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Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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Cover: Manx Shearwater off Ocean City, December 6, 1975.
 Photo by Bob Augustine.



AUTUMN, 1975, SHOREBIRD SPECTACULAR AT SANDY POINT STATE PARK, MD.

Hal Wierenga

From late 1974 through April 1975, a channel dredging project at Sandy Point State Park produced approximately 18 acres of impounded spoils, or mud flats, and thus inadvertently created prime shorebird habitat which attracted an astounding total of 33 shorebird species during the remainder of 1975. This total includes all but six of those shorebirds on the official Maryland list which have been recorded in this century, an amazing statistic for a single location during one seven-month period.

Two of the species, Upland Sandpiper and Black-necked Stilt, were seen only during the spring (May), leaving a total of 31 species during autumn migration. This included such interesting and unusual species as a Piping Plover on Aug. 16; Lesser Golden Plovers regularly in September and October; single Red Knots on three scattered dates; one or 2 Purple Sandpipers on six dates in November; a Baird's Sandpiper for ten days in August and another for six days in September; the first Stilt Sandpipers at Sandy Point in several years; Buff-breasted Sandpipers on at least four dates in August and September; a Marbled Godwit for two days in August; Hudsonian Godwits on three dates, including an incredible flock of 21 on Sept. 25 (see details below); an American Avocet for two days in July; single Red Phalaropes on Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and Sept. 25, all coinciding with rainy, stormy conditions and east to northeast winds; and a Wilson's Phalarope on three scattered dates which included an extremely late individual on Nov. 8, roughly a month after the species' latest previous departure from Maryland.

In addition, the State record autumnal arrival date for eight species was either broken or tied, and about three new departure records were set. Several of the best daily counts of individuals were unusually high for the area, including most notably 24 Lesser Golden Plovers on Sept. 30, 73 Lesser Yellowlegs on Sept. 1, 18 White-rumped Sandpipers on Sept. 25, 17 Stilt Sandpipers on Sept. 24, and the 21 Hudsonian Godwits on Sept. 25.

Unquestionably, out of all the observations mentioned above, the Hudsonian Godwits emerge as the single greatest highlight of the season. Their appearance at all, let alone in unprecedented numbers, was a totally unexpected surprise. The flock of 21 on Sept. 25 exceeded the previous high Maryland count by fifteen (six were recorded on Assateague Island on Sept. 17 and 24, 1950 by J. H. Buckalew and E. O. Mellinger). Unfortunately, the flock was restless and remained at Sandy Point only about ten minutes before heading east across the Bay toward Kent Island. Additional singles of this species dropped in on Sept. 26 and Oct. 2, but they too lingered only a few minutes before departing.

The presence of these godwits was undoubtedly tied to Hurricane Eloise, whose remnants produced heavy rains and northeasterly winds in this area, Sept. 23-26, and very likely intercepted an offshore flight of these birds and blew them inland. Scattered flocks were deposited almost simultaneously throughout the northeastern United States, including nearby flocks of 27 in Washington, D.C., 12 near Norfolk, Va., and 19 near Dover, Del. Aside from the Sandy Point birds, Maryland's only other report during this bonanza was of a lone individual on a turf farm near Seneca, Montgomery County, on Sept. 26 by Richard A. Rowlett.

The table on the next page summarizes the records of all 31 species of shorebirds seen at Sandy Point in the autumn of 1975. Arrival and departure dates are followed in parentheses by the number of individuals seen on each date. Species, dates, and numbers I believe most unusual for the area are italicized. All records in the table are mine, or shared by me, except the following three: the Western Sandpipers on July 9 (Mark Hoffman), the Red Knot on Sept. 7 (John W. Taylor, Jr.), and the last Pectoral Sandpiper on Nov. 22 (Danny Bystrak).

In conclusion, the shorebird spectacular described in this article clearly demonstrates the potentially outstanding results of creating, however inadvertently, some prime habitat in an otherwise good location. Both the variety and the volume of shorebirds increased substantially over any totals recorded in recent years, due in part to increased observer coverage and to favorable weather conditions, but also largely due to the greater supply of food available in the impounded mud flats.

It is unfortunate that the benefits at Sandy Point are merely temporary and will diminish rapidly as the impoundments are allowed to dry out. How nice it would be if at least some portion of the habitat could be maintained in perpetuity to benefit the shorebirds and the viewing public alike. Testimony to Sandy Point's suitability as the location for such an avian showcase is provided not only by the array of exciting records from 1975, but also by the fact that of the 33 shorebird species seen during the year, only one (the Black-necked Stilt on May 25-26) had not been recorded previously in the park. It was Maryland's first record west of the Chesapeake.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>	<u>Highest Counts</u>
Semi. Plover	7/11(2)	10/11 (1)	20 on 8/14 and 9/5
<i>Piping Plover</i>			1 on 8/16
Killdeer			Every trip; 25 on 10/11 & 10/24
L. Golden Plov.	9/6 (1)	10/18(11)	24 on 9/30; 13 on 9/25
Bl-belly Plov.	8/6 (1)	10/26 (1)	8 on 9/25; 7 on 9/6, 9/24 & 9/26
Ruddy Turnstone	7/22(1)	9/28 (1)	7 on 8/6 and 8/16
Am. Woodcock			A few throughout the period.
Common Snipe	9/2 (1)	10/31 (2)	Maximum of only 2 (very low!)
Spotted Sand.	7/1 (1)	10/2 (1)	12 on 7/21 & 7/22
Solitary Sand.	7/1 (1)	9/27 (3)	4 on 7/21, 7/22 & 9/24
Willet	7/22(1)	8/19 (1)	2 on 7/25-29
Gr. Yellow-legs	7/12(1)	10/18 (1)	4 on 7/21
Lesser Y-legs	6/28(1)	11/16 (1)	73 on 9/1; 28 on 7/13
<i>Red Knot</i>			1 on 8/28, 9/1 & 9/7
<i>Purple Sand.</i>	11/4(2)	11/21 (1)	2 on 11/4-5; 1 on 11/6-8 & 11/21
Pectoral Sand.	7/11(1)	11/22 (1)	48 on 9/25; 21 on 10/17
White-rumped S.	9/7 (1)	10/2 (5)	18 on 9/25; 13 on 9/26
<i>Baird's Sand.</i>	8/19(1)	9/9 (1)	1 on 8/19-28 & another on 9/4-9
Least Sandpiper	6/30(4)	12/15 (1)	80 on 7/29; 75 on 8/14
Dunlin	9/24(5)	12/28 (1)	45 on 9/25; 35 on 10/24
Short-bill. Dow.	6/28(1)	9/11 (11)	12 on 7/7; 11 on 9/11; 7 on 8/16
<i>Stilt Sandpiper</i>	7/11(2)	9/26 (2)	17 on 9/24; 6 on 7/13
Semipal. Sand.	7/10(4)	10/11 (3)	200 on 9/25; 160 on 8/7
Western Sand.	7/9 (2)	10/23 (1)	120 on 7/29; 75 on 9/25
<i>Buff-br. Sand.</i>	8/18(1)	9/5 (1)	2 on 8/31; 1 on 8/16, 9/1 & 9/5
<i>Marbled Godwit</i>			1 on 8/11-12
<i>Hudson. Godwit</i>			21 on 9/25; 1 on 9/26 & 10/2
Sanderling	7/11(1)	10/23 (1)	25 on 9/25; 22 on 9/1; 20 on 9/26
Am. Avocet			1 on 7/29-30
<i>Red Phalarope</i>			1 on 8/31, 9/1 & 9/25
<i>Wilson's Phal.</i>			1 on 9/7, 9/19 & 11/8

1216 Tyler Avenue
Annapolis, Md. 21403



GOLDEN EAGLE OBSERVED IN CALVERT COUNTY

John H. Fales

In the late morning of December 3, 1974 a Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, flew on shore from the Chesapeake Bay at Plum Point, Calvert County, Maryland. This bird came inland 500-600 feet at low altitude and circled a number of times during which it was observed with an 8-power binocular. It then soared higher and higher and was last seen flying out over the Bay. Directly across at this point is the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge where Golden Eagles have been wintering. This is the first known occurrence of this species on the lower Western Shore. This observation was shared by Mrs. J. H. Fales.

Ridge Road, Neeld Estate, Huntingtown

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF BIRDING IN BALTIMORE

John W. Poteet, Jr.

I remember when there was a Maryland Audubon Society and it conducted a contest among the public grammar school children of Maryland to see who could identify the most birds. I learned about this contest from the Baltimore newspapers and wrote for permission to enter it, which was granted. They supplied square forms on which to submit the name of each bird as it was identified.

In those days, sixty years ago, the neighborhood where I live, Howard Park, was full of many varieties of birds that never seem to be seen or heard now. Of course there were many open fields and lots of woods in various stages of growth, as well as streams, so many habitats were readily available.

Meadowlarks and bobwhites could be heard and seen in the open fields nearby, and bluebirds and Indigo Buntings were found along the borders. Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, and Red-headed, Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers, were common in the tall trees, as were flickers, nuthatches, and Brown Creepers. Marsh and Sedge Wrens were common along the nearest stream.

About a half mile to the north was a low hill known as Blue Bell Hill, which was covered with bluebells each spring. We had a wild cherry tree on the side lawn and of course there were many birds that enjoyed the little black cherries. Robins raised their young on the tops of the front porch columns. I was fascinated by the birds and the way they consumed many worms, bugs, and insects. We had a small vegetable garden and there were birds in it most of the time.

I had been using an encyclopedia, Webster's Dictionary, and the Books of Knowledge as my references. On Christmas 1915 my Grandmother gave me a copy of Chester Reed's Land Birds East of the Rockies, a pocket guide that was marvelous by comparison, and all in color.

I submitted many bird identifications and they were all accepted. One day I saw a Yellow Warbler just west of what is now the junction of Wayne Avenue and Powder Mill Lane. I submitted my identification of it, but lo, it was not accepted. So I again went to the same location and saw the bird again. I resubmitted my identification, with the same result.

I repeated my identification and resubmitted it a third time, but this time with a letter to the Judges Committee in which I said that I knew the Committee Judges were all experts, but if they persisted in a rejection for some supposedly valid reason, they should send someone out to verify my identification. I did not like the implication of being considered untruthful.

Lo and behold I received a telephone call from a Mr. J. Hammond Brown, whom I learned was a member of the Judges Committee, and the Outdoors Editor of the Baltimore News. He arranged to go with me the following Sunday morning to see the bird. He came to my house and we walked about a quarter mile along a footpath to the place in the woods where I had seen the bird, and he said "Now where will we see this bird?" I said: "Stand still, and look at the small tree straight in front of you, and there it is." He looked and said: "Your identification will be accepted."

He then said: "Do you still have some time?" I said: "Yes Sir." He said: "There are other birds in this area that you have not submitted." We walked along some woods trails to the vicinity of Dickeyville where there was a small dam and pond on Gwynns Falls. Here we saw and I identified kingfishers, egrets, and herons to add to my list.

I do not know how many birds I identified, but I did win in June 1918. I received a copy of North American Birds Eggs by Chester Reed as a prize; and the Principal of the Howard Park School, Miss Margaret A. Harney, presented me with a copy of Bird Studies with a Camera by Chapman.

Even the experts, at times, can gain knowledge from a young amateur birder.

5608 Stonington Ave., Baltimore 21207

ALBINO AMERICAN ROBIN IN SILVER SPRING

R. W. Warfield

On April 16, 1974, while walking in the Hillendale section of Silver Spring I discovered an albino American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) feeding with a flock of about fifty normal robins. I was able to get relatively close to this bird and to observe it for about twenty minutes. Its head, back, rump, wings, and tail were white. Its breast was the usual rufous and the bill was light yellow.

It mixed freely with the group of feeding robins. At no time was there any suggestion that this bird's behavior was any different than that of the normal birds.

Bent (Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets, and their Allies, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 196, 1949) notes that albinism is common in this species and I have seen several birds in which a few feathers were white. This is, however, the first time I have noted an almost completely albino robin. It is my understanding that another one was seen several years ago in Upper Montgomery County. Chandler Robbins tells me that he, George Robbins, and Paul McKenzie watched a robin with plumage similar to mine north of Willards in Wicomico County on December 27, 1973. It too was feeding with a large flock of robins and behaving quite normally.

22712 Ward Avenue, Hereford Hills, Germantown

ENCOUNTER WITH A NESTING GOSHAWK

Nell Smith

Jack Swedberg, Wildlife photographer for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game, called in June 1975 to tell my husband, Dave Smith, Motion Picture Producer for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, that he had located a nesting Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) in the Greenfield section of the Berkshire mountains in northwestern Massachusetts. He invited us up and promised to assist Dave in making footage of the birds.

We arrived two days later, and immediately set out for the woodland site where the goshawk was nesting. She was on the nest when we arrived and screamed down on us as we approached the site. There were four of us in the party and I guess she felt too far out-numbered to attack in earnest. She flew off and perched in a tree some distance away and continued to *cac-cac-cac* at us for an hour or so. We hastily gathered enough natural material around the woods to throw together a cover blind for Dave to shoot from. The nest was in three forks of a Beech tree about thirty feet from the ground. However, it was located on the down-side of a rather sharp hill so that one could almost look directly into the nest from the improvised blind. An almost fully fledged juvenile was contentedly tearing at her lunch and paid little attention to our activities. We were about 125 feet from her in a direct line (according to the focus scale on Dave's telephoto lens). Since the sun was going to be in the wrong direction by the time we left Dave, and since she was still pretty well riled up at us, we knew the chances to get footage that day were rather slim. We left the site, watched her from a distance, and made plans for an early morning return.

We approached the area before dawn and waited for her to leave to find breakfast for her family at daybreak. We didn't want to spook her and so were very cautious and stayed well away. At last we saw her leave without a sound and knew she hadn't spotted us. We rushed the remaining distance to our blind and quickly set up the motion picture gear and left enough lunch so that Dave could remain all day if necessary.

Before I could get into the blind the goshawk returned. We realized she would never settle down as long as she knew someone was in the blind; we also knew that she would probably be satisfied if she saw me leave. We assumed she hadn't seen Dave and even if she had she would follow me back out of the woods and leave him. Since birds can't count she would return to the nest after the danger was over not realizing there was another person in the area.

It worked. I hadn't made one complete step before she dived down from the nest screaming at me. She missed me by ten feet. I took off at a fast walk in the general direction of the car which was a half mile away. She swung around and came back at me screaming her *cac-cac-cac* at me at the top of her voice. The voice alone was enough to chill my

blood. She missed me by eight feet. I walked faster. She swung by again and missed me by only six feet this time. I tried to keep a tree between us as I walked but as you know she was in her element. The flight capability of a goshawk as it hurtles through a dense forest at blinding speed, never hitting a feather tip, is a sight that can't be described. She was just a blue-gray blur of fury defending what she knew was hers. She knew she was right and she knew she was capable and I started to believe it. Before I had gone a third of the distance she had dived on me a dozen times, each time getting closer and closer until I actually felt the air forced down onto my head by her powerful wing beat. I started to panic then. I could go only about twenty feet before she would make a tight U turn and fly almost directly at my face, only to zoom up as I ducked away. I spent most of my conscious time looking for the next tree while keeping an eye on her so as to avoid a direct hit. I became lost in the forest. I finally stumbled into an area of smaller trees and brush and dived under a bush just as she passed overhead. She was within a yard of the ground by now. I pulled a jacket over my head and she perched over me about 12 feet away. I remained prone for what seemed to be a half hour. Each time I peeped at her from under my jacket the feathers on her body would rouse and she would increase her cacking by another dozen decibels. But she simply would not leave. If I tried to get up she would attack. Finally, in desperation, I jumped up waving the jacket at her. After all, Dave was waiting back at the blind and I was keeping her too well occupied. I ran through the brush at top speed with her following close behind. She cacked and made short bursts at me but never quite hit me. The car came into sight.

As I approached the clearing I realized I would have to cross an acre of open field without the protection of the trees. I was running at full tilt though and didn't realize that she too was vulnerable to open ground: she stopped at the woodland's edge. I reached the car and jumped in. Ten minutes found my heart still throbbing but my breath was returning to normal. She was still perched and screaming at the edge of the woods.

Reason slowly began to return, too, as I sat in the safety of the car. I suddenly remembered that through it all I had carried a loaded, flash camera in my hand and hadn't taken a shot. What would Dave have given for some of those opportunities of close-ups at a perching goshawk at 12 feet? I remembered, too, Dave was still waiting. I started the motor and drove away. In the rear-view mirror I saw her dart back into the forest.

That night when we rejoined Jack and his family at their home, he showed me photographs someone made of his blood-streaked face and head following a similar attack. Maybe it was a good thing I didn't flash that camera in her face after all.

This is just another of the many unusual experiences I have had with nature's creatures. I must confess, I was horrified at the time but feel well rewarded for having the chance to observe another of her fascinating wonders.

Harford Furnace, Bel Air, Md. 21014

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



As I draft this issue of the President's Page (my last one), I look back upon three years during which I served as your President. Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving. The effort has been gratifying because of the progress brought about by the many enthusiastic members who have proposed new ideas and by the many dedicated members who have carried out the routine affairs of the Society. I have often thanked the membership for the excellent cooperation. Your trustees, my fellow officers, and committees deserve the highest praise. Our Executive Secretary has done an outstanding job.

There is one group of members who, before and during my three years, have been taken for granted. The only mention that I have ever seen of them is on the last line of the back cover of *Maryland Birdlife*. I never heard of their being appointed and have assumed that they just came together as volunteers. I am referring to those unsung heroes who get *Maryland Birdlife* (and other membership mail) printed and mailed. Few people know that bulk mail must be separated by zip codes before going to the post office. Addressing the envelopes and stuffing them is a lot of work. Members who perform this service are: Mrs. Martin Larrabee (Chairman), Mrs. C. Lockard Conley, Miss Jane Daniels, Mr. C. Douglas Hackman, Miss Bertha Howard, Mrs. Edward A. Metcalf, Mrs. Baynard Perryclear, Mrs. Joshua W. Rowe, Mrs. M. Gordon Steen, Miss Etta Wedge, Mrs. Alger Zapf, and other helpers as needed. The contribution of these dedicated members greatly reduces the cost of publishing *Maryland Birdlife*.

In 1960 we began to operate our first sanctuary, 57 acres at Rock Run. On March 30, 1976, I cancelled the lease with the State of Maryland from whom we had leased the house and one acre since the property became a part of the Susquehanna State Park several years ago. The lease was cancelled because vandals had set fire to the house early in the morning of March 14. This was the second destructive act of vandals at Rock Run.

In February, however, we had received good news that offset the bad news about Rock Run. We learned that one of our Harford Chapter members, Dr. Caroline tum Suden, who had died recently, had bequeathed her home and the 1.57 acres surrounding it to M.O.S. It was Dr. tum Suden's hope that we would use the property as a sanctuary. It is bordered on two sides by Harford Glen, a park owned and operated by the Harford County Board of Education. Contact with the Board of Education revealed that they are interested in working with us to develop a joint operation under which M.O.S. will sponsor educational projects at both

the Park and the tum Suden property and will work with the Board of Education toward developing use of the Park. In return the Board of Education will grant M.O.S. the privilege of using the Park, which has excellent opportunities for birding and nature study.

A special committee chaired by Gladys Cole has met with the Supervisor of Science on the Harford Board of Education. Serving on Mrs. Cole's committee are Dr. Ben Poscover, Chairman of our Education Committee, Kermit Updegrove, a science teacher in Bel Air High School and member of the Local Sanctuary Committee, Rodney Jones, another member of the Local Sanctuary Committee, and Steve Hollens, a teacher at Towson High School. Mrs. Cole has planned for teachers and students to come to Harford Glen and the tum Suden property for field trips and observation of bird banding.

Our furnishings from Rock Run have been moved to the tum Suden property. I cannot invite the general membership to use the property yet because we will not get title before August 4--the earliest that the estate could be settled. What is being done there in the meantime is in conjunction with our plans to work with the Board of Education. By the time we get title to the bequest the special committee will have established rules for use of this sanctuary and the membership will be invited. All who have seen the house and land are enthusiastic and feel that it will be a much better sanctuary than Rock Run.

Our mortgage at Carey Run has been reduced to \$3,807.64. The generosity of members and some non-members has brought this mortgage to that low figure in less than three years. It will be gratifying if we can celebrate by burning the mortgage in October of 1976, the third anniversary of this mortgage!

Barclay E. Tucker



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Purple Martin Color-marking

A large-scale Purple Martin color-marking project was initiated in 1975 for Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties, Maryland and in 1976 for Saxis, Virginia. Observers are asked to look for and report any color-marked (plastic leg bands and/or wing tags) Purple Martins. Please record the color of the band and/or wing tag, which leg it is on, age and/or sex (if either is known), where and when observed, and whether the bird was in a roost, staging flock, migratory flock, or established at a nest site. We are especially interested in the movements of young birds and their return rate to the parent colony or nearby colonies. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to Ms. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Rd. #2, Laurel, Md. 20811.

THE MARYLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS OF 1975

Danny Bystrak

It appears that Christmas Counts, like the Olympics, are subject to the phenomenon of ever improving records. In 1975-76, 16 of the 20 Maryland Christmas Bird Counts set new record high species counts and another tied its previous high.

Although temperatures in Maryland were normal during the Count Period itself, the entire fall preceding the 1975 Christmas Bird Counts averaged above normal. This was probably a major factor in so many areas breaking their previous high species counts. Ocean City was a remarkable example of the fact that although many high counts were broken, few unusual species were seen. Ocean City exceeded its previous high by six species without adding any new species to its cumulative list.

The two most outstanding increases this year were in the Black-capped Chickadee (250% increase from 1974) and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (282% increase). Black-caps staged an impressive southward invasion this winter and showed up on all but four Maryland counts. Curiously, if you examine your April *American Birds*, you will see that this invasion was strictly east of the Appalachians. Along with the Black-caps some Boreals moved down, but most stopped in Pennsylvania. One that made it over the State line was counted at Baltimore. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were common presumably because of the warm fall; Garrett County reported four, making this the first time all 20 Maryland counts have reported it.

The Seneca count, which in recent years has become the most popular, this year amassed 100 observers. This is the most ever on one Maryland count. Hopefully this sea of birders avoided any duplication in their counts since Seneca had the highest count in the country for 10 species, of which Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker and Brown Creeper were the highest counts ever recorded on any Christmas Bird Count. Other national highs from Maryland (not all-time national highs) were Canada Goose--Lower Kent; Virginia Rail, Great Horned Owl and Swamp Sparrow--Crisfield; and Little Gull--Ocean City.

Counters on Accokeek, Bowie, Elkton and Southern Dorchester deserve a note of sympathy for being subjected to miserable (rain) counting conditions. Despite the weather, all but Elkton set new high species counts.

Two counts had sizable influxes of observers from other counties this year, with a corresponding increase in party-hours--Annapolis and Washington County. The results show this, as reflected by the 15 species increases over last year's counts. For Washington County this was a long due demonstration of the birding potential in the "dull" Hagerstown Valley. A count that seems to be incapable of a really high species total is Catoctin Mountain. Although the coverage continues to improve, the

combination of half the circle being in the essentially birdless mountains and the lack of large water or marsh areas prevents an impressive list.

Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Yellow-throated Warbler were new species for the Maryland Christmas Bird Count. The last two are also first Maryland winter records. Perhaps the most amazing single sighting was a flock of 150 Common Redpolls, which Jerry Fletcher carefully identified on the Denton count.

As in past years, an annotated list of the 1975 Maryland Christmas Counts follows, presented in order of northwestern-most to southeastern-most regions.

GARRETT COUNTY - 23 observers in 9 parties, 103 party-hours (45 on foot); 71 species, 8228 individuals. Four statewide high counts including American Coot, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee and Evening Grosbeak. Eight "Blue" Geese, 1 Surf Scoter, 4 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and 2 Chipping Sparrows were exceptional.

ALLEGANY COUNTY - 23 observers in 12 parties, 71 party-hours (35 on foot); 65 species, 10,282 individuals. Statewide high counts on Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey. A Pied-billed Grebe, 2 Oldsquaws, a (Baltimore) Northern Oriole and a Snow Bunting were the best finds.

WASHINGTON COUNTY - 41 observers in 14 parties, 120 party-hours (73 on foot); 87 species (a record high by 15 species), 1,029,299 individuals. Six statewide high counts including 36 of the first Green-winged Teal ever on the count, and an amazing 226 White-crowned Sparrows. Two Lesser Scaups, a Northern Goshawk, a Merlin and 2 Chipping Sparrows were good finds.

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN - 22 observers in 11 parties, 92 party-hours (65 on foot); 74 species (a record high by 6 species), 276,439 individuals. Twenty-seven Ring-necked Pheasants was the only statewide high count. Common Pintail was exceptional for this count.

BALTIMORE - 50 observers in 18 parties, 142 party-hours (92 on foot); 89 species (a record high by 4 species), 22,392 individuals. Wood Duck and Rock Dove were this count's statewide high counts as well as the State's only Boreal Chickadee.

ROCK RUN - 20 observers in 8 parties, 77 party-hours (56 on foot); 85 species (a record high by 2 species), 19,280 individuals. One statewide high count: Greater Black-backed Gull.

ELKTON - 31 observers in 10 parties, 71 party-hours (35 on foot); 79 species, 31,195 individuals. Bonaparte's Gull was Elkton's most unusual species.

SENECA - 100 observers in 43 parties, 386 party-hours (316 on foot); 108 species (a record high by 3 species), 419,990 individuals. 32 statewide high counts. The State's only Wilson's Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird and Spotted Sandpiper were here. Peregrine was another good bird seen.

TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR - 46 observers in 28 parties, 198 party-hours (144 on foot); 97 species (a record high by 6 species), 30,975 individuals. Two statewide high counts: American Crow and Black Vulture. A Rough-legged Hawk, a Saw-whet Owl and 3 House Wrens were good birds for this count.

ACCOKEEK - 4 observers in 4 parties, 28 party-hours (all on foot); 78 species (a record high by 10 species), 3735 individuals. Statewide

high count for Common Merganser. A Surf Scoter was an exceptional find.

BOWIE - 86 observers in 38 parties, 287 party-hours (220 on foot); 99 species (a record high by 1 species), 181,162 individuals. Six statewide high counts: Ring-necked Duck, Blue Jay, Fish Crow, Cedar Waxwing, Ring-billed Gull, Field Sparrow and the State's only Lesser Black-backed Gull. A Barn Owl, an American Bittern and 4 Blue-winged Teal were new to the count.

ANNAPOLIS - 64 observers in 29 parties, 223 party-hours (141 on foot); 117 species (a record high by 9 species), 41,343 individuals. Statewide high counts on 9 species including 5 species of waterfowl, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Mockingbird and the only Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (21) and Glaucous Gull in the State. Other good birds for this count were a Green Heron, 3 Mute Swans, a King Rail, 2 Soras and a Chipping Sparrow.

POINT LOOKOUT - 38 observers in 18 parties, 153 party-hours (122.5 on foot); 119 species (a record high by 6 species), 47,746 individuals. Statewide high counts on Great Cormorant and White-winged Scoter and the only Bewick's Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler. Also of interest were 18 Snow Buntings.

LOWER KENT - 42 observers in 14 parties, 120.5 party-hours (74 on foot); 120 species (a record high by 1 species). Statewide high counts on Canada Goose, Mallard, Oldsquaw, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-tailed Hawk and Rufous-sided Towhee. Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Goshawk and Dunlin were good finds.

DENTON - 22 observers in 12 parties, 74 party-hours (38 on foot); 93 species (a record high by 7 species). Statewide high counts on Turkey Vulture, Long-eared Owl, Common Redpoll and Snow Bunting.

SALISBURY - 27 observers in 10 parties, 68 party-hours (43.5 on foot) 106 species (a record high by 13 species). Statewide high counts on American Kestrel, Semipalmated Plover and Chipping Sparrow.

ST. MICHAELS - 31 observers in 27 parties, 140 party-hours (99 on foot); 107 species (ties the record high). Statewide high counts on 10 species including 5 species of waterfowl, 2 of owls, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Laughing Gull and the State's only American Redstart.

SOUTHERN DORCHESTER - 34 observers in 17 parties, 129 party-hours (75 on foot); 132 species (a record high by 9 species). Statewide high counts on 14 species including the only Golden Eagles (2), White-fronted Goose and Black-and-white Warbler.

CRISFIELD - 33 observers in 17 parties, 175.5 party-hours (135.5 on foot); 143 species (a record high by 12 species). Twenty-six statewide high counts including the State's only Yellow-headed Blackbird. Other good birds were a Black-capped Chickadee, a "Blue" Goose and a (Baltimore) Northern Oriole.

OCEAN CITY - 41 observers in 23 parties, 208 party-hours (158.5 on foot); 164 species (a record by 6 species). Forty-seven statewide high counts including the State's only Red-necked Grebe, Gannets (9), Common Eiders (2), Common Gallinule, Piping Plovers (6), Ruddy Turnstones (101), Red Knots (3), Purple Sandpipers (265), Iceland Gull, Little Gulls (3), Forster's Terns (261), Common Tern, Tree Swallows (4), "Ipswich" Sparrows (19), Lincoln's Sparrows (2) and Lapland Longspurs (54).

EARLY EGG LAYING FOR THE CAROLINA WREN

Matthew C. Perry and Brooke Meanley

On January 24, 1975 a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) was observed on the edge of a crude nest located on the inside wall of a brick garage on the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Md. The nest, which was lodged in an opening between several bricks, contained four eggs. This nest was regularly checked for two weeks, but incubation was not observed. After a month one egg was opened and found to be fresh. It was obvious the eggs were new and not left from the previous nesting season. All eggs were removed, but the nest was left in place.

The nest location described above had been successfully used by wrens in the spring of 1974. On April 24, 1975 new nest material was noted on top of the earlier nest, and on April 29, 1975 four Carolina Wren eggs were discovered in the nest. New nest material was observed on April 2, 1976, but no eggs were laid that spring.

The January 1975 observation is the earliest known egg laying for a Carolina Wren in Maryland. Stewart and Robbins (1958) reported an extreme early egg date for Maryland of April 5, 1949 in Baltimore County. Bent (1948) reported early egg dates for Carolina Wrens as April 8 (Pennsylvania), and March 13 (Texas). In four southern States, Alabama (Imhof, 1962), Georgia (Burleigh, 1958), Kentucky (Mengel, 1965), and South Carolina (Sprunt and Chamberlain, 1949), earliest egg laying was in March. In the United States the earliest known egg laying for Carolina Wrens was on December 1, 1895 in Brookville, Indiana, where four eggs were observed (Butler, 1897). Bailey (1913) reported that in Virginia, young Carolina Wrens were able to fly the first week in January.

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THE SEASON

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1975

Chandler S. Robbins

In a word, mildness characterized the last three months of 1975, and this mildness was especially apparent in the large number of stragglers that remained in Maryland into the Christmas Count period.

On Oct. 14 and 15 the mercury soared to 90° and 89° in Baltimore, and in most sections of the State the average daily temperature in October was 2° to 3° above the norm. In November and the first half of December the average daily excess ran from 4° to 5°, which is most unusual. In fact, this same mildness persisted throughout the entire northeastern United States and in southeastern Canada, and delayed the arrival of some of our winter birds as well as enticing transients to linger longer than usual in Maryland.

Cold fronts crossed the Free State on Oct. 2, 7, 11, 16, 26, and 29, and on Nov. 10, 13, 21, and 25, and much of the migration activity occurred on the first or second day following the passage of these fronts.

The extreme migration dates reported for the 1975 fall season are listed by counties in Tables 1 and 2, with the counties arranged from northwestern Maryland to the Lower Eastern Shore. The usual symbols are employed when no valid migration date is at hand: a dash (--) signifies that the species was found in the county, but no arrival (or departure) date reported; a "w" means that enough birds wintered so the last departures of non-wintering individuals could not be detected; a zero (0) shows that the species was not detected during the fall migration period; and an underscored date in a table means that the bird was caught at a banding station. Underscored dates or numbers in the text, however, call attention to record-breaking observations for the appropriate Section of the State.

Because of the large number of observers, it is not practical to identify every date in the tables with observers' initials. Instead, we acknowledge here the principal contributors from each county, and we identify by name those whose records are selected for mention in the text. Garrett County--Mrs. William Pope; Allegheny--James Paulus, John Willetts, Kendrick Hodgdon; Washington--Daniel Boone, Robert Keedy, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cutchall, Mrs. Lloyd Mallonee; Baltimore City and County--Mrs. Walter Bohanan, Mrs. Richard Cole, Joseph Schreiber; Howard--

Table 1. Fall Arrival Dates for Late-arriving Species, 1975

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	LES
	10-yr	1975														
Horned Grebe	--	10/23	--	--	--	11/11	10/19	--	--	--	--	--	10/25	10/23	10/ 5	--
Whistling Swan	11/ 6	11/16	11/16	0	--	11/11	--	11/23	11/16	11/15	--	11/23	10/25	11/ 3	--	--
Snow Goose	--	10/12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/12	0	0	10/ 5	12/ 5	10/ 3	10/12
Common Pintail	--	9/14	0	0	0	--	0	--	10/14	9/25	--	0	9/ 8	--	9/14	9/13
Green-winged Teal	--	9/28	10/26	8/31	--	11/28	--	--	--	9/10	10/16	--	9/ 8	--	0	--
American Wigeon	9/28	9/28	10/ 6	9/15	0	11/ 9	--	--	10/21	9/19	--	--	9/28	10/15	9/13	9/13
Redhead	--	10/28	10/29	0	0	10/11	12/20	0	0	10/17	--	0	11/ 8	10/27	--	--
Ring-necked Duck	--	10/31	10/26	0	10/18	10/22	12/15	--	11/15	10/31	11/12	0	10/19	12/ 9	11/ 1	--
Canvasback	--	10/30	10/26	0	--	--	10/30	0	--	10/18	12/ 7	11/15	10/19	12/ 9	--	--
Lesser Scaup	--	10/22	--	0	--	11/11	11/ 6	--	--	10/17	--	--	10/19	10/16	10/26	--
Common Goldeneye	--	11/22	--	0	10/25	11/11	12/15	--	--	11/21	--	--	11/22	12/ 9	--	--
Bufflehead	11/ 6	10/31	10/26	--	--	10/16	11/11	10/26	10/30	10/17	11/13	--	11/12	12/20	11/ 1	--
Oldsquaw	--	10/27	12/13	--	10/26	10/28	0	11/23	--	10/15	--	--	10/21	12/20	--	--
White-winged Scoter	--	10/18	0	0	0	10/17	0	0	0	9/ 1	0	11/ 8	10/25	0	9/20	10/19
Surf Scoter	--	--	--	0	10/18	0	0	0	--	10/10	--	--	11/22	0	--	10/19
Black Scoter	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/17	--	--	11/14	0	10/ 4	9/ 3
Ruddy Duck	--	10/20	10/22	9/29	10/21	10/11	10/19	--	11/ 5	11/26	10/21	11/11	10/12	10/15	--	9/13
Hooded Merganser	--	--	--	0	--	11/16	11/22	--	11/26	--	--	--	11/15	--	--	--
Rough-legged Hawk	--	--	12/ 8	0	0	0	--	--	0	0	0	0	--	12/ 1	0	--
American Coot	--	10/17	10/ 3	0	10/18	10/11	10/13	--	10/ 6	10/ 9	11/30	11/15	10/17	--	11/ 2	10/25
American Woodcock	--	--	--	--	--	10/17	11/ 4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	--
Saw-whet Owl	--	--	0	0	0	0	--	11/ 2	--	0	0	0	11/ 2	0	0	0
Black-capped Chickadee	--	10/30	--	9/27	--	11/13	11/ 4	10/28	11/ 2	--	0	0	10/25	0	0	--
Hermit Thrush	10/11	10/13	--	10/11	--	10/13	11/15	10/ 8	10/25	9/30	10/16	10/26	9/29	10/16	10/ 5	10/13
Eastern Bluebird	10/14	10/27	10/12	--	--	--	10/30	9/21	10/31	10/28	--	10/14	10/31	--	10/26	--
Water Pipit	--	10/13	0	0	11/15	0	10/15	--	10/12	9/13	0	0	--	10/14	10/12	--
Rusty Blackbird	10/24	10/17	12/ 8	--	--	10/ 9	11/15	10/ 5	10/17	9/29	10/19	--	11/ 9	--	10/10	--
Evening Grosbeak	11/ 8	10/22	10/22	11/29	10/26	10/22	10/26	10/22	10/21	10/ 6	10/16	10/26	10/22	10/26	0	10/26
House Finch	11/ 6	10/25	10/25	--	--	10/ 7	11/ 1	--	10/ 4	9/ 5	0	10/30	10/31	10/ 7	10/26	--
Pine Siskin	10/26	10/30	0	--	0	11/16	11/ 1	10/31	10/29	10/20	10/19	0	10/17	12/20	9/29	11/ 2
Red Crossbill	--	--	0	0	0	0	10/29	--	0	--	0	0	0	0	11/ 1	11/30
American Tree Sparrow	11/21	--	11/23	--	--	--	11/ 8	--	11/26	--	0	0	--	0	--	--
White-crowned Sparrow	10/14	10/16	10/23	10/17	10/11	--	10/26	10/ 8	10/ 6	10/ 9	10/16	0	10/17	10/16	10/ 3	--
Fox Sparrow	10/28	11/ 4	10/13	10/12	--	11/15	10/18	10/31	11/ 7	12/ 5	0	0	--	12/ 8	--	--

March 1976

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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Table 2. Fall Departure Dates, 1975

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Somr
	10-yr	1975														
Green Heron	10/ 2	10/ 2	8/24	12/ 7	11/15	11/16	--	10/ 5	10/ 4	9/28	10/26	8/24	9/28	--	9/29	9/27
Little Blue Heron	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9/27	0	0	0	8/ 3	9/ 1	9/27
Cattle Egret	--	10/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/10	11/12	10/ 2	10/29	9/11	10/12	--
Great Egret	--	10/11	0	0	0	0	0	9/13	10/ 4	10/18	11/ 9	11/10	10/11	9/26	8/31	10/12
Snowy Egret	--	10/14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/15	0	10/14	10/20	0	10/12	10/12
Canada Goose	--	--	12/21	--	10/31	12/17	--	--	W	W	W	11/ 5	W	W	W	W
Blue-winged Teal	--	10/11	9/19	--	10/11	--	0	--	10/18	10/ 9	--	--	12/ 1	--	10/12	9/28
Wood Duck	--	10/18	--	--	W	12/27	--	--	10/10	10/18	9/21	--	11/15	10/ 2	10/18	--
Broad-winged Hawk	9/30	10/ 5	--	--	9/28	9/10	9/28	10/ 4	9/27	10/21	0	0	10/12	--	10/ 5	10/12
Osprey	10/ 5	10/14	9/17	--	10/11	9/19	--	--	10/18	10/29	10/12	--	11/ 9	10/15	11/ 2	10/12
Black-bellied Plover	--	10/ 6	0	10/12	0	0	0	0	0	10/26	10/ 6	0	0	0	9/29	9/27
Greater Yellowlegs	10/26	10/18	9/19	9/25	0	11/11	0	0	0	10/18	0	0	0	11/11	10/18	10/12
Lesser Yellowlegs	--	--	0	10/ 1	0	0	0	0	0	11/16	0	0	10/11	--	0	9/28
Spotted Sandpiper	--	10/ 7	9/21	10/12	--	9/11	--	--	--	10/ 2	10/13	0	0	12/17	--	--
American Woodcock	--	--	--	--	--	10/17	11/ 6	--	--	--	W	10/24	12/28	--	0	--
Sanderling	--	--	0	9/27	0	0	0	0	0	10/23	0	0	0	0	9/20	--
Semipalmated Sandpiper	--	--	0	10/12	0	0	0	0	0	10/15	0	0	9/13	--	0	--
Least Sandpiper	--	10/11	9/19	10/12	0	0	0	0	0	12/15	0	0	10/11	--	--	9/28
Pectoral Sandpiper	--	10/11	9/19	10/12	0	0	0	0	0	11/22	0	0	10/11	--	0	9/28
Dunlin	--	--	0	10/11	0	0	0	0	0	12/28	0	0	12/28	0	0	--
Laughing Gull	--	11/11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/11	12/15	12/ 7	10/25	11/14	--	11/ 9	10/12
Forster's Tern	--	11/ 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/17	11/23	10/26	0	11/15	0	11/ 2	9/28
Common Tern	--	--	0	9/25	0	0	0	0	0	11/15	0	0	9/26	0	0	9/27
Royal Tern	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11/ 8	10/26	0	0	0	10/26	9/27
Caspian Tern	--	10/ 7	0	9/27	0	0	0	0	0	10/25	0	10/14	--	0	10/ 7	9/27
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	9/30	9/28	--	--	--	10/16	9/ 4	10/ 5	10/ 1	9/28	10/19	9/28	9/11	9/22	9/14	10/12
Whip-poor-will	--	--	--	--	--	--	8/26	--	--	--	--	--	9/30	--	10/ 3	--
Common Nighthawk	9/14	9/20	9/17	--	--	9/ 7	9/20	9/13	10/ 8	10/ 6	9/ 9	10/ 1	9/26	--	9/20	9/28
Chimney Swift	10/ 8	10/ 4	--	--	9/22	10/ 9	9/27	10/ 1	10/10	10/18	10/ 3	9/26	10/13	10/ 2	10/ 5	10/ 4
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	9/18	9/26	10/ 3	--	9/ 7	9/ 4	10/12	9/28	9/26	9/24	9/13	9/ 4	10/ 5	10/ 4	10/ 4	9/19
Common Flicker	--	10/31	9/28	--	11/ 1	10/29	11/15	10/31	--	--	11/ 2	10/31	10/29	--	W	W
Eastern Kingbird	9/ 8	9/15	--	--	--	--	--	--	8/25	9/ 8	9/ 3	9/17	9/21	--	9/15	9/28
Great Crested Flycatcher	9/14	9/29	--	--	--	9/14	--	9/ 8	--	10/ 1	--	--	9/29	11/ 5	--	--
Eastern Phoebe	10/21	10/29	--	--	--	10/16	1/ 1	10/20	11/19	10/27	--	--	10/31	11/ 3	10/12	--
Acadian Flycatcher	9/20	9/18	0	--	--	9/13	9/22	9/19	9/17	9/20	9/22	9/ 9	8/16	--	--	--

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Somr
	10-yr	1975														
Yellow-bell. Flycatcher	--	9/26	0	0	0	8/30	0	9/28	9/9	10/19	--	9/26	10/5	0	9/14	0
Traill's Flycatcher	--	9/12	--	9/27	--	9/3	--	9/4	8/23	0	0	--	0	9/29	9/20	
Least Flycatcher	9/22	9/15	--	--	0	9/15	0	9/15	--	9/10	0	9/21	9/15	0	10/5	9/29
Eastern Pewee	10/2	10/3	--	--	--	10/12	9/27	10/5	10/1	10/6	9/30	10/8	9/29	10/7	10/3	9/7
Tree Swallow	10/16	10/16	--	11/8	9/27	0	0	9/13	--	10/27	10/12	9/20	10/20	10/21	10/25	10/12
Bank Swallow	--	9/26	0	0	0	0	0	9/13	0	9/24	0	9/2	10/1	--	10/8	9/27
Rough-winged Swallow	--	9/21	0	0	0	0	0	9/13	--	10/31	0	8/23	9/21	--	10/18	--
Barn Swallow	9/13	9/23	--	--	8/5	9/20	--	10/5	9/14	9/26	9/22	9/14	10/14	--	9/29	9/27
Cliff Swallow	--	--	--	0	--	0	--	--	9/4	9/26	0	--	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin	9/4	9/8	--	--	9/7	--	8/2	9/8	9/8	9/25	9/14	9/2	10/1	--	8/30	--
Blue Jay	10/21	10/23	W	W	W	10/29	11/17	10/23	10/21	W	11/23	10/12	W	W	W	10/12
Red-breasted Nuthatch	--	10/12	W	10/12	W	10/12	--	10/5	12/7	10/10	11/12	--	11/2	--	--	10/12
House Wren	10/4	10/11	--	--	9/22	11/5	9/13	10/27	9/20	10/10	--	10/6	10/21	--	10/19	10/12
Gray Catbird	10/16	10/22	10/22	--	10/10	11/16	10/9	11/1	12/19	10/25	10/19	10/18	11/3	10/18	10/26	10/13
Brown Thrasher	10/14	10/19	10/8	--	--	11/29	10/9	10/19	11/14	10/21	11/16	9/30	10/12	--	11/2	10/12
Wood Thrush	10/8	10/14	--	--	--	10/21	9/10	10/24	11/3	10/27	10/7	9/28	10/14	10/15	10/9	9/28
Hermit Thrush	10/30	10/31	10/8	10/17	--	11/13	--	10/31	12/14	--	10/16	10/26	11/16	--	11/1	--
Swainson's Thrush	10/10	10/14	10/22	10/17	--	10/22	9/5	10/22	10/10	10/26	9/30	10/12	10/29	--	10/12	10/11
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10/7	10/6	9/28	9/28	0	10/4	0	10/16	10/6	10/25	9/30	0	10/12	--	10/7	10/11
Veery	9/23	9/28	--	--	--	9/18	9/13	10/6	9/30	10/13	9/10	10/13	9/30	9/10	9/15	9/28
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9/14	9/28	--	--	9/7	10/8	--	10/5	11/15	12/28	9/14	8/4	--	--	9/20	--
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11/2	11/18	12/21	--	10/27	12/27	11/27	11/1	12/6	11/15	11/12	11/19	11/16	--	--	--
Cedar Waxwing	--	11/6	10/28	--	10/21	11/16	--	11/1	12/19	--	11/12	12/1	11/1	12/19	9/28	--
White-eyed Vireo	9/22	9/22	0	0	--	9/26	9/21	10/5	9/30	9/28	9/22	10/6	9/20	9/22	9/20	9/21
Yellow-throated Vireo	--	9/14	9/26	--	9/7	--	--	10/5	9/14	--	9/10	--	--	--	0	--
Solitary Vireo	10/14	10/14	--	10/25	--	10/11	10/4	10/27	10/10	10/21	0	0	10/18	10/1	10/25	10/11
Red-eyed Vireo	10/4	9/29	8/24	--	9/28	10/9	9/21	10/5	10/7	9/29	9/30	9/11	10/22	10/1	9/29	9/29
Black-&-white Warbler	10/4	9/29	--	9/27	9/14	9/25	9/16	10/24	11/6	10/11	9/22	9/30	10/19	--	10/4	9/28
Blue-winged Warbler	--	9/12	0	0	0	--	9/2	9/17	8/23	9/10	9/13	0	9/10	0	0	0
Tennessee Warbler	10/2	10/9	10/1	10/16	9/27	11/11	--	10/5	10/14	10/13	9/30	0	10/19	--	9/7	0
Nashville Warbler	10/5	10/5	10/19	9/28	--	10/9	0	10/5	--	10/13	9/10	0	10/6	0	9/28	9/27
Northern Parula Warbler	9/30	10/4	--	--	--	11/11	--	10/5	10/6	11/9	9/22	9/20	9/20	--	10/3	--
Yellow Warbler	--	9/8	--	--	--	9/16	9/4	--	--	9/8	--	--	9/4	--	9/29	--
Magnolia Warbler	10/4	10/7	10/23	10/16	9/28	10/2	--	10/12	10/6	10/19	10/7	10/3	10/23	10/4	10/8	9/29
Cape May Warbler	10/4	10/6	10/7	0	9/27	10/7	--	10/5	10/5	10/24	9/10	0	10/12	9/30	10/6	10/12

March 1976

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Species	Median		Garr	Alle	Wash	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Chas	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Somr
	10-yr	1975														
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	10/ 8	10/ 8	--	9/28	9/27	10/20	--	<u>10/19</u>	10/ 6	10/26	10/ 7	9/28	<u>10/23</u>	--	<u>10/ 8</u>	<u>10/13</u>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	11/ 4	11/ 1	<u>11/ 1</u>	10/17	11/29	11/11	10/21	<u>11/ 1</u>	11/ 2	10/18	--	11/19	<u>10/31</u>	0	--	--
Black-thr. Green Warb.	10/ 6	10/ 8	<u>10/21</u>	10/16	--	10/13	10/12	<u>10/ 8</u>	10/ 6	10/ 9	9/15	9/21	<u>10/ 4</u>	--	<u>10/ 7</u>	<u>10/12</u>
Blackburnian Warbler	9/26	10/ 2	<u>10/19</u>	--	9/27	9/18	--	10/ 5	--	9/30	10/ 7	0	10/ 4	--	9/28	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9/28	9/30	<u>9/29</u>	--	9/27	9/18	9/12	<u>10/ 6</u>	10/ 6	<u>10/ 1</u>	10/ 7	0	<u>10/31</u>	--	<u>9/29</u>	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/30	9/28	<u>10/ 4</u>	9/27	9/28	9/29	9/17	<u>9/22</u>	10/ 3	10/18	0	0	<u>10/ 5</u>	9/ 9	10/12	<u>9/28</u>
Blackpoll Warbler	10/ 8	10/10	<u>10/ 8</u>	9/28	9/27	10/26	--	10/ 5	10/19	<u>10/25</u>	10/ 7	10/16	<u>10/27</u>	--	<u>10/ 8</u>	<u>10/11</u>
Pine Warbler	--	--	0	--	0	0	0	0	9/26	--	--	9/26	9/15	--	--	9/28
Prairie Warbler	9/20	9/20	9/19	--	--	--	10/18	--	--	--	9/14	--	--	--	9/20	9/29
Palm Warbler	10/22	10/25	<u>10/26</u>	10/25	0	0	--	<u>10/23</u>	0	12/14	10/19	11/ 2	<u>10/24</u>	--	<u>10/26</u>	<u>10/12</u>
Ovenbird	10/ 7	10/ 6	--	10/ 4	9/27	10/13	9/22	<u>10/15</u>	<u>10/ 9</u>	<u>10/19</u>	9/21	9/28	<u>10/23</u>	--	<u>10/ 7</u>	<u>9/29</u>
Northern Waterthrush	10/ 2	10/ 1	--	0	0	9/11	0	<u>10/ 8</u>	9/20	10/ 1	10/12	0	<u>10/ 6</u>	9/26	<u>10/ 8</u>	<u>9/29</u>
Louisiana Waterthrush	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8/13	<u>8/16</u>	9/11	0	--
Kentucky Warbler	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	9/ 8	--	9/14	--	8/13	9/18	--	0	--
Connecticut Warbler	9/28	9/29	0	9/28	0	<u>10/ 1</u>	0	<u>10/ 6</u>	9/10	<u>9/27</u>	0	10/ 7	9/30	10/ 1	<u>9/10</u>	<u>9/22</u>
Mourning Warbler	--	--	0	0	0	9/11	0	<u>9/ 6</u>	10/ 1	<u>9/14</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Yellowthroat	10/14	10/24	<u>9/27</u>	10/16	--	10/27	9/27	<u>10/25</u>	12/11	10/26	10/21	10/31	<u>10/24</u>	10/ 7	<u>10/26</u>	<u>10/13</u>
Yellow-breasted Chat	10/ 9	9/29	--	--	11/15	9/ 4	--	<u>9/ 8</u>	12/ 2	10/13	10/16	--	9/11	--	<u>9/ 1</u>	<u>9/29</u>
Hooded Warbler	--	9/13	--	--	--	9/14	--	<u>9/13</u>	9/10	9/13	9/10	8/20	0	0	9/28	--
Wilson's Warbler	--	9/28	<u>9/27</u>	9/27	0	<u>9/26</u>	0	10/ 5	12/24	9/14	0	0	<u>10/12</u>	0	<u>10/ 4</u>	<u>9/28</u>
Canada Warbler	9/18	9/25	--	--	0	9/11	9/ 9	10/ 5	<u>9/ 9</u>	10/16	9/22	0	9/28	--	9/28	0
American Redstart	9/30	10/ 7	<u>9/26</u>	--	--	10/31	9/17	<u>10/ 8</u>	10/ 6	10/13	10/27	10/ 6	<u>10/27</u>	10/ 5	<u>10/ 4</u>	<u>10/19</u>
Bobolink	9/21	9/29	--	0	0	0	0	9/13	9/29	10/23	9/10	9/ 8	0	--	10/ 3	9/29
Orchard Oriole	--	--	0	0	0	--	--	<u>8/17</u>	--	8/25	--	7/31	--	--	--	--
Northern Oriole	9/22	9/28	--	--	--	9/30	9/ 9	<u>8/28</u>	10/10	10/22	--	--	9/28	--	9/28	--
Scarlet Tanager	10/ 4	9/29	<u>9/26</u>	--	9/27	9/29	9/27	10/ 8	10/ 5	9/28	10/ 7	--	10/ 6	9/30	9/29	--
Summer Tanager	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	9/22	9/16	0	9/30	0	--
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9/30	10/ 8	--	0	--	10/16	--	11/20	10/10	10/11	10/ 7	10/ 1	9/30	10/ 7	10/ 8	<u>9/29</u>
Blue Grosbeak	9/22	9/29	0	0	0	--	--	--	9/29	9/16	10/ 7	8/24	9/11	10/ 7	10/ 8	--
Indigo Bunting	10/ 6	10/ 2	--	9/28	9/28	--	--	<u>10/ 8</u>	10/ 2	--	10/ 7	9/15	<u>10/13</u>	--	9/29	10/12
Rufous-sided Towhee	10/29	10/28	<u>10/10</u>	10/25	10/28	<u>10/22</u>	10/19	<u>10/28</u>	11/ 2	--	11/ 9	--	<u>11/ 1</u>	W	W	--
Chipping Sparrow	10/26	10/22	12/21	10/17	9/28	--	10/26	<u>10/22</u>	10/21	10/29	9/ 8	--	<u>11/11</u>	--	--	--
Fox Sparrow	11/24	11/26	10/13	10/17	11/27	12/ 8	--	--	11/26	12/ 5	0	0	11/ 3	12/ 8	--	--
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	--	0	0	0	--	0	<u>10/ 8</u>	0	0	0	0	<u>10/12</u>	0	<u>10/ 3</u>	0
Swamp Sparrow	--	10/26	12/21	--	--	10/12	--	<u>10/31</u>	<u>10/15</u>	W	W	W	W	W	<u>11/ 1</u>	<u>10/20</u>

Mrs. Robert Solem, Mrs. G. Colin Munro; Montgomery--Mrs. M. B. Donald and assistants at Adventure, Robert Warfield, Nancy and Lucy MacClintock; Prince Georges--Chris Ludwig, Chandler Robbins, Leonard Teuber; Anne Arundel--Hal Wierenga, Mark Hoffman, Danny Bystrak; Charles--Leonard Teuber, Dr. George Wilmot, David and Andrew Wilmot, Olive Sorzano; Calvert--John Fales; Kent--Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, Mrs. James Plymire, Jim Gruber, Floyd Parks, Mrs. Arline Delario; Caroline--Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, Mariana Nuttle, Ethel Engle, Steve Westre; Talbot--Jan Reese, Harry Armistead; Somerset--Mrs. Richard Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vaughn, Chandler Robbins, Chris Ludwig; Lower Eastern Shore--Somerset County observers plus Samuel Dyke, Paul DuMont, and Robert Warfield.

Grebes, Gannets, Cormorants. The only Red-necked Grebes found during the period were singles in Kent County on Nov. 15 (Floyd Parks) and on the Ocean City Christmas Count, Dec. 29. The Gannet count on Rich Rowlett's pelagic trip off Ocean City on Dec. 6 exceeded 500 individuals. An estimate of 2,000 Double-crested Cormorants in the Ocean City area on Oct. 19 (Paul DuMont, Richard Rowlett and Robert W. Smart) is a record-high tally for the fall migration; a single bird was seen repeatedly in the vicinity of Sandy Point State Park through Dec. 1 (Hal Wierenga).

Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns. We are indebted to the mild autumn weather for the rash of late departure dates in the heron family: single Green Herons in Charles County on Oct. 26 (Wilmots and Olive Sorzano), at Fort Frederick in Washington County on Nov. 15 (Dan Boone), and at Oldtown on Dec. 7 (James Paulus), and another at Sandy Point State Park from Dec. 7 to the end of the month (Wierenga); Cattle Egrets in Kent County on Oct. 29 (Mendinhalls), Sandy Point State Park on Nov. 10 (Wierenga), and Charles County, Nov. 12 (Leonard Teuber); Snowy Egret to Oct. 20 in Kent County (Mendinhalls); and American Bittern at Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County on Nov. 18 (Fran Pope) and at Sandy Point State Park through Dec. 28 (Wierenga). Louisiana Herons remained through the period in greater numbers than ever before; 10 were tallied on the Ocean City Christmas Count, Dec. 29, and 14 at Crisfield, Dec. 30.

Swans and Geese. A Black Swan, native to Australia and New Zealand, was seen at Seneca on Nov. 2 (Warfield), and there was one in the Loch Raven area on Nov. 11 (Dick Krahe). Although these are obvious escapes, it seems worth while placing them on record; who knows, they may some day join the Mute Swan and the Whooper Swan in establishing feral populations in Maryland. Another probable escape, although it bore no signs of recent captivity, was an unbanded adult Barnacle Goose seen at Remington Farms on Nov. 22 (Paul DuMont and others). The first Whistling Swans were sighted at Kent Island on Oct. 19 (Warfield), and the main influx occurred during the period Nov. 11-23. Brant had a good nesting season, and the hunting season on this species, which had been closed for the previous three years, was reopened in 1975. A flock of 22 Brant flew past Sandy Point Park on Oct. 31 (Wierenga and Mark Hoffman). Snow Geese also had a good nesting season, and Scott Ward reported increased numbers migrating down Assateague Island this October. Snow Geese, mostly singles, were noted four times at Sandy Point State Park from

Oct. 12 (John W. Taylor) to Nov. 8 (Wierenga). Snow Geese were found by almost every party on the Dec. 21 St. Michaels Christmas Count, with an amazing total of 705 individuals. The first Greater White-fronted Goose of the season was found at Remington Farms on Nov. 23 (*fide* Paul DuMont) and there may have been as many as 25 individuals at Blackwater Refuge in late November (Refuge staff); one remained at Blackwater for the Dec. 31 Christmas Count (Kathy Klimkiewicz).

Ducks. An early Oldsquaw was found at Sandy Point State Park on Oct. 15; two days later there were 75. Huge flights of 4,300 (going north) on Oct. 31 and 3,500 on Nov. 15 were observed at Sandy Point, all by Wierenga. A Eurasian Green-winged Teal, although now only a subspecies, is of interest because of its rarity; one was seen at Blackwater Refuge on Nov. 24 by Peter Pyle. An early female King Eider was in Ocean City Inlet on Oct. 19 (Paul DuMont, Wierenga, and others).

Vultures and Hawks. A record-breaking 54 Black Vultures were counted at Clear Spring on Nov. 19 by George Fenwick. Between Aug. 19 and Nov. 29, Hal Wierenga counted a total of 4,296 hawks migrating over Sandy Point State Park and Annapolis. The vast majority had crossed the Bay from Kent Island, and seven-eighths of the entire count for the season consisted of a super-flock of 3,750 Broad-wings, all in sight at the same time on Sept. 28! This flight had crossed over from Kent Island at a height of about 1,500 feet and was watched from 4:00 to 4:15 p.m. by Harold and Hal Wierenga and Peggy Bohanan. About 30 minutes later an estimated 4,000 birds were noted about 12 miles west-northwest of Sandy Point by Scott Mele--almost certainly the same birds. The sky was mostly clear; wind west-northwest, 10 m.p.h. Wierenga's best one-day counts for other species were: 46 Red-tails and 2 Cooper's on Nov. 1, 35 Sharpshins on Oct. 14, 17 Red-shoulders on Oct. 21, and 6 American Kestrels on Oct. 12. Twelve species of hawks were found on the Maryland Christmas Counts, with impressive State totals as follows: Northern Goshawk 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 103, Cooper's 25, Red-tail 495, Red-shoulder 216, Rough-leg 21, Golden Eagle 2, Bald Eagle 52, Northern Harrier 301, Peregrine Falcon 2, Merlin 9, and American Kestrel 1,044. The last Osprey was seen in Dorchester County on Nov. 22 (Chris Ludwig).

Shorebirds. Although most of the shorebird excitement occurred at Sandy Point State Park (see Hal Wierenga's account on pages 3-5), several other noteworthy records were established. A late inland Northern Phalarope was at the Rouge Lagoon, Oldtown, on Oct. 1, together with single Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Solitary Sandpiper. The last shorebird flock of the season at Rouge Lagoon was on Oct. 12 and consisted of 5 Black-bellied Plover, and Spotted, Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers (Paulus). Richard Rowlett's pelagic trip off Ocean City on Dec. 6 yielded 270 Red Phalaropes. Two Wilson's Phalaropes at Denton on Oct. 15 and Oct. 16 broke the State departure record by more than a week (Marvin Hewitt, Steve Westre).

Skuas, Gulls, and Terns. Five skuas were counted by Richard Rowlett and party off Ocean City on Dec. 6, but there is some doubt as to whether our Maryland skuas are Northern Skuas from the North Atlantic breeding

grounds or South Polar Skuas. The two birds are so similar that they cannot be reliably separated under field conditions. The same pelagic trip yielded an estimate of more than 600 Black-legged Kittiwakes as well as single early Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. Observers spent many long hours at the Bowie sanitary landfill hoping to catch a glimpse of an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull that was seen there sporadically among many hundreds of Herring Gulls from Oct. 19 (Robert Patterson) to the end of December; on Nov. 22 it was joined by a subadult bird (Hal Wierenga). Royal Terns remained late in inland tidal waters, with the last ones noted on Oct. 26 in Charles (Wilmots) and Talbot (Armistead) Counties and on Nov. 8 at Sandy Point State Park (Wierenga). A record 261 Forster's Terns participated in the Ocean City Christmas Count.

Owls, Goatsuckers. It was a poor winter for Saw-whet Owls, but one Long-eared Owl returned for the fourth consecutive year to Sandy Point State Park (Nov. 26, Wierenga). Our poor sampling of the Whip-poor-will migration is shown by Table 2; this species is seldom seen in fall, after it stops singing, except by banders. On Oct. 3 Armistead banded 2 individuals. A very late Common Nighthawk was seen in Salisbury on Oct. 19 (Charles and Gail Vaughn).

Hummingbirds. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds normally leave Maryland by the end of September. This year, however, they were found into October in no fewer than five counties. One lucky bird was mist-netted at Mountain Lake Park at dusk on Oct. 3, kept inside the house overnight by Fran Pope, given breakfast, and not released the next morning until the frost had melted. The last straggler was found in Howard County on Oct. 12 (Jo Solem).

Flycatchers and Swallows. Three Western Kingbirds were seen in Maryland this fall. The first was at Sandy Point State Park on Oct. 12 (Hal Wierenga); the second was on the South Point road below Ocean City, Oct. 17 (Wierenga, Paul DuMont and others), and the third was on Assateague Island, just north of the Virginia line on Oct. 20 (Dr. Prescott Ward). An exceedingly late Great Crested Flycatcher was found at Denton on Nov. 5 by Mariana Nuttle. Late swallows included a Tree Swallow at Oldtown on Nov. 8 by Jim Paulus and a record-breaking Rough-winged Swallow carefully studied at Sandy Point on Oct. 31 by Hal Wierenga and Mark Hoffman.

Chickadees. Four weeks passed between the first detected Black-capped Chickadee migration on Piney Mountain in Allegany County on Sept. 27 (John Willets) and the first record of the species on the Coastal Plain at Damsite near Chestertown on Oct. 25 (Mrs. Edward Mendinhall). Within the next ten days they appeared in four fall-line counties, and by Christmas time they were present in all but four Count circles, with a State Christmas Count total of 1,598 birds (845 of them from Washington County east to Ocean City). The only Boreal Chickadee known to have reached Maryland was discovered in a small grove of ornamental spruces at Cockeyville on Dec. 27 by Steve Stegner.

Nuthatches, Wrens. There was a major invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Record-breaking numbers were found on nine of the Christmas

Counts, with an amazing tally of 84 individuals in Lower Kent County and over 50 birds each at Bowie, Point Lookout, St. Michaels, and Ocean City. Brown-headed Nuthatches, on the other hand, were below normal on most of the six Counts where they were recorded; the State total was only 101-- which until recently would have been a poor total for the Southern Dorchester County Christmas Count alone. Carolina Wrens continue to increase; they reached a new high of 4,771 individuals on this year's Christmas Counts.

Mimids. The westernmost wintering Gray Catbird was one seen in the John Richards' yard at Emmitsburg on Christmas Day. Gray Catbirds were recorded on twelve of the Maryland Christmas Counts; the high tally west of the Bay was 7 birds at Seneca. Brown Thrashers were seen on all except four Christmas Counts, and John Richards also claims the westernmost one of these, in his yard on Dec. 20-31.

Gnatcatchers. There was an unusual sprinkling of late reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Single birds were noted at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Nov. 4 (Brooke Meanley), in the Oxon Hill area on Nov. 11 (Leonard Teuber), and at Bowie on Nov. 15 (Jim Wick), and 2 were seen on the Annapolis Christmas Count, Dec. 28 (one by Mark Hoffman near Lake Shore, the other near Sandy Point State Park by Prof. Harold Wierenga and Barry Cooper).

Warblers. The October portion of the warbler migration was rather routine. The few stragglers that spilled over into November or December are probably of more interest than the vast numbers of individuals that were seen or banded during the main part of the migration period. These late stragglers were as follows: Black-and-white Warblers seen at Oxon Hill on Nov. 6 (Teuber), banded at Salisbury on Nov. 6 (Vaughn), and seen in Wicomico County on Dec. 13 (Dyke); Tennessee, Orange-crowned and Northern Parula seen in Baltimore on Nov. 11 (Peggy Bohanan); Northern Parula seen in Anne Arundel County on Nov. 9 (Paul DuMont); a male Black-throated Blue seen at Port Deposit in Cecil County on Nov. 6 (Col. and Mrs. Leland Devore); a Blackpoll banded in Salisbury on Nov. 3 (Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vaughn); 2 Palm Warblers at Sandy Point on Dec. 14 (Hal Wierenga); Common Yellowthroat at Oxon Hill on Dec. 11 and a Yellow-breasted Chat there on Dec. 2 (Teuber); a Yellow-breasted Chat at Fort Frederick State Park on Nov. 15 (Daniel Boone); and a Wilson's Warbler at Fort Washington, Nov. 19 through Dec. 24 (Teuber). Other stragglers of note, even though they were last viewed in October, were: Nashville Warbler on Oct. 19, Magnolia on Oct. 23, Black-throated Green on Oct. 21, and Blackburnian on Oct. 19, all banded at Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County by Fran Pope; Prairie Warbler in Howard County on Oct. 18 (Rosamond Munro); Chestnut-sided Warbler banded at Damsite on Oct. 31 (Mrs. Mendin-hall); and American Redstart seen in Baltimore on Oct. 31 (Peggy Bohanan).

Orioles. A banded male Northern Oriole returned for the fourth consecutive year to the Towson feeder of Dick Krahe, Dec. 1. Others were seen elsewhere in Towson at the homes of Gladys Cole on Dec. 22 and Jim Emerson on Jan. 2. Still other single birds were seen in the Allegany County, Bowie, and Crisfield Christmas Count circles in late December.

Northern Finches. Evening Grosbeaks were found on 19 of the 20 Maryland Christmas Counts, but Bowie was the only Coastal Plain Christmas Count area to report more than 13 individuals. The large numbers were seen from Seneca (252 birds) west to Garrett County (923 birds). Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills, on the other hand, were primarily restricted to the Eastern Shore, with 243 Red Crossbills at Crisfield and 223 in Southern Dorchester County. Except for a couple of records of single Common Redpolls, the only ones found were a flock of 150 studied as close as 10 feet at Denton on Dec. 20 (A. J. and R. B. Fletcher); they were feeding in a freshly disced field.

Other Grosbeaks, Finches, and Buntings. A very late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Montgomery County on Nov. 20 by Lucy and Nancy MacClintock. House Finches were reported from all counties except Carroll, Charles, Calvert, and Dorchester; Fran Pope found a male at Mountain Lake Park on Oct. 25. Snow Buntings reached a peak of 110 birds at Sandy Point State Park on Nov. 26 (Hal Wierenga), and single Lapland Longspurs were with them on Nov. 23 (Barry Cooper) and Nov. 30 (Wierenga). Lapland Longspurs nosed out Snow Buntings 54 to 53 on the Dec. 29 Ocean City Christmas Count, but no other longspurs were detected on the Counts. The best tally of Snow Buntings came from the Dec. 20 Denton Count, where 268 were seen by Steve Radis, Steve Westre, Wilbur Rittenhouse, and Marvin Hewitt.

7900 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel



AMERICAN AVOCET IN WESTERN MARYLAND

James Paulus

On October 1, 1975, I visited the Rouge Lagoon near Oldtown to check on the Northern Phalaropes and try for departure dates on other shorebirds. Shortly after 4 p.m. I noticed a rather large black and white bird gliding in for a landing. When I finally got my glasses on this bird, I just could not believe it. Only 60 feet away, standing in the shallow water close to the edge was my first American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). After watching the bird for a few minutes I left to get my camera. I returned at 5:45 p.m., and although the light was starting to fail, I was able to get half a dozen colored pictures to confirm this first Maryland record of the American Avocet away from tidewater.

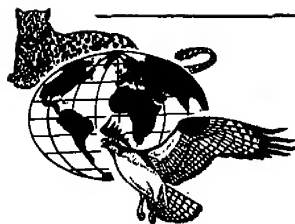


Box 35, Oldtown

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Color-marked Shorebirds

In a cooperative effort to determine migration routes and important feeding areas of Arctic breeding shorebirds, thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers and smaller numbers of other species will be color-banded and their plumage dyed at James Bay, Ontario. Please report all sightings to Dr. R. Morrison, CWS, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H3.



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WORLD NATURE TOURS, INC. is pleased to offer its 1977 tour program to MOS members. Your participation in our tours can benefit the MOS Sanctuary Fund. Write for details. Expert local leaders are used whenever it is possible and groups are kept small. Brochures are in preparation for these tours. Please write for those of interest to you and they will be sent to you as soon as they are ready.

FEATURE AREA: EAST AFRICA

John Williams, the famous author of the East African field guides to birds and butterflies, will be our tour leader in East Africa. The June trip is designed both for the traveler who has already been to Africa and also for the first-timer. It will go to several seldom visited areas to find those rare birds not usually seen on most African tours. Therefore both the experienced and inexperienced birder will add many new species of birds and mammals as well as other fascinating experiences to their memories. The August trip is more general and will feature some of the most famous wildlife parks in East Africa.

AFRICA:

KENYA	June 10 - 30
KENYA AND TANZANIA	August 6 - 20

ASIA:

MALAYSIA	August 31 - September 24
INDIA - NEPAL	December 28 - January 21, 1978

EUROPE:

NORWAY	July 12 - August 2
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CENTRAL AMERICA & WEST INDIES:

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & HAITI	July 8 - 22
PANAMA	July 23 - August 6
GUATEMALA	August 7 - 20
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	November 5 - 19

NORTH AMERICA:

HAWAII	March 20 - April 2
TEXAS COAST	April 1 - 14
TEXAS - BIG BEND	April 16 - 24
ARIZONA	April 26 - May 10
VIRGINIA - NORTH CAROLINA	May 14 - 28
WEST VIRGINIA	July 12 - 26
NOVA SCOTIA - NEWFOUNDLAND	June 24 - July 10



MARYLAND RECORDS OF THE MANX SHEARWATER

Richard A. Rowlett

Four sightings of the Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) have been recorded in adjacent ocean water off the coast of Maryland. These include three undocumented sight records as follows:

June 1, 1974, 40 miles southeast of Ocean City (approximately 38°03' N, 74°20' W). Chartered birding trip aboard headboat "Capt. Talbot"; 25 observers including the author.

August 8, 1974, 41 miles east of Ocean City (38°19' N, 74°13' W). Marine Science Consortium Ocean Pollution Cruise aboard RV "Advance II"; the author was the only observer.

January 12, 1975, 15 miles east of Ocean City (38°19' N, 74°45' W). Chartered birding trip aboard headboat "Mariner"; seen only by Hal Wierenga and the author.

These three observations were brief and not totally satisfactory for detailed study of the birds, although most necessary field marks were noted. The June and August records were isolated incidents where the birds were not associated with any other species. The January sighting was a brief glimpse of a bird that passed 50 yards along side the boat and vanished into a mass of 50 Herring Gulls and 15 Northern Gannets, which were following in the wake and "chum slick."

On December 6, 1975, a Manx Shearwater was observed by all forty observers aboard the chartered headboat "Mariner" for almost an hour, as it followed and circled the boat as close as 20 yards in an area 57 to 60 miles southeast of Ocean City in both Maryland (38°03' N, 73°58' W) and Virginia (38°01' N, 73°54' W) waters. All field marks were scrutinized in detail, and the bird is documented with photographs, including the cover photo and the one reproduced here.



Figure 1. Manx Shearwater. The long, white undertail coverts, feet that extend slightly beyond the tip of the tail, and the dark cap that extends below the eye are the most useful field marks of the Manx Shearwater in Maryland. Photo by Bob Augustine, Dec. 6, 1975.

The Manx Shearwater frequently alighted on the water to feed on the coarsely ground beef suet that was dispensed in the wake. Additional species observed at this position (all in Maryland) included Greater Shearwater (1 bird, latest Maryland

record), Northern Gannet (40±), Red Phalarope (100±), Skua (3), Iceland Gull (200), Greater Black-backed Gull (5), Black-legged Kittiwake (140±, and Dovekie (21).

715 Main Street, Laurel 20810



M.O.S. RESEARCH GRANTS

The M.O.S. Research Committee now has a small budget that will be used to support qualified research grant applicants. The maximum single grant award will be \$250. Research need not be restricted to studies of birds. Any biological topic is acceptable with one proviso: a non-bird study will only be considered if it is conducted at one of the M.O.S. Sanctuaries and it contributes to better knowledge of the sanctuary ecology. Applicants should bear in mind that the Committee budget is small and administrative restrictions require a minimum of \$160 of the budget to be spent for research conducted at one of the M.O.S. Sanctuaries. Although birds may be studied anywhere in the state, the Committee must satisfy the \$160 requirement.

The research proposal should be less than four typed pages and should include the following:

1. where the study will be conducted;
2. principal investigator's name; and, a brief biography indicating the qualifications of the investigator to conduct the project;
3. purpose of the study and expected results;
4. methods and resources for the conduct of the study;
5. an indication of previous studies in the literature that are relevant to the one being proposed, and how the proposed study differs from these studies;
6. an itemization of anticipated expenses. (M.O.S. will support room and board only at one of its sanctuaries; travel to and from the study region will not be supported, but travel during conduct of the project is an allowable expense.)

The recipient of a grant is expected to publish a semi-popular account of the project in *Maryland Birdlife*. Also, a financial accounting of expenses is required. Any non-expendable items purchased with grant money will be retained by M.O.S. Because of the very limited research grant budget, positive consideration will be given to funding only a portion of a proposed project. Prospective applicants are encouraged to seek joint funding with other organizations.

This announcement is for grant activities to be conducted from May 1, 1977 through April 30, 1978 inclusive. DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS BY THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE IS JAN. 15, 1977. Successful applicants will be notified by mail no later than April 1, 1977.

Send proposals to Mr. Charles Vaughn, 1306 Frederick Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801.

COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 2 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk, 8 am. Mrs. Walter Bohanan
 3 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main St, Laurel
 4 BALTIMORE Sandy Pt. State Park, 8 am. Robert Ringler
 6 BALTIMORE Chimney Swift roost, Van Bokkelen Hall, Towson, 7pm
 9 HOWARD "Marshes" by Dr. Bodenstein. Swansfield Elem., 7:45
 9 FREDERICK Introduction to Ecology, K. Bromfield, 7:30 pm.
 9 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk, 8 am. Mrs. Raymond Geddes
 10 BALTIMORE Moonwatch, Towson Plaza, 8 pm. Mrs. P. Ravesies
 11 ANNE ARUNDEL Manderes Creek Sanctuary, 7:30 am., Carol Swartz
 11 HOWARD Patapsco State Park trip, 7:30 am. M. Chestem
 11 FREDERICK Lilypons trip. Meet Culler Lake, Frederick, 7:30
 11 PATUXENT Goddard Space Flight Ctr. trip, 7:30 am, C. Dupree
 12 TALBOT Breakfast hike. Hosts Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharp
 13 MONTGOMERY Hughes Hollow, half day trip. 8 am, Paul Woodward
 14 BALTIMORE 1776-1976 Birds of America, Cylburn, 8 pm.
 15 TALBOT Summer experiences of members. Loyola S&L, 8 pm.
 16 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk, 9 am. Mrs. William Gerringer
 16 MONTGOMERY Fall Warbler Identification, C. Robbins, 8 pm.
 18 BALTIMORE Mill Grove, Pa. Bus trip. Mr. & Mrs. R. Forbecker
 18-19 ANNE ARUNDEL Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, Pa. Jim Cheevers
 19 TALBOT Breakfast hike. Hosts Mr. & Mrs. David S. Spain
 19 BALTIMORE Come-As-You-Are Tea. Monumental City, Towson Lib.
 21 BALTIMORE Leaders' Seminar, Cylburn, 8 pm. John Cullom
 23 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk, 9 am. Robert Ringler, leader
 25 ANNE ARUNDEL Ivy Neck, half day trip, 7:30 am, Emily Joyce
 25 BALTIMORE Hughes Hollow trip, 9:30 am. P. Bohanan, S. Stegner
 25-26 MONTGOMERY Cape May Weekend. Ed McKnight and Bob Hahn.
 26 TALBOT Full morning of birding; coffee break at Tilghman
 26 FREDERICK Monument Knob trip for hawk migration, 2 pm.
 26 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main St, Laurel
 26 HOWARD Fern Walk, Midpax Valley, 1:30 pm, Jo Solem, leader
 28 PATUXENT Guess A Bird II, Dr. Wm. Bodenstein, St.Philips 7:30
 30 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk, 9 am. Mrs. William Gerringer
 Oct. 1 ANNE ARUNDEL Sea Birds & Marine Mammals, R.Rowlett. Library, 8pm
 1-3 BALTIMORE Cape May Weekend. Mrs. William Gerringer
 2 BALTIMORE Smith Island trip. Meet Crisfield, 8:30 am. Worthleys
 2 PATUXENT & ANNE ARUNDEL Fort Meade trip. Ellen Gizarelli
 2 MONTGOMERY Lilypons half day trip, 7:30 am. Paul Woodward
 3 BALTIMORE Back River Wildlife Area, 8:30 am. David Thorndill
 3 TALBOT Breakfast hike. Hosts Mr. & Mrs. Gunby Reese
 5 BALTIMORE Pelagic Birds and Mammals, Cylburn, 8pm. R. Rowlett
 7 FREDERICK Birds of Big Bend, Tex. 7:30 pm, Dr. William Oberman
 7 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk, 9 am. Jane Daniels, leader
 7 BALTIMORE Soldiers' Delight for birds and gentians, 1 pm.
 9 FREDERICK Catoctin Creek, Petersville trip, 7:30 am.
 9 MONTGOMERY "Adventure" banding station, 7:45 am. McCullough
 9-10 BALTIMORE Hawk Mt. Sanctuary trip. Douglas Cook, 486-6755
 9-11 HOWARD & AA Brigantine & Cape May. Cathy & Leroy Williamson
 10 BALTIMORE Come-As-You-Are Tea, Aspen Autumn, Towson Libr, 3pm

- Oct. 10 TALBOT Breakfast hike. Hosts Mr. & Mrs. John W. Ropes
 14 TALBOT Audubon Wildlife Film, Living Ocean, Doris Boyd, 8pm
 14 HOWARD Alaskan Wildlife, John & Eileen Clegg. Swansfld, 7:45
 14 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk, 9 am. Mrs. Walter Bohanan
 15 BALTIMORE Aud. Wildlife Film, East Side Story, W.H. Berlet, 8pm
 16 ANNE ARUNDEL Davidsonville trip. Montg'y Wards, Gen Hiway, 7:30
 17 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowkett, 715 Main St, Laurel
 20 TALBOT Birds of Paraguay & Brazil, Robert Trever, Loyola, 8
 21 MONTGOMERY Listing, Floyd Murdoch & David Holmes. Perpetual, 8pm
 23 HOWARD Columbia Lakes trip. Meet Swansfield School, 7:30 am
 23 BALTIMORE Bay Hundred Peninsula, Talbot Co. Meet Sandy Pt.
 St. Pk. gate, 6 am. James Orgain, 922-3650. J. Reese
 Hawk Mountain, Pa. Weekend trip.
 23-24 TALBOT Delmarva Listers Trip. Contact Ben Poscover 823-2548
 23-25 STATEWIDE Irish Grove Sanctuary, Somerset County
 23-25 ANNE ARUNDEL Tresselt's fish ponds trip. Meet Culler L., Fred., 2
 24 FREDERICK Sparrows & Finches, Dr. Wm. Oberman. St. Phillips
 26 PATUXENT Parish Hall, Main & 6th St., Laurel, 7:30 pm.
 27 BALTIMORE Fall Social. Bird Islands of N. Atlantic, Dr. S.
 W. Kress, Grace Meth. Ch., Chas & Belvedere, 8
 30 MONTGOMERY Wagoners Gap, Pa. hawk migration. Dan Eberly 530-2456
 30 ANNE ARUNDEL Gunpowder State Park trip. Montg'y Wards, 7:30 am.
 31 BALTIMORE President's Walk, Patapsco State Park, 7:30. Meet
 Montg'y Ward parking lot, US 40 at Rolling Rd.
 31 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main St, Laurel
 Nov. 2 BALTIMORE Auditory & Sensory Research on Song Birds, Dr. Joan
 Sinnott. Cylburn Mansion, 8 pm.
 4 FREDERICK The High Arctic, Carl W. Carlson. Hodson Science
 Bldg., Hood College, Frederick, 7:30 pm.
 5 ANNE ARUNDEL Environmental Studies, Dr. Donald Lear, AA Libr, 8
 6 MONTGOMERY South Mt at Harpers Ferry. Meet Montgomery Mall
 under big red SEARS sign, 7 am. Lois Oberman
 6 ANNE ARUNDEL Blackwater trip & Easton Waterfowl Festival. Meet
 at Anglers, US 50 E of Md. 2, 7:30 am. Pat Flory
 11 HOWARD Monthly Meeting, Swansfield Elem Sch., Columbia, 7:45
 12-14 BALTIMORE Irish Grove & Chincoteague. Mrs. Wheeler 825-1204
 13 ANNE ARUNDEL Camp Letts. Meet Montg'y Wards, Gen. Hiway entr 7:30
 17 TALBOT Guess A Bird, Dr. Wm. Bodenstern, Loyola, Easton, 8
 18 MONTGOMERY Peregrines & Pesticides, Dr. Prescott Ward. Per-
 petual Bldg. Auditorium, Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, 8
 20 HOWARD, PATUXENT, MONTGOMERY joint trip to Blackwater Refuge.
 Kathleen Klimkiewicz, leader
 20 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main St, Laurel
 20 BALTIMORE Upper Chesapeake Bay & Rock Run trip. Meet McDon-
 olds, Rt. 40 east at Rt. 24, 8 am. Rodney Jones
 20 ANNE ARUNDEL Sandy Pt. State Park, 7:30 am. H. Wierenga, leader
 21 BALTIMORE Come-As-You-Are Tea. Following the Birds, Mr. & Mrs.
 O. J. Theobald, Towson Library, 3 to 5 pm.
 23 PATUXENT Monthly Meeting. Dr. Don Messersmith. Main & 6th, 7:30
 26-28 MONTGOMERY North Carolina Outer Banks. C. Wilds 333-5769
 27 BALTIMORE Gunpowder River, Phoenix Area. Eirik Blom 922-0658
 28 BALTIMORE Cylburn Library Day. Introduction to MOS Library, 2-5

- Dec. 1 ANNE ARUNDEL Sandy Pt. State Park. Meet Anglers, US 50, 9 am.
 2 FREDERICK Annual Christmas Dinner. Birds of Prey, C. Robbins
 3 ANNE ARUNDEL MOS Sanctuaries, Paul Bystrak, AA Co. Library, 8
 3 BALTIMORE Audubon Wildlife Film, A Naturalist Afield, Karl Maslowski. Dumbarton Junior High School, 8 pm.
 4 OCEAN CITY PELAGIC TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main St, Laurel
 4 MONTGOMERY Sandy Pt. State Park. Call Dr. H. Mudd 530-7322
 5 BALTIMORE Sandy Pt. State Park. Meet Park gate, 9 am.
 9 HOWARD Meeting, Swansfield Elem. School, Columbia, 7:30
 9 TALBOT Audubon Wildlife Film, Arizona's Chiricahua Mtn. Range, Robert E. Fultz. Easton
 11 ANNE ARUNDEL Gibson Island trip. Meet Anglers, US 50, 7:30 am.
 11 BALTIMORE Blackwater Refuge. Meet Visitor Center 9:30 am.
 12 HOWARD Local feeder trip. Call Cathy Williamson 730-0338
 12 CHESAPEAKE BAY BOAT TRIP. Contact R. Rowlett, 715 Main, Laurel
 16 MONTGOMERY Exploring the Outer Banks, Richard Rowlett. Perpetual Bldg. Auditorium, Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, 8
 18 thru Jan. 2 Official Christmas Count period. Contact local Chapters. Partial list follows:
 18 GARRETT COUNTY. Mrs. Wm. Pope 334-4908, D. Bystrak 674-2965
 19 CATOCTIN MT. Dr. John W. Richards, Emmitsb'g 447-6243
 19 SENECA Dr. William Oberman, Washington, D.C. 333-6315
 19 ST. MICHAELS Jan Reese, St. Michaels 745-2261
 18 BALTIMORE Douglas Hackman 668-1464
 19 SALISBURY Charles Vaughn, 1306 Fred. Ave., Salisbury 742-7221
 19 LOWER KENT Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, RD 2, Chestertown 778-0826
 20 CAPE CHARLES, VA. Frederic R. Scott, 115 Kennondale, Richmond
 21 CHINCOTEAGUE, VA. Frederic R. Scott, 115 Kennondale, Richmond
 22 OCEAN CITY C. S. Robbins 725-1176 (home), 776-4880 (office)
 23 CRISFIELD Charles Vaughn, 1306 Fred. Ave, Salisbury 742-7221
 24 SOUTHERN DORCHESTER CO. (BLACKWATER) C. S. Robbins 725-1176
 26 ANNAPOLIS Hal Wierenga, 1216 Tyler Ave., Annapolis 268-1674
 28 TRIADLEPHIA Danny Bystrak, 582 Rita Dr., Odenton 672-4871
 Jan. 1 BOWIE Bob Patterson, 12601 Buckingham Dr, Bowie 262-2459



MIDWINTER GREAT BLUE HERONS IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

James F. Paulus

On January 31, 1975, I was standing on a sandbar at the mouth of Town Creek watching the sparkling green water trying to merge with the gloomy Potomac River. The temperature at 8:00 A.M. had been 16° but it was now 9:30 A.M. and warming up fast. The sky was clear with just the slightest hint of a westerly breeze.

With the sun on my back, I was 5 miles east of Oldtown, starting the trek back that I had made many times before. The walking was easy along the edge of the river bottom pasture and the high river bank furnished a splendid view of the river. I had walked no more than 20 minutes when a Great Blue Heron flew from the top of a large sycamore. It winged it's way down stream and disappeared around a bend in the river

on the West Virginia side. Since I could eliminate the possibility of seeing the same bird again that day, I decided to keep a count of further sightings as I most always see 1 or 2 per trip.

About 30 minutes later, 4 Great Blue Herons flushed, flew directly to the West Virginia side and dropped out of sight behind the tree tops. Since I still held a commanding view of the river, it would be impossible for any of these birds to get back across the river without my seeing them. My attention was soon diverted from the river to the canal by the screams of a Red-tailed Hawk. I turned just in time to see not only the hawk but another Great Blue Heron flapping up out of the canal and across the river into West Virginia. At 1:30 P.M. (temperature now 46°), I flushed still another Great Blue, a rather large one, that has lived in and around this swamp now for many years having been seen by me on the last 2 Christmas Counts. This made a total of 7 different individuals along a 4-mile stretch of river and canal conveniently measured by canal mile posts 162 to 166.

Since 1968, there has never been more than 1 sighting of the Great Blue Heron on the local State-wide May or Christmas Counts. Granted, this is no great number compared to what may be seen in the Coastal Plain in winter, but for an inland county as far west as Allegany, I consider it an excellent midwinter population.

Box 35, Oldtown 21555

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Editor: Chandler S. Robbins, 7900 Brooklyn Bridge Road, Laurel,
Md. 20810 (725-1176)
Asst. Editor: C. Douglas Hackman, 3033 Woodside Ave., Balto. 21234
Art Editor: William N. Schneider
Production: Romell Decker
Mailing: Barbara Larrabee and committee