CHIP NOTES

The newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club

December 1998/January 1999 -- Online Edition

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Deadline for next CHIP NOTES: December 28, 1998 (the next issue will be February-March 1999). Send material to:

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8412 Dewey Dale Drive
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or e-mail to: annemichael@mail.bgs.net
Please help CHIP NOTES get out on time.

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Hart-Miller Island Project a "Go"

Anne Brooks

A large contingent of MOS members from the central part of the state attended the final public hearing on the Hart-Miller Island Gull Restoration Project on October 14, 1998. This is a joint effort including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Port Administration, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Baltimore Bird Club. The project involves the creation of a 20 acre island in the Chesapeake Bay for Gull and Tern nesting habitat. The Corps of Engineers, MPA, and DNR have spent a total of $2 million dollars, of which approximately half, or 20 acres, was used, and a new nesting island with a controlled water supply. Construction is planned to begin in the year 2000.

Such a great or project would never have been initiated if not for the vision and painstaking work of Bob Ringler and Gene Scarpulla. In 1977 Bob Ringler began surveying the species of birds on the original Hart Island and Miller Island. Bob's observations and photographs led to the discovery of the Black-legged Kittiwake in the Bay. Gene Scarpulla began his survey in 1979 and continued through 1991. In 1994 Gene Scarpulla began his survey, which are still ongoing, and in 1997 Gene was asked to serve on the committee to plan the new island.

Their careful statistics show that 200 species of birds have been observed on or around Hart-Miller Island.

The discussion at the meeting initiated by the hearing officer that the dam gathered over those years was probably the primary driving force behind the concept of the Restoration in its present form. The presence of breeding colonies of Least Terns in the area indicated to Bob and Gene of officials that Least Terns might again nest on the island if the loss of nesting habitat was corrected, and the success of the Least Tern project was realized.

We are all the richer due to the dedication of Bob and Gene. Let us extend a word of thanks and congratulations to them both on behalf of the Members of MOS.

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Jones Falls Celebration

By Joy Wheeler

Many thanks to Brian Rollins for manning a display at the (First Annual?) Jones Falls Celebration. The presentation "Summer Birds of the Jones Falls" was a crowd-pleaser, directing attention to the beautiful birds, photographs, as well as some of our resourcful members who gave up a Saturday to spend time in the sun. Brian's display was located on the Dock of Commerce, which is a very busy place on a beautiful day. Brian reported that he spoke to about 50 people during the show, a lot of Mr Yeatman's Birds of the Jones Falls in Baltimore City" and "Good Birding Spots along the Jones Falls." You will be able to pick up a copy in the book closet in the Museum. We have the promise to lend the Baltimore Bird Club or a Jones Falls Entry to next year's project.

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Backyard Hawk Watch Report

By Kevin Graff

Editor's note: For several years, between cottage classes and other activities Kevin Graff has been watching and counting hawks from his backyard on White Ave. in the Hamilton section of northeast Baltimore City. His house is one the first ridge west of the Chesapeake Bay in Baltimore. His observations, especially the large number of Broadwings, are consistent with various reports by others that suggest that the Intermediate Flyway is a major highway for hawks. Kevin's report is the first one we have received for the 1998 hawk watch season. Hopefully other hawkers have joined him for short visits, and we anticipate more will do so next fall. Kevin is also investigating public support for setting up a hawk watch at a more accessible site. Here is the summary of the season to October 25.

```
  Migrating Vultures from May 23-Oct. 25
Turkey Vulture                          1,  1 day
Black Vulture                          15
  Migrating Raptors from Aug 12-Oct. 25
Osprey                                  1  (one, on 10/12)
Sharp-shinned Hawk                     42  (1 on 9/ 9 one,)
Northern Harrier                       42
Cooper's Hawk                           1 (12)
Bald Eagle                              1
Red-shouldered Hawk                    27
Broad-winged Hawk                      11,774
Red-tailed Hawk                        1,
Rough-legged Hawk                       1
Kestrel                                49
Merlin                                 10
Peregrine Falcon                        1
Unidentified Accipiter                  1  (one, light phase -0/16)
Unidentified Buteo                      1
Unidentified Accipiter                  1
Unidentified Falcon                     5
Total Diurnal Raptors                  12,493
                 Non-Vulture/Raptor Migration Dept-Oct
Common Nighthawk                       1
Red-throated Loon                      1
Double-crested Cormorant               1 (4)
Great Egret                            1
Canada Geese                           3,449 (10 75 flocks)
Snow Geese                             81 (in 3 flocks)
Tundra Swan                            1 (in 1 flock)
Turkey Vulture                         1
Chimney Swift                          6,663
Belted Kingfisher                      1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet                   1
Hermit Thrush                          1
Cedar Waxwing                          5
Yellow-rumped Warbler                  1
Northern Mockingbird                   1
American Goldfinch                     40
Pine Siskin                            1
Black-throated Green Warbler           1
Tennessee Warbler                      1
Total Non-Vulture/Raptors              9,394

Monarch Butterflies                    7,599 (The highest daily total was
                                              5,820 on Sept. 7)
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Surprise at Seasawnion Wildlife Refuge

by Dottie Palmer

On a cool, clear, sunny, very windy September 8, 1998, Earl and I were birding at Seasawnion Wildlife Refuge in Somers County, Delaware. It was not a good birding day. In fact, species and numbers were so low, we kept commenting that we should at least have a species for our efforts. Suddenly, we spotted a large bird with a long neck and tail, and we thought it was a few Laughing Gulls, about a half dozen Herring and one Ivory Gull. While we were discussing seeing such a rarity in Delaware, the flock of the odds, a lady from Scranton, joined us.

As she and Jerome discussing the paucity of Dunlin that day, Earl wondered back to the position of the dike. Casually, he called out "what is the smaller bird that looks like a Killdeer with only one band?" (expounded "bumpinnuttal-Plover." The lady and I strolled over to see the bird and discussed the Piping Plover.

Earl and I had seen Piping Plovers on our Delaware Bay beaches, but we had never seen one in our Maryland Coastal Bays. Piping Plovers are listed as an endangered species in the Northern and National Geographic field guides. The lady began describing the field marks of the bird. Her observations matched perfectly with the worse Piping Plover in the guides except there was a light brown band across the crest. Our conclusion was that the bird had not completed its winter moult. (We had seen a Piping Semipalmated Plover because the band and bare neck were lighter in color.) After a 10-15 minute look, we left the bird to its foraging in a mudflat about 15 to 20 feet in front of us.

Moving on, we discussed the joy of birding such as how rapidly a totally lackadent day can turn into a truly memorable one.

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Summer Scholarships Available

by Phyllis Gerber

Training in Ecology and Ornithology

- **Ecology Scholarships**

The Maryland Ornithological Society is now accepting applications from Maryland teachers and youth leaders for seven scholarships to attend summer ecology week-long courses which the National Audubon Society holds at its camps in Maine, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. These scholarships include the cost of tuition, room and board for an intensive six-day course of study and instruction in ecology, conservation, and natural history.

- **Ornithology Scholarships**

The Maryland Ornithological Society is also accepting applications from Maryland teachers and youth leaders for two scholarships for a week of study in ornithology at the Audubon summer work shop in Maine.

The value of each scholarship is between $500 and $600. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient. Requirements:

1. The MOS requires that its scholarship recipient work young people. The recipient must be a teacher, youth group leader, student, and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers.
2. Applicants need not be members of MOS but must be endorsed by a member or a chapter of MOS.
3. Candidates must provide a written statement of the reasons why the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our avid heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment.
4. Two letters of recommendation from people who know of the candidate's interests, activities, abilities, and potential. One of these letters should be from either a member of MOS or a chapter of MOS.
5. Applicants should also submit a current resume.
6. Applicants must be 18 years or older.
7. Applications must be submitted by January 30, 1999.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 410-466-7577 Please submit applications and refer questions to

Mrs. Jean L. Fry
1202 Ridge Road
Sparks, Maryland 21152
410-472-4939

Brochures can be obtained from the Registrar, Audubon Camps and Workshops, 613 Riverside Road, Greenwich, CT 06831.

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New Arrival

by Debbie Terry

A new Dodging Jordan has arrived!

The Baltimore Bird Club's own Vice President, Mary Paul, delivered a baby girl on Saturday October 17. She weighed 7 pounds 5 oz. Her name is Sarita Autumn.

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Membership Dues

by Joy Wheeler

Please pay your dues promptly! Notices have been sent to everyone whose 1998-99 dues have not been received. If the expiration date on your mailing label is **printed in red**, we have not received your dues. If the information on the label is incorrect, or your name or address is wrong, please let Joy Wheeler know. Prepaid membership dues will be posted in the mailing for effective January 1, 1999. Make checks payable to Baltimore Bird Club.

Roberta Ross
Ruth Rowe
Mary Ruth Yeager
Dr. Jerome Zimmerman

Our regular dues, which include membership in the state organization, are $20 for an individual or $30 for a household. Members of another chapter or life members of MOS who joined after 6/1/90 get the "chapter only" dues of $10 for an individual or $15 for a household membership. (Before 6/1/90, the Baltimore chapter also offered a life membership. If you are a life member of the Baltimore chapter and MOS who joined before 6/1/90, you do not owe anything.)

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Postcards from the Edge

by Hank Kuerzner

Dear Cyclopers,

Small creatures are nice because with lack, you can "Clean up."

Today I did that on a Brownie-Painted, Lady Butterfly in the Indian Ocean. It's a wonderful year, with lots of Brown-Headed. This morning I was up at 5:00 & kept the infinite matrix runs forever. By 6:45 I had sent off all the powerline endeavors. Then I spent the rest of the morning on the Cylburn Field Trip. Afterwards I went to the Cylburn Bird Club Meeting. Afterwards I went to the Cylburn Board Meeting. Afterwards I went to the pushing for of a shopping center overlooking the Indian Ocean. Afterwards I spent 2 hours at the Brown's Pond's, 100 Hedge-tailed Skeowhorns, 7 Banana-Black Finchs, and 2 Moccasin Skeowhorns. By first and third of which were the last endeavor.

A clean up!

Hank Kuerzner

10/19/98
Dear Cyclopers,

*I've been traveling so much **India** is the entire of Tenn', Yoda, and Kenya. This area produces most of the world's red pepper, black pepper, and cardamom. This trip yielded 99 species of birds as I visited the spice plantations, including Red whiskered, Red tailed, Yellow-throated, White-throated, Yellow-footed, and Red-headed.*

Best, Hank Kuerzner

10/20/98
Dear Cyclopers,

*I've been traveling so much **Indonesia** to check out the rainfall crop. This island has almost 199 endemic birds, some of which live in the vanilla plantations, such as the endemic Cyclops Rollier (some of the endemic Ninjas Shrikes (Chicken's and Blue), and the incredible Blue Cross-which looks like a turkey-sized jay.*

Hank Kuerzner

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Community Service at Cylburn

by Joy Wheeler

Eight Pulaski Park Country School 7th graders, students of Martha Bentz, observe the heartrob thanks of the Baltimore Bird Club. They were among the 2 classes from that school who came to Cylburn to work on their community service hours and to learn about birding and nature.

While most of the students were working outside on composting, mulching, and weeding, our 8 students were inside on Cylburn's Bird Rare organizing, cataloging, and listing the portion of our collection of mounted specimens that is available for loan to local schools. Our best volunteer was probably a Northern Waterthrush - *Pure Joy!*

Unfortunately, we were so busy on our tasks that we forgot to take the time to find out the names of the 8 very cooperative girls. My apologies. Write me they will remember some of the names of the birds and when they read this expression of our appreciation for their hard work, they'll remember that they were a part of Bonnie's Commissions of 8. Thank you very much, BPD's girls. We appreciate your teacher! *introduction of Cylburn's* some our education at this early age and recommend that you keep it up during the rest of your Sciences.

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Board of Directors Meetings

by Alan Bromberg, Recording Secretary

The Board of Directors met on September 14 and October 12. The board discussed sales of the site guide at both meetings. We will be sending copies of the guide to ARA labs.

The board also discussed establishment of a database of bird species seen in Baltimore and Baltimore County. Anne Brooks and Dot Gustafson began a preliminary effort to establish a database using Gene Scarpulla's Hart-Miller records.

At the September meeting, the board unanimously approved a motion to support the concept of preservation of Clark's Plantation near Fort Howard in Baltimore County.

Volunteers are needed to assist in "gathering" reports from tape land alerts and other sources for the BBC Birdline.

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Field Trip Reports

Compiled by Steve Sanford with Lake Roland narratives by Peter Lev

September 5 - **Lake Roland** - An overnight cold front did not bring a large number of migrants, but the weather was nice on the top dam on some good birds. Among the highlights were two leading Caspian Terns, four Great Egrets, and eight warbler species. Bird of the day was a Black-throated Blue Warbler. Birds observed at the carry end of the trip: Overall, 70 species were:

72 participants, 35 species, 0 warblers, two BFs. Heavy weeds from the north. Leader Debby Golden.

September 13 - **Lake Roland** - Birding was very slow today, with 35 species and only 5 warbler species. Blame it on the weather—the last cold front came through two weeks ago.

There was good news from another leader leading this: Paul Scott saw a Connecticut Warbler down the hill off of Overlook Road. Thanks to Bob Kuerzner and Jim Stephenson in Baltimore County!—*Peter Lev*

72 participants, 35 species, 5 warblers, no BFs. Leader Peter Lev.

September 22 - **Lake Roland** - Lake Roland was quiet today, though we did round up some of the usual suspects:Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret, Osprey. The Clape May Warbler seen by Terry and Roberta Ross on Saturday, 9/19 was nowhere to be found. Our best bird was probably a Northern Waterthrush. —*Peter Lev*

28 participants, 34 species, 2 warblers, 1 warbler species, BF, cable. Leader Shirley Golden.

September 26 - **Lake Roland** - Cool, clear weather, and interesting migrants. It was a lovely day at Lake Roland. The marquee bird was a Philadelphia Vireo, seen by a birders in the developed "park". Also: Other nice migrants were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and 9 warbler species (largely Sap-headed and Black-and-white). Raptors were Northern Harrier, Osprey, and Broad-winged Hawk. 1 of each. —*Peter Lev*

29 Indoor 31 species, 9 warblers, bunny, cool, 42°. Leader Dot Gustafson.

October 5 - **Lake Roland** - It's getting late in the season, but good birds keep coming through. At Lake Roland today, 12 species of warbler, including Prairie and Blackburnian as well as the expected Yellow-rump and Palm. Blue-headed Vireo, both kinglets, Hermit Thrush, and Fox Sparrow (recorded on a small, shallow lake). 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Raptors were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Osprey, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. 47 species were seen, down from last week but still very good.

29 participants, 33 species, 12 warblers, cloudy, about 60°. Leader Melissa Wise.

October 12 - **Lake Roland** - We saw one stunning bird today: a Peregrine Falcon which perched obligingly for several minutes. 20+ kinglets put in lovely. Other fall birds of note were Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shin, many kinglets (40-50 Ruby-crowned), Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch. Warblers were down from last week, but still good: Palm, Yellow-rump, Black-and-white, Nashville, and Black-throated Blue. Other migrants of note were Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, and Brown Thrasher. Raptors were Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed Hawks, and Osprey. Bird of the day: Red-headed and Red-tailed Hawks. 47 species were seen, down from last week.

28 participants, 33 species, 12 warblers, cloudy, about 60°. Leader Melissa Wise.

Cylburn Field Trips: Fall 1998

by Joseph M. Lewandowski

September 27, 1998.

For the ten birders that worked the trails of Cylburn on this beautiful autumn day, the dike was quiet. We did not see a lot of activity as far as birds go, but when the dike ended, we came up with 35 species of birds seen. A great, close up view of a Sharp-shinned Hawk was the highlight of the morning. Other birds of interest were a Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, and the distinctive call and distinctive appearance of a catbird that was a Gray Catbird. Lesser Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch were also present. Leader was Joseph Lewandowski.

October 4, 1998. Cool and very windy. At least, that is the way it felt as I walked the trails of Cylburn on this beautiful day in October. With temperatures in the 70's, eleven birders braved the elements to see what they could see. Fall migration is in full swing. But that is not the only thing that took to the sky. Vultures and hawks, geese and herons, sparrows and warblers, flickers and blue jays all took to the sky in aerial displays of flight. No species topped our bird list with each warbler or Sharp-shinned Hawk being the highlight of the day. Other birds of interest were a Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Other birds of interest were a Great Blue Heron, a Green Heron, a Cooper's Hawk, and a Red-shouldered Hawk. Leader was Joseph Lewandowski.

October 18, 1998

If this is a typical fall day, I am sure that everyone would want fall in just forever. With temperatures reaching the 70's, the walk along the trails was tranquil. The ten birders who worked this Sunday had a great birding experience. We did see 28 species of birds including a Red-tailed Hawk, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Other birds of interest were a Great Blue Heron, a Green Heron, a Cooper's Hawk, a Red-shouldered Hawk, and a Belted Kingfisher. Leader was Joseph Lewandowski.

October 25, 1998

Fall is in full swing and the birds are beginning to fill out and diversify! Not so when we walked the Cylburn trails on October 25. The trees were all dapped in red, gold, brown, yellow, and green, giving the appearance of a large coloring book open to the splendor of nature. For the seven birders that were out this morning, it was a wonderful walk in the adventure. Thirty-four species let our ears, eyes, and ears know that it was a fall day. Highlights were interesting finds. Field: Song, Chipping, and White-throated Sparrows were hopping about. A Red-headed Woodpecker flew from the dike to the Mansion. Bird of the day: Sparrows had interest, and birders, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked thrushes were spotted in the trees. Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers were still about as were the kinglets. It was a great day to commune with nature and to see what she has to offer.

November 1, 1998

Cool, clear, and very windy. Not the best of conditions for Cylburn Bird Club of Cylburn and it showed almost prefer that one hour walk the trails. It seemed fitting that it allowed two to follow-on this last day, the trees were in full color. Cylburn takes on a different quality as one walks into the interior of the forest. The quiet, the rustling of Leaves through the leaves, the serenity, all are a part of Cylburn. The tranquility of the stream at the bottom of the hill, slowly making its way toward the Jones Falls River, the sight of the Mansion as one emerges from the woods, the sight of the Conservatory as one walks by the Pond, the sight of the Pond with its Mallards and Wood Duck, the sight of the Bird Feeders and Bird Baths and their work gives, flying off to some unknown destination. The blue skies and sun ground the last remnants of the gardens at Cylburn, wanting a good bye and beckoning for spring. The fall walks are over but not forgotten.

Until spring.

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BBC Mail Order

The Baltimore Bird Club is now offering its merchandise for sale through its mail order section. The following items are available. All prices include shipping costs.

Baltimore Bird Club's Birding Site Guide - $23.00
Baltimore Bird Club T-Shirt - $10.00 (med, lg, xxl)
MOS Pins - $5.50
MOS Ties - $20.00

Please make your check or money order payable to "The Baltimore Bird Club" and send your order to: Joseph Lewandowski, 3021 Temple Gate, Baltimore, Maryland 21209.

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Back Yard Birding

by Gail Frantz

Baltimore City

Caution: Bird Watching May Be Hazardous to Your Health

Elton Kerschbaum posted the following on September 29:

"Yesterday evening **70 Common Nighthawks** passed over my apartment in the Roland Park area of Baltimore in three groups within a few minutes of each other."

"One large assembly of **Tree Swallows** were flying about at dusk. I think it time to look for the flamming activity in the neighborhood. There are a couple of chimneys where I have seen several Broadwings roosting."

"Another Kerschbaum report: Linda Jack: "I did go out at 7:15 yesterday evening and saw at least a **thousand Chimney Swifts** featuring into an apartment house chimney at the corner of 39 Stewart and Lamington. It is the Roland Park area of Baltimore."

September 19: "For the Fall Count, I went to an alley in back of an apartment building at 7:00 p.m. to count Chimney Swifts to check out the apartment building chimney to see if they roost. The birds started forming at 7:32, at 7:25 a police car pulled up at the apartment building. Someone had reported a man with binoculars in the alley. Not that there is any law against it, but by 7:28 the birds were all inside the chimney and my presence would have been harder to explain."

"By the way, does anyone know how to get an accurate count of forming swifts when you have to explain what is going on to curious neighbors, a cop, and a group of partiers who are sure they are nuts?"

Elton's report also lists, Chimney swifts are having problems. During migration, they birds, perceived as dirty, are being excluded from many large chimneys since by estimating ahead atop the chimneys to keep the swifts from roosting.

Upon hearing of the Chimney swifts plight, Clyde Fisher of Hanover, contacted The Delaware Bird Wildlife Association in Texas. This organization has developed a plan to build artificial chimney roosts for the swifts. Clyde wrote for and received the plans, then built the 20' tower according to the specifications. He's waiting for the next migration season to see if the experiment works.(G.F.)

Baltimore County

Northern Saw-whet owl

Sunday, October 4. I was very pleased to have **Linda Rose-Sweatnell** perch right up on my living-room windowsill by the feeders. I've had them in the trees occasionally, but never this like.

"Tales of **Brown Creeper CD** I had my first Canada Warbler of the season, and my first ever **White-throated Sparrows**, plus **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, and several **Yr-of-Canada Geese**. My **Goldfinches** continue to visit my upside-down feeder to great interest."

Hampton

Joy Wheeler writes:

"Thought you would enjoy of how my sloggy yard has attracted **a Wood Thrush** or two in the past two years, the first occurrence of this bird in over 35 year residence. Tries a **Hermit Thrush**, on **October 16**". Could this be mounting evidence against moving the yard? Or, just a coincidence?"

"Yesterday I was sufficiently enough to report this bird without hesitation. Unfortunately I was alone in the unattentive period of my Northeastern Farmland Yard when at 9:15 EST on Sunday **October 25** I noticed a large hawk flying from the East Ridge of Lady Slipper Lane and landing in a dead tree. Immediately I was alerted by a silhouette of a bird in a dead tree. The opposite side of such bird I figured it was, but they haven't grown up yet!" I even heard an owl one night but didn't see it (it sort about it was.)"

"I read about the National Wildlife Federation and MD Wild Acres program where they certify your yard as a bird sanctuary and we can all excited about being able to plant all the native plants and winter food-bearing plants necessary for the year-round food source requirement."

Good luck on your new interest, Kathy. Be sure to let us know how the plants you're going to put in help to attract different species of birds.

Anne Arundel

Louisiana

On **September 20**, Olga Clifton, a hummingbird lover from Abita Springs, La posted the following:

"I have 25 feeders hanging on the back deck against the wall of my house. When the hummers are out in full force they can look like a cloud of dark smoke and their sounds can be awesome!!!"

"This morning a **Red-shouldered Hawk** came into the yard and perched in one of our Pine trees to plant rest. Well, about a hatchlate **Ruby-throated Hummers** took offence and proceeded to mob the Hawk. The Hawk took flight across the yard with at least **50 Hummers** hot on its tail and I noticed a lot of feathers left behind. They chased the hawk clean out of my yard!"

Any critic Olga hears from the North will be from BBC guests who only members who get excited when lucky enough to view even two Ruby-throats at one time. (GF)

Where Do They Go?

Ever wonder where "our" birds go in the winter? Well, we have some observations from two regular down-South birders who noticed.

Thomas O'Connoy, SC reports: "We had our first **Baltimore Orioles** (male) of the season at my grandmother's Dunbar today (10/4) in Conway, SC. The orchard we've ever had them in September 11, so this is not a record just a long bird. My grandmother has a nice, well-kept orchard. Her fruit trees are plentiful, hybrid oranges and Inland, pickled-over pecans seem to be favorites (orange food?). The nearby well-housed, "Mr. Ted Bear Bird Feeder Hotel" is a favorite of Carolina wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. For at least 20 years.

And a word about Song Sparrows from Bell Moore:

"Hello,

I am on the NC coastal area. There are small pockets of **Song Sparrows** so some of the birds I see are in summer, but I am unsure of breeding status. (I have seen them when banding royal and cardinals) Very shy bird. Cardinals (male) They sound really sweet on the usual song of spring."

"However, in my general location of Onslow County NC (approximately 1 hour north of Wilmington, NC, near Jacksonville, NC), Song Sparrows do not breed, they only winter over."

House Finch Disease, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, Is Spreading

There are some alarming findings reported in The Cape Cod Crossroads and The Cornell House Finch Disease Survey.

If you're unable to access these reports on a computer, send me a self-addressed envelope requesting a copy of: Centers for Disease Control: *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, and I'll send you a copy. (GF)

Let us hear about your Back Yard birding too. Call or write

Gail Frantz
13910 Old Harford Rd
Parkton MD 21120
e-mail: gaintz@mail.net

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