CHIP NOTES

The newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club

December 1999-January 2000 – Online Edition

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Deadline for next issue (JF/MAM): December 15, 1999 (the next issue will be February/March 2000). Send material to:

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Lake Roland Update

by Carol Schreier

As reported in the last issue of Chip Notes, the bridge over Lake Roland Boulevard - I.e. Falls, just below the dam, is to be rebuilt. It is scheduled to begin work early-mid June 1, 2000 and take 3.5 months, with the bridge closed and no alternate route built into the plans. As of press time, therefore, it appears that our spring inspection walks at Lake Roland will go as scheduled. However, for our fall inspection walks next year, a series of eight Sunday mornings, we will need to find a new location. Any ideas?

Speaking of Lake Roland, the Friends of Lake Roland are having a clean up day on Saturday, December 11, 9 AM to 12 Noon. Participants will meet at the Lake Roland Nature Center. Contact Jim Lamb at jwlamb@aol.com and Chris Kelly at ckelly@mdi.com for more information. Bring a rake, shovel, and wheelbarrow if you can. Dress for the weather and bring a snack or lunch.

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Cylburn Lecture Report: Bob Ringler on "The Yellow Book"

by Gail Frantz

The Orioles'Tim Kurt Kraus presented an explanation of how to use the 2nd edition of the *Field Guide to the Birds of Maryland and DC*, Jane Fancy and Bob Ringler, author and illustrator, at our October meeting. **Eric Bibler Rose**

There is an immense amount of information in this compact-size small bound volume and a variety of symbols, charts and graphs. Both method of indexing are the best of the normally reference book was simple but effective. He took us through the book, first showing us how to find information in the table of contents, then how to use the index and finally how to find information in the charts and Bob Ringler's illustrations.

Bob showed us a color chart of the ranges he had presented. These greatly enhance our understanding. Bob explained that the ranges, which he indicated on Bingle's Bird Calendar, are based on the breeding bird atlas data. Bob also showed us a color chart of the seasonal occurrence of birds. Bob explained that the chart was based on the Baltimore Bird Club's Fall Count data.

Bob suggested we use resource books to help us understand Maryland's ever-changing bird population. **Maryland Birds** Lab, A. C. Hotchkiss and *Attractions of Wintering Birds in Maryland*, **Jane Fancy and Bob Ringler** *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* by Robert Ringler.

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1999 Fall Count

by Debbie Terry, Compiler

The 1999 Fall Count held on Saturday November 20 in Baltimore City and County produced 126 species. It was a lovely day to be in the woods with morning temperatures in the 60's and afternoon temperatures reaching 80 degrees. Birds were scarce ranged from Tufted Titmouse to Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Birds were heard but not seen in the woods.

Highlights included a good number of sparrows and a good number of ducks. Sparrows included Lincoln's, White-throated, Fox, Swamp, Song, Chipping, Field, Savannah, Grasshopper and White-crowned. Ducks included Ring-necked, Wood, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Canada, Canvasback, Ruddy, Black, Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser. Shorebirds included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dowitcher, Sanderling and Semipalmated Plover.

Thanks to all participants who braved the cold and wind to count the birds. Thanks to Joe Lewandowski, Steve Sanford, Gail Frantz, Jane Fancy, Paul Nash, Steve Sanford, Gene Scarpulla, Debbie Terry.

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River of Broadways over Cylburn

by Steve Sanford

On September 26 we regular Sunday morning walk at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore was treated to an unexpected delight. A nearly precocious or at least 100 migrating Broad-winged Hawks!

We had been seeing a few individuals and small groups of 5-10 Broad-winds for the past week, but nothing like this. Soon after we began our walk, large numbers began to appear streaming across the sky, and then other birds further east joined the river of Broadwings. Soon we had a river of Broadwings, with birds streaming in from the north and west, and joining the river of Broadwings which was about five feet parallel to the river.

In addition to the Broadwings, we had a high field large sweeper 10 ruby, some Hoots-three, 2 Kestrels, 3 Merlins, and a Peregrine Falcon sporting wonderful crescent 12. The pinnacle was with grosses discovery, the Sweet 17 species of warblers, 2 Northern Parulas, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Wilson's, Canada, and American Redstart.

Yesterday afternoon, on Saturday, Steve Gilbert, Paul Nash, Gene Scarpulla, Debbie Terry, and I visited Gunpowder Falls State Park in Baltimore County. We had a very productive day, with 72 species. Highlights included a Peregrine Falcon and 10 Bald Eagles. Other highlights included 3 Northern Harriers, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Merlins, 2 Ruddy Ducks, 2 Hooded Mergansers, 2 Common Mergansers, 2 Belted Kingfishers, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 2 Northern Parulas, 2 Pine Warblers, 2 Palm Warblers, 2 Ovenbirds, 2 Swamp Sparrows, 2 Lincoln's Sparrows, 2 Fox Sparrows, 2 Rusty Blackbirds, 2 Brown Creepers, 2 Winter Wrens, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 Hermit Thrushes, 2 Eastern Bluebirds, 2 Cedar Waxwings, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 2 Pine Siskins, 2 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Tufted Titmice, 2 Carolina Chickadees, 2 Carolina Wrens, 2 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 2 Blue Jays, 2 American Crows