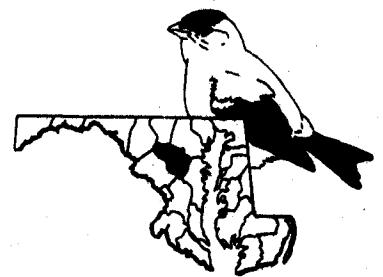




Vol 12, No 4  
March-April 1984

# Howard

A Chapter of the  
Maryland Ornithological Society



## GOOD BUT NOT GREAT - HOWARD COUNTY BIRD LIST, 1983 - David Holmes

204

Our little landlocked county in the Piedmont boasted 203 species of birds acceptably reported in 1983. To the novice, perhaps this is amazing; the variety possible right around home is a delight. To the rarities seeker it may be a bit ho-hum since 182 of these birds have been reported in each of the five years we have been writing up the list. But, you haven't heard about the other 21.... To the experienced local, it means this was a very average year. Our high list was 1982's 212 and our low was the 201 in 1981 so this was actually on the lower end of the scale. We did not have the good fortune of low water in Triadelphia Reservoir during fall migration as we had in 1982 and the shorebird list reflects this change. The fall brought only one rarity (and one possible rarity) and only one notable flight species, Black-capped Chickadees, which irrupted in numbers for the first time since before our yearly reports began. It was not only Howard County; all of the region has been rather unexciting this past year.

One species was added to the county list this year, as yet unofficially, pending acceptance by the Maryland Rare Birds Records Committee. This was a Wilson's Plover on Triadelphia Reservoir in September. The landfill gulls enjoyed another year of our trash with Glaucous, Iceland, and both Great and Lesser Black-backed being reported for a second calendar year. Has anyone checked the landfill in 1984? A Glossy Ibis appeared briefly on the May Count for a third county record and a probable Baird's Sandpiper could have been a second record (if the Committee accepts the first one). Some very nice details were submitted on this bird, but some very important features were left out--enough so the record would not make it through the State Records Committee. Another probable but unconfirmed species was the Ruffed Grouse which provided a brief and unsatisfying view in the Patapsco Valley in September. Details submitted were excellently done but the bird did not allow a definitive observation.

The regular warblers were all present, but the irregular Prothonotary and Golden-winged were missed. Our duck list stays complete mostly through the efforts of Mark Wallace whose coverage of farm ponds and the reservoir is superb. Jon E. and Jon K. Boone also did more duck work this year and this is a welcome development.

Lists were submitted by the Boones, Marty Chestem, Jane Farrell, Alice Grant, David Pardoe, Jo Solem, and Mark Wallace. Chris Ludwig and May Count observers turned in single unusual records. Do remember that the more eyes we have looking, the more birds we get spotted. Do remember too that people want to know if you find something interesting. USE THE TELEPHONE IMMEDIATELY so others can share the pleasure or confirm an identification. Black-capped Chickadee and Glaucous Gull are quality for the 1984 list already, the ducks are moving, the land birds are starting. Enjoy yourselves and report it! If you have seen any species not shown on the following list, please contact me at 730-7083.

Ed. Note: Names and arrangement of species is according to the newest A.O.U. Check-list. Old names are shown in parentheses where there might be some confusion.

- |                                |                         |                            |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Common Loon                 | 15. Canada Goose        | 29. Oldsquaw               | 43. Broad-winged Hawk             |
| 2. Pied-billed Grebe           | 16. Wood Duck           | 30. Common Goldeneye       | 44. Red-tailed Hawk               |
| 3. Horned Grebe                | 17. Green-winged Teal   | 31. Bufflehead             | 45. American Kestrel              |
| 4. Double-crested Cormorant    | 18. American Black Duck | 32. Hooded Merganser       | 46. Merlin                        |
| 5. Great Blue Heron            | 19. Mallard             | 33. Common Merganser       | 47. Ring-necked Pheasant          |
| 6. Great Egret                 | 20. Northern Pintail    | 34. Red-breasted Merganser | 48. Northern Bobwhite             |
| 7. Snowy Egret                 | 21. Blue-winged Teal    | 35. Ruddy Duck             | 49. Common Moorhen (G. Gallinule) |
| 8. Little Blue Heron           | 22. Northern Shoveler   | 36. Black Vulture          | 50. American Coot                 |
| 9. Cattle Egret                | 23. Gadwall             | 37. Turkey Vulture         | 51. Wilson's Plover               |
| 10. Green-backed (Green) Heron | 24. American Wigeon     | 38. Osprey                 | 52. Semipalmated Plover           |
| 11. Black-crowned Night-Heron  | 25. Canvasback          | 39. Northern Harrier       | 53. Killdeer                      |
| 12. Glossy Ibis                | 26. Redhead             | 40. Sharp-shinned Hawk     | 54. Greater Yellowlegs            |
| 13. Tundra (Whistling) Swan    | 27. Ring-necked Duck    | 41. Cooper's Hawk          | 55. Lesser Yellowlegs             |
| 14. Mute Swan (not Col. lakes) | 28. Lesser Scaup        | 42. Red-shouldered Hawk    | 56. Solitary Sandpiper            |

57. Spotted Sandpiper	93. Least Flycatcher	129. Water Pipit	166. Hooded Warbler
58. Upland Sandpiper	94. Eastern Phoebe	130. Cedar Waxwing	167. Wilson's Warbler
59. Semipalmated Sandpiper	95. Great Crested Flycatcher	131. European Starling	168. Canada Warbler
60. Least Sandpiper	96. Eastern Kingbird	132. White-eyed Vireo	169. Yellow-breasted Chat
61. Pectoral Sandpiper	97. Horned Lark	133. Solitary Vireo	170. Summer Tanager
62. Common Snipe	98. Purple Martin	134. Yellow-throated Vireo	171.Scarlet Tanager
63. American Woodcock	99. Tree Swallow	135. Warbling Vireo	172. Northern Cardinal
64. Ring-billed Gull	100. Northern Rough-winged Swallow	136. Red-eyed Vireo	173. Rose-breasted Grosbeak
65. Herring Gull	101. Bank Swallow	137. Blue-winged Warbler	174. Blue Grosbeak
66. Iceland Gull	102. Cliff Swallow	138. Tennessee Warbler	175. Indigo Bunting
67. Lesser Black-backed Gull	103. Barn Swallow	139. Nashville Warbler	176. Rufous-sided Towhee
68. Glaucous Gull	104. Blue Jay	140. Northern Parula	177. American Tree Sparrow
69. Great Black-backed Gull	105. American Crow	141. Yellow Warbler	178. Chipping Sparrow
70. Rock Dove	106. Fish Crow	142. Chestnut-sided Warbler	179. Field Sparrow
71. Mourning Dove	107. Black-capped Chickadee	143. Magnolia Warbler	180. Vesper Sparrow
72. Black-billed Cuckoo	108. Carolina Chickadee	144. Cape May Warbler	181. Savannah Sparrow
73. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	109. Tufted Titmouse	145. Black-throated Blue Warbler	182. Grasshopper Sparrow
74. Common Barn-Owl	110. Red-breasted Nuthatch	146. Yellow-rumped Warbler	183. Fox Sparrow
75. Eastern Screech-Owl	111. White-breasted Nuthatch	147. Black-throated Green Warbler	184. Song Sparrow
76. Great Horned Owl	112. Brown Creeper	148. Blackburnian Warbler	185. Swamp Sparrow
77. Barred Owl	113. Carolina Wren	149. Yellow-throated Warbler	186. White-throated Sparrow
78. Common Nighthawk	114. House Wren	150. Pine Warbler	187. White-crowned Sparrow
79. Whip-poor-will	115. Winter Wren	151. Prairie Warbler	188. Dark-eyed Junco
80. Chimney Swift	116. Golden-crowned Kinglet	152. Palm Warbler	189. Bobolink
81. Ruby-throated Hummingbird	117. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	153. Bay-breasted Warbler	190. Red-winged Blackbird
82. Belted Kingfisher	118. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	154. Blackpoll Warbler	191. Eastern Meadowlark
83. Red-headed Woodpecker	119. Eastern Bluebird	155. Cerulean Warbler	192. Rusty Blackbird
84. Red-bellied Woodpecker	120. Veery	156. Black-and-white Warbler	193. Common Grackle
85. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	121. Gray-cheeked Thrush	157. American Redstart	194. Brown-headed Cowbird
86. Downy Woodpecker	122. Swainson's Thrush	158. Worm-eating Warbler	195. Orchard Oriole
87. Hairy Woodpecker	123. Hermit Thrush	159. Ovenbird	196. Northern (Baltimore) Oriole
88. Northern Flicker	124. Wood Thrush	160. Northern Waterthrush	197. Purple Finch
89. Pileated Woodpecker	125. American Robin	161. Louisiana Waterthrush	198. House Finch
90. Eastern Wood-Pewee	126. Gray Catbird	162. Kentucky Warbler	199. Pine Siskin
91. Acadian Flycatcher	127. Northern Mockingbird	163. Connecticut Warbler	200. American Goldfinch
92. Willow Flycatcher	128. Brown Thrasher	164. Mourning Warbler	201. Evening Grosbeak
		165. Common Yellowthroat	202. House Sparrow
			203. Snow Goose

204. Peregrine

## BANDING BIRDS OF PREY IN HOWARD COUNTY

Each year Woody Martin from the Patuxent Research Center bands nestling hawks and owls in the county. If you find nests of birds of prey and would like the young banded, call Jo Solem, 725-5037. If you would like to observe bandings (probably early May between 5:30-7:00 p.m.) call Bea Newkirk, 498-1902, and leave your name.

## INTRODUCTION TO BIRD WATCHING COURSE TO BE OFFERED BY HOWARD RECREATION AND PARKS

A 4-session birding course (2 lectures, 2 field trips) will be offered in May by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. The sessions are designed for the beginner who wants to know some of the basic aspects of bird watching. The field trips will be held on weekends at a time agreed upon by a majority of the class members. Jo Solem is the instructor. For registration information, check the Rec & Parks spring brochure which will be mailed to each home soon.

## RARE BIRD ALERT CATCHES HARRIS' SPARROW

Those members who wanted to be advised of rare birds in the area were notified in February that a Harris' Sparrow was coming to a feeder in Carroll County. After questionable road conditions cancelled one trip, most of those interested were able to see the bird the weekend of February 10-11. Thanks to Bea Newkirk and her team of callers: Joan Varga, Barbara Doarnberger, Marjorie Mountjoy, and Elise Seay.

Some individuals on the Rare Bird Alert complained that they had not received any calls in at least a year. This is true. Many of the unusual birds that show up here are seen only briefly and do not stay long enough to alert other birders. Some we learn about long after they have left. Unfortunately, others may show up at locations where birders are not welcome. If any individuals are interested in comparing Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees after reading Jon Boone's description in this newsletter, call Jan or Don Randle, 531-6296, to arrange a visit to their feeders.

CALENDAR

PROGRAMS - 7:45 p.m. Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia, MD.  
Note: Meeting is canceled if schools officially close because of inclement weather or for other emergencies.

Mar. 8 - "Wildflowers of Howard County" - Ruth Linn. Mrs. Linn will talk about local  
Thur. wildflowers as depicted by her late husband in the book she compiled from his watercolors. (canceled - snow)

Apr. 12 - "Ringers, Twitchers, and Dip-outs" - David Holmes. Ever-popular lecturer David  
Thur. takes us to England for an evening with the birds and birders.

FIELD TRIPS - Field trips leave from Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flier Building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) unless otherwise indicated. Linda Harsy, 489-5131, heads the Field Trip Committee. Leader may cancel under severe weather conditions. If you have questions, call. Carpooling continues with riders sharing gas and toll costs. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof foot-gear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow marked paths. No pets.

Mar. 10 - ANNUAL POTLUCK/SLIDE SHOW NIGHT at Florence Bain Senior Center (see last mailing  
Sat. for details). Call Monika 465-5758 by Monday, March 5, to make reservations.

Mar. 18 - SIGNS OF SPRING. Leader: Jo Solem, 725-5037. Check for signs of spring along  
Sun. the Middle Patuxent off Kindler Rd. Meet at Grempler Realty 1:15 p.m. 1/2 day. Paths may be muddy, 1 to 2 miles, not all level ground.

Mar. 25 - SALAMANDER SEARCH. Leader: Herb Harris. Herb will take us to Patapsco State  
Sun. Park for salamanders (and perhaps frogs, for you peeper seekers). Meet at Grempler at 6:30 p.m. Bring a good flashlight & wear waterproof boots.

9-11<sup>20</sup> Apr. 7 - BEGINNING BIRDERS WALK. Leaders: Mike & Grazina McClure, 531-2780. Meet at  
Sat. Wilde Lake boat ramp in Columbia for two hour amble along the lake, level ground.

Apr. 29 - WILDFLOWER WONDER. Leader: Bob Solem, 725-5037. Meet at Grempler at 1:15 p.m.  
Sun. for 1/2 day trip to Savage Park when numerous spring flowers should be blooming. Sturdy hiking shoes unless willing to risk damp or muddy feet. Hand lens and wildflower guide helpful. Some people will also be checking migrant birds if that is your interest.

May 3 - SPRING WALK. Leader: Cathy Williamson, 730-0338. Leisurely walk along paved  
Thur. paths in Long Reach. 10:00-11:30 a.m. At the request of a number of members we are trying a weekday walk. Enjoy spring near the peak of migration.

May 5 - MAY COUNT. Compiler: Paul Zucker 890-6521. More info later but save this date  
Sat. for one of best birding days of year. Lots of species; enjoy tally in evening.

ATLAS MEETING - For those who participated in the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project in  
Mar. 22 - Howard County last year and for those who think they might like to try it this  
Thur. year. A meeting with state coordinator Eirik Blom, county coordinator Chuck Dupree, and Howard County area leaders. See what was accomplished and what remains to be done in the next four years. 7:30 p.m. Longfellow Elementary

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m. at Jane Farrell's, 6324 Sandchain Rd., Columbia. Call 596-6350  
Mar. 29 - for directions. All elected officers and committee heads should attend.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS SLATE FOR 1984-85 YEAR

The Nominating Committee consisting of Mike McClure, ch., John Clegg and Rod Botsai offers the following slate of officers for the Howard County Chapter MOS for the year September 1, 1984-August 31, 1985: President: David Pardoe; Vice-President: Anne Hart; Secretary: Maud Banks; Treasurer: Donald Kandle; State Directors: Jane Farrell, Roy Trudel and Paul Zucker. Elections will be held at the April meeting.

DEADLINE FOR MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 15. Send material or call Jo Solem 725-5037; 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. Submissions are always welcome.  
COVER DRAWING by Grazina McClure.

IDENTIFICATION: BLACK-CAPPED AND CAROLINA CHICKADEES

Black-capped Chickadees invaded Howard County this winter. Such incursions, often termed "irruptions," usually take place one in four or five years. Black-caps look very much like our resident Carolina Chickadees, although experts still consider the two to be separate species. There are subtle variations in plumage and in voice. The outstanding difference, however, is manifest in the range of the two birds. The Piedmont area of Maryland is the extreme northern edge of the Carolina's range. Black-caps inhabit the Ridge and Valley and Allegheny Mountain sections of the state. Except along the Appalachian Mountain chain, Maryland is the extreme southern edge of their range. Where the two species overlap, interbreeding frequently occurs.

If you are fortunate enough to see both birds at your feeding station, the plumage differences should reveal themselves. Be mindful that NO SINGLE FIELD MARK IS DIAGNOSTIC. You should have at least three of the four distinctive characteristics conclusively established before you claim you think you have a Black-cap. Even then, unless you know the tonal qualities which differentiate the call notes and song, or unless you have the bird in hand, enabling you to measure primary wing feather and tail lengths--even then, you may not have sufficient evidence to make identification certain.

- The Carolina Chickadee is typically as much as twenty percent smaller than its close relative. The Black-cap looks rounder, fluffier, and often has more robustly colored salmon or rusty flanks.

- The bib of the Black-capped Chickadee often appears like an unkempt beard, appearing tattered and uneven as it flows down toward the breast. By contrast, the Carolina's bib is usually neat, cut straight across the throat. For most, this is the best and clearest field mark. However, many Black-capped Chickadees seem to keep their lower bib feathers sublimated beneath the light gray of their breast feathers, making the former all but impossible to see from the field.

- In general, Black-capped Chickadees have distinct white secondary wing feathers, especially when compared to the gray wing feathers of the Carolina. At the feeder, Black-caps may seem to have a white patch on their backs in the midst of their folded wings (a white V). But, because chickadees are excitable, fast-moving birds, often shifting their feathers faster than they shift their body positions, this characteristic may be difficult to pin down.

- Black-capped Chickadees seem to have larger heads, and, therefore, have much larger and much whiter cheek patches. Again, this characteristic is the rule. But it is, at best, an ephemeral one in the field. It is perhaps the most unreliable distinction.

You may wish to visit Allegheny and Garrett Counties during the spring or summer. In these locations, the Black-capped Chickadee is the only species of the two present. Consequently, you will soon come to know that the Black-capped Chickadee's call notes are almost an octave lower and considerably slower in cadence than the excitable "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" call of our Carolina. Please know that unless you are well acquainted with the calls of both, the difference will not be immediately clear.

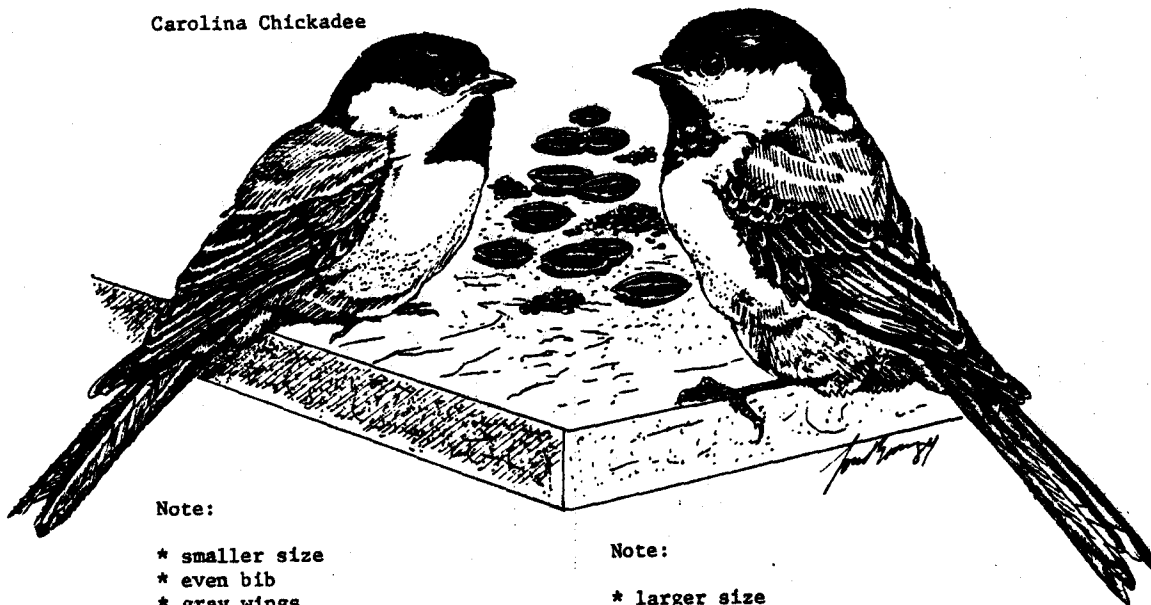
Recently, I encountered an injured Carolina-sized chickadee that had an unkempt bib and whitish secondary feathers. It was not possible to identify the bird with certainty. I turned to Danny Bystrak for advice. At his suggestion I measured the lengths of the longest primary wing feather and the longest tail feather. Then I compared those lengths. I discovered that the tail feather was 94 percent the length of the wing feather. According to Mr. Bystrak, the bird was almost certainly a Black-cap, for only that species has a wing/tail length ratio exceeding 90 percent. For the Carolina, the percentage is less than 90.

This information may be useful to banders and other scientists, but it is impossible to apply in the field. If you think you have a Black-cap, take careful notes, looking particularly at the areas I have suggested for comparison and contrast. If you see a large, whitish chickadee with a bushy beard, you are likely to have a Black-cap.

If so, call a friend and enjoy the visitation together.

Carolina Chickadee

Black-capped  
Chickadee



Note:

- \* smaller size
- \* even bib
- \* gray wings

Note:

- \* larger size
- \* unkempt bib
- \* white secondary wing feathers
- \* large white cheek patch

**FOOTNOTE:** In light of the fact that these two species look, sound, behave so much alike, and that they interbreed at the intersection of their ranges,--all clear signs that they have not been separated sufficiently well for a sufficient time to become distinct species--why are they still considered separate species? I know that several birds, less similar in appearance and behavior than these, have been lumped recently. If someone knows, I hope they will come forth with an explanation. J.E.B.

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### ROOSTING BLUEBIRDS - Mike McClure

Throughout the winter we have enjoyed watching bluebirds come to our front yard to investigate the nesting box. On December 20, 1983, an exciting event took place which we had never before observed, although there was nothing unusual about what happened.

The day was cold, in the 20's, and the temperature was to drop to the single digits during the night. Around 4:30 p.m. six bluebirds (3 males, 3 females) arrived and landed on the metal tomato cages placed near the nesting box as perches. The birds were quite active, flitting back and forth among cage, box, and nearby crabapple tree. When at the box they would enter; however, there were never more than two birds in the box at any given time. Their activity was temporarily disturbed and all six birds flew to the woods behind the house. Within minutes all six birds returned to the cage nearest the box. Almost without hesitation one male flitted to the box and entered. Seconds later two females entered, followed by one additional male. About one minute transpired with no additional activity. Then the pair of birds still on the cage flew to the woods. In a short time one of the females in the box came out, flew to a nearby tree, perched, flew back to the box and entered at 4:45 p.m. We continued to watch the box until dark in the hope that the remaining pair would join their companions. They never did. Final count was four bluebirds roosting for the night.

Another Note on Bluebirds: The box at the central library was highly productive during 1983 according to the Boones who monitored it. For the first time three broods were fledged with five in each of the first two and four in the third.

THANKS TO MANY SEED SALE HELPERS - Eileen Clegg

The January seed sale was successful because there were so many enthusiastic helpers. The 19,000 pounds of seed were unloaded by Terry Kretz, Don Waugh, Jim Blanchard, John Clegg, Jo & Bob Solem, Anne & Ken Hart, Rod Botsai, Leroy Williamson, Don Nahrgang, Jeff Jones, Bob & James Bogdan & Jane Farrell. Helping at the desk, with the bookstore, or with the bluebird boxes were Linda McDaniel, Martha Waugh, Pat Jackson, Frances Medenbach, Doris Holmes, Barbara Doarnberger, Julie Rizzello, Zelda Simon, Jon K. Boone, Don & Jan Randle. Thanks to the Pardoe family for helping in a variety of ways, Mike McClure for using his truck and storing extra seed, and Mark Wallace for standing by with an extra truck. Thelma Feldman set up the kitchen snacks while the baked items provided by Monika Botsai, Eileen Clegg and Cathy Williamson were much appreciated by the workers. The bookstore did a brisk business in hanging feeders, Clif Grant's bluebird houses, the new Howard MOS patches, and, of course, the newest field guides. In case late winter and early spring finds you low on seed give me a call at 730-4362; there is sunflower and thistle still available. Keep in mind our first sale next fall which comes in late October or early November. All members will receive a notice as will those who ordered during the past year.

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#### DISCOVERY '84 - JUNIOR NATURE CAMP SPONSORED BY BALTIMORE CHAPTER MOS

For information concerning a nature camp at Hashawha in Carroll County for June 15-17, 1984, write or call Mike Baker, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209; Tel. 396-7839 or 254-3640. Enrollment is limited so act soon if you want to enroll your 4th through 8th grade son or daughter. Fees are modest.

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#### YOUR VIEWS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

A recent issue of this newsletter encouraged members to write to their state delegates and senators to encourage passage of the Bottle Bill, H.B. 146. Del. Kasemeyer was listed at that time as opposed to the bill. One of our members, Bob Doyle, wrote to the Delegate urging his support of the bill and received a letter which included the following statement: "I have spent a great deal of time studying the pros and cons of the issue. More importantly, I have heard from a cross-section of my constituency. There appears to be overwhelming support for the passage of this legislation. . . . Therefore, I will support the deposit legislation." Did your letter help to change his mind?

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#### HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER BOOKSTORE RECENT ARRIVALS

See Jan Randle at any club event or call her at 531-6296 for availability and prices.

Bent - Life History series. All copies currently in print.

Peterson - Records & tapes for the revised edition of the field guide.

National Geographic Field Guide - \$13.50

Metal bird feeders - \$3.00

Peterson series. Field Guide to Nests by Harrison - good reference for atlasing

Brudenell - The Birds of New Providence and the Bahama Islands

A.O.U. - A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds, 6th edition

de Schauensee - Birds of Venezuela

▶ HOWARD COUNTY MOS PATCHES NOW AVAILABLE. 3" patch in blue, white, yellow & black with logo designed by Jon E. Boone showing state of Maryland, Howard County and our county bird, the American Goldfinch. \$2.50. Patches can be obtained by mail by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Howard Chapter MOS Bookstore, Attn. Jan Randle, 6424 Lochridge Rd., Columbia, MD 21044 or see Jan at a meeting. Make check (do not mail cash) to Howard County Chapter MOS. ◀



Many birds can be seen in one's yard or within a short distance of home. Passing along observations of breeding can save a great deal of time for those who have the primary responsibility for that area. Support the atlas project by filling in whatever dates you can during 1984 on the chart on the reverse side of this sheet. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FIND A SINGLE NEST IN ORDER TO HELP.** Observing a species several times in suitable habitat after the safe date shown is useful. It does not matter how many or how few dates you include; each one is appreciated. There is no way that the county can be completely covered during the five year life of this project by a handful of observers. The more people who cooperate in making observations, the more complete the final results.

In the event that you observe a species other than those listed, do add the name at the bottom or on a separate sheet of paper along with the pertinent observations. Do not hesitate to call for help. If you own five acres or more (or know someone who does) and would like an experienced birder to check it for breeding birds, call either the area coordinator for your block, the county coordinator Chuck Dupree 796-1086, or Jane Farrell 596-6350 (evenings).

If you make observations please return this sheet by September 1, 1984, to Chuck at 6002 Hunt Club Rd., Elkridge, MD 21227, or call your area coordinator to give him the results verbally. In case you miss the deadline, do not discard your dates because this project will continue for several more years. If you would like to participate in the Howard Atlas Project with primary responsibility for some area, contact Chuck. If you cannot commit sufficient time to sign up for an area but might have two or three partial days in the course of the breeding season that you could devote to atlasing, let an area coordinator know. Arrangements can also be made to atlas with a partner if you do not wish to go out alone. This project offers an excellent opportunity to beginner and more advanced birder alike to learn about bird behavior. Do not be shy about offering help at whatever level you can provide it.

Howard County Chapter MOS  
10617 Graeoch Rd.  
Laurel, MD 20707

