

WHAT'S HATCHING?

Official Newsletter of the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3
ISSUE NO 24 | SEP 2022



Broad-winged Hawk by Scott Stafford/Macaulay Library

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Although easily seen during migration, Broad-winged Hawks are a secretive breeding buteo.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Blocks will be assessed for completion following the annual review next month.

OUT OF THE ARCHIVE

In 1949, Chandler Robbins wrote a summary of that year's nest records—including a state first—that is reprinted here.

CONTENTS

From the Coordinator.....3	Bird of the Month.....4
Atlaser Spotlight.....6	Tips and Tricks.....7
From the Field.....8	Out of the Archive.....9

Have a story or a picture for the newsletter? We'd love to hear about it!

Contact the editor: mddcbba3@mdbirds.org | 202-681-4733

Want to donate to the Atlas? You can do that at mdbirds.org/donate

On social media? Join the flock! @mddcbba3 | #mddcbba3   

On April 29, Stan Arnold reported an Anhinga from a tough-to-reach portion of Patapsco Valley State Park. Two days later, Keith Eric Costley and Sam Tillman followed up on Stan's report and, incredibly, found an Anhinga pair on a nest in a Great Blue Heron colony. As the season progressed, leaves made it difficult to view the nest, but David Walbeck reported at least two chicks in the nest on June 7. This remarkable nest record is not only Maryland's first, but it is also the furthest north Anhingas have been found breeding. It also happens to be prediction #7 in Maryland's "next ten breeding species".



Anhinga by John Dennehy/Macaulay Library

"Only by pooling the notes of many active observers can certain facts about our breeding birds be unfolded."

--Chandler Robbins

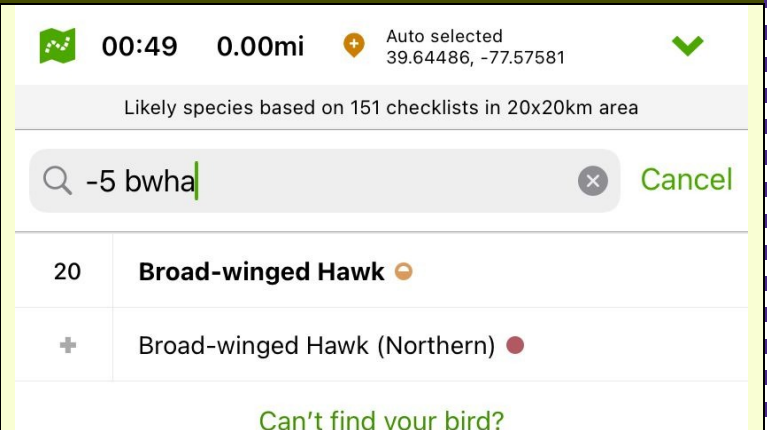


Broad-winged Hawk by David Amini/Macaulay Library

eBird Tip: Subtracting individuals

If you accidentally added too many individuals to a species on your checklist, just type a hyphen and the number you want to subtract from that species' total.

Then, tap the pertinent species and, *voilà!* The typed number will be subtracted from the total.



From the Coordinator

We have passed the halfway mark.



Some how, some way, three years have flown by and we are now over halfway through BBA3. We have two field seasons left to collect data for the Atlas. Although we still have plenty of work to keep us busy for the next two years, we are in good shape and continue to make excellent progress.

The next round of data review will happen in October. After that is done, we can evaluate 2022's progress against the progress made in the first two years more accurately. That notwithstanding, the first glance at this year's contributions shows that overall we have remained consistent with last year's effort.

During the first seven months of 2022, we had 211,064 coded observations submitted by 800

observers. The rate of atlasing new blocks dropped by 26%, but we increased our nocturnal effort by 166%—a truly outstanding result. Again, these numbers are subject to change following review of the data, but the overall picture is that if we continue at our current rate we will meet all of our completion criteria and produce a robust final product.

In addition to the effort we've put out, we've also had some exciting surprises this year! Trumpeter Swans were Confirmed in yet another county, an Anhinga nest was found in a Great Blue Heron colony, and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher fledgling was photographed in Frederick County. On top of that, we've had Northern Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal nesting on Poplar Island, a Green-winged Teal who took a fancy to a female Mallard, a Northern Harrier

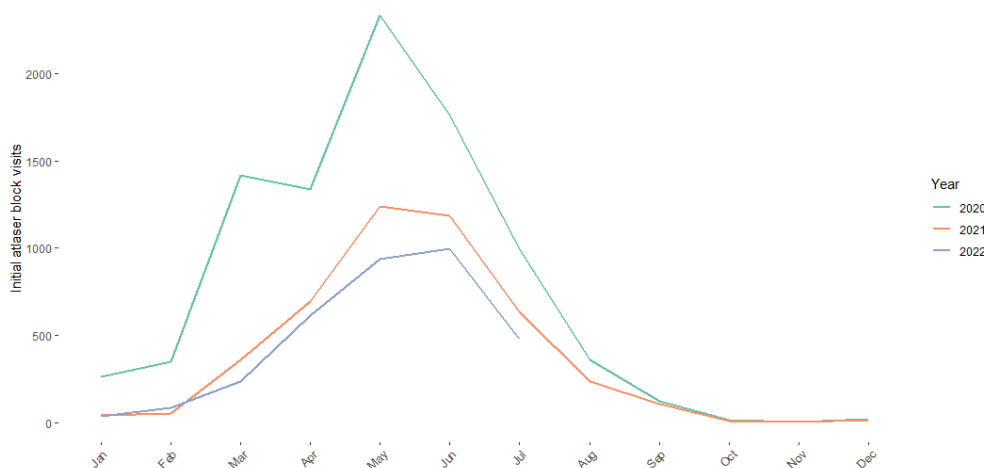
carrying vegetation at Blackwater, Eurasian Collared-Doves nesting once again at the market in Washington County, and Mississippi Kites expanding into Anne Arundel County.

Maryland DNR also hired two field technicians this summer, Andrew Rapp and Jonathan Irons. They diligently atlased low-effort blocks and put in a substantial amount of nocturnal effort (14% of the 2022 total). In fact, between the two of them, they coded an astonishing 249 owls of four different species.

We are in an excellent position to meet our completion goals, but the progress that we make next year will still be critical to a successful project. Targeting specific species, atlasing at night, and atlasing in low-effort blocks are the strategies that will get us there most efficiently.

Most importantly, thank you for all of the time and effort you have contributed to making the Atlas dataset as thorough and comprehensive as it is—that is a direct result of the Maryland and DC birding community's collective skill, effort, and determination.

--Gabriel



This figure depicts a block has been atlased by someone new to the block. Each line represents a different year of BBA3. Months are on the bottom (the x-axis) and the number of "new-to-you" block visits is on the left side (the y-axis).

bird of the month:

BROAD-WINGED HAWK



Broad-winged Hawk by [Stephen Davies/Macaulay Library](#)

September is the time of year when migration has returned to the forefront of our minds, and the spectacle of migrating Broad-winged Hawks is certainly a highlight. Broad-wings are exceptionally gregarious as they coast from one updraft to the next, all the way south. But if the clock is wound back a few months from fall migration, the social nature of this bird is exchanged for a solitary, unobtrusive existence.

Maryland is home to three breeding species of *Buteo*—a genus of hawks defined by their broad wings, short tails, and propensity for soaring. These include Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks. DC lacks nesting Broad-winged, although Stewart & Robbins (1958) cite an 1886 breeding record from the District. Of our three *Buteo*, Broad-winged is by far the least

common and the most easily overlooked breeder.

Habitat

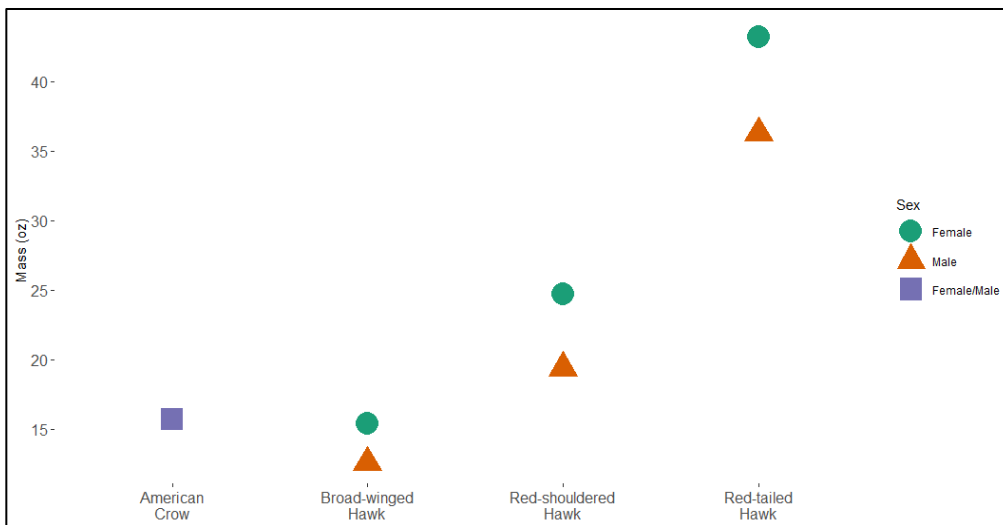
Broad-winged Hawks prefer continuous, undisturbed, younger deciduous or mixed forest. Their nest sites are often located on a slope near water and small openings. In Maryland, they are most common in the three western-most counties; they are scarce breeders on the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

Identification

Broad-winged Hawks are small hawks; in fact, their mass is closer to a crow than to a Red-shouldered Hawk. Like other raptors, females are larger than males. The largest female Broad-wings may be as large as the smallest male Red-shouldered Hawks.

Adults have barred underparts and a short tail marked with broad, equal-sized black and white bands. Their wings have a pale underwing and a trailing black edge. The tail of adult Red-shouldered Hawks also has black and white bands, but the white bands are much thinner than the black bands. Red-shoulders also have a darker underwing and barred flight feathers. Our remaining *buteo*, the Red-tailed Hawk, can be distinguished by its broad belly band and a dark line on the leading edge of the wing. Broad-winged Hawks do have a dark morph, but it is almost non-existent in the mid-Atlantic breeding population.

Juvenile Broad-winged Hawks have a less distinctly and more narrowly banded tail than adults. Their breast and belly have variable streaking that is densest on the sides. When perched, their wings appear largely dark. Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawks—which can appear quite similar—show white speckling on the greater coverts and extensive white on the secondaries. This additional white creates a more washed-out impression. In flight, juvenile Broad-wings do not have the dark trailing edge to the wings that adults have. Meanwhile, flying Red-shouldered juveniles often



The mass of each sex of Maryland-nesting *Buteo* hawks compared to American Crow. Mass was taken from *Birds of the World* species accounts. When a range of mass was provided, the mean of the range was used.

show translucent crescents near the wingtips and a reddish wash to the underwing.

Behavior and Phenology

Monogamous pairs form swiftly after arrival to Maryland in late April. During courtship, adults may dive at each other or at the ground. After pairing, the male helps the female build the nest. The construction process takes 2–4 weeks; less if a previous year's nest is used. The 12–20-inch wide nest is built out of short, small sticks and lined with bark flakes, moss, vines, and pine needles. In Maryland, the nest tree is often a white oak. The nest is usually placed in the lower third of the tree in a main crotch. Compared to Red-shouldered Hawks, the nest is lower, the tree is smaller, the ground is more sloped, and it is closer to an opening in the forest. Active nests can be identified by fresh sprigs on the nest cup's rim. These sprigs are continually replaced by the parents throughout the nesting season.

Once construction is complete in early to mid-May, the female lays her first of 2–4 eggs and begins incubation. The pair spends most of their time below the canopy, inconspicuous except for their thin, whistled screams. When hunting they spend long periods perched at the edge of an opening. The chicks hatch a month after incubation began and are fed whatever small vertebrate is most abundant—often toads and chipmunks. They are fed exclusively by the female, while the male provides most of the food. For the first two weeks, adults will consume the chicks' fecal sacs. After that, the chicks defecate over the nest rim. After another 30–35 days, the young fledge from the nest and at seven weeks they can capture food on their own. The young hawks remain with their parents in the vicinity of the nest for an additional four weeks after fledging, until southward migration begins in mid-August.

Breeding Codes

Breeding Broad-winged Hawks are best



Broad-winged Hawk by Daniel Irons/Macaulay Library

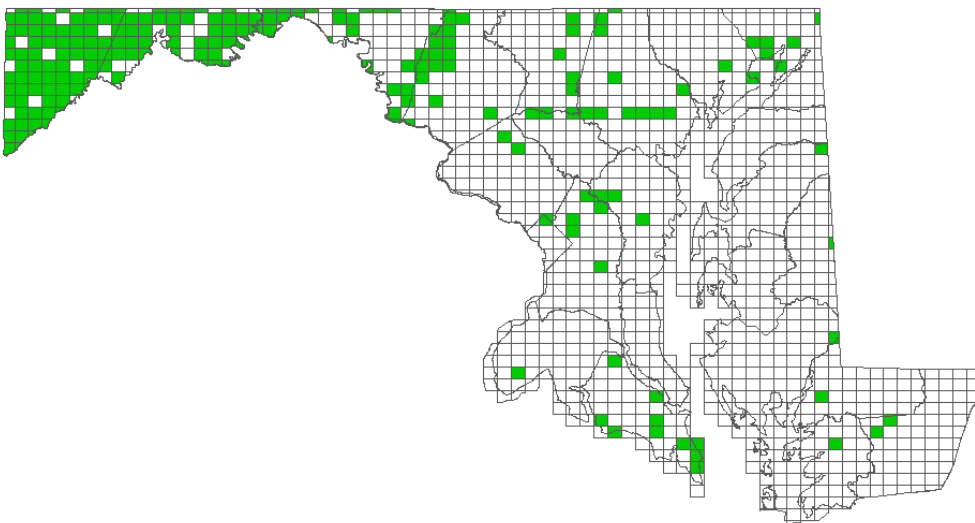
located by their call. Unfortunately, the current definition of codes S (singing) and S7 (singing for 7+ days) require songs—not calls. This means that calling Broad-wings within safe dates should receive code H (habitat). Watch for pairs of adults in forested areas (code P) and aerial displays (code C), especially early in the season. Broad-winged Hawks are not as aggressive as some other raptors, so codes A (agitated) and T (territorial) receive less use. Birds carrying sticks or other vegetation should be coded as carrying nest material (CN). If you suspect an adult is carrying food to its offspring, include comments indicating why code CF is an appropriate choice. Juveniles within safe dates are likely still dependent on their parents and can receive code FL (recently fledged young), but be wary of look-alike young Red-shouldered Hawks.

Author: Gabriel Foley

References

Goodrich, L.J., S.T. Crocoll, and S.E. Senner. 2020. Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (A.F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.brwhaw.01>

Stewart, R.E. and C.S. Robbins. 1958. *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.



Broad-winged Hawk breeding distribution map from the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (2002–2006). Green fill indicates a Broad-winged Hawk breeding observation in that block.

ATLASER SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Colangelo, from West Friendship, is a long-time Howard County chapter member.



Where is your favorite place to atlas?

Wherever the MOS conference was that year—that's my favorite until the next one!

What bird best reflects your personality?

I'm a curious, active Gray Catbird.

What is the best thing about atlasing?

I love the new format—no quarter blocks, and also the opportunity to travel throughout the state and participate in atlasing no matter where you are.

You can take binoculars, a field guide, and what other item?

Toss-up between snacks or my dog!

Have you been involved with other atlases?

Yes, I participated in the last one. Same block, Sykesville CW. Although during the last atlas I had a pre-schooler and an elementary schooler. I used to drop one off at school and the other at preschool, grab my binoculars and head out! Fun times!

What's our biggest conservation issue?

Global warming. I'm trading my car this year for an electric one.

What bird do you particularly like?

American Woodcock is a particular favorite. Love that crazy *peent*.



Who would you go atlasing with?

It would have been fun to go out with Chan Robbins, back in the day.

What made you interested in birds?

My father was a great all-around naturalist and we were the family that was always outdoors!



Gray Catbird by [Jonathan Irons/Macaulay Library](#)

TIPS AND TRICKS

Block completion

Perhaps the most fundamental way to measure the progress of the Atlas is through block completion. By the end of the project, each block needs to be complete. To be complete, each block must have met a set of completion criteria. These criteria include 1) 20 hours of daytime effort; 2) 1 hour of nighttime effort; 3) less than 25% Possible codes; 4) at least 25% Confirmed codes; and 5) at least 70 coded species. On top of that, each block should have each different habitat type sampled and have been sampled throughout the year.

The purpose of these criteria is to ensure that each block has been adequately sampled and the blocks have a minimum level of comparability to one another. Since more time spent in more habitats results in more species being detected, we required a minimum amount of effort. To help ensure a block's available habitats are covered thoroughly, we required a minimum number of species. And finally, to help ensure that the effort that occurred was atlasing effort, we required certain proportions of breeding categories. All of these criteria work together to help an atlaser or coordinator assess whether more work is needed in a particular block.

County Coordinators evaluate each potentially completed block. Among other things, the County Coordinator looks at where the block has been atlased, during what times of year it has been sampled, and whether there are

any notable species missing from the species list (for example, no goldfinch often means the block hasn't been atlased in mid- to late summer). Once they have determined that the block's coverage appears to be sufficient, they let the Atlas Coordinator know, who then marks them complete on eBird.

Since it's easier to evaluate a block after the breeding codes have been reviewed, many County Coordinators wait for the annual review to be done before evaluating block completion. This year, we are anticipating the reviewed data to be visible on eBird by November, and the finalized list of completed blocks shortly thereafter.

If you have adopted a block and

aren't sure what you still need to do for it to be marked complete, head to the portal's [Explore](#) tab and search for your block in "Explore Atlas Regions". Check whether your block has the necessary nocturnal effort, the appropriate proportion of breeding categories, and at least 70 coded species. Then, if everything seems ready, ask your County Coordinator what is still needed.

And one more thing: 91% of currently complete blocks were adopted. Not only does adopting a block help get it completed, but it makes the coordinators' jobs easier. If you haven't adopted a block, please consider doing so—it's not too late!

Author: Gabriel Foley

Blackwater River NW [Change location](#)
Dorchester County, Maryland, Maryland/DC

Overview Recent visits

Status: **Incomplete** [Change](#) Block type: **Normal** Effort hours (diurnal/nocturnal): **22.00 / 1.65**

Updated ~3 hrs ago

52 Checklists | 20 Atlasers

	OBSERVED	POSSIBLE	PROBABLE	CONFIRMED	TOTAL
Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3	37	22	23	21	66

Species observed

SPECIES	BREEDING EVIDENCE	LOCATION	DATE
Wild Turkey <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Confirmed (FL)	4669-4701 Egypt Rd, Cambridge US-MD 38.49103, -76.10664	20 Jul 2022
Cooper's Hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Confirmed (FL)	Holt	10 Jul 2022
Acadian Flycatcher <i>Empidonax vireescens</i>	Possible (S)	Holt	10 Jul 2022
Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Confirmed (FL)	Holt	10 Jul 2022
Eastern Meadowlark <i>Sturnella magna</i>	Possible (S)	4579-4675 Maple Dam Rd, Cambridge US-MD 38.49379, -76.08771	8 Jul 2022

Recent visits Checklists submitted within the last hour are not shown.

OBSERVER	DATE	SPECIES
Peter Smithson	20 Jul 2022	1
Matt Whitbeck	10 Jul 2022	17
George Radcliffe	8 Jul 2022	5
Kurt Gaskill	8 Jul 2022	5
Jim Green	8 Jul 2022	30
Matt Whitbeck	8 Jul 2022	1
Matt Whitbeck	30 Jun 2022	1

[More recent visits](#)

Inside the green box in the upper left of this image, there is a small button that says "Change". Only the Atlas Coordinator has this option available; once the button is selected, the block is shown as "complete" on any eBird outputs.

FROM THE FIELD



Cliff Swallow by [Joshua Ward/Macaulay Library](#)



American Crow by [Kim Tomko/Macaulay Library](#)



Cooper's Hawk by [Soren Bentzen/Macaulay Library](#)



Great Blue Heron by [Scott Young/Macaulay Library](#)

OUT OF THE ARCHIVE

Summary of Maryland Nest Records, 1949

Robbins, C.S. 1949. Summary of Maryland Nest Records, 1949. *Maryland Birdlife*. 5(4):41-48.

The finding and studying of birds' nests is an activity in which all bird students can participate, and one which holds in store a wealth of fascinating experiences and an opportunity to make substantial contributions to the knowledge of the birds of our State. In few other states is there such an unusual variety of breeding birds--from golden-crowned kinglets and mourning warblers in the mountains to boat-tailed grackles and gull-billed terns along the coast. There are many interesting things still to be discovered about the breeding birds of Maryland. The nests of several of our regular breeding species, such as the saw-whet owl, golden-crowned kinglet, and Nashville, Blackburnian and mourning warblers, have not yet been discovered here. There are many commoner species whose nesting activities in this State are virtually unknown. Normal nesting dates vary from one part of Maryland to another; possibly there is a difference in incubation periods of some species at opposite ends of the State. Average clutch size may vary slightly too, as may the number of clutches laid. The heights at which many species nest in our State are imperfectly known, as are their preferences for certain species of trees or other vegetation in which to conceal their nests.

Only by pooling the notes of many active observers can certain facts about our breeding birds be unfolded. Here is an opportunity for the youngest amateur to cooperate with more experienced ornithologists and contribute valuable information on the nesting birds of Maryland. Not all of us have the opportunity of applying colored bands to

the legs of birds we are studying, and thereby gathering information on successive nests of a single pair of birds as was done by Messrs. Brackbill and Hampe; but everyone can keep accurate records of dates, contents, height and location of nests, and determine the approximate incubation period and time the young birds remain in the nest. Those who are trained in the techniques of approaching nests without making them more susceptible to discovery by predators, and without causing the adults to desert, may follow the example of Rod Smith and determine exact incubation periods by carefully numbering each egg as it is laid and then, when hatching time approaches, visiting the nest frequently enough to discover when each numbered egg hatches.



The following summary contains notes on 98 species, for which proof of nesting was submitted in 1949. An effort was made to select from the 375 records submitted those notes on each species which were of the most interest.

GREAT BLUE HERON. About 15 nests, Mar. 20, Fairhaven (Mrs. W.L. Hunt).

MALLARD. Female incubating 14 eggs in open, slanting stump surrounded by water at Marshall Dierssen Sanctuary near Pennyfield Lock east of Seneca, Mar. 20 (Napier Shelton); on May 21, Frank C. Cross observed broods of 2, 2 and 3 birds there. On May 7, W.W. Rubey saw a female with 3 downy young at Dalecarlia Reservoir.

[AMERICAN] BLACK DUCK. W. Steele Webster reported broods of 10, 12 and 8 young at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge as early as Apr. 8.



WOOD DUCK. At Hyattsville, first set of eggs, Mar. 15, and second set (11 eggs) on May 19 (Brooke Meanley). Broods noted at other localities as follows: brood of 14 at Seneca, May 4 (Charles N. Mason), and 12 on May 14 (Dr. L.M. Ashley); 16 at Sycamore Is., May 9 (Irston R. Barnes); 11 at Little Falls, May 14 (Philip A. DuMont); 1 on Monocacy River, Frederick Co., May 14 (Meanley).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. Nest 60 ft. up in an oak at Pikesville was used for the second consecutive year; adult first seen on nest on Mar. 12, 3 young first seen on Apr. 16 and ready to leave the nest on May 22 (Mr. and Mrs. H.F. Kuch). At Relay, Baltimore Co., an adult was incubating 50 ft. up in a sycamore, Mar. 27 (I.E. Hampe).



OSPREY. 2 young, nearly ready to fly, in nest 12 ft. over water on channel marker in Sinepuxent Bay, July 9 (E. Arnold, C.S. Robbins).

SPARROW HAWK [AMERICAN KESTREL]. 1 at nest site in top of tall dead chestnut in Woodside section of Silver Spring, Apr. 9 (John H. Fales).

[NORTHERN] BOB-WHITE. A nest and eggs were burned out in a field at Hanover, Anne Arundel Co., on the extremely early date of Apr. 3 (Hampe). A nest that contained 7 eggs at Tacoma Park on July 3 had 11 on July 10 (W. Bryant Tyrrell). Covey of very small young seen at Takoma Park on the late date of Sept. 25 (fide Tyrrell).



KING RAIL. The first Maryland nesting record west of the coastal plain was



King Rail by Paul Fenwick/Macaulay Library

recorded by Cross in *The Wood Thrush* (Vol. 5, p. 26). On the early date of May 21, Mr. Cross observed an adult rail at Seneca, which by its actions had young; these young were seen 8 days later together with the adult, and were again noted in June.

PIPING PLOVER. Nest with 4 eggs at West Ocean City, May 21 (M.O.S. trip). Late downy young caught by hand and banded near Green Run, Assateague Island, on July 23 (John H. Buckalew, Robbins); late.

KILLDEER. Brood of 4 hatched at Patuxent, May 24 or 25 (R.T. Mitchell).

WOODCOCK. Nest with 4 eggs near Relay, Mar. 9-20 (R.M. Bowen, Hampe).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Tiny young banded on



Spotted Sandpiper by Jim Merritt/Macaulay Library

channel island in Sinepuxent Bay near marker #11 on July 9 (Robbins and Arnold); late.

GULL-BILLED TERN. 1 egg and 1 young just hatched on channel island in Sinepuxent Bay near South Point, July 9; clutch of 2 eggs, and 3 young nearly able to fly found on July 10 on other islands near South Point (Robbins, Arnold).

COMMON TERN. All stages, from eggs to young just on the wing, found on July 9-10 in Sinepuxent Bay area; 343 banded (Robbins, Arnold).



Least Tern by Josh Cooper/Macaulay Library

LEAST TERN. Young in all stages of development, and several clutches of 2 eggs on Sinepuxent Bay islands, July 9-10; 76 banded (R, A).

ROYAL TERN. First Maryland nest record established independently by Buckalew, and Arnold and Robbins; details to be published later.

BLACK SKIMMER. 172 young banded on Sinepuxent Bay islands, July 9-10, none yet on the wing; many eggs not yet hatched (Robbins).

MOURNING DOVE. Late nests: 1 young in nest, Blackwater Refuge, Sept. 1 (W.S. Webster); adult on nest at Laytonsville, Sept. 21 (Tommy Low).

BARN OWL. 5 young about 2 weeks old in

McGraw Island tower at Blackwater Refuge, May 17 (W.S. Webster). Nest with 5 young 20 ft. up in old tree at Denton, Aug. 15 (Mrs. Roberta Fletcher).

[EASTERN] SCREECH OWL. 4 half-grown young, Frederick, Apr. 27 (Rod Smith).

[GREAT] HORNED OWL. Young out of nest at Loch Raven, Apr. 15 (D.E. Davis).

BARRED OWL. Adult took mouse to noisy young in hole 30 ft. up in beech tree at Patuxent Refuge, Apr. 22 (Robbins); another nest, 2 young 1/3 to 1/2 grown, 25 ft. up in beech, Apr. 27 (Stewart).



Barred Owl by Bridget Spencer/Macaulay Library

CHIMNEY SWIFT. Young first heard in Patuxent nest, June 22 (Robbins).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Adult on nest 30 ft. over water in river birch at Patuxent, May 24 (Robbins). Incubating on May 17 at College Park (Meanley).

[BELTED] KINGFISHER. Feeding young in Denton nest, June 2 (Mrs. Fletcher).

[NORTHERN] FLICKER. Excavating at Denton on Apr. 28 (Mrs. Fletcher). Working on Loch Raven nest hole on May 7 (Haven Kolb). Rob Smith found 7 flicker eggs in nest previously used by Frederick Screech owls.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. Incubating in stub 25 ft. up at Glen Echo on Apr. 17; 2 young out of the nest seen on May 28 (P.A. DuMont).

PILEATED WOODPECKER. Incubating in stub 25



Red-bellied Woodpecker by Brad Imhoff/Macaulay Library

ft. up at Glen Echo on Apr. 17; 2 young out of the nest seen on May 28 (P.A. DuMont).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. Female at Loch Haven nest hole, May 7 (Kolb). First flying young at Patuxent on June 7 (Robbins).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Begging juvenile on the wing in northwest Baltimore on July 30 (Hervey Brackbill).

DOWNY WOODPECKER. Adult feeding young in Towson nest, May 28 (Kolb). First young out of nest at Patuxent, May 31 (Robbins); large juvenile being fed by adults at Baltimore, June 5-15 (Brackbill).

EASTERN KINGBIRD. Incubating at Loch Raven, June 11 (Kolb), and at Patuxent, June 26 (Robbins). 3 eggs, Patuxent, July 15 (Mitchell).



Eastern Kingbird by Kyle Tansley/Macaulay Library



Great Crested Flycatcher by [Jim Tarolli/Macaulay Library](#)

[GREAT] CRESTED FLYCATCHER. 4 young left nest 4 ft. up in tin newspaper box at Patuxent Refuge, July 4 or 5 (Michael Dubik).

[EASTERN] PHOEBE. Pikesville phoebes were rebuilding their nest on Apr. 2, and on May 22 the young were ready to leave (Kuch). Of particular interest was Brackbill's first nest for NW Baltimore in more than 10 years of observation; 5 young about a week old were in the nest on June 8. Four young left a Patuxent nest on May 18 or 19; a second clutch of 4 eggs was in the nest, June 3 (R.).

LEAST FLYCATCHER. Arthur Wright found an occupied nest 25 ft. up in a Friendsville apple tree, about Aug. 15. Details of first



Least Flycatcher by [Rowan Keunen/Macaulay Library](#)

Patuxent Refuge nest will be published elsewhere (Robbins).

[EASTERN] WOOD PEWEE. 2 young from Woodside nest being fed, Sept. 8 (Fales).

HORNED LARK. Young out of Ocean City nest, Apr. 16 (Stewart); 4 young in nest at College Park on May 1 (Meanley).

TREE SWALLOW. Going into nest holes at Ocean City, May 21 (M.O.S.).

[NORTHERN] ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. Feeding young in nest hole 10 ft. up in a clay bank at Denton, May 30 (Mrs. Fletcher).



Northern Rough-winged Swallow by [Austin Langdon/Macaulay Library](#)

BARN SWALLOW. 5 young in a very early Patuxent nest were about 3 days old on May 18, and left the nest when approached on June 3 (Robbins). Building at Denton, May 19 (Mrs. Fletcher). The last 2 Patuxent broods (4 and 5) hatched soon after July 21 (Robbins).

CLIFF SWALLOW. 10 nests completed, others still being built at colony west of Bittinger, Garrett Co., on May 28 (Barnes, Robbins).

PURPLE MARTIN. Building at Denton, Apr. 28 (Mrs. Fletcher). Two Laurel boxes of Thomas B. Israel had 29 out of 40 cells occupied; clutch sizes ranged from 1 to 5 and averaged 3½ (Robbins).

BLUE JAY. Building in Baltimore on Apr. 7: young still begging food from adults as

late as Aug. 28 (Brackbill). Young just out of the nest at Govans, Baltimore, on June 24 (Kolb).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. Bird flushed from nest 10 ft. up in dead yellow birch stub in Swallow Falls State Forest on May 29 (Barnes, Robbins). Pair excavating nest 10 ft. up in dead yellow birch stub near Roth Rock fire tower on June 26 (Robbins).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. Began building on Apr. 17 at Denton (Mrs. Fletcher). Broods of 6 hatched at Beltsville on Apr. 30 and Patuxent on May 19 (Robbins); first broods out of nest at Patuxent and Tacoma Park, May 26 (Robbins, Tyrrell). Three young out of the nest at La Plata, Charles Co., May 21 (A.R. Stickley, Jr.).



TUFTED TITMOUSE. Building May 7 in Pikesville nest box 6 ft. from ground; 5 eggs on May 14; young left June 9 (Kuches). In northwest Baltimore, Brackbill saw poorly-flying young on May 25.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. 2 taking food to Woodside nest, Apr. 30 (Fales). Young flying at Cabin John, June 4 (Donald M. Thatcher).

HOUSE WREN. At Patuxent Refuge the first full clutch (7 eggs) was found on May 16; the last clutch hatched on July 27 (Mitchell).



CAROLINA WREN. 2 eggs at Pikesville on Apr. 5, very early (Kuch). 4 young left a Halethorpe nest on May 4 (Hampe).

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. Small young in nest at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on Aug. 18, very late (David E. Davis).

[NORTHERN] MOCKINGBIRD. First young out of Patuxent nest, May 12 (P.F. Springer). 1 young recently out of nest seen at Woodside, Sept. 1 (Fales).

[GRAY] CATBIRD. Dickeyville nest with 4 eggs on June 8; another with 1 young, June 12 (Brackbill). Two broods of 3 still in Beltsville nests, July 31 (Robbinses). Female still carrying raisins from Brackbill feeding station to presumed second brood, Sept. 10.





Brown Thrasher by Marky Mutchler/Macaulay Library

BROWN THRASHER. Rod Smith numbered eggs laid on Apr. 28, 29, 30 and May 1 at Frederick; #1 hatched May 12, #2 and #3 and then #4 on May 13; all left nest May 25. Pikesville nest completed Apr. 30; 4th egg laid May 5; none hatched; nest abandoned May 20 (Kuch).

[AMERICAN] ROBIN. Building in NW Baltimore, Apr. 1; 4 eggs on Apr. 17, began hatching Apr. 28 (Brackbill). Clutch of 4 completed May 1 at Takoma; 3 young left, May 23 (Tyrrell). Young flying at Bitteringer May 28 (Robbins). Late NW Baltimore brood left July 24 (Brackbill).

WOOD THRUSH. Record of one color-banded pair in Northwest Baltimore: 4 eggs laid May 12-15, nest deserted May 23 after slipping during heavy storm; second nest with 3 eggs found June 1, both hatched June 12, young left nest June 24; 4 eggs laid July 3-6, hatched July 17-18, all young left nest prematurely July 28 (Brackbill).



Wood Thrush by Brendan Fogerty/Macaulay Library

Takoma Park nest started May 6, finished May 7, 4 eggs May 8-11, 3 young left nest June 7 (Tyrrell). Egg hatching May 29, Cranesville bog; young just out of Swallow Falls nest June 12 (Robbins).

[EASTERN] BLUEBIRD. First eggs hatched at Patuxent Apr. 27 (Mitchell). First young fledged May 19 at Denton (Mrs. Fletcher) and Unity (Packard). Young still in Patuxent nest July 29 (W.H. Stickel), gone July 30.



Eastern Bluebird by Gena Flanigen/Macaulay Library

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Building on Apr. 16 along Pocomoke River at Whiton's Crossing (Buckalew). Nest completed on Apr. 23 at Seneca (Cross). A pair at Seneca repairing nest for second brood on May 14 (L.M. Ashley). Young left Patuxent nest on May 31 or June 1 (Robbins), and were about to leave a nest 75 ft. up in a black walnut at Cabin John on June 4 (Thatcher).

CEDAR WAXWING. Nest at Patuxent built June 8-10, deserted (Robbins).

WHITE-EYED VIREO. Building on Apr. 16 at Whiton's Crossing and at Snow Hill; 4 eggs in each nest on Apr. 25 (Buckalew). Brood of 4 left nest 4 ft. up in red maple at Patuxent, June 9 (Mitchell).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. Building near Snow

Hill, Apr. 19 (Buckalew). Young prematurely out of Patuxent nest, June 9 (C. Webster, Robbins).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO. Four young 2/3 grown in Swallow Falls nest 10½ ft. up in a hemlock, June 25 (Robbins). Another pair building 17 ft. up in a sugar maple ¼ mile away (Jerram Brown).

RED-EYED VIREO. 1 half-grown young and 1 sterile egg 5½ ft. up in witch hazel at Swallow Falls, June 25 (J. Brown). Adults feeding young just out of the nest on Sugarloaf Mountain, Sept. 8 (Fales).



[EUROPEAN] STARLING. Clutch of 4 found at Patuxent, Apr. 12, hatched about Apr. 21; latest brood hatched June 6 or 7 (Springer, Mitchell). Adults last seen feeding flying young in Baltimore, July 17 (Brackbill).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. At Seneca, 4 eggs on May 22, young out of nest June 6; large young in another box June 8 (Tyrrell). Young out of nest on May 31 at Denton (Mrs. Fletcher).

[NORTHERN] PARULA WARBLER. Building nest beneath loose bark on the trunk of a river birch in College Park, May 8 (Meanley).

NASHVILLE WARBLER. Pair scolding, and carrying food at Cranesville bog, June 12, but nest not found (Robbins).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. 2 young banded in Swallow



Falls nest, June 13; 2 flying broods being fed at Herrington Manor, June 26 (Robbins).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. At Swallow Falls on June 25, 1 young out of nest, and 2 half-grown young in another nest (Robbins).

BLACK-THR. GREEN WARBLER. 2 young flying, Swallow Falls, June 12; 2 fledglings begging food at Herrington Manor, June 26 (Robbins).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Female with food scolding at Swallow Falls on June 25 (Robbins). Although this species breeds commonly at Swallow Falls, its nest has not yet been found in Maryland.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Female incubating 4 eggs 15 inches up in a blackberry tangle near Roth Rock tower, May 30 (Barnes).





Prairie Warbler by [Sam Miller/Macaulay Library](#)

PRAIRIE WARBLER. 5 young about 2 days old in Beltsville nest, May 25, could barely fly on June 4 (Robbinses). Broods of 2 and 4 left Patuxent nests June 7 and June 22, respectively (Mitchell).

OVEN-BIRD. Young just out of nest at Swallow Falls, June 25 (Brown).

NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH. 1 egg, 3 young just hatched in Cranesville nest, May 29; nest empty but adults scolding, June 11 (Barnes, Robbins). Young just out of Swallow Falls nest, June 25 (Robbins). [MOURNING] MORNING WARBLER. Adults with food scolding near Roth Rock tower, June 26; nest not located despite long search (Robbins).

[COMMON] YELLOW-THROAT. 4 young in Loch



Common Yellowthroat by [Ryan Sanderson/Macaulay Library](#)

Raven nest, June 4 (Kolb). 4 young left Patuxent nest, June 15 (Mitchell). Two broods of flying young near Negro Mountain fire tower, June 27 (Robbins).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Broods of 3 hatched in 2 Patuxent nests on June 20 and 22, young left on June 29 and so respectively; 3 other nests with clutches of 3, 4 and 4 were unsuccessful (Mitchell).

HOODED WARBLER. Young out of nest at Cabin John, June 4 (Thatcher).

CANADA WARBLER. Carrying food at Swallow Falls, June 25 (Robbins).



Canada Warbler by [Tony Dvorak/Macaulay Library](#)

[AMERICAN] REDSTART. Building at Whiton's Crossing, Apr. 19; 4 eggs on Apr. 25 (Buckalew). 2 young in Cabin John nest on June 4 (Thatcher).

RED-WING [RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD]. 3 eggs in nest at Bethlehem on June 18 (Robbins).

ORCHARD ORIOLE. Young left nest 20 ft. up in walnut tree at Denton on the extraordinarily late date of Aug. 31 (Mrs. Fletcher).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Nest built entirely of string was made at Denton, May 9-16, 30 ft. up in a maple tree (Mrs. Fletcher). Young were being fed in a nest at Wiltondale, Baltimore Co., June 13 (Strack).

[COMMON] PURPLE GRACKLE. One young bird was learning to fly at a LaPlata colony as early as May 21 (Stickley).

[BROWN-HEADED] COWBIRD. Fledgling fed by Carolina wren at Fairbank, Talbot Co., June 18; fledgling fed by pair of magnolia warblers at Swallow Falls, June 13; large young in prairie warbler nest at Smithville, Caroline Co., June 18 (Robbins). 1 egg in nest with 3 [Common] yellow-throat eggs at Patuxent, June 18 (Mitchell). 1 egg on May 8 in Denton chipping sparrow nest, young bird removed May 15 (Fletcher). 1 egg in Patuxent nest with 2 young cardinals, May 25 (Mitchell).

SCARLET TANAGER. Young left Pikesville nest on June 13 (Kuch).



Scarlet Tanager by [Suzanne Labbé/Macaulay Library](#)

[NORTHERN] CARDINAL. Early nest with 2 eggs at Dickeyville, Apr. 10; deserted (Brackbill). Eggs laid on May 6, 7 and 8 in Pikesville nest which had been found on Apr. 28; 3 young on May 24; 2 left successfully (Kuch). Full-grown young still being fed Sept. 10 at Denton (Mrs. Fletcher), and Sept. 14 in NW Baltimore (Brackbill).

INDIGO BUNTING. 2 eggs in Patuxent nest on June 8; later deserted (Mitchell). 3 young in another Patuxent nest, June 29 (Robbins).

PURPLE FINCH. 5 eggs 23 ft. up in red spruce in Cranesville bog, May 29; 2 young banded June 12; 2 others had evidently been killed by maggots; 1 sterile egg collected; first Md. nest record (Robbins).

[AMERICAN] GOLDFINCH. 3 young in late



Eastern Towhee by [Andy Eckerson/Macaulay Library](#)

Bethesda nest, Sept. 25 (T.W.L. Scheltema).

[EASTERN] TOWHEE. 4 eggs at Patuxent on May 16 (Grizzell); 3 eggs at Pikesville on May 25 (Kuch); 4 eggs at Beltsville on June 3 (Fales).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. 5 eggs near Burtonsville, June 11 (F. Thompson, Tyrrell). Feeding young out of Denton nest, Sept. 1 (Fletcher).

VESPER SPARROW. Feeding young in Frederick Valley, May 14 (Meanley).

[DARK-EYED] JUNCO. Feeding young out of nest at Roth Rock, June 26 (Robbins).

CHIPPING SPARROW. 4 eggs on May 3 at Denton (Mrs. Fletcher). Young still in Patuxent nest on July 15 (Mitchell).

FIELD SPARROW. 3 young (from clutch of 4 eggs) left Patuxent nest prematurely, May 19 (Robbins). 3 young that hatched at Patuxent on June 23 left nest June 30 (Mitchell).

SWAMP SPARROW. 3 eggs 2½ ft. up in narrowleaf meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*) at Herrington Manor on June 13 (Robbins).

SONG SPARROW. History of color-banded pair at Halethorpe: nest built Apr. 14-20; 1 egg Apr. 21; 4 eggs Apr. 25; 3 young hatched May 7 (1 egg infertile); nest empty next day; 4 eggs laid in same nest June 19-22, deserted within 4 days (Hampe).

Author: *Chandler S. Robbins*