

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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Cover: American Woodcock on nest at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, March 23, 1976. Photo by Brooke Meanley. See page 96.



## AN "INVASION" OF JAEGERS IN NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE BAY

*Hal Wierenga*

During the first four days of September, 1975, I observed at least one Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) and four Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) in the northern Chesapeake Bay off Anne Arundel County, Maryland, where to my knowledge, neither species had been previously recorded. A description of each sighting follows:

September 1 - On this second day of a three-day storm that featured east-northeast winds of 15-25 m.p.h., abnormally low temperatures (mid-60's), and nearly constant rainfall, Mark Hoffman and I observed a single Parasitic Jaeger flying from north to south over the beach at Sandy Point State Park at about 1 p.m. The bird passed directly overhead and within 25 yards, and clearly revealed its central tail feathers, which projected about a half inch and were obviously sharply pointed. The bird seemed appropriately slender, its white wing patches were conspicuous, its plumage was intermediate between the light and dark phases, and there was enough barring on the underside to indicate the bird was a sub-adult. Within five minutes, the bird had disappeared southward beyond the Bay Bridge.

About 45 minutes later, two more Parasitics arrived together from the north, flying very low to the water; they proceeded to circle slowly upward to about 150 yards directly over the tip of Sandy Point, then dropped quickly back to the water and headed rapidly east toward Kent Island. They were in sight for a total of about ten minutes. One of this pair appeared very dark, the other much lighter on the belly, and no barring was visible on either. While they were circling above the point, their tails were frequently fanned and again revealed slightly projecting central tail feathers which were definitely pointed "spikes."

September 3 - At about 3:30 p.m., while birding the easternmost edge of the Shady Side Peninsula, about 10 miles south of Annapolis, John W. Taylor, Jr. and I saw a well-barrred sub-adult Parasitic flying near the water's edge at a distance of only about 50 feet. The bird passed overhead once, clearly showing its projecting tail "spikes," and then promptly headed eastward toward open water. Presumably the same bird was then seen off and on for an hour and a half, habitually harassing Forster's (*Sterna forsteri*) and/or Common (*Sterna hirundo*) Terns well out over the Bay.

At about 6 p.m., I glimpsed a second, seemingly larger, jaeger harassing Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) not far offshore, but this bird quickly disappeared behind some nearby vegetation and was not seen again. The suspicion that it may have been a Pomarine prompted a return visit the next day.

September 4 - With my father, Harold Wierenga, and Mark Hoffman, Taylor and I returned to Shady Side in the afternoon. After a 2-hour wait, a jaeger appeared at about 4 p.m. well out over the Bay and proceeded to harass *Sterna* terns for the next hour or so. The distance was too great for positive identification, but I believe this bird was probably a Parasitic, and possibly the same one seen the day before. Then at about 5 p.m., another jaeger suddenly appeared over the Bay heading in toward shore, and it immediately struck us as being a larger and bulkier bird. It continued inland and joined a teeming flock of over 100 gulls gathering over a nearby marsh to feed on swarming insects. This action continued for over an hour, and the jaeger stayed right in with the gulls, snapping up flying insects and paying no attention to the gulls, or they to the jaeger. We were able to study the jaeger leisurely at all angles, in great light, and often well within 100 feet. It seemed about the size of the Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) in the flock; and from below, it was very heavily barred and its belly and throat were noticeably paler than its breast. Its central tail feathers projected slightly, and their tips were conspicuously broad and blunt. We all agreed this jaeger was an immature Pomarine.

The origin of these jaegers in the Bay is undoubtedly tied to the persistent east-northeast winds of the three-day storm, August 31 to September 2; but whether the birds were blown into the Bay at its mouth below Cape Charles, Virginia, or were blown from the Atlantic directly across the Delmarva Peninsula, or were intercepted during a southeasterly overland flight from the Great Lakes, is subject to conjecture.

The same questions arise concerning the occurrence of a normally pelagic Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) at Sandy Point on August 31 and September 1, and also the presence of unusually large numbers of Forster's, Common, and Royal (*Thalasseus maximus*) Terns in the Upper Bay during the same period. On September 1, about 560 Common Terns passed Sandy Point in small flocks of 10-70 individuals, all going northward. On both September 3 and 4 near Shady Side, there were about 125 Forster's, 30 Common, and 22 Royal Terns in the area. Thus, since jaegers are known to rely heavily on the successful robbing of gulls and terns for food, it seems possible that we were observing birds that were merely following storm-driven terns up the Bay, rather than jaegers that were actually blown in themselves.

Fully as difficult to explain was the occurrence of yet another jaeger, an unidentified "Pomasitic," at Sandy Point on July 12. Mark Hoffman, Elaine Cook, and I watched the bird glide past the point about 50 yards high and 150 yards inland, then drop down to the water and disappear northward. Its plumage was heavily barred and very

"splotchy," obviously an immature; no projecting tail feathers were noticed. Based on its flight, build, and very prominent white wing patches, I felt this was probably a young Pomarine, but could not be certain. No unusual weather seems to explain this bird's mid-summer appearance in the area.

In summary, this note is intended to describe the occurrence of at least six jaegers of two species in a portion of the Chesapeake Bay well north of any previous sightings. Away from the Atlantic coast or open ocean, there appear to have been only two previous jaeger records in Maryland, both just above the Virginia state line: a hurricane-driven adult Pomarine on October 2, 1971, at Irish Grove Sanctuary on Pocomoke Sound, Somerset County, by Chandler S. Robbins (Robbins, 1972); and another Pomarine on January 12, 1929, on the Potomac River in Prince Georges County by H. C. Oberholser (Stewart and Robbins, 1958). It seems reasonable to conclude that increased searching of the Chesapeake, particularly under stormy conditions and in the vicinity of large concentrations of gulls and terns, will likely prove jaegers, and even perhaps other pelagic species, to be more frequent visitors than past records indicate.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Robbins, C. S. 1972. The season--October, November, December, 1971. *Maryland Birdlife* 28(1):36.
- Stewart, R. E. and Robbins, C. S. 1958. Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. *North American Fauna* 62:156.

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## SWALLOW-TAILED KITE NEAR CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

*Brooke Meanley*

A Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) was observed by Peter J. Van Huizen and me on May 20, 1976, approximately 4 miles southeast of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The exact location was at the junction of Bucktown and Indian Bone Roads. This is the second record for Dorchester County, where one was first seen at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge by Larry A. Dunkeson and William H. Julian on May 31, 1972 and was last sighted on June 11, 1972 (Julian, *Md. Birdlife* 28:104).

Other recent Maryland records were of birds seen at Pocomoke Swamp, Worcester County by M. Cottrell *et al.*, May 10, 1969 (Robbins, *Maryland Birdlife* 25:97); and at LaVale, Allegany County, August 17, 1974 to September 19, 1974 by Billy Malec, Kendrick Y. Hodgdon and others (Hodgdon, *Maryland Birdlife* 30:137). Also, there are three Maryland records from the latter part of the 1800's (Stewart and Robbins, *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, 1958).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel 20811

## AUDUBON'S WARBLER SEEN IN MARYLAND

*Josephine Walker*

At his lecture on Warblers to the Montgomery County Chapter, Chandler Robbins mentioned that there was no documented record for Maryland of the Audubon's race of Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*). I have therefore prepared this field note from my journal. For convenience, I use the 1959 names.

On April 4, 1959 I was birding with Mr. H. G. Norment along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal in the Cabin John area of Montgomery County, Maryland. We found a flock of Myrtle Warblers (*D. coronata*) busily feeding, and began examining them one by one in hopes of finding other species with them. I spotted one apparent Myrtle Warbler in full breeding plumage, but was puzzled by its bright yellow throat. I pointed the bird out to Mr. Norment and we both studied it carefully for over ten minutes at a range of 25 feet or less, as it fed in the twigs with the Myrtles. Our views could not have been better and the light was very good. We agreed that we were seeing a warbler that appeared to be a Myrtle except that it had a bright yellow throat patch.

We both "remembered" something about Myrtles with yellow throats, but Peterson's eastern field guide had no picture of such a bird. His text on the Myrtle does not even mention Audubon's Warbler. (I have since found that he does mention the Audubon's in Appendix I, Accidentals. Since we did not know the name of the yellow-throated species, we did not discover this reference, which would have been helpful.)

During the next several days I checked my books on western birds and was convinced that we had seen an Audubon's Warbler (*D. auduboni*). Meanwhile Mr. Norment had checked the books in the Public Library and telephoned me to say that he too was certain that our bird was an Audubon's Warbler. Thus we had independently reached the same conclusion as to the identity of our bird.

In the July-September 1959 issue of the *Atlantic Naturalist* 14: 202 in "Birds of the Season" (edited by Edwin G. Davis), I found this entry: "Audubon's Warbler - 1 4/4 Cabin John (HGN, JW), well observed in Myrtle flock."

Specimens of Audubon's Warbler have been taken in the Northeast at Watertown, Mass., Nov. 15, 1876 (Frazar, *Bull. Nuttall Orn. Club* 2:27); Ipswich, Mass., Jan. 2, 1939 (Griscom and Snyder, *Birds of Massachusetts*, 1955); Chester County, Pa., Nov. 8, 1889 (Warren, B. H., *Report on the Birds of Pennsylvania*, 2nd Ed., 1890); and Lititz, Pa., Jan. 16, 1954 (Potter and Murray, *Audubon Field Notes* 8:242, 1954).

## BLACK SKIMMERS IN DORCHESTER COUNTY

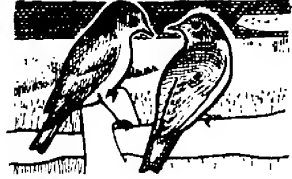
Henry T. Armistead

On the morning of June 21, 1976, while driving south on Shorter's Wharf Road within Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge the writer saw a flock of seven Black Skimmers (*Rhynchops niger*) fly across the road directly in front of the car. This was at the first section of this road south of fast land where there is open marsh on both sides. This is the first Dorchester County record for skimmers. Their presence here might perhaps be explained by a Bermuda high that came into the area for several days prior to June 21 with strong southerly winds. These winds were strong enough to prevent the writer from taking a boat trip to the Bay islands and may also have displaced the skimmers from areas farther south on the Bay where in recent years they have occurred regularly. The skimmers were flying southeast directly into the wind, which continued strong through the rest of the day and for several days afterward.

On July 3, 1976, the writer and James Freeman saw two Black Skimmers at rest on southwestern Holland Island in extreme southern Dorchester County. A bar at this point of the island extends into the Bay and is favored by resting waterbirds. In this attractive area we flushed a female Gadwall, which acted as if it had flown from a nest; and in company with the skimmers we saw three American Oystercatchers, 10 Greater Black-backed Gulls, 65 Herring Gulls, 355 Laughing Gulls, 50 Forster's and Common Terns, 6 Royal Terns, and a Black Tern. Several of the Herring Gulls wheeled overhead crying in a manner similar to the way they do at breeding colonies. But, as with the Gadwall, a search of the bar failed to reveal definite nesting evidence.

Skimmer records in Dorchester County are overdue. Jan G. Reese (Birds of Eastern Bay and Choptank River Regions, in preparation) describes it as rare; he lists several spring, summer, and fall records in Talbot County. There are several recent May records at Sandy Point State Park (*American Birds* 30:825), as well as several previous Anne Arundel County records. In recent years the author has seen skimmers in Somerset County, including single birds at Deal Island (May 27, 1973, June 13, 1973, and June 8, 1974), a group of up to 76 at Smith Island (June 19-22, 1975), and 75 at Great Point, near Crisfield (October 2, 1976).

On Little Fox Island, just across the State line in Virginia, Reed Huppman found three Black Skimmer nests in 1976 (two on June 25 and an additional one on July 9). This is the first Chesapeake Bay breeding record. Huppman also reported up to 146 in late June 1976 at nearby Clump Island, Virginia (*vide* Fred R. Scott, *pers. comm.*). Skimmers would appear to be on the increase in the lower Bay area.



## THE SEASON

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 1976

*Chandler S. Robbins*

Ironically, the warmest weather of this three-month period in the Baltimore area fell on April 16-21, when the mercury ranged up to 90-95° for six consecutive days. Cumberland also broke 90° for the same six days, and observers throughout the State polished up their binoculars and went afield in search of record-breaking arrival dates. A cooling trend followed for the next week, and from then on the migration seemed very ordinary. Day-to-day temperatures varied little throughout May and the usual big waves of migrants did not appear. We anticipated that the cool weather of late May would produce some late departure records in June; but, on the contrary, even species such as the Blue Jay and Black-poll Warbler that we expect to find migrating in early June were almost unreported in that month. Observers in search of June migrants had to be satisfied with shorebirds, which were migrating throughout the month.

The earliest arrival and latest departure dates reported are summarized by county in Tables 1 and 2, with the counties arranged as usual from northwest to southeast. The following observers contributed the great majority of the migration dates: Garrett County--Frances Pope, Dorothea Malec, Sheila Hughes, Kendrick Y. Hodgdon; Allegany--James Paulus, Dorothea Malec, John Willetts; Washington--Dan Boone, H. Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Cutchall, R. Keedy, Alice Mallonee; Frederick--Barbara Lund, Dan Boone, R. Rowlett, John Richards; Carroll--Steve Hardiman, Spike Morningstar; Baltimore City and County--Bob Ringler, Peggy Bohanan, Steve Hardiman, Joe Schreiber; Harford--John Wortman, Chuck Graham; Howard--Joanne Solem, Rosamond Munro, V. Krishnamoorthy, David Holmes, C. S. Robbins, Chuck Dupree; Montgomery--Margaret Donald, Barbara Lund, Herbert Douglas, Robert Warfield, Nancy and Lucy MacClintock, John Weske, Richard Rowlett, Paul Dumont; Prince Georges--C. S. Robbins, Herbert Douglas, Sam Droege, Chuck Dupree, Danny Bystrak, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Brooke Meanley, Elwood Martin, Cameron Kepler; Anne Arundel--Mark Hoffman, Danny Bystrak, Hal Wierenga, Joe Schreiber; Charles--George and Andrew Wilmot, Olive Sorzano, Leonard Teuber; Calvert--John Fales, Jan Reese; Kent--Floyd Parks, Dorothy Mendinhall, Margery Plymire, Arline Delario, Jim Gruber, John Wheatley; Caroline--Marvin Hewitt, Ethel Engle, Roberta Fletcher, Alicia Knotts; Talbot--Jan Reese, H. Armistead; Dorchester--Harry and Liz Armistead, Floyd Parks; Somerset--Charles Vaughn, Mel Garland, Paul Bystrak, Charles Hills; Wicomico--Charles Vaughn, Dave Saveikis; Worcester--Kathy Klimkiewicz, C. Vaughn, Nancy and Lucy MacClintock, Mary Humphreys, Richard Rowlett, Barbara Lund.









Table 2. Latest Spring Departure Dates, 1976

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Worc
	10-yr	1976																
Common Loon	5/ 9	5/ 4	5/31	5/19	4/19	4/21	4/27	--	--	5/ 5	5/26	4/15	--	5/ 8	0	5/ 2	5/ 1	5/ 9
Horned Grebe	--	5/ 1	4/ 6	5/ 1	--	0	5/ 3	0	--	5/ 8	4/18	5/ 1	4/14	4/21	0	5/14	5/ 1	5/ 9
Double-cr. Cormorant	--	5/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/25	5/22	--	--	5/ 5	5/24	0	5/ 9
Whistling Swan	4/21	4/18	3/15	0	4/17	0	5/12	0	--	4/29	4/18	--	4/17	5/ 1	--	4/17	--	--
Canada Goose	4/30	5/ 1	3/11	--	--	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/ 1	5/21	5/ 1	3/ 7	5/31	5/ 1	4/17	5/ 1	5/ 8
Common Pintail	--	--	3/ 5	0	--	0	0	0	--	--	3/ 5	3/14	0	4/18	--	--	--	--
Green-winged Teal	--	4/24	0	--	--	0	0	--	--	4/24	4/13	0	0	5/ 1	4/ 6	--	5/ 1	--
American Wigeon	--	4/16	4/26	--	--	--	3/20	3/20	--	--	4/15	4/19	3/21	--	4/18	4/ 5	--	--
Northern Shoveler	--	4/ 8	4/ 1	5/ 7	0	0	3/13	0	--	4/ 8	2/17	5/ 3	0	4/22	--	0	--	--
Ring-necked Duck	--	4/16	5/ 1	--	--	0	4/ 6	--	--	5/ 8	4/14	4/23	0	4/ 5	4/16	--	--	--
Canvasback	--	4/17	4/28	0	--	0	--	5/ 2	--	3/19	3/20	3/21	4/12	4/28	--	4/17	--	5/ 9
Lesser Scaup	5/ 2	4/26	5/ 7	--	--	0	4/ 4	--	--	3/19	4/25	4/10	--	4/28	5/22	4/24	5/ 1	5/ 8
Common Goldeneye	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	3/21	5/ 1	--	4/28	--	--	--	--
Bufflehead	--	5/ 2	5/31	0	--	0	4/27	6/ 8	--	--	5/ 1	4/15	--	4/28	--	5/ 2	5/ 8	5/ 8
Oldsquaw	--	4/30	4/26	5/ 1	--	0	5/ 1	0	--	--	5/ 1	--	4/ 4	4/28	0	4/24	--	5/ 1
Ruddy Duck	--	4/28	5/ 1	5/ 3	5/23	0	4/19	--	5/ 1	4/18	3/22	--	4/ 1	5/ 1	4/21	4/24	--	5/ 8
Hooded Merganser	--	4/22	4/ 6	--	--	0	5/ 1	0	--	--	4/22	5/ 1	0	4/ 6	--	0	--	0
Common Merganser	--	4/ 4	3/11	5/ 1	4/ 6	0	3/ 6	0	5/ 1	0	0	4/ 4	--	2/16	--	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	--	5/ 4	5/ 8	5/ 1	4/10	0	--	0	5/ 1	5/12	5/ 1	0	--	0	0	5/24	--	5/ 8
American Coot	5/ 4	5/ 3	5/ 8	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	5/18	5/20	5/ 9	5/14	5/ 3	4/16	4/17	--	5/ 9
Semipalmated Plover	--	5/31	0	6/ 3	5/22	0	6/ 4	0	0	0	6/10	0	0	5/28	--	5/22	6/20	5/15
Black-bellied Plover	--	5/23	--	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	6/22	0	0	5/23	0	5/22	6/ 6	5/ 9
Greater Yellowlegs	5/ 8	5/ 8	5/ 9	0	5/18	5/ 8	5/ 1	5/ 3	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/29	5/10	0	5/ 9	5/ 1	--	--	5/ 9
Lesser Yellowlegs	--	5/ 9	--	5/ 9	5/23	5/ 8	5/ 4	--	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/25	5/15	--	5/22	5/ 1	0	--	5/ 9
Solitary Sandpiper	5/12	5/10	5/ 9	5/23	5/10	5/ 8	5/18	5/25	5/14	5/ 8	5/15	5/ 8	--	5/ 9	--	0	0	5/ 9
Spotted Sandpiper	--	5/25	5/26	--	6/ 6	6/ 4	6/ 9	5/25	5/14	5/ 8	5/29	5/23	--	--	5/12	--	--	5/ 9
Common Snipe	5/ 2	5/ 2	5/17	5/ 1	5/ 2	5/ 8	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/ 2	5/ 1	4/15	5/ 7	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	5/ 8
Semipalmated Sandpiper	--	5/20	5/ 1	6/ 3	5/29	5/ 8	5/18	0	0	--	6/23	0	0	5/ 7	--	5/22	6/ 6	5/ 8
Least Sandpiper	--	5/20	5/17	6/ 3	5/12	6/ 4	5/25	--	0	5/ 8	6/ 4	--	0	5/22	--	5/18	--	5/ 9
Pectoral Sandpiper	--	5/ 2	0	0	--	5/ 8	5/ 1	5/ 9	0	0	5/ 3	0	0	0	5/ 1	0	5/ 1	0
White-rumped Sandpiper	--	6/ 6	0	6/ 3	6/ 6	0	0	0	0	0	6/14	0	0	5/28	0	0	6/20	0
Dunlin	--	5/22	0	5/25	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/22	0	0	0	0	5/22	5/ 1	5/ 9
Greater Black-back Gull	--	5/ 1	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	4/ 1	5/30	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	--	--	5/ 9
Ring-billed Gull	--	5/19	5/31	5/ 9	4/17	0	5/28	--	5/22	5/19	5/30	5/ 1	5/29	6/ 6	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	5/ 9
Bonaparte's Gull	--	5/ 4	5/ 1	5/ 9	--	0	4/ 5	0	--	5/ 6	5/30	0	--	--	0	4/24	4/ 4	5/ 9
Black-billed Cuckoo	--	--	--	0	0	0	--	0	--	5/ 8	--	0	0	5/15	--	0	0	5/29
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	4/24	4/24	0	--	5/ 1	--	4/18	5/14	4/17	5/ 1	5/ 1	4/15	--	--	4/17	--	--	--
Olive-sided Flycatcher	--	--	5/30	0	5/23	0	0	0	5/26	0	0	0	0	5/24	0	0	0	0
Blue Jay	5/14	--	--	--	6/ 6	--	5/18	5/28	--	--	7/ 7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Black-capped Chickadee	--	--	--	--	--	--	3/13	--	4/17	4/ 5	0	0	0	4/14	0	0	0	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	--	5/ 1	--	--	--	--	--	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	--	4/24	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	--	--
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5/ 4	5/ 3	5/ 9	5/31	5/ 6	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 2	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/ 1	--	--	5/ 3	5/ 1	4/17	--	5/ 9
Brown Creeper	4/22	5/ 1	5/ 9	--	5/ 1	--	4/15	4/ 8	5/ 2	--	4/15	5/ 1	--	--	--	--	--	5/ 8

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Worc
	10-yr	1976																
Winter Wren	4/26	4/14	5/ 1	4/ 8	--	--	4/13	4/14	4/19	5/ 1	4/24	4/11	4/14	--	--	--	--	--
Hermit Thrush	4/28	5/ 6	5/ 9	--	--	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/23	5/ 8	--	4/15	5/ 3	5/17	4/24	--	--	5/ 8
Swainson's Thrush	5/24	5/25	5/25	--	--	5/15	5/25	5/23	5/31	6/ 5	5/27	5/24	5/ 7	5/28	0	0	--	--
Gray-cheeked Thrush	--	--	0	0	0	0	5/16	5/13	5/31	--	0	5/16	--	0	0	0	0	--
Veery	5/17	5/23	5/22	--	--	0	6/ 1	5/12	5/26	--	5/27	5/15	5/24	5/17	--	0	0	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4/11	4/15	5/ 1	--	--	--	4/14	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	4/15	4/11	4/13	--	--	--	--	--
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5/ 2	5/ 1	5/ 9	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 2	5/ 8	5/ 9	5/ 2	5/ 3	5/ 1	4/14	--	--	--
Water Pipit	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	0	5/ 2	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	0	5/ 7	5/ 1	0	4/29	5/ 1	0	0	--
Cedar Waxwing	5/21	5/28	--	--	--	0	5/25	--	--	5/24	5/26	5/31	--	6/ 1	--	5/31	--	--
Solitary Vireo	--	5/ 1	--	0	--	0	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/ 3	0	0	0	5/ 1	0	0	5/ 8
Blue-winged Warbler	5/ 8	5/18	0	0	5/23	--	5/25	--	5/15	5/ 9	5/20	0	0	5/13	--	0	0	--
Tennessee Warbler	--	5/23	5/23	5/14	5/23	--	5/25	5/26	5/26	5/20	5/26	--	5/18	--	0	0	0	0
Nashville Warbler	--	--	5/22	0	5/18	0	5/15	5/16	--	--	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0
Magnolia Warbler	5/19	5/24	--	5/20	5/23	0	6/ 1	--	5/31	5/19	5/19	5/24	0	5/28	5/24	0	0	--
Cape May Warbler	5/10	5/10	5/19	0	5/23	0	5/25	--	--	5/ 8	5/13	5/ 8	--	5/ 8	--	0	0	5/ 8
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	5/14	5/22	--	--	5/23	0	5/25	--	5/23	5/13	5/20	5/18	--	5/15	5/27	0	0	5/ 9
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5/10	5/15	5/10	5/ 6	5/23	5/15	5/18	5/11	5/23	5/16	5/15	5/18	5/15	5/14	--	--	--	5/ 9
Black-thr. Green Warbler	5/11	5/ 8	--	--	5/23	--	5/25	--	--	5/ 4	4/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/ 8
Blackburnian Warbler	5/20	5/20	--	--	5/23	0	5/25	5/20	--	5/18	5/15	0	0	0	5/22	0	0	--
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/13	5/18	--	--	5/23	--	5/ 8	5/23	5/14	5/13	5/15	0	--	5/28	5/20	0	0	--
Bay-breasted Warbler	--	5/24	5/24	0	5/23	0	5/25	0	5/25	5/18	5/16	0	5/24	5/17	0	0	0	0
Blackpoll Warbler	5/28	5/30	5/29	--	5/23	--	6/ 2	5/28	5/31	6/ 1	6/10	5/31	6/ 1	5/26	5/27	0	0	5/ 9
PalM Warbler	5/ 4	5/ 1	5/ 1	0	0	--	4/21	5/ 1	5/ 9	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/ 5	--	4/23	0	0	0	0
Ovenbird	--	5/23	--	--	5/23	--	5/30	--	--	5/31	5/10	--	--	5/ 7	--	--	--	--
Northern Waterthrush	5/17	5/20	--	5/20	5/13	--	5/25	--	5/27	5/20	5/20	--	--	5/13	5/13	0	0	5/ 9
Mourning Warbler	--	--	5/23	0	--	0	--	0	5/28	6/ 1	0	0	0	0	5/31	0	0	0
Wilson's Warbler	5/20	5/25	5/25	5/20	5/23	0	6/ 1	0	5/25	5/12	5/26	0	0	5/28	--	--	0	0
Canada Warbler	5/20	5/26	--	--	5/31	0	5/25	0	5/31	5/27	5/26	5/24	5/24	5/15	5/26	0	0	0
American Redstart	5/27	5/31	--	--	5/31	--	5/30	5/23	5/31	--	6/ 3	5/31	--	--	5/25	--	--	--
Bobolink	5/16	5/24	--	0	5/23	5/15	--	--	0	--	5/26	0	5/18	5/31	0	5/31	--	0
Rusty Blackbird	5/ 5	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	4/17	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	4/18	5/ 1	5/11	--	--	--	--	--	5/ 1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/12	5/19	--	--	5/23	0	5/25	--	--	5/23	5/23	5/15	5/10	5/14	--	0	0	5/ 9
Evening Grosbeak	5/ 6	5/ 4	5/25	5/ 9	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/ 1	5/ 4	5/14	5/ 7	4/24	--	4/29	--	--	5/ 8
Purple Finch	5/ 3	5/ 6	5/23	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 6	5/12	5/ 1	5/ 5	5/20	4/12	--	5/14	--	0	--	5/ 9
House Finch	--	5/ 1	0	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	5/12	5/ 1	--	5/ 8	5/ 1	0	3/18	4/23	--	--	0	--
Pine Siskin	--	5/ 4	0	5/31	5/10	4/19	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 6	5/17	5/ 9	--	5/17	5/ 1	5/ 2	0	--
Red Crossbill	--	5/31	5/31	6/ 4	0	0	0	0	5/ 2	5/23	0	0	0	0	5/31	5/31	6/ 6	5/29
Savannah Sparrow	5/ 6	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	5/ 2	5/ 8	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 8	5/20	5/ 1	--	5/10	5/ 1	--	5/ 1	5/ 8
Northern Junco	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	4/30	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 8	4/25	4/24	4/14	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	--	--
White-crowned Sparrow	5/13	5/ 8	5/17	--	5/12	5/ 8	5/26	5/ 1	5/ 8	--	5/ 5	--	--	5/ 5	5/ 5	0	--	5/ 8
White-throated Sparrow	5/14	5/12	5/ 5	5/ 8	5/10	5/ 8	5/31	5/14	5/21	5/18	5/17	5/15	--	5/ 7	5/13	--	5/ 1	5/ 8
Fox Sparrow	4/ 4	4/11	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	--	4/11	5/ 1	--	3/24	3/14	--	0	3/25	--	--	--	--
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	--	5/13	0	0	0	5/25	--	5/26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	5/ 7	5/10	--	5/ 1	5/ 1	--	5/18	5/14	5/25	5/10	5/17	5/ 1	--	5/ 9	--	--	--	5/ 9

September 1976

MARYLAND BIRDLIST

Loons and Grebes. Between Apr. 14 and June 3, Jan Reese made six early morning (sunrise to 9 a.m.) boat trips up Chesapeake Bay from the mouth of the Patuxent River to the mouth of the Patapsco. He had a peak count of 237 Common Loons on Apr. 14, followed by a gradual decline to 1 individual on May 19. In comparison with his seasonal total of 291 Common Loons, he had a total of 11 Red-throated Loons (with a peak of 5 on Apr. 22) and 36 Horned Grebes (all on Apr. 14). At Benoni Point on the Choptank River near Oxford, Reese detected a single Red-necked Grebe in a flock of 5 Horned Grebes on Apr. 17. Red-throated Loons are rarely found in Maryland in summer; one in winter plumage at Poplar Island, Talbot County, on June 25 may have been an injured bird (Reese). A single Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was at Sandy Point State Park on June 16-18 (Mark Hoffman).

Fulmars, Shearwaters and Petrels. Richard Rowlett's famous pelagic trips off Ocean City continued to produce new and interesting records, some of which will be written up in more detail by him. On the Convention trip on May 9 the 17 observers went all the way to Baltimore Canyon, 60-65 miles east of Ocean City, where they encountered an amazing total of 48 Northern Fulmars and an estimated 1,700 Wilson's Storm Petrels. Our failure to find the latter species on previous Convention trips is most likely because we did not go far enough out to sea rather than the earliness of the Convention date. Paul DuMont was the only observer on board to detect a single Leach's Storm Petrel among the Wilson's. On Richard's May 16 pelagic trip only 300 Wilson's Storm Petrels were found, but 13 Sooty Shearwaters were sighted.

Gannets and Frigatebird. The offshore count of Northern Gannets dropped from 230 on Apr. 11 to 2 on May 9 (Rowlett). A Magnificent Frigatebird, the fourth record for Maryland, was seen on Apr. 14 over a tidal gut off Route 611 near Ocean City by Dale Brown, who is very familiar with this species in Florida and the Bahamas. Richard Rowlett, who investigated and reported the observation, pointed out that this "all black" bird could not have been the same individual as the white-plumaged bird that turned up at Chincoteague, Va. in mid-May.

Hérons and Ibis. The usual sprinkling of southern herons wandered north and west of their nesting grounds, as follows: Little Blue Heron west to Allegany County, May 1 (Statewide Bird Count), Cattle Egret west to Seneca on May 2 (Paul DuMont) and Howard County, May 3 (Rosamond Munro), Great Egret to Washington County on May 16 (Boone), Snowy Egret north to Baltimore County on Apr. 13 (Bob Ringler), and Glossy Ibis north to Anne Arundel County, Apr. 2-29 (Mark Hoffman), Kent County on May 14 (Parks), and Tanyard in Caroline County, Apr. 6-14 (Ethel Engle). Elwood Martin found a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Anne Arundel County near the Bowie race track as early as Apr. 11, and Barbara Lund observed one at Noland's Ferry in Frederick County on Apr. 18. Least Bitterns were found on the record-early date of Apr. 4 at both Sandy Point State Park (Hoffman, Hal Wierenga and Scott Mele) and Dorchester County (2 birds, Floyd Parks). One pair remained to nest at Sandy Point. On May 30, Charles Hills saw an American Bittern south of Irish Grove Sanctuary, suggesting once again that this species may be nesting on the Sanctuary.

Geese. There were three reports of late geese in Maryland. Two late Brant were at Ocean City on May 15 (Hoffman); an adult Snow Goose was at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on May 22 (Armistead); and an immature White-fronted Goose, the first to be seen in Prince Georges County, was found at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center early on May 10 (Elwood Martin) and remained throughout the day (Bob Munro and many others).

Ducks. Jan Reese's Chesapeake Bay boat transect on Apr. 22 disclosed a flock of more than 25,000 White-winged Scoters rafted off Sharp's Island, Talbot County, on Apr. 22. His highest counts for the other scoters were 5 Surfs on Apr. 29 and 222 Black Scoters on Apr. 14. On Apr. 24 and Apr. 30, Danny Bystrak watched large flocks of White-winged Scoters, possibly totaling 1,000 birds per day, migrating north over Sandy Point. Fran Pope had a high tally of 75 Red-breasted Mergansers on Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County on Apr. 6. Late dates for waterfowl stragglers were: Canvasback on June 14 at Sandy Point (Hoffman), Bufflehead on May 31 at Deep Creek Lake (Mrs. Pope), Ruddy Duck on May 23 at Leitersburg in Washington County (Boone), and Red-breasted Merganser on May 24 in Talbot County (flock of 4 flying north, Reese).

Hawks and Eagles. Guy Willey reported that an immature Golden Eagle remained into early May at Blackwater Refuge. Charles Hills saw a pair of Northern Harriers at Deal Island and a single at Irish Grove Sanctuary, all on May 30. We still await confirmation of breeding in Somerset County. Single Peregrine Falcons flying directly from south to north and assumed to be migrating were seen on Apr. 14 three miles offshore from the Calvert Cliffs Power Plant and also at the mouth of the Patapsco River (Reese), and at Blackwater Refuge on the record-breaking date of May 22 (Armistead).

Rails and Gallinules. Soras were scarce this spring (Armistead), but Hills heard 2 on May 30 at Irish Grove where they have not been known to nest. He heard a Black Rail there at 11 p.m. the same evening. At Elliott Island, Mark Hoffman broke the arrival date for Black Rails when he heard 2 on Apr. 23. On the next night Rowlett counted 6 individuals between 9:30 p.m. and 2 a.m., and he had a Yellow Rail as a bonus. An even earlier Yellow Rail had been heard on Apr. 16 and 17 at Sandy Point State Park by Hal Wierenga and Mark Hoffman. Common Gallinules nested at Sandy Point, where 3 downy young were first seen on June 23 (Hoffman).

Plovers. Semipalmated Plovers were sighted in nine counties between the dates of Apr. 19 (Sandy Point by Hoffman) and June 20 (Dorchester County); a total of 37 birds in Southern Dorchester County on May 8 was a new high for Armistead in this county. In Garrett County, Fran Pope found a Black-bellied Plover in a plowed field near Deep Creek Lake on Apr. 27. At the opposite end of Maryland, Mark Hoffman, Dan Boone, Peter Pyle and Phil Stoddard counted 120 Semipalmated, 55 Piping, and 12 Wilson's Plovers on the north end of Assateague Island on May 15, and located a Wilson's Plover nest with 3 eggs.

Sandpipers. The American Woodcock on the cover of this issue had 4 fresh eggs on Mar. 23 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel (Brooke Meanley). Early arrivals of note included a Willet on Apr. 7 at Sandy Point State Park (Hoffman), a Least Sandpiper at Sandy Point on Apr. 13 (Hoffman), a White-rumped Sandpiper near Sharpsburg in Washington County on the State-record date of Apr. 30 (Boone), a Pectoral Sandpiper in Dorchester County on Mar. 29 (Armistead), and a Stilt Sandpiper at Worton, Kent County, on May 7 (Parks). Nine Whimbrels on May 22 at Todd's Point on the Choptank River 5 miles west of Cambridge were unusual for Dorchester County (Reese and David Krantz). There were more spring records of White-rumped Sandpipers in Maryland than ever before; extreme dates reported for the various localities were as follows: Sharpsburg, Apr. 30 to June 6 (Boone); Sandy Point State Park, May 4 to June 14 (Hoffman); Worton, May 7 to 28 (Parks); Rouge Lagoon, Oldtown, May 16 to June 3 with 5 birds on May 25 (Paulus); Blackwater Refuge, May 22 (13 birds) to June 20 (Armistead); and Irish Grove Sanctuary and Deal Island, May 30 (Hills, Vaughn and Droege). Other local rarities were 8 Willetts at Broadford Reservoir on May 1 (second Garrett County record--Fran Pope), a Ruddy Turnstone at Deal Island on May 30 (Charles Hills and others), and a Red Knot at Sandy Point on May 20 (Wierenga). There must have been a good migration of shorebirds up Chesapeake Bay the evening of May 22; Harry Armistead took an after-dinner stroll to the edge of the Bay and identified Short-billed Dowitchers and Dunlins (both new species for his Bellevue property) as well as Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plover in two passing flocks of mixed shorebirds. The next evening the Ruddy Turnstone became species number 227 for the Armistead estate. Sandy Point observers had the usual problem of trying to distinguish spring departures from fall arrivals. The last of a string of June observations of Western Sandpipers was made on June 22, breaking the State departure record (Wierenga); Semipalmated Sandpipers on June 23 are considered late spring migrants, and 2 observed on July 1 probably were also, although the fall arrivals occurred on July 11 this year as compared with July 10 in 1975 (Hoffman). The Short-billed Dowitcher is one of the earliest fall arriving species, generally reaching Maryland the last week of June or first few days of July; if a lone bird seen at Sandy Point on June 16 (Hoffman) was indeed a south-bound individual, we may have had a two-week overlap between north-bound and south-bound shorebirds. After an absence of more than a month, Spotted Sandpipers returned to Sandy Point on June 27, breaking the fall arrival date for that common species (Hoffman).

Phalaropes. Since phalaropes have been reclassified into the sandpiper family they really should have been discussed in the previous long paragraph; but I prefer to give them more emphasis by discussing them separately. There were three records of single Wilson's Phalaropes. The first was an early bird photographed at Oldtown on May 3 and reported in a separate note by James Paulus; the other two were at Sandy Point State Park on May 21 and the State record date of June 16-17 (Hoffman, Wierenga and Mele). Six Red Phalaropes and an estimated 1,000 Northern Phalaropes were seen about 55 miles east of Ocean City on Rowlett's May 9 pelagic trip, but only 20 Northerns were found on May 16.



Stilts and Avocets. A Black-necked Stilt was seen at Deal Island Wildlife Management Area on May 30 and described in detail (Hills, Vaughn, Droege, and Sharon Gorham). And on June 27 there was a pair of American Avocets at Fairmount Wildlife Management Area, observed for an hour by Armistead. Both of these State areas deserve more scrutiny from birders.

Skuas and Jaegers. A single skua (identified only to genus) was sighted on the Apr. 11 pelagic trip, and there were 2 on the unprecedented late date of May 9 (Rowlett and many others). On the latter trip single Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were identified, and on the May 16 trip there were 2 Pominines (State departure record) and 1 Parasitic (Rowlett and party).

Gulls. Jan Reese's periodic transects up Chesapeake Bay from the mouth of the Patuxent to the mouth of the Patapsco showed a peak of 9,372 Herring Gulls and 3,293 Ring-billed Gulls on Apr. 22, with the greatest concentration in the Patapsco River; with them, at the mouth of Rock Creek, was an adult Iceland Gull. Bonaparte's Gulls declined from 169 birds on Apr. 14 to 52 on May 5 and 2 on May 19 (Reese). The prize bird was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull off Sparrows Point, Patapsco River, on Apr. 14, together with 4 other species of gulls and 4 species of terns (Reese). Another Lesser Black-back, an advanced subadult, was at Sandy Point State Park on May 1 (Paul DuMont, Hal Wierenga, and others) and May 14 (State record, David Abbott, Danny Bystrak, and others). Black-legged Kittiwakes departed early, with only a single bird found off Ocean City on Apr. 11 (Rowlett).

Terns and Skimmers. Terns returned to the Bay very early this year: Forster's at Sandy Point State Park on Mar. 21 (Hal Wierenga) and 3 Caspians there on Apr. 4 (Hoffman and Wierenga), Common, Little, and Royal (!) off Sparrows Point on Apr. 14 (Reese), another Royal at Sandy Point on Apr. 18 (Hoffman and Wierenga), and a Black Tern at Sandy Point on May 1 (Wierenga). A Caspian Tern at Deep Creek Lake on May 2 provided the second Garrett County record (Mrs. Pope). Caspians did not summer at Sandy Point this year, but were last seen on June 8 (2 birds) and June 16 (1 bird, Hoffman). A late Black Tern was at Lilypons on June 4 (Daniel Boone). The early nesting of terns and skimmers below Ocean City is not unexpected in view of the early arrivals from the south. On May 15, Hoffman, Boone, Peter Pyle and Phil Stoddard censused nests on a small channel island just north of the Assateague Island bridge and found 1 Gull-billed Tern nest with 3 eggs, about 40 nests of the Common Tern, 31 nests of Royal Tern with 1 egg each, and 6 nests of Black Skimmer with 1 egg. The Gull-bill, Royal and skimmer dates all broke State egg records. Black Skimmers outside their normal range were along the Severn River on May 1 (Paul DuMont, William Bremser), at Sandy Point State Park on May 3 (Hoffman), May 19 (Bystrak) and May 30 (Wierenga), Rumbly Point just south of Irish Grove Sanctuary on May 30 (Hills), Blackwater Refuge, 7 birds flying over the marsh several miles from the Bay on June 21, the first Dorchester County record (Armistead), and 2 at Hoopers Island on July 3, second Dorchester record (Armistead).

Cuckoos, Owls. Both species of cuckoos were scarce in May. Except for early Yellow-billed Cuckoos seen at Whaleysville on Apr. 25 (Rowlett) and 4 individuals found on the State-wide Bird Count on May 1, this species did not begin to arrive until mid-May, and in many counties they were not found until June. The Black-bill was reported from only five counties during the spring migration period. Fran Pope's Barn Owls laid a small clutch of 3 eggs at Mountain Lake Park, but had hatched 3 young by May 9. Three Short-eared Owls were new for Washington County, Mar. 18 to Apr. 18 (Boone). The last date for a Saw-whet Owl at Damsite near Tolchester was Apr. 14 (Dorothy Mendinhall).

Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds. Chuck-will's-widows arrived with the warm weather of mid-April. They had reached Bellevue by Apr. 16 (Armistead) and Anne Arundel County by Apr. 18 (Hoffman). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrived early at many localities in response to the advanced state of vegetation. Of special note are the Apr. 19 arrival in Kent County (Mrs. Mendinhall and others), Apr. 22 at Lake Roland (Bob Ringler), Apr. 22 in Washington Count (Mrs. Cutchall), and Apr. 24 at Oakland (Mrs. Pope). The median Maryland arrival date was Apr. 25, earlier than ever before.

Woodpeckers. Red-headed Woodpeckers bred again at Blackwater Refuge (Guy Willey), and adults were seen in summer in two other Eastern Shore Counties: on May 31 at Rehobeth in Somerset County (Hills) and at Bellevue in Talbot County on July 31 (Liz Armistead). Although at least 5 birds wintered in rural parts of Garrett County, they are no longer found nesting in Mountain Lake Park (Mrs. Pope).

Flycatchers. The mid-April heat wave brought early Eastern Kingbirds to all parts of the State, most notable being an Apr. 17 bird at Deep Creek Lake (Mrs. Pope) and an Apr. 19 individual at Oldtown (Paulus). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at "Adventure" near Potomac on May 26 (Margaret Donald and assistants). An Acadian Flycatcher near Accident on May 25 was a rarity for that part of Garrett County (Mrs. Pope). Eastern Pewees arrived early in a few counties, but numbers were far below normal until after the middle of May. The chronology of Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings was as follows (all single birds): May 23 along the Snaggy Mt. Road in Garrett County (Fran Pope), May 23 in Washington County (Dan Boone, Mark Hoffman), May 24 in Kent County (Floyd Parks), May 26 at Fulton (Rosamond Munro), and May 30 at Mount Nebo in Garrett County (Hoffman and Ringler).

Swallows, Nuthatches, Creepers. At Sandy Point, Hal Wierenga had a late flight of swallows on May 30 that included 25 Trees, 15 Purple Martins and 250 Bank Swallows, followed by 15 Barns and 10 Purple Martins on June 1 and a record-breaking departure of a Bank Swallow on June 10. Except for a single Red-breasted Nuthatch in the Dans Mountain Wildlife Management area on May 31 (Ringler), this species had left Maryland by May 10. Stray Brown Creepers, perhaps summering, were noted at Bellevue on May 31 (Armistead) and along the C & O Canal in Washington County on July 4 (Boone).

Wrens, Catbirds. The only Sedge Wrens reported away from Worcester and Dorchester Counties were those recorded on the State-wide Bird Count on May 1 and 2 birds at Fort Meade on Apr. 30 (Danny Bystrak). On May 31, a Winter Wren's song was taped at Dans Rock in Allegany County, and a Bewick's Wren nest with at least 2 young was found at the same place (Hoffman, Ringler and others). On the same day a Bewick's Wren was found as far east as Blairs Valley in Washington County (Hoffman). Gray Catbirds began arriving in Kent and Talbot Counties on Apr. 16, the first day of the warm weather, and by the 24th they had been seen in all the mountain counties. They reached Oakland on the 23rd (Mrs. Pope). The Apr. 4 bird in Washington County (Cutshall) was either a winter survivor or an extraordinarily early migrant. Floyd Parks stated that by the 23rd they were present "in numbers" in Kent County.

Thrushes. This compiler has always been skeptical of any Maryland Hermit Thrushes reported away from Garrett County after the first week of May; perhaps some perfectly good records have been discarded for lack of convincing details. This year, however, there was overwhelming evidence that an unusual number of Hermits lingered well into May. Single birds were banded at "Adventure" on May 3, 4, 5, 8, and 18 (Margaret Donnal and crew) and another was banded at Sandy Spring on May 23 (John S. Weske). Wood Thrushes arrived as early as Apr. 16 at Denton (Roberta Fletcher) and Apr. 17 in Washington County (Boone), and a phenomenally early Swainson's Thrush reached Mountain Lake Park on Apr. 26 and spent two days feeding around Fran Pope's hilltop home.

Vireos. There were many early arrival dates for vireos, primarily during the Apr. 16-21 warm spell: White-eyed Vireo on Apr. 7 (State record) in Prince Georges County (Leonard Teuber), on Apr. 13 at Lake Roland (Ringler), on Apr. 16 at Denton (Mrs. Fletcher), Greensboro (Marvin Hewitt), and in Charles County (Wilmots and Olive Sorzano), and as early as Apr. 24 (1 bird) and Apr. 25 (3 birds) at Herrington Manor in Garrett County (Mrs. Pope); Yellow-throated Vireo on Apr. 21 at Denton (Hewitt) and at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Danny Bystrak), and Apr. 22 in Charles County (Wilmots and Olive Sorzano); Red-eyed Vireo on Apr. 16 at Greenbelt Park (Danny Bystrak); and Warbling Vireo on Apr. 18 at Nolands Ferry in Frederick County (Barbara Lund). The premature spring may have fooled White-eyed Vireos into nesting in Garrett County, for possibly the first time. Although there was no definite proof of breeding, at least 2 males were singing along the Snaggy Mountain Road on May 30 (Hoffman), 3 were at Mountain Lake on May 27 and 1 was still singing there on June 9 (Mrs. Pope), and another was singing at Herrington Manor on June 16 (Danny Bystrak). A Solitary Vireo was heard singing on the Washington County side of South Mountain below Monument Knob on June 24, but it could not be found on subsequent dates (Robbins).

Warblers. Warblers also provided many Sectional record-breaking dates (underscored): Prothonotary at Point of Rocks on Apr. 19 (Barbara Lund), 6 Worm-eating Warblers at Shad Landing State Park on the State-record date of Apr. 11 (Rowlett and Hoffman) and Fulton on Apr. 23

(Rosamond Munro); **Golden-winged Warbler** on Apr. 24 at the tum Suden Sanctuary near Bel Air, Harford County (Joe Schreiber) and on Apr. 25 at Whalesville (Rowlett); **Blue-winged Warbler** on Apr. 20 (tying the State record) at Denton (Alicia Knotts), on Apr. 21 in Prince Georges County (Teuber), on Apr. 23 in Kent County (Parks), and on Apr. 24 in Anne Arundel County (Danny Bystrak); **Tennessee Warbler** in ten counties including Prince Georges on Apr. 30 (Teuber) and Allegany and Kent on May 1 (State-wide Bird Count); **Northern Parula Warbler** on Apr. 4 (State record) at Seneca (Rowlett) and at St. Michaels (Reese); **Yellow Warbler** on Apr. 17 in Kent County (Parks); **Magnolia Warbler** on Apr. 24 at Shad Landing State Park (State record) (Rowlett) and Apr. 27 at the Pleasant Valley 4-H Camp near Bittinger (Ken Hodgdon and Dorothea Malec); **Cape May Warbler** on Apr. 20 (State record) on the C & O Canal at Lander Road, Frederick County (Barbara Lund); **Black-throated Green Warbler** on Apr. 19 on the C & O Canal near Dickerson (Barbara Lund) and on Apr. 20 in Frederick County (Barbara Lund); **Cerulean Warbler** on Apr. 18 (tying the State record) at Greensboro, the earliest Eastern Shore date on record (Hewitt), and on Apr. 20 on the C & O Canal at Leland Road, Frederick County (Lund); **Blackburnian Warbler** on Apr. 24 at Herrington Manor (Mrs. Pope); **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, Apr. 25 at Herrington Manor, Swallow Falls, and on Snaggy Mountain Road, all three in Garrett County (Mrs. Pope), and on the same day in Howard County (David Holmes); **Prairie Warbler** on Apr. 16 in Charles County (Wilmots and Olive Sorzano) and in Kent County (Mrs. Mendinhall); **Northern Waterthrush** banded (2 birds) on Apr. 21 at "Adventure" (Margaret Donald and crew) and seen at Brunswick in Frederick County (Barbara Lund); **Kentucky Warbler** on Apr. 23 at Greensboro (Hewitt) and May 1 in Garrett County (Mrs. Pope); **Hooded Warbler** on Apr. 10 in Charles County (Wilmots and Olive Sorzano) and on Apr. 24 at Herrington Manor (Mrs. Pope); and **Wilson's Warbler** on May 2 along the C & O Canal near Seneca (Paul DuMont). Six **Mourning Warblers** were banded at "Adventure," May 20-26 (Mrs. Donald and others); and one seen at Greensboro on May 31 was a real rarity for the Eastern Shore (Hewitt).

**Orioles, Tanagers.** **Orchard Orioles** arrived early--on or before May 1 in all reporting counties. The Apr. 24 date for Washington County broke the record for the Ridge and Valley Section (David Patterson). Strangely enough, the first **Northern Oriole** migrant for the State was the one found near Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County on the record date for the Allegheny Mountain Section of Apr. 17, the second day of the heat wave (Fran Pope). Another Sectional record was broken by Marvyn Hewitt when he discovered a **Scarlet Tanager** at Greensboro on Apr. 18.

**Finches.** **Blue Grosbeaks** were in good numbers this year. They arrived as early as Apr. 20 at Fort Meade (Danny Bystrak), Apr. 21 at Sandy Point State Park (Hoffman), and Apr. 22 at Denton (Roberta Fletcher). Garrett County observers had a high count of 315 **Evening Grosbeaks** on May 1, and Fran Pope saw the last straggler at Accident on May 25. The last **Purple Finch** detected in the low country was seen on May 20 in Anne Arundel County (Danny Bystrak). Buck Reynolds saw **House Finches** feeding young in Cumberland, and a pair stayed at Kenneth Hodgdon's feeder in LaVale into June, so it appears they are establishing a foothold in Allegany County. Late **Pine Siskins** were in Kent County on May 17 (Parks)

and at Dans Rock on May 31 (Ringler, Hoffman, and others). In Annapolis at least 10 stayed into June at the Wierengas' feeder. Many Red Cross-bills remained into late May or early June, as follows: 5 at Whaleysville on May 28 (Delmarva Ornithological Society trip), and 1 there on May 29 (Hills); 2 at Blackwater Refuge on May 29 (Armistead); 2 pairs at Herrington Manor on May 30 (Ringler and Hoffman); 11 at Bellevue on May 31 (Armistead); 15 at Denton on May 31 (Marianna Nuttle); a flock of 30 at Cumberland on June 4 (Lamar Minnick); 4 at Elliott on June 5 (Hoffman, Wierenga and Mele); and finally, Armistead listed them on 3 different stops on the Madison Breeding Bird Survey route in Dorchester County on June 6.

Sparrows. The highest count for Henslow's Sparrows was 10 birds in the Elliott area on Apr. 23 (Hoffman); a singing bird in Kent County was taped on May 1 by Floyd Parks. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Sandy Point State Park from Apr. 25 to May 14 with a single observation on June 10, and Seaside Sparrows from Apr. 15 to May 22 (Wierenga); the peak count for Seaside Sparrows at Sandy Point was 15 birds on May 3. Fran Pope saw 2 very late American Tree Sparrows near Grantsville on May 1. Eight Lincoln's Sparrows were banded at "Adventure," May 12-26 (Mrs. Donald and crew), but not a single one was reported from the Maryland Coastal Plain. Hal Wierenga discovered a singing Swamp Sparrow about 2 miles northeast of Stevensville on June 5; if this was a breeding bird it would represent a considerable range extension, probably of the Coastal Plain race, *nigrescens*.

7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel 20810



## LONG-BILLED CURLEW SEEN IN SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

*Peter Pyle*

On June 12, 1976, while birding from the dike at the Deal Island Wildlife Management area in Somerset County, a Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) flew within 20 yards of me. As it approached, I noted the size, color, and particularly the cinnamon under-wing linings. The crown was dark brown, mottled, and it appeared to have a *bit* of a crown stripe, but nothing like the bold black pattern of the Whimbrel (*N. phaeopus*).

As it passed, the large size and particularly brown back and hind neck were observed. The bill was very long, at least 7 inches, and was brown. It appeared to be a bit deformed at the tip, the upper mandible seeming to be a little crooked. The head, bill shape, and flight reminded me very much of Long-billed Curlews I had seen flying in Virginia, Texas, and North Carolina. This is the first Maryland sighting of a Long-billed Curlew since May 19, 1899. There are 19th Century records from Baltimore, Kent, St. Marys, and Worcester Counties (Kirkwood, Birds of Maryland, 1895, and Stewart and Robbins, Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, 1958).

741 N. Kalaheo Avenue, Kailua, Hawaii 96734

## PHALAROPES IN ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

James Paulus

At 4 p.m. on May 3, 1976, I observed a Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) at the Rouge Lagoon near Oldtown. The bird was feeding in a shallow rain pool of about one acre in size. Also feeding in this pool were Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) and Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*). I observed this phalarope in full sunlight with 7X glasses, sometimes as close as 50 feet. It was a colorful adult female in unmistakable spring plumage. It fed by walking about in the water very rapidly with a head-bobbing motion, picking insects from the water. Only for a few moments did I see this bird swim, and then it did not do any spinning. Once it rose above the water with legs dangling, exposing the lobes on the feet. Once, when spooked by some jumpy Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), it took flight across the pool, exposing the plain dark wings and white rump and tail. I took a series of photographs to document this first spring record for Allegany County.

At noon on May 16, 1976, I found a beautiful female Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) in a small mixed flock of Least and Semipalmated (*Calidris pusilla*) Sandpipers at the Rouge Lagoon. While I was viewing the phalarope, without warning, there came a great downpour of rain, which lasted about two minutes. Instantly, all of the birds came out of the water and climbed about three feet up onto the bank, where they all squatted down to wait out the rain. Some birds, like the phalarope, were fully exposed to the rain, while the others tried to find some sort of cover by getting next to and under some large clumps of earth. All the time it rained, the birds remained motionless, but when the rain abruptly subsided, they quickly went back into the water to resume feeding. My only previous spring observations of the Northern Phalarope in Allegany County were on May 17-19, 1975.

Box 35, Oldtown 21555



## INVITATION TO ATTEND 17th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

M.O.S. members have been invited by Congress Organizer Günther Sachs to attend the 17th I.O.C. in West Berlin, June 4-11, 1978 under the auspices of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft. It will be sponsored by the Senat von Berlin and by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft from special funds provided by the Bundesminister für Forschung und Technologie. Congress President is Prof. Donald S. Farner of Seattle, Wash.; Secretary-General is Rolf Nöhring, Hardenbergplatz 8, Zoologischer Garten, D-1000 Berlin 30 (West), Germany. Participation is open to anyone seriously interested in ornithology. All scientific events will take place at the Berlin Congress Hall.

The Scientific Program will consist of six types of events: 1) Plenary Sessions with papers by invited speakers; 2) Four concurrent symposia with invited speakers; 3) Poster Presentations, an innovation in which presentations will be displayed on 4x6 ft. posters; 4) Special Interest Group meetings; 5) Ornithological Films; and 6) Pre- and Post-Congress

Excursions with a choice of 36 destinations from Spain, Italy, and Hungary north to Scandinavia, open to all members.

Note the early deadlines: March 30, 1977 for provisional field trip registration; June 30 to arrange for Special Interest Groups; July 31 to show films; Sept. 15 for members not taking excursions. For registration cards, information on field trips, etc., contact C. S. Robbins.

## COMING EVENTS

- |        |              |  |
|--------|--------------|--|
| Apr. 1 | ANNE ARUNDEL | Annual Wildlife Program. Contact Chapter for details.  |
| 2      | ANNE ARUNDEL | Trip to Piscataway & Cedarville State Park. Meet 7:30, Montg'y Wards parking lot near Gen. Hiway entr.   |
| 2      | BALTIMORE    | Trip to Druid Hill Park & Zoo. Meet 8:30 at Zoo entr. at Mansion House. Dr. William J. L. Sladen, leader.  |
| 3      | WICOMICO     | Trip to Chapter's Bluebird Trail & Deal Island.  |
| 5      | BALTIMORE    | Lake Roland walk. Meet footbridge, R.E.Lee Park, 9am.  |
| 5      | BALTIMORE    | Birds in Poland & Russia, C. S. Robbins, Cylburn, 8  |
| 7      | FREDERICK    | Spring Shorebird Identification, Richard Rowlett. Hodson Science Bldg., Hood College, 7:30 pm.   |
| 9      | FREDERICK    | Trip to Lilypons for shorebirds. Meet at boat house, Culler Lake, W. Second St., Frederick, 7:30 am.   |
| 9      | ANNE ARUNDEL | Trip to Obligation Farm. Meet at Wards, 7:30 am.   |
| 9      | BALTIMORE    | Trip to Sugarloaf Mt. Meet 7 am. at Security Blvd. entr. to Security Square Mall; approach from Balto Beltway exit 17. Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy P. Maize.    |
| 9      | MONTGOMERY   | Trip to Myrtle Grove. Meet 7 am, Oxon Hill Children's Farm parking lot. Paris Coleman (548-5264).  |
| 10     | BALTIMORE    | Lake Roland walk, 4 pm. Mrs. W. Bohanan.   |
| 12     | BALTIMORE    | Lake Roland walk. Meet footbridge, R.E.Lee Park, 8am.  |
| 14     | BALTIMORE    | Cylburn Park walk, banding, wildflowers, 9 am.   |
| 15     | BALTIMORE    | Audubon Wildlife Film, The Vanishing Eden, Stephan King. Dumbarton Jr. High, 7000 York Rd., 8 pm. \$2.   |
| 15     | CAROLINE     | Birds of East Africa, C. Robbins. Choptank Elec, 7:30  |
| 16     | ANNE ARUNDEL | Trip to Mill Creek Sanctuary & Bennett's Neck. Meet at Anglers, US 50 on service rd near McDonalds, 7:30   |
| 16     | BALTIMORE    | Loch Raven trip. Meet Towson Plaza parking lot near self-service P.O., 8 am. Charles Buchanan (435-8305)   |
| 17     | BALTIMORE    | Walk on Joppa Trail in Camp Cone, Gunpowder River. Meet Harford Rd & Notchcliff R, N of Gunpdr R., 7 am.   |
| 19     | BALTIMORE    | Lake Roland walk. See Apr. 12. James Stasz (235-5859)  |
| 20     | ALLEGANY     | Monthly meeting. Birding in East Africa. C. S. Robbins. A.C.C. College Auditorium, 7:30 pm.  |
| 21     | BALTIMORE    | Cylburn walk. Meet Cylburn Mansion, 9 am. Mrs. Bowen.  |
| 21     | MONTGOMERY   | Flora & Fauna of the Rockies, Dr. William Oberman. Perpetual Bldg. Auditorium, Bethesda, 8 pm.   |
| 23     | OCEAN CITY   | PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main St., Laurel.  |
| 23     | ANNE ARUNDEL | Trip to C&O Canal. Meet Wards, 7:30. J. Ford (267-4854)  |
| 23     | BALTIMORE    | Trip to "Adventure" sanctuary, banding demonstration. Meet Security Square Mall, 6:30 am. Janet Ganter.  |
| 23-24  | MONTGOMERY   | Trip to Bombay Hook & Little Creek, Del. Make reservations at Anchorage Motor Court, Rehoboth. Meet Bowie parking lot, US 50 at 197, 6:30 am. H. Mudd. |

- Apr. 23-24 PATUXENT Trip to Irish Grove Sanctuary. Paul Bystrak (923-6875)
- 24 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main St., Laurel.
- 24 FREDERICK Trip to Tresselt's ponds. Meet Culler Lake, 2 pm.
- 24 BALTIMORE Come-As-You-Are Tea. A Glimpse of Scandinavia, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Currier. Towson Library, 3-5 pm.
- 25 WICOMICO Birding in Mexico, Dr. William Standaert. Asbury Methodist Church, Salisbury, 7:30 pm.
- 26 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk. See Apr. 12. Mrs. Frank Iber.
- 26 PATUXENT Mushrooms, David Farr. 6th & Main Sts., Laurel, 7:45.
- 28 BALTIMORE Cylburn walk. Meet Cylburn 9 am. Mrs. Carl Lubbert.
- 30 BALTIMORE Dawn Chorus at the Worthleys. Meet parking lot, Merry-Go-Round Whse, 1 block past overhead bridge, Reisterstown Rd., 5 am. Elmer & Jean Worthley.
- 30 WICOMICO Trip to Upper Pocomoke for warblers. Sam Dyke.
- May 1 BALTIMORE Trip to Claggett Diocesan Center, New Design Rd. & Lilypons. Meet Security Square Mall, 7 am. J. Orgain.
- 3 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk. See Apr. 12. Mrs. Alan Ross.
- 3 BALTIMORE Nesting, by Dr. Phillip Creighton. Cylburn, 8 pm.
- 5 BALTIMORE Rock Run trip. Contact Mrs. Carl Lubbert (377-6346)
- 5 FREDERICK Monthly Meeting. Hodson Science Bldg, Hood, 7:30 pm.
- 7 STATE-WIDE 30th ANNUAL STATE-WIDE BIRD COUNT, all day. Contact your local chapter or C. Douglas Hackman. See June 1976 issue of *Maryland Birdlife* for 1976 summary and coverage needs.
- 13-15 STATE-WIDE ANNUAL CONVENTION, Ocean City. See separate announcement. Meet at Fenwick Inn, the same as last year.
- 15 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP DURING CONVENTION. Send \$30 to R. Rowlett who will hold 25 places for MOS members until Apr. 15.

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