**SPRING BIRD REPORT**

Written by CAPT Jim Harkin, USN (Ret.)

In the morning around the lake you can tell that countless birds have returned by the noise they make. The earliest to arrive were probably the hundreds of robins that were caught in one of our last snow storms. Mocking birds and a group of four red winged blackbirds have arrived and are already standing guard over the lake. High flying predators can be seen, but are too high to identify. They might be ospreys. Our lake turtles have yet to wake up from their muddy hibernation and sun themselves on the rocks and the overflow. The water will warm up quickly.

 The Tree Swallow houses are up and just in time. A Tree Swallow scout was seen franticly flying around the poles looking for bird house as we were beginning to put them up. Two of the three Purple Martin houses are up and the third will go up shortly.

 Mornings and late afternoons during April and May are very good times to walk around the lake. The Tree Swallows and Purple Martins should be busily building their nests.