/29	2/15		W	W	3/10	W
Cattle Egret	4/25 4/ 3	0	4/ 3	0	4/24	0	4/15	0	4/13	0	3/29	3/28	5/ 2	3/22
Whistling Swan	3/14 3/ 4	3/ 9	3/ 5	0	3/20	2/23	3/ 1	--	2/26	W	W	W	3/11	3/22
Canada Goose	3/12 2/26	3/ 9	3/ 5	2/19	2/28	2/19	2/16	4/ 7	2/24	2/15	W	W	4/ 2	W
Pintail	3/ 8 3/ 2	3/10	2/20	3/15	3/20	0	2/21	--	--	2/28	W	3/ 3	--	W
Green-winged Teal	3/22 3/25	5/ 4	0	3/ 2	0	--	2/22	3/ 9	--	3/25	2/27	4/ 2	4/ 6	4/ 6
Blue-winged Teal	3/22 3/22	4/ 6	4/ 2	3/15	4/ 2	0	3/ 1	3/22	3/22	3/23	--	3/29	3/14	3/ 8
American Wigeon	3/20 3/ 5	3/10	2/23	3/15	3/ 5	0	2/16	--	3/22	3/21	3/ 1	3/ 4	W	W
Northern Shoveler	-- 3/10	3/13	0	0	4/ 2	0	2/28	4/22	0	W	2/19	0	3/11	3/ 8
Wood Duck	3/10 3/10	4/ 6	2/20	2/28	3/ 5	3/15	2/ 8	3/ 3	3/22	2/19	3/31	3/25	4/ 6	W
Redhead	-- 3/16	3/12	2/23	3/23	0	0	2/15	3/21	3/29	0	2/27	0	W	3/22
Ring-necked Duck	3/14 3/ 2	3/ 6	2/23	1/13	3/ 5	0	2/28	W	3/29	1/26	2/23	0	3/10	3/22
Canvasback	-- 3/16	3/16	3/29	2/22	0	W	0	--	W	3/16	2/27	3/30	3/11	3/22
Lesser Scaup	3/14 2/25	4/ 2	2/21	2/22	4/ 2	0	3/21	4/22	W 2/ 9		2/25	2/17	3/11	3/22
Common Goldeneye	-- 2/26	--	2/20	2/21	0	W	W	--	W	3/16	2/26	0	3/11	W
Bufflehead	3/12 3/ 9	3/ 9	3/29	2/22	4/ 2	0	2/11	--	W	2/15	W	0	4/ 1	W
Oldsquaw	-- 3/29	4/10	3/29	0	0	0	0	4/16	W	2/15	W	0	3/11	W
Ruddy Duck	-- 3/10	3/ 9	4/12	3/23	3/ 9	0	3/10	--	W	3/23	2/26	2/17	3/11	3/22
Hooded Merganser	-- 3/ 2	3/10	2/21	3/15	--	0	W 2/16	--	W	2/21	--	0	--	3/22
Red-breasted Merganser	-- 3/14	3/13	3/29	3/15	0	0	3/13	4/14	3/23	1/25	0	0	3/10	W
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-- 4/ 4	4/11	--	--	4/ 8	--	--	4/ 8	3/23	3/ 8	--	4/ 6	4/ 1	3/15
Red-tailed Hawk	-- 3/21	4/ 6	W 2/ 9	3/23	3/21	W		3/14	3/23	W	W	W	3/11	W
Osprey	3/27 3/28	4/16	4/25	4/ 5	0	--	3/31	4/ 3	3/23	3/25	--	3/17	3/11	3/22
American Kestrel	-- --	3/ 9	W	W	--	3/23	W	W	3/23	W	W	W	3/20	W
American Coot	-- 3/15	4/ 7	3/ 8	2/10	3/ 9	0	3/21	W	W	3/31	W	3/ 3	4/ 8	W
Killdeer	2/26 2/24	4/ 5	W 2/22		2/23	2/19	2/21	W	2/24	3/ 9	2/19	W	3/11	W
American Woodcock	2/29 2/23	3/28	2/23	--	3/16	2/11	2/23	3/21	--	2/16	2/18	2/23	3/19	W
Common Snipe	3/10 4/ 2	4/ 6	4/22	4/12	--	3/29	2/22	4/ 8	3/22	0	--	2/ 4	4/ 6	3/22
Greater Yellowlegs	4/ 1 3/23	5/ 1	0	0	0	5/ 2	3/23	3/22	3/13	4/18	4/ 8	2/ 6	3/21	W
Ring-billed Gull	3/15 3/ 2	3/12	2/13	--	3/ 2	2/ 9	3/ 1	3/16	W	W	W	W	3/11	W
Bonaparte's Gull	-- 3/31	4/ 9	3/19	0	0	0	3/30	4/ 5	3/16	5/ 3	--	0	4/ 1	3/22
Belted Kingfisher	-- --	3/ 9	--	2/22	3/18	3/13	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Common Flicker	3/18 3/22	W	W	3/28	3/11	3/ 7	3/22	W	3/21	3/30	W	W	4/ 2	3/15
Eastern Phoebe	3/19 3/17	4/ 6	W	--	3/21	3/22	3/ 2	3/ 6	3/23	3/ 1	--	3/13	--	W
Tree Swallow	3/31 3/23	4/ 9	4/ 3	3/23	--	--	3/23	3/ 7	3/22	4/14	--	3/31	3/19	--
Fish Crow	3/14 3/19	0	0	W	4/ 9	2/11	W	3/23	3/23	W	W	W	2/ 9	3/15
American Robin	2/23 2/16	2/23	W 2/16		2/22	2/ 7	2/10	2/24	2/15	2/15	2/27	2/16	2/28	W
Eastern Bluebird	2/25 2/23	4/ 2	W 2/22		2/17	2/19	2/23	W	W	W	3/21	W	3/29	W
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-- 3/30	W	W 3/23		4/ 2	3/21	W	4/ 4	3/26	W	W	W	4/ 3	W
Cedar Waxwing	2/25 2/19	--	--	2/16	2/ 1	2/ 6	W	W	2/19	W	3/ 7	2/24	2/24	W
Pine Warbler	3/31 3/23	3/22	3/23	--	4/ 8	4/22	3/23	3/19	2/25	3/ 2	4/11	3/22	3/27	W
Red-winged Blackbird	2/22 2/22	3/ 9	2/21	W	2/24	2/25	2/16	W	2/10	2/15	W	W	3/11	W
Rusty Blackbird	3/ 8 3/11	4/ 6	3/23	4/13	--	3/10	2/28	3/ 6	2/26	3/11	W	W	4/ 6	W
Common Grackle	2/24 2/20	3/ 9	2/20	W	1/20	3/ 5	1/16	2/21	2/10	2/ 9	W	W	2/28	W
Brown-headed Cowbird	3/ 4 2/26	3/ 9	W	W	1/20	1/22	2/15	3/22	1/20	3/15	W	W	3/11	W
Evening Grosbeak	-- 1/16	W	--	3/15	1/18	1/15	--	1/ 9	1/15	1/16	--	1/17	1/21	--
Purple Finch	2/23 1/12	W	--	1/11	W	1/14	W	1/24	1/ 5	1/ 5	3/ 8	--	--	W
House Finch	-- 3/ 8	3/ 1	--	--	3/11	1/21	W	W	3/ 8	0	--	--	4/10	W
Rufous-sided Towhee	3/18 3/24	3/31	3/23	4/ 5	3/18	3/25	4/15	--	W	W 2/16	W	W	3/18	W
Savannah Sparrow	3/28 3/29	4/14	--	3/23	--	3/29	--	--	3/23	0	4/ 6	--	--	W
Vesper Sparrow	3/30 3/31	4/14	--	3/23	--	4/22	--	--	4/10	0	4/18	3/ 8	3/26	3/23
Northern Junco	-- --	3/ 3	W	W	W	3/ 1	W	W	W	W	W	W	4/ 6	W
Fox Sparrow	3/ 4 3/ 2	3/ 1	2/16	3/15	2/25	2/25	2/28	3/ 6	3/ 2	3/ 1	--	3/ 2	--	W
Song Sparrow	3/ 9 3/ 7	4/10	W 2/22		3/ 2	4/ 1	W	3/23	W 2/15		W	W	3/ 7	W

**Cormorants.** In response to the mild winter, Double-crested Cormorants began moving northward in good numbers at a very early date. At least 60 of them were estimated on rocks, pilings, and on channel marker 32 off Cedar Point in the Potomac River on the Southern Maryland Audubon trip on Feb. 15 (Fred Burgraff and others). Great Cormorants again stayed through the winter at St. George Island in St. Marys County, where 5 were seen on Feb. 8 by Harry Armistead.



Hérons and Ibis. Although Black-crowned Night Herons winter regularly in small numbers in the extensive marsh country of the Lower Eastern Shore, they are only irregularly detected elsewhere in Maryland during the winter months; 1 stayed at Talbot County from early December until at least Jan. 7 (Jan Reese). A wintering Louisiana Heron was observed at Fairmount Wildlife Management Area on Mar. 8 by Elwood Martin and Danny Bystrak. Early arrivals of other herons and ibis included a Great Blue Heron at Broadford Reservoir in Garrett County on Feb. 22 (Fran Pope); Cattle Egret at Berlin on Mar. 6 (Mary Humphreys); Great and Snowy Egrets in Worcester County on Mar. 22 (Floyd Parks) and at Blackwater Refuge the next day (Harry Armistead); Great Egret in Charles County on Mar. 22 (Wilmots and Olive Sorzano); Cattle Egrets in Caroline County on Mar. 28 (Ethel Engle) and Kent County on Mar. 29 (Mrs. Margery Plymire and others); Louisiana Heron at Irish Grove Sanctuary near Marion Station on Mar. 29 (Borden and Culp); American Bittern at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel on Mar. 3 (State arrival record, Brooke Meanley); and Glossy Ibis at Snow Hill on Mar. 6 (Sam Dyke), at Sandy Point State Park on Mar. 13 (Hal Wierenga) and in Talbot County, Mar. 14 (Alice Jones).

Swans. A hard freeze on Jan. 18 brought a "tremendous influx" of more than a thousand Whistling Swans to augment the usual wintering numbers in Talbot County (Reese). The first migrants were noted over Howard County on Feb. 23 (Mark Wallace), at Oldtown on Mar. 5 (Jim Paulus), and on the ice at Broadford Reservoir (3 birds for 4 days starting on Mar. 9, Fran Pope); but the main exodus did not occur until Mar. 17 (Kent County, Floyd Parks). A Mute Swan at Oldtown on Mar. 14 was a rarity for Allegany County (Paulus).

Geese. Since the wild rice at Susquehanna Flats has not yet recovered from the effects of Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the wintering populations of geese and ducks at the head of Chesapeake Bay are still far below normal. A White-fronted Goose, apparently the first for Queen Annes County, was seen in a flock of Canada Geese on Kent Island on Jan. 1 (George and Jean Jonkel, Michael Harris, C. Robbins). Among the 25 species of waterfowl found in southern Dorchester County on Mar. 23 by Armistead were 225 white Snow Geese and 25 blue ones.

Ducks. The Fulvous Tree Duck remained at West Ocean City at least through Apr. 1 (Dr. William Standaert). Northern Shovelers arrived at Remington Farms on the record-early date of Feb. 19 (Mrs. Plymire), and a Redhead established another early arrival record at Oldtown on Feb. 23 (Paulus). Other early waterfowl arrivals shown in Table 1 for Allegany County are by Paulus, and those from Washington County are by Robert and Mary Keedy. Jim Paulus obtained a high count of 8 Red-breasted Mergansers on Rouge Lagoon, Oldtown, on Mar. 29.

Hawks. Bald Eagles were reported only from Baltimore, Caroline, Dorchester, Howard, Queen Annes, and Prince Georges Counties, with a high count of 12 birds in southern Dorchester County on Mar. 23 (Armistead). A very late Osprey was identified at the Chesapeake Bay Center on Jan. 5 (Dr. W. J. L. Sladen). The first Osprey of the spring

King Rail. A King Rail killed by a car at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Mar. 16 is taken to be an early spring arrival (Jay M. Sheppard); very little information is available on the migration period of this species.

Shorebirds. Fifteen Ruddy Turnstones seen at Ocean City on Feb. 15 are the first ever reported in Maryland in that month (Vaughn). Early arrivals not included in Table 1 are: American Oystercatcher at Ocean City on Mar. 8 (Martin, Bystrak and Robbins); Willet at Irish Grove Sanctuary on Mar. 29 (State record, Borden and Culp); Dunlin on Mar. 30 and Least Sandpiper on Mar. 31 at Sandy Point (Hal Wierenga); Pectoral Sandpiper at Seneca on Mar. 25 (Paul Woodward); and Sanderling at Sandy Point State Park on Mar. 31 (Dr. Larry Murphy). A noteworthy high tally of 52 Lesser Yellowlegs was made in southern Dorchester County on Mar. 23 by Armistead.

Gulls and Terns. The Chestertown Glaucous Gull returned on Jan. 10 (Ruth Carroll) and was enjoyed by many visitors during the remainder of the winter. A record high total of 3 Glaucous Gulls was found on Richard Rowlett's Mar. 16 pelagic trip, 45 miles off Ocean City. See Mr. Rowlett's report on pages 51-56 of this issue for other pelagic sightings during this period. A lone Bonaparte's Gull at Seneca on Feb. 8 (Robert Warfield) is taken to be a winter stray although there is a possibility that it was an extremely early migrant that had been stimulated by the unseasonably warm weather; see Table 1 for the other dates turned in for this species. The Greater Black-backed Gull was found in all three months of this period in Denton in the center of the Delmarva Peninsula (Marvin Hewitt). At least 2 Little Gulls (adult and immature) were at Ocean City Inlet on Mar. 8 (Rowlett and many others). Three Royal Terns at Ocean City on Mar. 22 were four days ahead of the earliest State record (Parks).

Doves, Owls. A Mourning Dove, responding to the warm weather, was cooing as early as Jan. 4 at Laurel (Robbins). The Snowy Owl spotted on a TV antenna in the 1600 block of East Fort Avenue on Feb. 12 by Peggy Bohanan may well have been the same bird recorded by D. G. Jewell (*Maryland Birdlife* 31: 33). The Cambridge Snowy Owl that had been discovered in late December was last seen on Feb. 15 (Vaughn and Baltimore Chapter trip).

Eastern Phoebe. Wintering phoebes survived until at least Jan. 20 at Pylesville in northern Harford County (John Robinson) and Feb. 3 (2 birds) at Oldtown (Paulus). Spring arrivals were early, with the first birds noted in Charles County on Mar. 1 (Wilmots and Olive Sorzano) and Seneca on Mar. 2 (Warfield).

Swallows. Two winter records of swallows are without precedent: a Tree Swallow at the Potomac River rapids at Seneca on Jan. 26 (Robert Warfield), and a male Barn Swallow seen daily through Jan. 14 among buildings at the Veterans Hospital at Perry Point (Dr. Edgar Folk). Tree Swallows were found as early as Mar. 7 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Danny Bystrak), and the State median was 8 days ahead of normal (Table 1). March arrival dates for four other species of swallows were

received. A Bank Swallow report is withheld pending receipt of substantiating details; even though the season was well ahead of schedule in the latter part of March, a record-breaking date cannot be accepted without convincing details. The other three swallow species reported were as follows: Rough-winged Swallow seen first at Sandy Point State Park on Mar. 20, breaking the State record by two days (Hal Wierenga); Barn Swallow seen in Kent County on Mar. 23 (Margery Plymire and others); and Purple Martin at Denton on Mar. 22 (Roger Adams and Oliver Smith) and at Sandy Point on Mar. 23 (Wierenga and Mark Hoffman).

Ravens and Crows. For the first time in many years a couple of Northern Ravens wandered onto the Coastal Plain; 2 birds were found on Jan. 16 by Mr. and Mrs. Irving E. Hampe in their yard at Halethorpe in the Baltimore suburbs. In the St. Michaels area, Jan Reese estimated more than 500 Fish Crows were present on Feb. 9 and 200 on Mar. 11; this is far more than he has ever seen there before.

Thrushes, Waxwings. Hermit Thrushes wintered in exceptionally good numbers--even as far into the mountains as Oldtown, where Jim Paulus found 3 on Feb. 6. Cedar Waxwings were conspicuous throughout the winter in central and eastern Maryland, with flocks of 50 or more not being uncommon; one flock in Baltimore County was estimated to contain 300 individuals, and a single flock in the Middle Patuxent Floodplain at Columbia contained 309 birds by actual count (Robbins).

Warblers. A new species for mid-winter in Allegany County was a Western Palm Warbler in Jim Paulus' yard at Oldtown on Feb. 8 and Feb. 24 (Paulus and Napier Shelton); a good description of plumage and behavior was submitted. This warbler was seen again on Mar. 11 so it apparently survived the winter. A Feb. 25 date for Pine Warbler in Anne Arundel County (Hal Wierenga) probably represents a true record-breaking arrival rather than the late detection of a wintering bird; the mild winter, early spring, and especially the 70° temperature of the previous day coupled with moderate southwesterly winds and clear skies during the night created ideal conditions for migration. The earliest previous arrival record for Maryland was Mar. 1. The intervention of cool weather in mid-month delayed general arrival of this species until after the 20th, but by the weekend of Mar. 22-23 they were found in almost all parts of the State including Garrett County (Mrs. Cook).

Orioles, Finches and Sparrows. A banded male Northern Oriole spent its fourth winter at Mrs. Gladys Cole's feeding station in Towson, another was seen in Baltimore on Mar. 10 by Mrs. Alger Zapf, and a third at St. Michaels, Jan. 21-24, by Jan Reese. The only Dickcissels recorded were 2 birds on the feeder of James and Susan Tonascia in Baltimore on Mar. 10. House Finches wintered widely throughout the State and wandering birds made it difficult to determine the true start of spring migration; the best clue to the onset of migration came from Garrett County, where House Finches did not winter and where the first 2 arrivals appeared on Mar. 1 (Fran Pope). Quite out of place were 15 Vesper Sparrows at Lilypons on Jan. 12 (Robert and Peter Pyle).

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Society was active throughout the year in the field of general conservation. Individual members and Chapter officers attended numerous meetings and public hearings on environmental matters in all parts of the State. We cooperated with other organizations to save the heron rookery at Cabin John, and testimony was presented at hearings on the Assateague Wilderness, the Intra-coastal Waterway, and Off-road Vehicle Regulations. We were also officially represented at hearings on the revised Endangered Species bill and on a resolution to form a committee to study the funding of a State program of research on non-game wildlife. It is important that the Society obtain representation on the non-game wildlife committee and that we submit appropriate species for consideration for the Maryland endangered and threatened species lists.

*W. G. Bodenstein, Chairman*



## COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 1 WICOMICO Trip to Chincoteague Refuge, 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch.  
 1-2 BALTIMORE Irish Grove Weekend. Steve Hollens, leader.  
 1-2 MONTGOMERY Trip to Hawk Mountain, Pa. Ed Miller (965-5734).  
 4 BALTIMORE Meeting. "Life Listers," D. Holmes, F. Murdock. 8 pm  
 5 MONTGOMERY Meeting. Bald Eagle Nesting Survey, J. Abbott. 7:30.  
 8 BALTIMORE Trip to Lilypons and South Mt. S. Hollens (444-7987)  
 9 BALTIMORE Nature Photography Practicum. Cylburn, 1 p.m.  
 15 PATUXENT Trip to Agricultural Res. Center. R. Whitcomb. 8 am.  
 15 KENT Trip to Eastern Neck Nat'l Wildlife Refuge for swans.  
 16 BALTIMORE Trip to Gunpowder River at Phoenix. Meet RR Sta, 7 am.  
 19 TALBOT Meeting. "Birds of Peru," Dr. Robert Trever. 8 pm.  
 19 KENT Feeder Watch, Coffee.  
 20 TALBOT Audubon Film, "The Vanishing Eden," Stefan A. Kling.  
 20 CAROLINE Meeting. "Trip to w. U.S. & Hawaii," W. Hoopengardner.  
 20 MONTGOMERY Meeting. "Birds of East Africa" by Don Widman. 8 pm.  
 23 BALTIMORE Trip to Perry Pt. & Rock Run Sanctuary. 9 a.m.  
 23 MONTGOMERY Trip to Blackwater & Cambridge. Ted Oberman (365-1058)  
 24 WICOMICO Meeting. Film, "John Muir's High Sierra" Asbury Ch. 8.  
 25 PATUXENT Meeting. "New Zealand Birds" by Donald Messersmith.  
 25 WASHINGTON Meeting. "Bird Atlasing" by Kathleen Klimkiewicz.  
 29 BALTIMORE Trip to Druid Hill Park Zoo. Wm. Sladen. 8:30 a.m.  
 30 WICOMICO Trip to study sparrow chips. Charles Vaughn. 7:30am.  
 Dec. 15 BALTIMORE Audubon Film, "West Side Story" by Walter H. Berlet.  
 Dumbarton Jr. High, 7000 Bl. York Rd., Balto, 8 pm.  
 6 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Send \$20 to R. Rowlett, 715 Main, Laurel.  
 6 HOWARD Trip to local feeders. Nan Rhineland (286-2427), 8  
 6 MONTGOMERY Trip to Gude's Nursery & Harpers Ferry. 8-10 am. at  
 Gude's. Phone Ed Miller for details (202-965-5734).  
 6 PATUXENT Trip to Sandy Pt. Meet at Anglers, US 50, 8 a.m.  
 7 BALTIMORE Trip to Sandy Pt. Meet at Park gate, 9 a.m.  
 11 HOWARD Meeting. "Birds of Europe" by Bill Clark. Swans-  
 field Elementary School, Columbia, 7:45 p.m.

- Dec. 13 BALTIMORE Trip to Blackwater Refuge. Meet 9:30, Visitor Ctr.  
 18 MONTGOMERY Meeting. "Banding Studies at Adventure" by Mrs.  
 M. B. Donnal. Perpetual Bldg, Bethesda, 8 pm.

*CHRISTMAS COUNT SCHEDULE*

- 20 CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN Dr. John W. Richards, Emmitsburg 447-6243  
 20 DENTON A. J. Fletcher, Rt. 1, Box 201, Denton 479-1529  
 21 ST. MICHAELS Jan Reese, Box 298, St. Michaels 745-2875  
 21 GARRETT CO. Mrs. Fran Pope, 503 F St., Mt. Lake Park 334-4908  
 21 SENECA Dr. Wm. Oberman, 4100 W St., N.W., D.C. 333-6315  
 27 WASHINGTON CO. Mrs. Frances Cutchall, 1847 Va. Ave., Hg 733-5204  
 27 BALTIMORE Douglas Hackman, 3033 Woodside, Parkville 668-1464  
 27 ROCK RUN Dr. Edgar Folk, 1155 Ave A, Perry Point 642-6591  
 27 ALLEGANY CO. James Paulus, Box 35, Oldtown  
 27 CHINCOTEAGUE Fred R. Scott, 115 Kennondale, Richmd 804-282-2666  
 28 LOWER KENT Mrs. D. Mendinhal, RD 2, Chestertown 778-0826  
 28 ANNAPOLIS Hal Wierenga, 1216 Tyler Ave., Annapolis 268-1674  
 28 SALISBURY Charles Vaughn, 1306 Frederick, Salisbury 742-7221  
 29 OCEAN CITY C. S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Br.Rd, Laurel 725-1176  
 30 CRISFIELD Charles Vaughn, 1306 Frederick, Salisbury 742-7221  
 31 BLACKWATER C. S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Br.Rd, Laurel 725-1176
- Jan. 1 TRIADELPHIA Danny Bystrak, 582 Rita Dr., Odenton 672-4871  
 2 BOWIE Bob Patterson, 12601 Buckingham Dr, Bowie 262-2459  
 4 POINT LOOKOUT Ernest Willoughby, 7 Walnut Ct, Lexington Park  
 863-8316
- Jan. 3 BALTIMORE Trip to Bombay Hook & L. Creek. J. Stasz (235-5859)  
 6 BALTIMORE Meeting. Peregrine Falcons, Dr. F. Prescott Ward.  
 Cylburn, 8 p.m.  
 8 HOWARD Meeting, Swansfield Elementary School, Columbia, 7:45  
 10 BALTIMORE Trip to Zekiah Swamp. Leonard Teuber (1-248-5108)  
 10 CAROLINE Banding demonstration at residence of V. Edwin Unger,  
 West Central Ave., Denton, 8 a.m.  
 10 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Send \$20 to R. Rowlett, 715 Main, Laurel  
 Register early. This and other pelagic trips will  
 probably be oversubscribed!  
 10 KENT Feeder Watch, Coffee.  
 11 HOWARD Trip to Blackwater Refuge with Sierra Club. Phone  
 Dr. Robert Herndon for details (730-0942).  
 15 MONTGOMERY Annual Social. Members bring 4 or 5 birding slides.  
 16 CAROLINE Meeting. Indian artifacts, display and lecture by  
 Joe Reinhardt. Bring your own. Denton Library, 7:30.  
 17 PATUXENT Trip to Sandy Point for diving ducks. Paul Bystrak.  
 9th & Montgomery Sts., Laurel, 8 a.m.  
 18 BALTIMORE Covered Dish Supper, Cylburn, 5 pm. Phone 771-4781.  
 20? PATUXENT "Antarctica" by George Jonkel. St. Philips Parish  
 Hall, 6th & Main Sts., Laurel, 7:45 p.m.  
 24 KENT Trip to Delaware Museum of Natural History, Wilmington  
 24 BALTIMORE Trip to Eastern Neck Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Rock Hall.  
 Meet 9 am at bridge to Refuge. David Janes, Ref Mgr.  
 26 WICOMICO Meeting. Film, "Land of the Loon." Also fun with bird  
 calls. Asbury Methodist Church, Salisbury, 8 p.m.  
 27 WASHINGTON Meeting. Emma K. Doub School, 7:30 p.m.

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## MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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