

## Mobile Bird Count (cont'd.)

White-eyed Vereo, Yellow-throated Vereo, Solitary Vereo, Red-eyed Vereo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart,

House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager,

Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous Sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Total Species: 155                      Weather: Clear, Warm, Wind S. E. 5-10

Other species seen during the week of the count:

White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Common Gallinule, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern, Barn Owl, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, Hooded Warbler, Baltimore Oriole.

## NORTHERN PHALAROPE AT DAUPHIN ISLAND

Rev. Matthew Turk, S. J.

On August 27, 1964, accompanied by Tuck Hayward, I observed a phalarope at Dauphin Island. Observation was made with the sun about 45 degrees from directly behind the observer and at an elevation of approximately 45 degrees with the aid of a Balscope Zoom (15X-60X) at a distance of about 150 yards. Identifying features noted included the following:

- the phalarope bill and patch,
- characteristic length of the wing stripe seen as both birds preened,
- contrast between wing stripe and wing color characteristic of the Northern Phalarope,
- Needle-like bill excluded the Red Phalarope,
- the forehead and crown were clearly white - the possibility of a white sheen was eliminated by observing color as the head was moved during preening.

Based on these observations the bird was identified as a Northern Phalarope. It was not seen when sought the next day or later.

808 Springhill Ave.  
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FIFTY THOUSAND BIRDS  
RECORDED ON BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Chandler S. Robbins

The Breeding Bird Survey that was conducted in Maryland and Delaware this summer by members of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Delmarva Ornithological Society was highly successful. The present report summarizes the results of the 50 routes that were covered in Maryland.

As explained in the June issue of Maryland Birdlife (21: 48-49), starting points of the 50 routes were picked at random; each route consisted of 50 three-minute stops spaced one-half mile apart; all birds heard during the three minutes were recorded; and all birds seen within one-fourth mile of the observer also were recorded. Coverage began one-half hour before official sunrise, and it took approximately four hours to complete each route.

Each of the 50 routes was covered once, and, in addition, most observers covered one of eight "check routes" that I had covered a few days earlier. This unique check route feature makes it possible to compensate roughly for the differences between observers--and thus compare not only each route with itself in future years, but also compare the relative abundance throughout the State of any of the more common species. Check routes were run for 46 of the 50 routes. One of the check routes was run five times by the same observer to determine the normal variation from day to day as well as the seasonal change from late May to mid-July.

The field records were put on punch cards at the Migratory Bird Populations Station in Laurel. The species totals and the maps presented herewith are compiled from the first of a series of tabulations to be made on a Univac 1401; these maps are all based on the actual figures reported by the observers, rather than on computed data.

A word of caution is in order because the figures recorded on this survey do not measure actual abundance. It is impossible to observe all of the birds at each of the 50 stops. We merely obtain a sample of population--and how good a sample we achieve depends upon the relative conspicuousness of each species. In general, large birds, brightly colored birds, those with loud songs, and those that sing or call most frequently will be observed in greatest numbers in comparison with their actual abundance. Those that continue to sing frequently throughout June and early July will appear to be more common than species such as the Brown Thrasher and some of the woodpeckers, which are quiet during much of June. Field birds are more easily observed than woodland birds, and a roadside survey tends to favor residential and field habitats rather than woodland, marsh and swamp. Furthermore, open country birds that have young on the wing early in June, such as Starlings and grackles, will be listed in disproportionately large numbers. Bear these limitations in mind when reading the following figures.

The twenty species recorded in the greatest numbers were:

Species	Individuals	No. of Stops	Species	Individuals	No. of Stops
Common Grackle	7,480	1,227	Eastern Meadowlark	1,176	597
House Sparrow	5,840	958	Indigo Bunting	1,077	788
Starling	4,948	973	Mourning Dove	1,074	633
Red-winged Blkbird	2,846	770	Chipping Sparrow	977	607
Robin	2,324	1,060	Wood Thrush	968	582
Bobwhite	2,129	1,192	Field Sparrow	967	639
Common Crow	1,642	876	Rufous-sided Towhee	853	565
Mockingbird	1,488	998	Catbird	771	416
Cardinal	1,218	821	Song Sparrow	722	494
Barn Swallow	1,196	340	Red-eyed Vireo	665	486

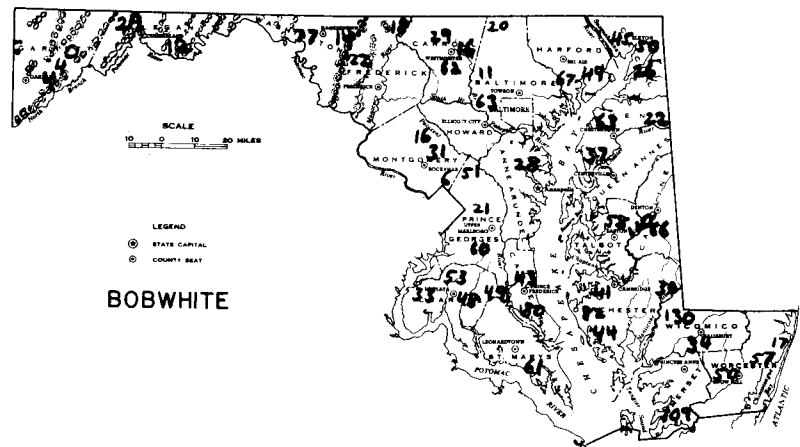
The total number of birds listed was 50,373, or an average of 1,007 individuals per route, or 20 per stop. The number of species per route averaged 55, with surprisingly little difference between observers. The total number of stops was 50 times 50, or 2,500, so the number of stops at which each species was observed can easily be converted to a percentage (49% for the Common Grackle, 19% for the Red-eyed Vireo, etc.). Thus an observer stopping for three minutes can expect to find one or more Common Grackles at one stop out of two, and one or more Red-eyed Vireos at one stop out of five.

The total number of species recorded was 153. Only nine species were found on all 50 routes: Mourning Dove, Common Crow, Robin, Wood Thrush, Starling, House Sparrow, Common Grackle, Cardinal, and Indigo Bunting. Eight others were found on 49 routes out of 50: Bobwhite, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

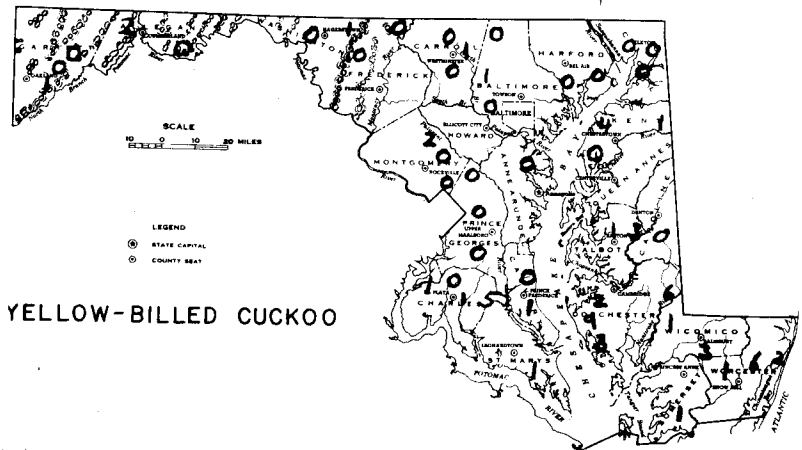
Totals for a few of the less common species may be of interest:

Species	Individuals	No. of Stops	Species	Individuals	No. of Stops
Cattle Egret	30	4	Eastern Bluebird	103	71
Ring-necked Pheasant	106	54	Worm-eating Warbler	29	21
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	49	39	Hooded Warbler	21	20
Pileated Woodpecker	14	11	Scarlet Tanager	210	174
Traill's Flycatcher	6	5	Blue Grosbeak	100	87
Veery	69	39	Grasshopper Sparrow	352	244

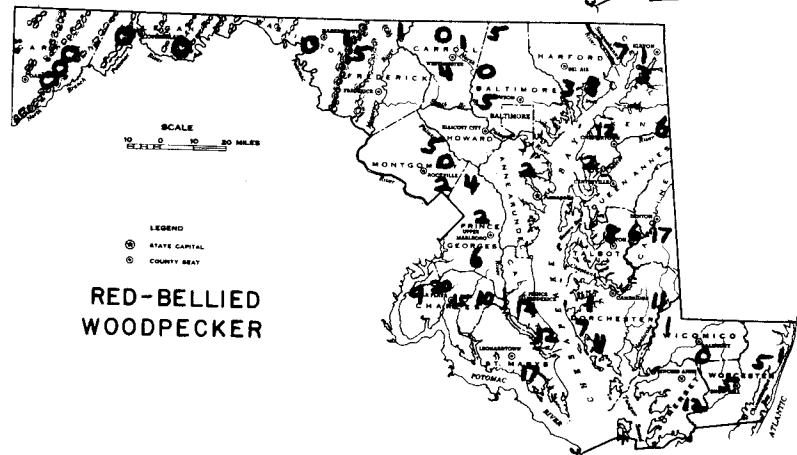
The twelve maps illustrate changes in abundance throughout the Maryland breeding range of selected species. The Bobwhite reaches its greatest abundance on the Lower Eastern Shore and is scarcest on the Allegheny Plateau. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo shows a most peculiar distribution this year because it did not arrive in numbers until late June and early July--after most of the routes had been covered. The Red-bellied



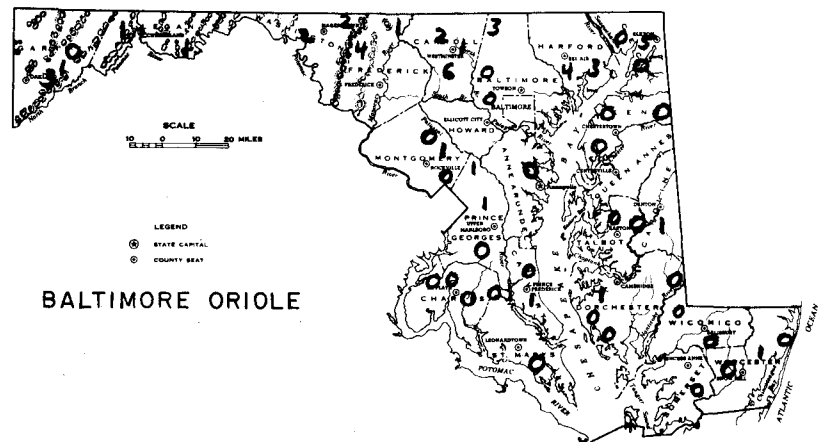
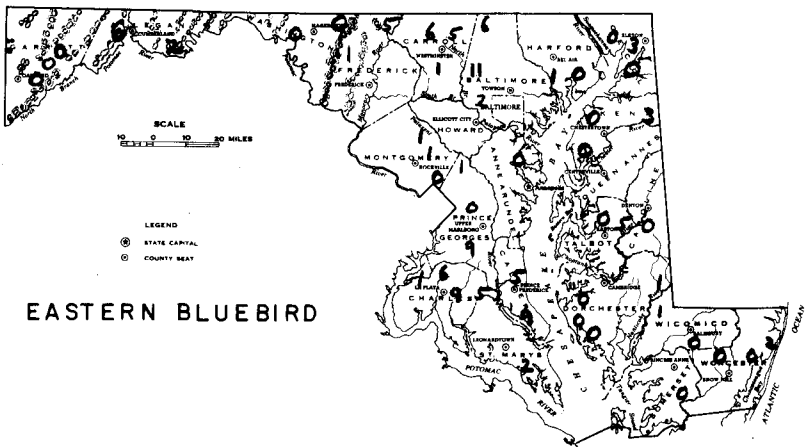
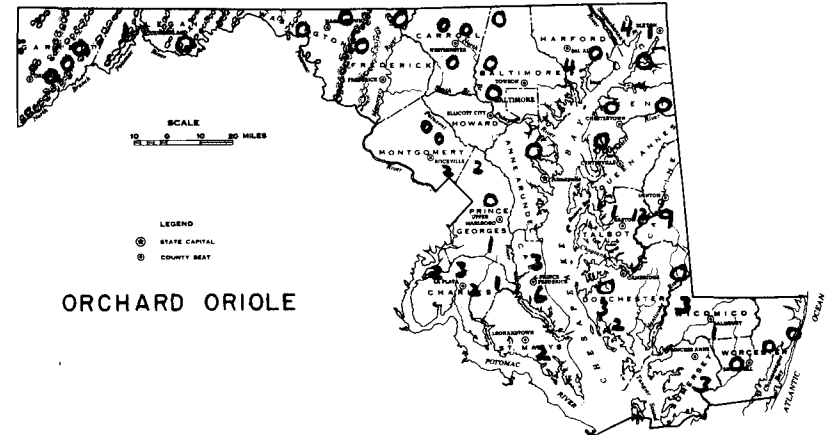
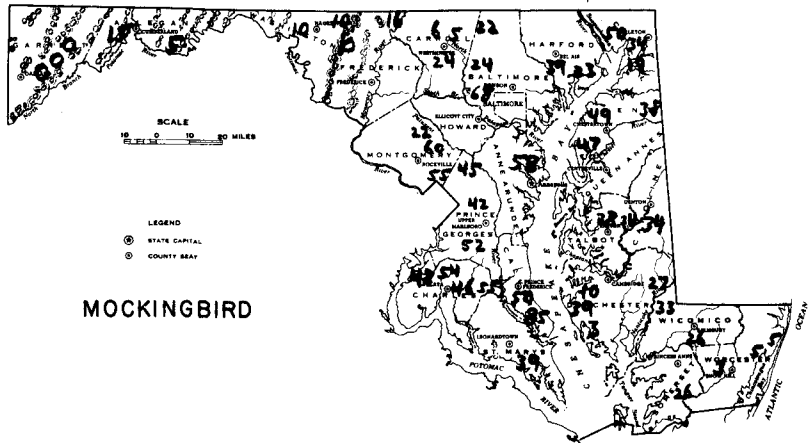
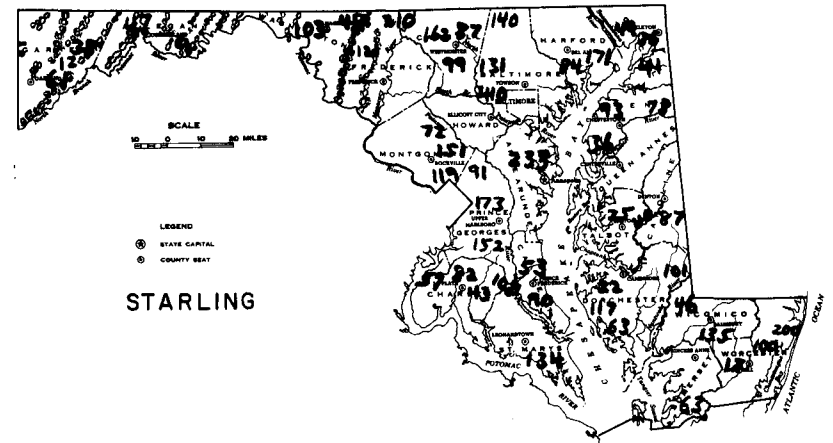
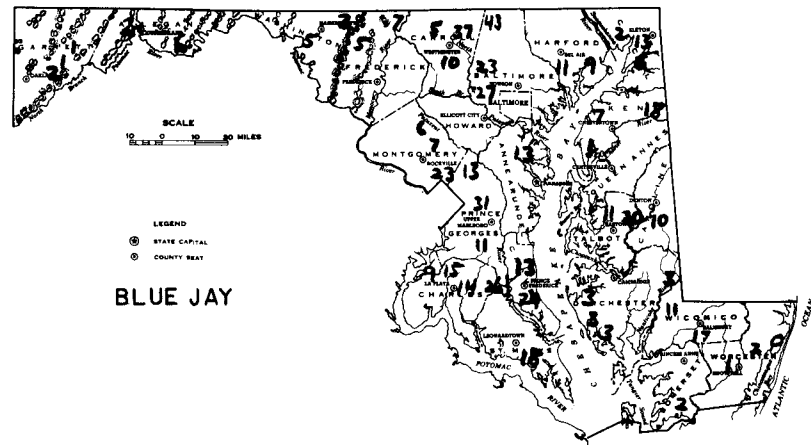
BOBWHITE

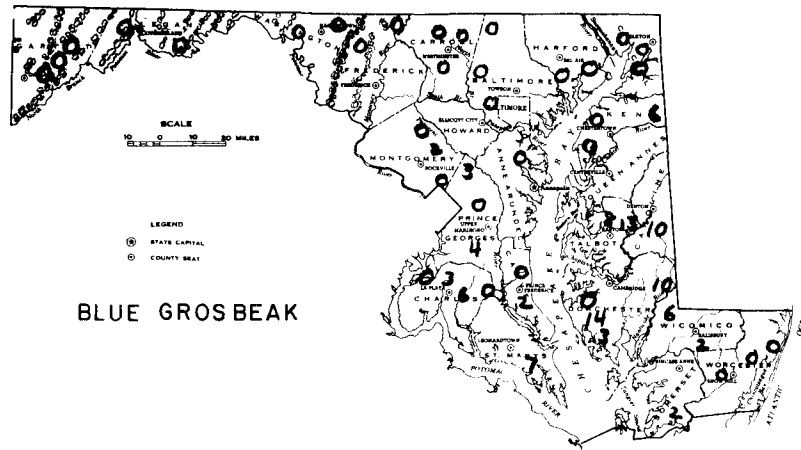


YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

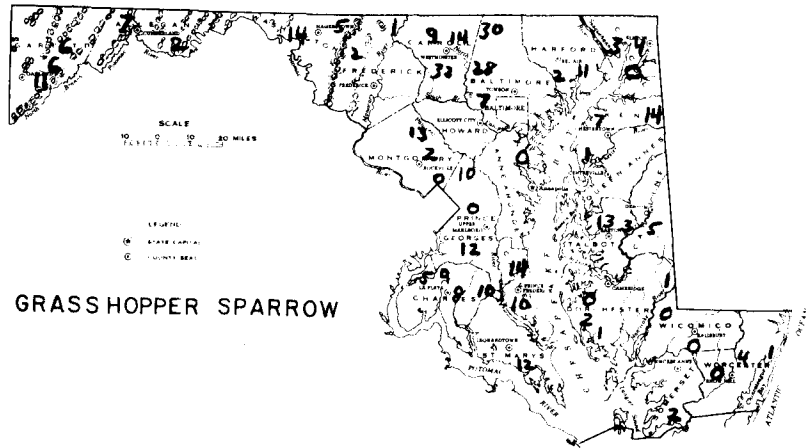


RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

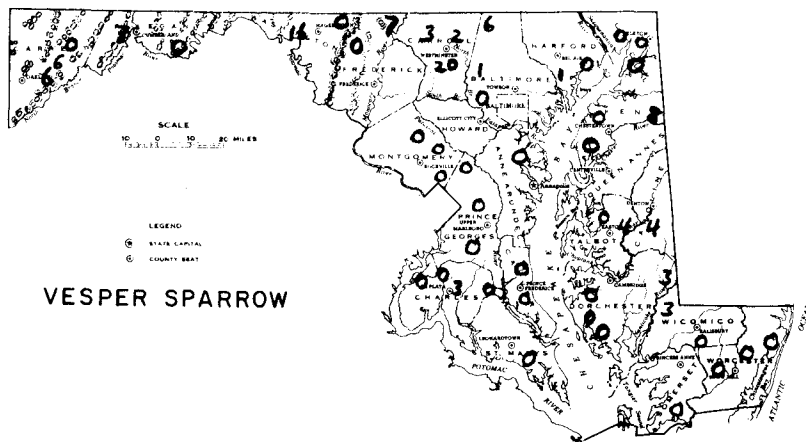




BLUE GROSBEAK



GRASSHOPPER SPARROW



VESPER SPARROW

Woodpecker becomes gradually scarcer as it approaches the limit of its range just above the Mason-Dixon Line. The Blue Jay is scarce at both extremes of the State, but is surprisingly well distributed elsewhere even on the uplands of the Eastern Shore. Mockingbird numbers are remarkably consistent in counties bordering on the Bay and the lower Potomac. The Eastern Bluebird is well distributed only in Southern Maryland and the upper Piedmont; it is strangely absent from most of the Eastern Shore.

The ubiquitous Starling is abundant except in the more heavily wooded areas of Western Maryland. The Orchard Oriole is well distributed through the southern half of the State, but is replaced by the Baltimore Oriole in the Piedmont and in the Appalachians. The Blue Grosbeak reaches its greatest numbers in upland areas of the Central Eastern Shore. The Grasshopper Sparrow nests in all parts of Maryland, but favors the upper Piedmont. The Vesper Sparrow reaches its southern limit in the Piedmont except for a small, but consistently distributed, population in upland areas of the Central Eastern Shore.

Interesting as the above findings may be, the greatest value of the Survey will be realized in subsequent years when repeated coverage will enable us to measure any important increases or decreases in the breeding populations of individual species. Since the trial run this year in Maryland and Delaware proved so successful, we plan to expand the Survey to other States in 1966.

We wish to thank the 35 observers and 25 assistants whose wonderful cooperation made this survey a success. The following observers covered two or more routes in Maryland or Delaware, in addition to running one of the check routes: Glenn Austin, Richard Banvard, A. D. Braeuninger, David Bridge, Paul Bystrak, Carl W. Carlson, Mrs. Richard D. Cole, W. Russell DeGarmo, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Dr. Bertram Haines, Hank Kaestner, Richard Kleen, Vernon Kleen, Miss Marcia Lakeman, John T. Linehan, Peter P. McLaughlin, Terry S. Moore, Charles Mullican, Dr. J. William Oberman, Dr. Robert L. Pyle, Chandler S. Robbins, Mrs. Carol E. Scudder, Dr. William N. Shirey, Dr. William J. L. Sladen, Dr. Turner L. Smith, Dr. Karl Stecher, Jr., Allen Stickley, Dr. Thomas Valega, and T. Van Velzen.

The following ran one survey route each: Edward Addy, Samuel H. Dyke, Don Meritt, Edgar Reynolds, and Mrs. Cynthia Turner.

These people assisted in the capacity of drivers, record keepers, navigators or trainees: Mrs. Sarah S. Baker, A. D. Braeuninger, P. Brody, Danny Bystrak, Dr. W. S. Clark, Mrs. Ethel Cobb, Mrs. Arlene Delario, Mrs. Mary J. Haines, Kit Hannon, Melvin Kleen, Mrs. Betty J. Linehan, Mrs. Dorothy Mendinhall, Donald Meritt, E. Monaghan, Miss Marcia Nelson, Mrs. Alpha Reynolds, Mrs. J. Ropes, Ed Rykiel, Pat Slavin, Mrs. Jane D. Smith, P. Sonnet, Ted Stiles, Robert Sundell, and Dr. Frank Williamson.

Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel