



Vol 13, No 4
Mar-April 1985

Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS CAVITY NESTER REPORT FOR 1984

The following individuals either submitted nesting reports for 1984 or owned boxes monitored by club members: Julie Rizzello, Jack Cole, Eleanor Robbins, Frances Ehlers, Mark Wallace, Allen Brown, Sarah Haviland, Steve & Linda Harsy, Fran & Don Nahrgang, Otto Seafin, Pat Jackson, Bea Newkirk, Hal & Zelda Simon, Alice Fazekas, Chris & John Guddeback, Eva Sunell, Turner Nichols, Jo Solem, Grazina & Mika McClure, Bob Bogdan, Kenneth F. Tracey, Rod & Monika Botsai, Joseph & Nancy Sues, Eleanor & Jack Frasier, Clarence Loomis, Eileen & John Clegg, Mildred Fitez, Debbie Dudar, Barbara & Kristy Uglow, James Hill, James & Claudia Medwin, D.D. & Anne Dowling, William & Louise Dove, Mary & Richard Love, Harry & Maud Banks, Jon E. & Jon K. Boone, Harold Norwood and Bill Eckert. Landowners also listed by last name only: Millman, Comfort, Herman, Tyson, and Kirwan.

At least a dozen cavity nesting species were reported, but knowledge of numbers fledged was sketchy because access to natural cavities is often impossible and some people do not check their boxes. Two broods of Barred Owls fledged 4 young, Northern Flickers (2 broods reported), Tufted Titmouse (2 broods), Carolina Wren (9 broods fledged at least 11 young), Hairy Woodpecker (1 brood), Carolina Chickadee (9 broods fledged a minimum of 34), Red-bellied Woodpecker (5 broods), Downy Woodpecker (2 broods), House Wrens (at least 33 broods fledged a minimum of 113 birds), Wood Duck (1 brood), American Kestrel (1 brood of at least 3), and Tree Swallow (3 clutches yielded 15 young). ~~Eastern Bluebirds fledged at least 730.~~

Among the better bluebird-producing trails were those run by Mark Wallace with 73 boxes; 190 fledged; Howard Co. Rec. & Parks with 52 boxes on 11 county-owned sites, 59 fledged; Frances Ehlers 18 boxes, 27 bluebirds; Chris & John Guddeback 9 boxes with a minimum of 14 fledged; Bob Bogdan 20 boxes, 25 fledged; Joe & Nancy Sues 42 boxes, 69 bluebirds; Eleanor Robbins 25 boxes, 65 bluebirds; and Harold Norwood 12 boxes which fledged 23. Top producer in 1984 was the Boones' trail of 59 boxes which produced 201 bluebirds.

Through trapping efforts Joe Sues eliminated 80-100 House Sparrows while Mark Wallace's vigilance destroyed 558 members of that species; Frances Ehlers trapped at least 50; Eleanor Robbins destroyed at least 65 eggs; and the Boones removed nests representing at least 150 of those pests. Joe Sues noted that his fledging rate was down to 47.5% this year from the 65% success rate in 1983. Sarah Haviland reported 3 broods of 15 bluebirds from Montgomery County. Mark Wallace had 5 Carolina Chickadees fledge from a fencepost and 6 House Wrens from an open-topped box. He was also the only individual to report Tree Swallows nesting in his boxes. On the east side of Columbia the Uglows had a brood of chickadees followed by bluebirds--two delightful cavity nesters in one season. And again we had bluebirds fledging from a box in "downtown" Columbia near the library.

The Howard County Rec. & Parks Trail, which is co-sponsored with the Howard Bird Club, thanks the monitors who checked the boxes and kept records during 1984. They continue to need individuals who are willing to help with this project. Call Bill Eckert 465-6882 (days) to volunteer or for more information. Vandalism is the major problem on park property. If you work with or participate in softball leagues, help to educate the players and spectators to prevent disruption of the nests or destruction of the boxes. Jon Boone would also appreciate help in monitoring the boxes he has along Triadelphia Mill Rd. Call him at 997-0750 to give him a hand. He would also like to thank Clif Grant for providing the boxes for his trail.

Keep track of cavity nesters you see during 1985 and report nestings on next year's membership blank. Don't let House Sparrows or European Starlings occupy boxes.



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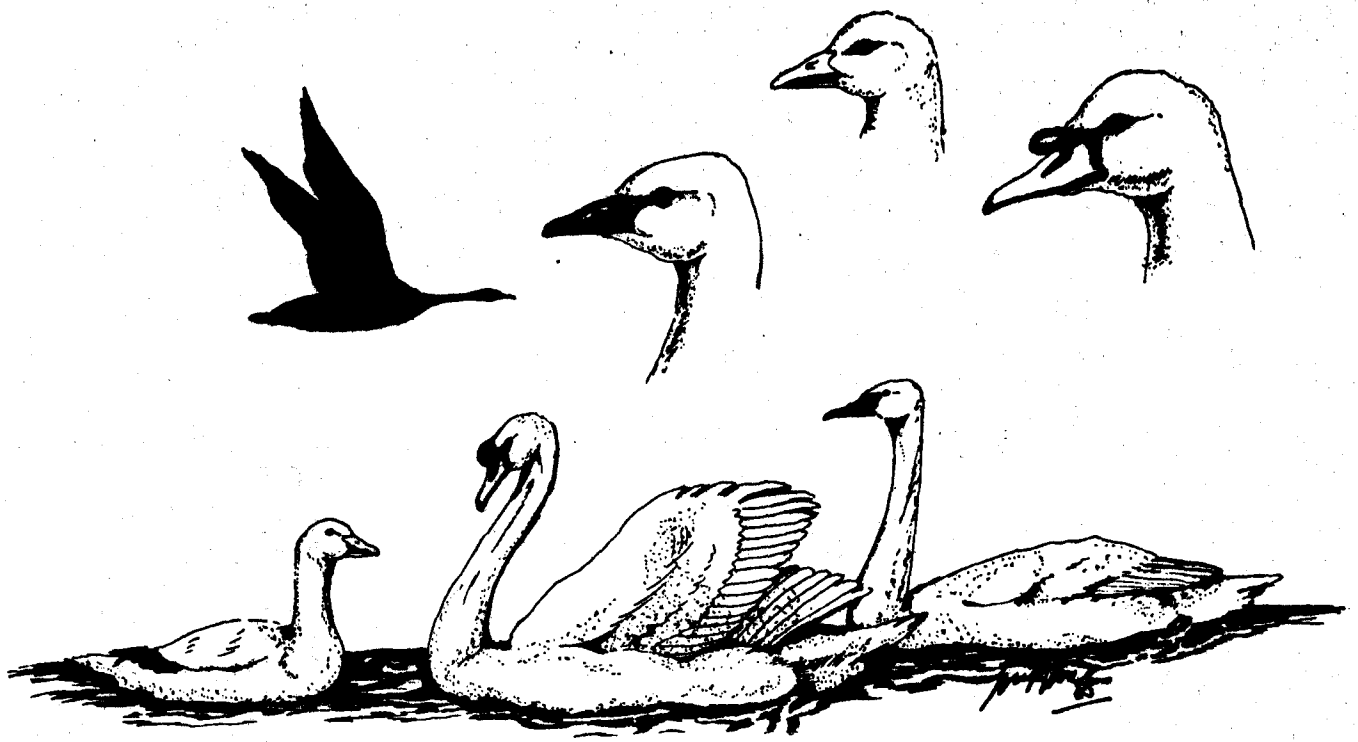
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Snow Goose

Mute Swan

Tundra Swan

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS FOR WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS - Zelda Simon

Last summer in a burst of enthusiasm on my part following the MOS convention in Frostburg, Anneke Davis agreed to teach a nature photography seminar in Columbia. After about 30 telephone calls, a class of nine was organized and held twice weekly for three weeks in late June and early July. Although the class contained people with a wide range of ability and experience, we all benefited from Anneke's instruction and picked up tips from her demonstrations.

Anneke has agreed to again come to Howard County in 1985 to teach a class. I agreed to coordinate the arrangements and to see if there is sufficient interest for a class. Please contact me at 730-8328 by March 15th if you have an interest in nature photography classes. Please indicate whether you are beginner, intermediate, or advanced and whether your primary interest is color or black and white as well as other preferences. I will try to see what can be arranged.

SEED SALE HELPERS FOR JANUARY PICKUP - Eileen Glegg

Special thanks to the many helpers we had at what was one of the coldest pickup dates we have yet experienced. The loaders on the cold, windy day handled some 17,000 pounds of seed. Working outside were Don Kyle, John Glegg, Richard & Dave Pardo, Joe Sless, Anne & Ken Hart, Roy Trudel, Don Nahrgang, Jim Blanchard, Harry Gibson, Jane Farrell, Mark Wallace, Rod Botsai, R. Wardwell, Don Waugh, Bob & Jo Solem and Mike McClure. Inside helping were Linda McDaniel, Marty Chestem, Harriet & Frank Balda, Louise Gibson, Zelda Simon, Martha Waugh, Don Randle and Eileen Glegg. Steve & Linda Harsy, as usual, had an extensive stock available for the bookstore. Monika Botsai provided brownies for the workers.

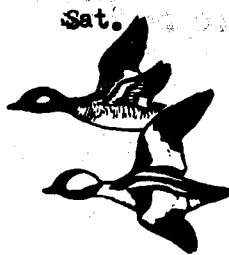
Honorary life member of the Howard Chapter, Chandler S. Robbins, banded a Laysan Albatross February 10, 1964, at Sand Island, Midway. The bird was found dead in the same place November 1983!

C A L E N D A R

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. 14 - "Confusing Spring Warblers" - David Holmes. One of the state's outstanding field birders will use slides and possibly tapes to help sort out the flood of spring warblers which will be coming soon.
 Thur.
- Apr. 18 - "Banding Snow Geese in the Tundra" - Daphne Gemmill. An Earthwatch trip taken as a vacation becomes an unforgettable experience.
 Thur.

FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS - Field trips leave from Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flier building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) unless otherwise indicated. As in the past, carpooling is encouraged with riders sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow paths. No pets. Leaders may cancel the trip due to inclement weather. If in doubt, contact the leader whose phone number is listed.



Mar. 2 - BIRDING WORKSHOP - Howard County Central Library Conference Room. Free. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Stop in any time to look at mounted specimens, check the extensive inventory in the club bookstore, and note examples of food and feeders to attract birds. Presentations: "Bird and Nature Guides" 10:30 a.m. Steve Harsy; "Feeding Birds" 10:45 a.m. Jo Solem; "Photographing Birds" 11:45 a.m. Mike McClure; "Identification Techniques" 12:45 p.m. David Holmes; "Landscaping for the Birds" 2:00 p.m. Dave Pardoe; "Local Birding Hotspots" 2:30 p.m. Marty Chestem; "Nature Walk to Lake Kittamaqundi" 3:30 p.m. Jane Farrell. Do Drop In!

Mar. 9 - HOWARD CHAPTER ANNUAL POTLUCK AND SLIDE SHOW - Florence Bain Senior Center (See map in Jan.-Feb. newsletter). Social hour 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Reserve space by calling Monika Botsai 465-5758 or Grazina McClure 531-2111 by Tuesday, March 5th. Share the good food, fun, slides, and door prizes.
 Sat.

Mar. 24 - WATERFOWL ON COLUMBIA'S LAKES - Leaders: Mark Wallace & J. Farrell 596-6350
 Sun. Identifying waterfowl through telescopes is especially helpful for beginners because the birds are "sitting ducks." 1/2 day. Meet at Grempler at 1:00 p.m.
canceled

Apr. 21 - LILY PONS, FREDERICK COUNTY - Leader: Dave Pardoe 531-6452. 3/4 day. Take lunch. A variety of migrants and residents in this freshwater area. Meet at Grempler at 9:00 a.m. to carpool or at Lily Pons (Call leader for directions)
 Sun.

Apr. 26-28 - EBBA - NEBBA CONVENTION - See material elsewhere in this newsletter.

Apr. 27 - WORK DAY AT CAREY RUN - Our MOS sanctuary in Garrett County. Meet members from other parts of the state, take care of necessary chores to reopen the sanctuary, and bird. Coordinator: Dottie Mumford 1-849-8336.
 Sat.

May 4 - MAY COUNT - More information later but save this Saturday for a day of birding in the county during spring migration. Tally in the evening. Part or all day.
 Sat.

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m. at Anne Hart's, 3700 Daisy Rd., Woodbine, 489-7251. From Rt. Mar. 21 - 29 take Rt. 108 west to Homewood Rd. Turn right onto Homewood Rd. Continue on Homewood & Folly Quarter until reaching Triadelphia Rd. Bear left onto Triadelphia Rd. Go over Rt. 32 & across Ten Oaks Rd. Continue until reaching Sharp Rd. Turn right onto Sharp, then quickly turn left onto Dorsey Mill Rd. Continue until you reach Rt. 97. Left onto Rt. 97 south. Go about a mile & a half, then turn right onto Jennings Chapel Rd. After a mile or so, bear right onto Daisy Rd. Go 3/10 of a mile to the third house on the left, 3700.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE YOUR ALUMINUM & BIMETAL CANS, GLASS AND NEWSPAPERS at the Columbia Recycling Center, 6655 Dobbin Rd., 992-4234; 10-2, Mon.-Sat. Have items credited to Howard Bird Club. The last quarter of 1984 members recycled 36.5 lbs. of aluminum, 406 lbs. of glass and 1999 lbs. of newsprint. Treasurer Don Randle received a check from the club in the amount of \$20.42 for these items. A pat on the back to all who recycle - it's never too late to start. Remember, recycling makes dollars and sense!

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING CLASS COMING ON TUESDAY EVENINGS IN LATE APRIL & EARLY MAY THROUGH HOWARD CO. REC. & PARKS. WATCH FOR THEIR SPRING BROCHURE. FOR INFO, CALL BILL ECKERT 465-6882, DAYS.

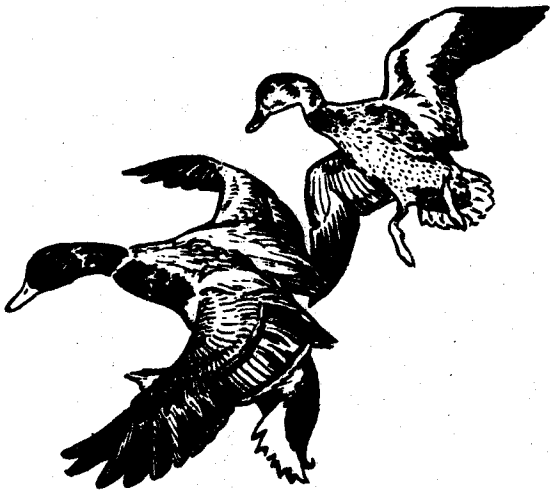
SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MARCH 7, 1985, THURSDAY - PROPOSED BY-LAWS TO BE DISCUSSED

In order to avoid detracting from the March program and to allow ample time for discussion and consideration of proposed by-laws, the by-laws will not be presented at the regular March meeting. Instead, a separate meeting for the membership will be held on Thursday, March 7th at Longfellow Elementary School beginning at 7:45 p.m.

Opportunity will be provided for an explanation of the proposed by-laws and for suggestions of possible alternative proposals. If there are modifications to the proposed by-laws by the By-laws Committee, these will be sent to the entire membership along with any proposed alternative sections prior to the April regular meeting. If it is the desire of the membership present at the regular March meeting to have another open discussion meeting, such a separate meeting will be scheduled in late March or early April--in which case it may be necessary to postpone voting until May. I urge all members to attend the March 7th meeting.

Sincerely,
David Pardoe, Pres.

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



BIRDING WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1985

SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP

RECEIVED
MARCH 10 1985
MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT
10617 GRAEOCH RD.
LAUREL, MD 20707