

# HOWARD

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MARCH - APRIL 1982 VOL. 10 NO. 4

## HOWARD COUNTY ANNUAL LIST HITS 201 - David Holmes

Once again we managed (barely) to break that 200 species goal. And once again we saw some very nice birds. As usual we missed a few. To be positive, the Least Bittern and Common Gallinule were perhaps the least expected species (considering the local habitat) although the Wild Turkey (first county record) must have been a real shock to the people who saw it. The other birds new to our annual lists (kept only since 1979) were Red-throated Loon, Peregrine Falcon (possibly an offspring of Baltimore's famous "Scarlett"!), Semipalmated Plover (it's about time!), Black Tern (probably of regular occurrence--about half an hour each year), Olive-sided Flycatcher (probably also regular), and that wonderful flock of Snow Buntings at Triadelphia Reservoir. One other bird should be mentioned in this list: the unidentified female Scoter seen sleeping at some distance on Triadelphia Reservoir. How frustrating! Birds which are to be expected but were missed included Short-billed Dowitcher, Barn Owl, Philadelphia Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow.

It was interesting to discover that 181 species had been reported in all three years--meaning that our list of "bonus birds" is a fairly small proportion of what goes through the county. The total species list for these three years is 227.

One emerging "fact of life" in the birding world is the insistence on documentation or confirmation of unexpected species. The MOS is in the process of establishing a Rarities Committee to try to deal with these reports. While Howard County is not operating on quite that scale, the fact that we do have an "official county list" does suggest that decisions must be made about what goes on that list. For 1981, for example, the Red Knots, which were probably real, were not accepted because the observer submitted no details about what he saw. These details should include everything you were able to see about the bird. If possible, these notes should be written while you are watching it, even before positive identification has been made. The excuse "I didn't know it was necessary for that," should fall before the rule, "WHEN IN DOUBT, WRITE IT OUT!" Details should be given on any bird which is out of season, any bird which is reported once a year or less, and on some of the tough-to-identify species such as Alder Flycatcher and other non-breeding Empidonax, Olive-sided Flycatcher, brown and gray shorebirds, Cooper's Hawk, etc.

Many thanks to Jane Farrell, Alice Grant, David Pardoe, Jo Solem and Mark Wallace for submitting their complete year's lists and to Carol & George Cleland, Fred Cowden, Al Geis, Kris Krishnamoorthy, Chris Ludwig and Jay Sheppard for adding some special extras for 1981. And in 1982? Get busy, the migration has already started!

If you observed a species not included on the 1981 list, give me a call at 730-7083 so that it can be added.

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Common Loon          | 10. Great Egret           | 19. Gadwall           |
| 2. Red-throated Loon    | 11. Snowy Egret           | 20. Common Pintail    |
| 3. Horned Grebe         | 12. Blk.-ord. Night Heron | 21. Green-winged Teal |
| 4. Pied-billed Grebe    | 13. Least Bittern         | 22. Blue-winged Teal  |
| 5. Double-cr. Cormorant | 14. Whistling Swan        | 23. American Wigeon   |
| 6. Great Blue Heron     | 15. Canada Goose          | 24. Northern Shoveler |
| 7. Green Heron          | 16. Snow Goose            | 25. Wood Duck         |
| 8. Little Blue Heron    | 17. Mallard               | 26. Redhead           |
| 9. Cattle Egret         | 18. American Black Duck   | 27. Ring-necked Duck  |

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|-----|------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|------------------------|
| 28. | Canvasback             | 86.  | Red-headed Woodpecker    | 144. | Magnolia Warbler       |
| 29. | Lesser Scaup           | 87.  | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 145. | Cape May Warbler       |
| 30. | Common Goldeneye       | 88.  | Hairy Woodpecker         | 146. | Blk-thr. Blue Warbler  |
| 31. | Bufflehead             | 89.  | Downy Woodpecker         | 147. | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| 32. | Oldsquaw               | 90.  | Eastern Kingbird         | 148. | Blk-thr. Green Warbler |
| 33. | Scoter, sp.            | 91.  | Great Crstd. Flycatcher  | 149. | Cerulean Warbler       |
| 34. | Ruddy Duck             | 92.  | Eastern Phoebe           | 150. | Blackburnian Warbler   |
| 35. | Hooded Merganser       | 93.  | Acadian Flycatcher       | 151. | Yellow-thr. Warbler    |
| 36. | Common Merganser       | 94.  | Willow Flycatcher        | 152. | Chestnut-sd. Warbler   |
| 37. | Red-br. Merganser      | 95.  | Least Flycatcher         | 153. | Bay-breasted Warbler   |
| 38. | Turkey Vulture         | 96.  | Eastern Pewee            | 154. | Blackpoll Warbler      |
| 39. | Black Vulture          | 97.  | Olive-sided Flycatcher   | 155. | Pine Warbler           |
| 40. | Sharp-shinned Hawk     | 98.  | Horned Lark              | 156. | Prairie Warbler        |
| 41. | Cooper's Hawk          | 99.  | Tree Swallow             | 157. | Palm Warbler           |
| 42. | Red-tailed Hawk        | 100. | Bank Swallow             | 158. | Ovenbird               |
| 43. | Red-shouldered Hawk    | 101. | Rough-winged Swallow     | 159. | Northern Waterthrush   |
| 44. | Broad-winged Hawk      | 102. | Barn Swallow             | 160. | Louisiana Waterthrush  |
| 45. | Rough-legged Hawk      | 103. | Cliff Swallow            | 161. | Kentucky Warbler       |
| 46. | Northern Harrier       | 104. | Purple Martin            | 162. | Mourning Warbler       |
| 47. | Osprey                 | 105. | Blue Jay                 | 163. | Common Yellowthroat    |
| 48. | Peregrine Falcon       | 106. | American Crow            | 164. | Yellow-breasted Chat   |
| 49. | American Kestrel       | 107. | Fish Crow                | 165. | Hooded Warbler         |
| 50. | Common Bobwhite        | 108. | Carolina Chickadee       | 166. | Wilson's Warbler       |
| 51. | Ring-necked Pheasant   | 109. | Tufted Titmouse          | 167. | Canada Warbler         |
| 52. | Wild Turkey            | 110. | White-breasted Nuthatch  | 168. | American Redstart      |
| 53. | Common Gallinule       | 111. | Red-breasted Nuthatch    | 169. | House Sparrow          |
| 54. | American Coot          | 112. | Brown Creeper            | 170. | Bobolink               |
| 55. | Semipalmated Plover    | 113. | House Wren               | 171. | Eastern Meadowlark     |
| 56. | Killdeer               | 114. | Winter Wren              | 172. | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| 57. | American Woodcock      | 115. | Carolina Wren            | 173. | Orchard Oriole         |
| 58. | Common Snipe           | 116. | Northern Mockingbird     | 174. | No. (Baltimore) Oriole |
| 59. | Spotted Sandpiper      | 117. | Gray Catbird             | 175. | Rusty Blackbird        |
| 60. | Solitary Sandpiper     | 118. | Brown Thrasher           | 176. | Common Grackle         |
| 61. | Greater Yellowlegs     | 119. | American Robin           | 177. | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| 62. | Lesser Yellowlegs      | 120. | Wood Thrush              | 178. | Scarlet Tanager        |
| 63. | Pectoral Sandpiper     | 121. | Hermit Thrush            | 179. | Northern Cardinal      |
| 64. | Least Sandpiper        | 122. | Swainson's Thrush        | 180. | Rose-br. Grosbeak      |
| 65. | Dunlin                 | 123. | Gray-cheeked Thrush      | 181. | Blue Grosbeak          |
| 66. | Semipalm. Sandpiper    | 124. | Veery                    | 182. | Indigo Bunting         |
| 67. | Herring Gull           | 125. | Eastern Bluebird         | 183. | Evening Grosbeak       |
| 68. | Ring-billed Gull       | 126. | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | 184. | Purple Finch           |
| 69. | Laughing Gull          | 127. | Golden-crowned Kinglet   | 185. | House Finch            |
| 70. | Black Tern             | 128. | Ruby-crowned Kinglet     | 186. | Fine Siskin            |
| 71. | Rock Dove              | 129. | Water Pipit              | 187. | American Goldfinch     |
| 72. | Mourning Dove          | 130. | Cedar Waxwing            | 188. | Rufous-sided Towhee    |
| 73. | Yellow-billed Cuckoo   | 131. | European Starling        | 189. | Savannah Sparrow       |
| 74. | Black-billed Cuckoo    | 132. | White-eyed Vireo         | 190. | Grasshopper Sparrow    |
| 75. | Common Screech Owl     | 133. | Yellow-throated Vireo    | 191. | Vesper Sparrow         |
| 76. | Great Horned Owl       | 134. | Solitary Vireo           | 192. | Northern Junco         |
| 77. | Barred Owl             | 135. | Red-eyed Vireo           | 193. | Am. Tree Sparrow       |
| 78. | Whip-poor-will         | 136. | Warbling Vireo           | 194. | Chipping Sparrow       |
| 79. | Common Nighthawk       | 137. | Black-and-white Warbler  | 195. | Field Sparrow          |
| 80. | Chimney Swift          | 138. | Worm-eating Warbler      | 196. | White-cr'd. Sparrow    |
| 81. | Ruby-thr. Hummingbird  | 139. | Blue-winged Warbler      | 197. | White-th. Sparrow      |
| 82. | Belted Kingfisher      | 140. | Tennessee Warbler        | 198. | Fox Sparrow            |
| 83. | Common Flicker         | 141. | Nashville Warbler        | 199. | Swamp Sparrow          |
| 84. | Pileated Woodpecker    | 142. | Northern Parula Warbler  | 200. | Song Sparrow           |
| 85. | Red-bellied Woodpecker | 143. | Yellow Warbler           | 201. | Snow Bunting           |

How many did you see during 1981?

## WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS SEEN FOR THIRD AND FOURTH COUNTY RECORDS

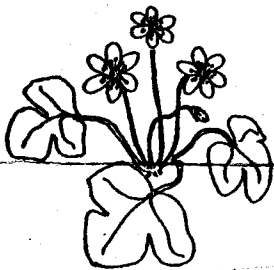
Saturday, February 13, 1982, Alice Grant, on the west side of Columbia was visited briefly by a White-winged Crossbill. The bird stopped at a black oil sunflower feeder, cracked a few seeds with his misshapen mandibles and departed. Alice observed the rosy color, black wings, bold white wing pattern and crossed mandibles. She had previously observed the species one winter in New Jersey.

Tuesday, February 16, 1982, Rosamond Munro called with the news that Hank Niese in central Howard County (Folly Quarter Rd.) had just reported a flock of a dozen male and female White-winged Crossbills feeding in hemlocks on his property. According to Hank they had been there on and off for as much as a week. He attempted to photograph them.

Either crossbill is infrequently recorded and irregular in Howard County. Of the two species the White-winged is the more unusual. According to county records from 1956 to the present, the only two previous sightings were in 1964 and 1974 making these the third and fourth county records.

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## HOWARD COUNTY SPRING WILDFLOWER CHECKLIST NOW IN PRINT



The results of a three year spring wildflower study sponsored by the Howard County Chapter of MOS have been published. Twenty-eight individuals contributed to the eight page checklist which provides early and late blooming dates for 237 species found in the county. All wildflowers which begin to bloom by June 1 are included. Blank space is provided for observers to record personal dates. The list will continue to be updated so compilers Delos Dupree and Robert & Joanne Solem invite you to submit changes and additions as you note them.

Copies will be available at the Bookstore at club meetings for .25 or they may be obtained by mail for .50 which includes postage. Write to Howard County Spring Wildflower Checklist, 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. Make checks to Howard County Chapter MOS. To introduce the checklist, six walks have been planned beginning April 18 and ending June 6. Check the Calendar elsewhere in this issue.

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## NASSAWANGO PRINT TO BE AWARDED AT MARCH MEETING

To thank the Howard Chapter for its contribution to the Nassawango Creek Fund, the Nature Conservancy sent the club an 8 x 10 framed photograph taken at the sanctuary. Because the chapter has no permanent room or building in which to display this attractive print, the chapter will give the photograph to a lucky person. At the March meeting the names of all contributors to the Nassawango appeal along with the names of all individuals who worked on the November Seed Sale (proceeds of which were donated to the fund) will be placed in a container. The print will be awarded to the individual whose name is drawn. If you contributed to the Nassawango Fund, come and see whether you will be the winner!

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The drawings in this issue are the work of Grazina McClure. We will look forward to more of these attractive items. Members are encouraged to submit art work as well as articles.

## CONSERVATION NEWS - Martha Chestem

In the last newsletter I reported on a state proposal for check-off legislation that would be of interest to MOS members. This is an update on SB 147 which would enable taxpayers to check a box on their income tax form thereby donating a portion or all of any refund to a State Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund, an area now in desperate need of funding.

SB 147 moved quickly to the hearing stage. On January 19 the Budget and Taxation Committee under the chairmanship of Sen. Levitan held a public hearing. Twelve conservationists (representing 14 organizations) testified generally in favor of the bill. MOS was ably represented by Yellowthroat Editor, Dan Boone. The one objection MOS had to the bill as presented to the public had to do with a clause of six words: "Any money. . . shall be credited to this fund and be used only to conserve nongame, threatened, and endangered species, including game species in urban areas."

Those last six words seemed to MOS a contradiction to the title and intent of the bill and might lead to abuse of the funds to the detriment of nongame and endangered species. To the supporters of the phrase it means protecting those game species that are not hunted in urban areas thereby qualifying as nongame.

At the hearing MOS was supported in its objection by the Sierra Club and Prince Georges Audubon Society. Most spokespersons agreed that there could be a modification of language that would be acceptable to all, but it seemed evident that the phrase would not be simply dropped as MOS had wanted.

At the time we left the hearing it did not appear that the bill was in serious trouble as far as the committee was concerned. However, SB 147 did not fare too well when it came time for a vote losing 6 to 4 with 3 members absent. Senator Levitan has asked for a re-vote when all members are present. At this writing that is where it stands.

The main objection the committee apparently has is that this legislation may set a precedent for other groups or organizations to request similar treatment to raise funds thereby complicating tax forms. There is also some feeling that this would not be an effective way to raise funds given the poor response to the political fund check-off box. A better method suggested would be for the Maryland Wildlife Administration to include the item in their regular budget request. The latter method did not fare well in the past as such requests have been cut.

There is no House bill at this point. If the whole Budget and Taxation Committee votes SB 147 down, the only chance is to reopen the issue again through a proposal introduced in the House.

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### CENTRAL LIBRARY BIRD ACTIVITY GROWS



A list of birds seen so far on the central library grounds has been placed inside the building near the windows overlooking the feeder. Additions are welcome or call Alice Grant 997-3742 or Marty Chestem 730-1527 with new sightings.

Thanks to Eileen Clegg for keeping the feeder filled during the winter. If you would like to share this responsibility with her call Eileen 730-4362. Alice Grant has been filling the birdbath and serves enthusiastically as the moving force in creating habitat conducive to wildlife on the grounds. She welcomes volunteers who would like to help with gardening chores.

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DEADLINE for May-June newsletter is April 20. Send material to Jo Solem, 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707.

# C A L E N D A R

PROGRAMS - 7:45 p.m. Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia.

- Mar. 11 - Thur. - "Birding in the Grasslands of Colorado." - Dr. Don Creighton, Towson State University.
- Apr. 1 - Thur. - "Shorebird Identification." - Claudia Wilds. Former Montgomery Chapter MOS President & the "Voice of the Naturalist" for ANS. because of Spg. Excellent field observer; shorebirds are her specialty. Vacation)

FIELD TRIPS - Field trips leave from the Grempler Realty Building parking lot (across from Flier building) on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia unless otherwise indicated. Roy Trudel, 465-9398 (h) is the field trip chairman. Severe weather conditions may result in trip cancellation at the leader's discretion. If in doubt, call first. Carpooling will continue. Riders are expected to share gas and toll costs. Please make an effort to arrive on time. Dress appropriately for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear. Trips do not always follow marked paths.

- Mar. 13 - Sat. - GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER. Leader: Chuck Dupree, 796-1086. Meet at Grempler 7:15 a.m. Birding on the Center with Chuck including waterfowl, possible owls and passerines until 10:30 a.m. when the Prince Georges Co. Bluebird Festival begins.  $\frac{1}{2}$  day ending "noonish."
- Mar. 20 - Sat. - BOMBAY HOOK W. REFUGE, LITTLE CREEK, FORT MAHON. Leader: Chuck Dupree, 796-1086. Catch lingering and migrant waterfowl, early marsh birds and migrants. Meet at Grempler at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch; all day, return between 6:00-7:00 p.m. Call Roy 465-9398 to reserve space as we will carpool.
- Mar. 27 - Sat. - COLUMBIA LAKES. Leaders: Jane Farrell ~~596-6350~~ & Linda McDaniel 992-7124. Check for waterfowl and possible migrant passerines. Meet at Grempler at 8:00 a.m.  $\frac{1}{2}$  day.
- Apr. 3 - Sat. - HOWARD COUNTY BIRDING TRIP. Leaders: John & Sileen Clegg 730-4362. A  $\frac{1}{2}$  day trip in the county, probably along one of the major river valleys. Catch the early migrants and lingering wintering birds. Meet at Grempler at 7:30 a.m.
- Apr. 18 - Sun. - SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK IN COLUMBIA. Leader: Marty Chestem 730-1527. First of a series of wildflower walks. Meet at Grempler at 1:00 p.m.
- Apr. 23-25 Weekend - CAREY RUN SANCTUARY WORK DAYS. Each chapter has been asked to help with odd jobs at a sanctuary. Carey Run is in the far western part of the state and has interesting birds and plants. There will be time for play as well as work. Lunch on Saturday will be provided. If interested or you'd like more information, call Jane Farrell 596-6350. (March 20th weekend is set aside for work at Irish Grove on the Eastern Shore if that date is more convenient.)
- Apr. 23 - Fri. - WOODCOCK WALK. Leader: Al Geis 286-2400. See the courtship flight of the woodcock and do some birding in the Middle Patuxent Valley. Meet at Grempler at 5:45 p.m. to carpool or at the parking lot on Trotter Rd. (.8 mile south of Rt. 108 on east side) at 6:15 p.m. No children under 10. Wear dark long-sleeved shirts or jackets and long pants. Trip is canceled in case of rain.
- Apr. 25 - Sun. - SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK IN HIGH RIDGE PARK. Leaders: Jo Solem 725-5037 & Bea Newkirk. Co-sponsored with Patuxent Chapter MOS. Meet at Grempler 1:00 p.m. Golden Club and Wild Oats are among the plants we'll see. High Ridge Park is an undeveloped county park located in the southern part of the county.

(continued)

- May 1 - Sat. - MAY COUNT. Compiler: Paul Zucker, 890-6521. Paul will provide a special mailing in April which will be sent to the membership. The tally after the all day count is being hosted by Don and Jan Randle (531-6296), 6424 Lochridge Rd. in Braeburn off Cedar Lane south of Columbia. Call Jan to make food choices for the tally potluck and to obtain directions.
- May 2 - Sun. - SPRING WILDFLOWER TRIP TO HENRYTON SECTION OF PATAPSCO STATE PARK. Leaders: Sarah Haviland & Bob Solem, 725-5037. Possibility for Nodding Trillium. This is the area in which the only verified sighting of a Wild Turkey has been made in the county. Meet at Grempler at 1:00 p.m.
- May 9-11 Weekend - MOS STATE CONVENTION ON EASTERN SHORE. Mailing will be sent to all members. Birds, birds, birds. Numerous field trips led by experienced birders to a variety of habitats. Howard Chapter member Marty Chestem as State Vice-president has again planned an excellent convention. Don't miss it!
- BOARD MEETING - A Board Meeting will be held Thursday, March 18, 1982, at Marty Chestem's, 10850 Faulkner Ridge Circle, Columbia. Call 730-1527 for directions.
- BOOKSTORE SALE - Jan Randle, new Bookstore Manager, announces a sale at the March meeting. Shopworn items will be available at attractive prices along with some new stock. Get necessary guides and checklists so that you are prepared for spring. A vote of thanks is due Brenda Ericsson for capably caring for the Bookstore the past several years. This year she has been assisted by Eva Sunell.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOWARD CHAPTER BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors has recommended several changes to the chapter by-laws. These changes will make the Howard County Chapter's by-laws more consistent with those of the state organization (Maryland Ornithological Society). The changes will be voted on at the March meeting. The proposed changes are as follows:

1. Article III - Chapter Membership and Dues
  - Section 1, Part A - change Active Membership to Regular Membership; add - Senior Citizen Membership, age 65 and over.
  - Section 4 - to be deleted. (This section deals with the setting of membership dues which was previously discussed in Section 1. Since Section 1 covers this matter, section 4 will be deleted.)
2. Article IV - Officers
  - Section 6 - change officers elected at March meeting, and shall assume their duties immediately to officers elected at April meeting, and shall assume their duties at the regular May meeting. (This change is in response to the fact that MOS does not recognize the new officers until they are officially accepted at the business meeting at the state convention in May.)
3. Article V - Election of Officers
  - Section 1 - change nominating committee appointed prior to January meeting and reporting candidates for office at the February meeting to nominating committee appointed prior to March meeting and reporting candidates for office at the April meeting.
4. General changes to By-laws - A total of eight grammatical changes which in no way affect the content of the By-laws.

## B I R D B E A T - Grazina McClure

With this newsletter we introduce a column describing who has seen what interesting birds around their feeders, on their property or while driving or hiking in Howard County. In general Red-breasted Nuthatches seem to be more numerous than usual this year. There are fewer Purple Finches. Could the increasing number of House Finches be affecting them? The number of Northern Cardinals coming to feeders is down this year. Fine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks arrived countywide in numbers during the first two weeks of February.

During the cold spells in Jan. the Cleggs had a Red-breasted Nuthatch eating sunflower seeds and suet (the third consecutive winter for this species). They also had a Brown Thrasher visit their sunflower feeder briefly during cold, snowy Jan. At the same time they had a Rufous-sided Towhee feeding at the feeder rather than on the ground as they usually do. When the ground was covered with snow the Banks had 6 male and 2 female towhees feeding on their deck 14' above the ground, an unusually large number. They also see and hear Barred Owls and Red-shouldered Hawks around their home which is close to swampy ground and beech trees. On 1/28 they watched a R. s. Hawk feeding in the trees close to their home. For the third year in a row the Pardoes have had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at their feeders. Because it has always had a black cap and a white throat with no red, they assume it is the same bird. From the time the cold weather hit until the present they have had American Tree Sparrows as regulars at their feeders. Not many birders have them consistently throughout the winter. On 2/5 they had their first siskins. On 1/31 they watched a flock of Cedar Waxwings eating persimmons near their home. They have a R. s. Hawk which makes regular stops in their backyard and they have had P. Finches throughout the winter. On 2/11 they had E. Grosbeaks. During the first two weeks of Feb. Eastern Bluebirds have been investigating the nestbox in their front yard.

On 1/21 Alice Grant saw a Cooper's Hawk in her backyard, always a good bird for this area. On 2/11 siskins and grosbeaks arrived. During the same week she had a White-winged Crossbill, a rare sighting for Howard Co. (see writeup elsewhere in this issue). On Christmas Day a R. b. Nuthatch came to the Randle's yard and stayed on. On 2/7 they saw 11 grosbeaks at their feeders, and on 2/17 they had waxwings in their yard. Marty Chestem has had a R. b. Nuthatch all winter. On 2/2 she counted 36 siskins in her yard. Grosbeaks and P. Finches have also been present. On 2/1 Mary Janetatos had a Fox Sparrow in her Mont. Co. yard. Marjorie Mountjoy has had a R. b. Nuthatch and a towhee off and on throughout the winter. She had 16 siskins on 2/11. The Glanzes have a R. b. Nuthatch which is a regular favoring suet, thistle and sunflower. On 2/5 and for about a week they saw waxwings eating hawthorn berries; 4 siskins arrived on 2/19.

Linda McDaniel had 4 P. Finches regularly at her feeders. She has also kept an eye on Wilde Lake throughout the winter and has seen Canvasbacks, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Ducks, a female Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, American Black Ducks, Mallards, a Canada Goose, and a Whistling Swan. Wilde Lake is an excellent place to get a close-up view of birds which many people drive to the shore to see. An especially good time for viewing is when the lake is almost completely frozen. There is usually a bit of open water not far from the dock area where the birds are then forced to congregate.

At Eva Sunell's by the second week of Feb., 50-60 siskins were coming to her feeder. At the same time she had 4 P. Finches and 2 grosbeaks. Near the beginning of Feb. she saw 60 waxwings in the hawthorn trees close to the bowling alley in Columbia. On 1/3 the Jacksons were surprised when a male C. Hawk stunned itself hitting their windows. They had a good look at it before it flew. R. s. Hawks and B. Owls are regulars on their property while across the Middle Patuxent River they have seen or heard Great Horned Owls & Red-tailed Hawks. In early Jan. they had a tree sparrow and during the snowy part of the winter a Fox Sparrow put in a brief appearance. They had a R. b. Nuthatch coming regularly to their feeders as it has

for the last several winters. They also see siskins, P.Finches and occasional grosbeaks. On 1/25 and again on 2/12 the Bells had a tree sparrow visit their yard. On 2/11 they saw 5 waxwings. Sarah & Edith Haviland have 2 R.b. Nuthatches just across the Patuxent River in Mont. Co. Frances Ehlers has had grosbeaks, Field Sparrows and bluebirds frequenting her yard throughout the winter. The Farrells have a R.s. Hawk which sits in the trees and watches their feeder with some regularity. They also see 20-30 waxwings roosting in a red oak which still has leaves. The birds perch next to the remaining leaves and are almost perfectly camouflaged. On 2/6 they saw 12 siskins and several Fld. Sparrows at their feeder.

The Solems have had a Chipping Sparrow sporadically during Jan. & Feb. eating white millet and have had one or two White-breasted Nuthatches all winter. In early Feb. Paul Zucker saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk in his backyard. He has also seen a R.b. Nuthatch 3 times this winter. Just before Christmas the Morrises had a Turkey Vulture sit on the chimney of their wood stove warming itself. A R.b. Nuthatch is a regular visitor. At the end of Jan. they saw a S.a. Hawk in their yard. A R.s. Hawk frequently sits near the bird feeders, perhaps watching for the mice and voles which come to pick up seeds. On 1/31 they had grosbeaks. P.Finches are regulars at their feeders and, after Dec., waxwings became regular yard birds. On 2/27 the Clelands had 5 siskins and 1 Common Redpoll which is an uncommon winter visitor. At Christmas the Munros saw robins in their yard. On 1/21 they had a Fox Sparrow and on 1/28 a Ch. Sparrow. They have 4 P.Finches and 10 grosbeaks coming to their feeders. Early in Feb. they had a dozen waxwings eating persimmons. Throughout the winter they see and hear 2 B.Owls, a C.Hawk, R.s.Hawk, R.t.Hawks and bluebirds. During the first 2 weeks of Dec. the Halls had a female Northern (Baltimore) Oriole feeding in their yard, possibly a late migrant. Throughout Jan. they have seen Pileated Woodpeckers several times in their yard; once they saw 3 at the same time. Siskins are regulars at their feeders. During the first 2 weeks of Feb. they have seen bluebirds.

Just before Christmas the McClures had a Y.b. Sapsucker in their backyard, but it has not been back. On 1/31 grosbeaks came and have stayed. On 2/2 3 siskins arrived and have stayed. On 2/7 they had 2 P.Finches and on 2/9 a female Red-winged Blackbird put in an appearance. During the cold weather in Jan. Field Sparrows were regular with a high count of 12 feeding mostly on white millet. Bluebirds have been seen occasionally throughout the winter and regularly since 1/31. In early Jan. Anne Walsh saw Whistling Swans flying over her house. There is a R.sh. Hawk frequenting her yard. A neighbor's pond has a flock of C. Geese. On 1/3 she saw a Snow Goose. During the period of snow cover in Jan. she saw a Pil. Woodpecker. She has a few P.Finches as regulars while in late Jan. she had grosbeaks. The second week of Feb. she had a R.b.Nuthatch. Close to her home she has seen as many as 10 bluebirds on & off throughout the winter. On 2/6 the Kretzes had siskins come to their yard. On 2/6 Brenda Ericsson saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a very nice sighting. Paul Leifer has had a female Indigo Bunting at a feeder at his home in Savage from 1/9 through early Feb. This is one of the few winter Md. records and will be detailed in Md.Birdlife.

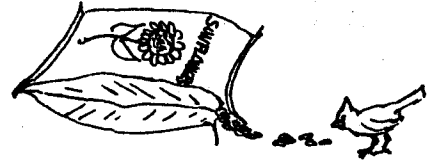
If you would like to share your at-home or county birding experiences through this column, call Grazina McClure at 286-2780. Keep an eye out now for the early spring migrants: Fox Sparrows, Eastern Phoebe, Whistling Swans, American Woodcock, Rusty Blackbirds, Tree Swallows and Ospreys. . .

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The chapter thanks Terry & Alice Kretz for passing along a duplicate slide and enlargement of Marcia Krishnamoorthy's photograph of the Yellow-headed Blackbird which was resident at the Kretz's feeder during late January and early February of 1979. This is the only Howard County record for this species. The slide and enlargement will be filed with the rare bird verifications.

## JANUARY 30th SEED SALE SUCCESSFUL - Eileen Clegg

The second seed sale of the 1981-82 year was a successful one for the club. A total of 11,800 pounds of sunflower, millet, mixed seed and thistle was sold--approximately the same amount that was sold in November.



A capable and dedicated crew of volunteers moved the seed efficiently. Many thanks for their willingness to donate their time and energy. Those who worked outside included Frank Baldau, Jane Farrell, Joe Lutz and Roy Trudel. Individuals who lent vehicles and helped load were Terry Kretz, David Pardo, Don Randle and Bob Solem. Helpers inside were Maud Banks, Marty Chestem, Barbara Doarnberger, Frances Ehlers, Grazina McClure, Marjorie Mountjoy, Jan Randle, Patricia Reid and Martha Waugh. Books for the Bookstore were made available by Brenda Ericsson and a box of mounted specimens was on display. Joan Varga provided a cake as a snack for the workers.

One individual deserves special commendation for without his cooperation these sales might not have possible. President Mike McClure allows the seed to be stored in his garage the night before the pickup date; he has, on several occasions, taken leave to help unload the delivery truck the day before the sale; he uses his truck to help move seed to the pickup point; and he and Grazina work during the pickup period. The club is indebted to both of them for their consistent and enthusiastic support.

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### IMPRINT OF TAIL IN THE SNOW TELLS A TALE

The Jan.-Feb. Howard described the impression a Mourning Dove made on a glass surface at the Bells. Eva Sunell recently reported that she likewise observed an impression, but this one was less complete and on a different surface. It did, however, tell a poignant story.

January 27, 1982, on snow near her home in Allview, Eva found the imprint of a bird's tail. It measured 9" in the arc at the tip and was 5" from rump to tip. A few inches in front of the tailprint there were a few red feathers--testimony to the fact that one of the buteo hawks had caught a cardinal.

A reminder to our members as the breeding season approaches. If hurt or "abandoned" young birds (very few are really abandoned) are brought to you, call Eva 995-0029. Do not attempt to raise baby birds. You need special permits to keep anything except starlings, House Sparrows and Rock Doves (pigeons).

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### WATCH FOR COLOR-BANDED HOUSE FINCHES

Kathy Klimkiewicz, biologist at Patuxent Research Center, has recently initiated a project color-banding House Finches. At least one sub-permittee will be involved and currently the Research Center near Laurel and Takoma Park are the two banding sites. Additional sites may be added. If a color-band is noted on the leg of a bird note which leg, band color, date, location and how many other individuals of the same species were present. Call Jo Solem 725-5037.

# THANKS FOR POTLUCK

Special thanks to Grazina & Mike McClure for volunteering on short notice to host the annual potluck when the Rhinelander's lane proved impassable. Their graciousness was most appreciated. The slides along with examples of nature crafts and hobbies shared by those attending made the evening a memorable one. Eva Sunell is to be commended for so capably coordinating the meal. It was a fitting way to continue our tenth anniversary year celebration.

## Additions to Membership List since December 15, 1981.

Maud & Harry Banks  
Tanya  
6666 Downdale Pl.  
Columbia, MD 21045  
596-4131

James Blanchard  
10121 Century Dr.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
465-7617

Lois Garleton  
13782 Brighton Dam Rd.  
Clarksville, MD 21029

Russell E. Chandler, Jr.  
6146 Clearsmoke Ct.  
Columbia, MD 21045  
596-6169

Lynne Clary  
11987 Route 216  
Fulton, MD 20759

William & Louise Dove  
5507 Eaglebeak Row  
Columbia, MD 21045  
997-0075

James & Georgia Eacker  
Douglas  
3619 Folly Quarter Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
286-3392

Ralph & Jane Geuder  
9282 Soaring Hill Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21045

Mary Hall  
12528 Folly Quarter Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Mary D. Janetatos  
2 Countryside Ct.  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
384-2798

Clark Jeschke  
400 Patleigh Rd.  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Herbert & Jesselyn Johl  
10017 The Mending Wall  
Columbia, MD 21044

Richard & Suzanne King  
6691 Cedar Lane  
Columbia, MD 21044

Will Klingaman  
8961 Queen Maria Ct.  
Columbia, MD 21045

Michael Leumas  
5768 Yellowrose Ct.  
Columbia, MD 21045  
730-1075

Anna Llewellyn  
5783-4 Stevens Forest Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21045  
997-8140

Beatrice Newkirk  
9240 Old Scaggsville Rd.  
Laurel, MD 20707  
498-1902

James & Patricia Rouse  
10450 Waterfowl Terr.  
Columbia, MD 21044  
730-9268

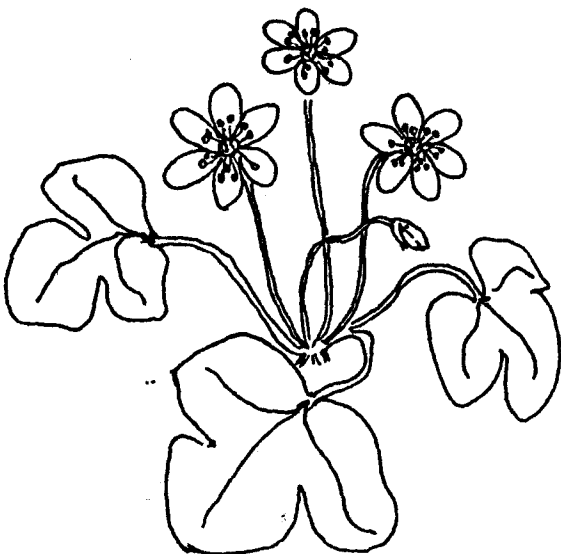
### Changes:

#### New address:

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Beck  
3500 Folly Quarter Rd.  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Telephone Number:  
McClure - 286-2780

Howard County MOS  
10617 Graeoch Rd.  
Laurel, MD 20707



Howard County Spring  
Wildflower List Now  
In Print