

The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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President's Corner by Maureen F. Harvey

Money Matters

Most of you probably do not know that your President is a licensed non-practicing CPA. I'm interested in money matters. Where does MOS money come from and what is it used for? Reviewing MOS's IRS Form 990 for the past fiscal year that ended April 30, 2013, the three main sources of income are dues and gifts (33%), investment income (31%), and securities gains (29%).

Regarding MOS's expenses, 51% went to programs and 49% went to operating costs. The two biggest operating expenses are investment management fees (22%) and accounting fees (13%). The Executive Board decided to forgo a full audit this fiscal year, which means two things – for the current FY, MOS will have a big reduction in accounting costs, but MOS will not qualify for participation in the Combined Federal Campaigns (workplace giving by Federal employees) in 2014. This decision was made because in recent years, the CFC donations did not cover the cost of the audit. This could be turned around if a volunteer came forward who would be able to attend at least some of the workplace giving events at the various federal agencies.

I'm happy to announce that an experienced volunteer, Jim Moore (Montgomery Co.), has stepped up to chair the Investment Committee. Jim works for a law firm that handles complaints pertaining to 401(k) investment plans. For this work, he has researched and compared costs of different investment firms. He is stimulating the committee to consider ways to reduce our investment expenses. Ideas will be presented to the full MOS Board when fully developed.

Does MOS need to make any other changes (i.e., seek new funding sources) to meet the current and future needs of the organization? One simple change would be for all chapters (some already do this) to add a space on their membership renewal forms for direct donations to MOS over and above the annual dues. Dues and donations to MOS are tax-deductible.

Thank you to those 118 members who completed the Long Range Planning Committee's questionnaire by mid-September. But isn't this a pitiful turnout compared to over 1600 individual members? For the rest of you, your two-cent's worth is important! Your answers will be anonymous and take only 3 or 4 minutes to enter. Here's the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XLG5QGC>.

For Maryland State employees: the Maryland Charity Campaign, your workplace giving campaign, is now underway. MOS's designation code is 3330. Please consider a gift to MOS as you mull over your choices this year.

2014 MOS Conference

May 16 – 18

Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center
Solomons, MD

We're back to the Solomons for our next conference. It's been quite some time since we were last in this area. In 2005 we discovered some wonderful state parks and some great birds. The birding highlight was the unexpected appearance of a Swainson's Warbler viewed by most of the conference attendees. At this time, I was impressed with the number of state parks and other birding areas, many of them quite close to our Holiday Inn. Hopefully, we will equal or surpass our 2005 experience this time.

There is much to anticipate in 2014. I am delighted and excited to announce our keynote speakers will be Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton talking about their Maryland Biodiversity Project. If you haven't already done so, check them out at www.marylandbiodiversity.com. There will be special field trips arranged to further your knowledge of their project; something different for you to experience and enjoy. The current plan is to emphasize biodiversity on these special trips but also have a birding expert to ID any particularly interesting bird. Perhaps you will want to become involved in their project. Come and talk with Jim and Bill and experience one of their field trips. Don't worry; we won't forget the birds!

Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.com, has agreed to run the field trips. Tyler, of course, knows the area well. He has already started looking for leaders and choosing field trip locations. Field trip leaders are needed. Tyler is also looking for local guides to assist field trip leaders not familiar with the area. Please contact Tyler if you are willing to help.

Maryanne Dolan, chair of our Statewide Education Activities, is arranging an enticing new workshop for us. Sean McCandless will be holding a raptor ID workshop. This will be a great opportunity to brush up on your skills identifying raptors.

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Our nature store this year will be manned by Dave & Claire Horvath, owners of the Mother Nature's Store in Columbia, 410-381-435. They always have a plentiful and interesting supply of products which, of course, will include optics. They have served us well in the past. If you have something particular you wish to see, why you don't give them a call before the conference to see if they can bring it.

All we need now is someone to step up and oversee the Silent Auction and Raffle. Volunteers are also needed to help while it is open. Anyone interested please contact me.

The recipient of our Silent Auction and Raffle money will be the Mattawoman Watershed Society. The Society is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring Mattawoman Creek, its tributaries, its watershed, and its living resources.

As you can see, we are highlighting a new interest this year with our emphasis on Maryland biodiversity but will still have lots of birding trips. It should be a great conference. Come and join us!

Janet Shields
Conference Chair
410-901-1039
janetbill@prodigy.net

Book Review: The World's Rarest Birds

Erik Hirschfeld, Andy Swash, and Robert Still
Princeton, 2013

By Wayne Bell

To see the rarest birds in the world, you could target a select few species and arrange expensive travel to the exotic lands, islands, and oceans where they are found. Or you could spend \$45, purchase this beautiful coffee table book, sit back, and view 515 of them in stunning photographs.

The principal feature of *The World's Rarest Birds* is the result of two international photo competitions (in 2010, and 2012) organized by BirdLife International in partnership with Minox, Lynx Edicions, WILDGuides, and Princeton University Press. Five hundred fifteen of the best were selected from over 3500 submittals, representing 87% of the 590 species listed as Critically Endangered (197), Endangered (389), or Extant only in Captivity (4) according to the 2012 Red List published by International Union for Conservation of Nature. The remaining 75 species are depicted in detailed, albeit stilted, paintings by wildlife artist Tomasz Cofa.

Want to see a Kakapo, the flightless, nocturnal parrot of New Zealand that can weigh up to 10 lbs and live 90 years? There is a remarkable photo on p 172. Perhaps you have been to Peru and were baffled by the five drab, wren-like cinclodes. The only

existing photograph of a displaying White-bellied Cinclodes is on p 13. It is an incredible photo of a solitary species that breeds in 12000-15000 ft Andean bogs with a population of perhaps 100 individuals. There are pictures that will satisfy anyone's curiosity about how rare birds look, from the mundane to the bizarre, and an excellent index will take you anywhere from Abbott's Booby to Zino's Petrel.

Gorgeous though it is, at its heart *The World's Rarest Birds* is in fact a data repository. Its lengthy introduction begins with rare bird categorization, and then proceeds into a detailed summary of the 15 types of threats faced by globally endangered species. Identified threats range from geological events like volcanoes (affecting about 10 species) to agriculture-aquaculture (about 900 spp). Most threats reflect habitat change resulting from human activity, although poorly regulated hunting and trapping (400 spp) is a significant factor in too many parts of the world. Climate change is treated with severe weather as a single threat (180 spp). Although more than 400 bird species have shown documented range shifts consistent with climate change predictions, the magnitude of this threat to endangered species is less than immediate habitat change resulting from expanded agriculture, logging, and development. Unfortunately, one must tease this important lesson out of a miasma of information about what makes a species rare.

The main portion of the book is organized seven global regions: Europe and the Middle East; Africa and Madagascar; Asia; Australasia; Oceanic Islands; North America, Central America and the Caribbean; and South America. Curious about my home turf, I turned to the subsection on North America. Out of a total 1252 documented species, 11 are Critically Endangered and 21 are Endangered. Perusal of the species list reveals expected birds, e.g., California Condor, Whooping Crane, and Marbled Murrelet. Eskimo Curlew, Ivory-billed Woodpecker (Cofa paintings), and Bachman's Warbler (actual photo) are considered Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) because of reports in the last 50 years. To my surprise, I have seen three species: Kittlitz's Murrelet (Critically Endangered), Golden-cheeked Warbler, and Tricolored Blackbird (both Endangered).

Each species identified within a global region is represented by a "thumbnail vignette" that includes photo or painting, status, estimated population and population trend, and summary of threats followed by a paragraph of text. The text is disappointing -- content tends to expand on the identified threats rather than delve into species ecology. Each vignette also includes a Quick Response code that, when scanned by a smart phone or other device, links directly to the species factsheet on BirdLife International's website. One can also browse to www.birdlife.org/datazone/species and search for the species in question. I tried this for Golden-cheeked Warbler and found a good range map, a sketch (no more photos here), and fully-referenced text on identification, distribution, and ecology ("It breeds in juniper-oak woodlands, where it depends on Ashe Juniper *Juniperus ashei* bark for nesting material. . ."). There is also a section on proposed conservation measures and conservation actions currently

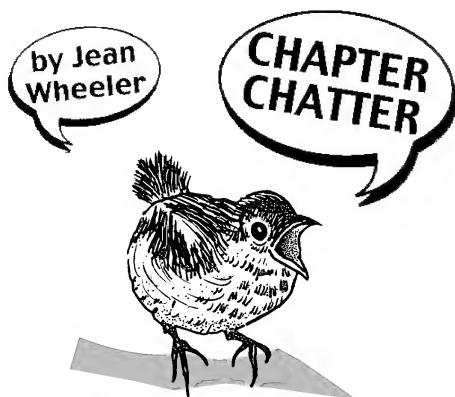
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underway (“... Regional habitat conservation plans have been approved or are under development in Travis, Hays, Comal, and Williamson counties, Texas. . .”). The fact sheets are supposed to be updated annually. As of this writing, the bird in question is still in the defunct genus *Dendroica*.

This book is a thing of beauty, but it is also a treasure trove of numbers. One number that is frustratingly omitted is size: Just how big is New Caledonia’s Kagu? The data numbers and descriptive redundancies quickly become a litany of threats, trends, and tables. This is a book to be paged through for pleasure, but read as a resource.

The World’s Rarest Birds joins several other recent books that place Princeton University Press at the cutting edge of modern birding and bird conservation. Publications like the Crossley ID Guides and The Warbler Guide challenge us to use new approaches and new technology to advance birding prowess. Now we have one that challenges us to think globally while we bird locally. Bravo, Princeton!



CAROLINE COUNTY

The Caroline County Bird Club salutes Mike Segar of Boy Scout Troop 165 for completing his Eagle Scout project!

Mike worked with Maryland Environmental Service (MES) for permission to place a birding platform in the new Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill on River Road outside of Ridgely. Mike then organized and oversaw the construction of the birding platform. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the platform September 11, 2013. The landfill’s Operations Manager Eric Frase and other MES dignitaries were present along with Mike Segar, Scout Master Walt Palmer, Mike’s family and friends, and members of the Caroline County Bird Club. Mike gave special thanks to Mr. Frase and MES for their permission and enthusiasm for the project, and to his team who helped him build the platform. He credited Sue Simmons, Director of the Caroline County Recreation and Parks, who suggested this project and helped him make connections with MES. He also expressed appreciation to both Choptank Supply and Denton Ace Hardware for their donations of materials. For complete information on how to get to the birding platform and check in with the landfill staff, go to <http://carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com> and see the link right below our Facebook Link on the left. *Debby Bennett*



HOWARD COUNTY

Wes and Sue Earp were afforded great views of Denali and the rest of the Alaskan landscape by the hottest June on record. They toured the interior driving the circuit from Anchorage, to Fairbanks, to Tok, then to Valdez and back to Anchorage. Sue spent many hours photographing the spectacular snow covered mountains and braided glacial rivers.

While not a birding trip, birds were not hard to find. Their stay in Denali yielded Northern Shrike, Boreal Owl and nesting Mew Gulls on the Savage River wash. Sandhill Cranes were abundant at the Creamer’s Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Fairbanks. The vast Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, near Tok, presented the opportunity to observe a pair of frustrated Rusty Blackbirds desperately trying to bring dragonfly nymphs to their young while a juvenile Bald Eagle peered down from atop a black spruce above the pair’s nest.

The cruise out of Valdez to Mearns Glacier was foggy and extraordinary. While passing by rafts of sea otters, Steller sea lions, harbor seals, humpback whales, and through ice flows emerging from the Columbia Glacier sound, they observed Pelagic and Red-faced Cormorants, Kittlitz and Marbled Murrelets, Harlequin Ducks, Horned and Tufted Puffins, and Red-throated and Pacific Loons.

Upon their return home they found the photos did not do the rugged terrain justice. But software does a fine job of removing the little dots from the pictures. The little dots? Those are the mosquitoes! *Ann Marie Raterman*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Don Messersmith writes that his cross-country birding trip is still underway at this time (mid-September.) So far he has visited and birded in 20 states and is presently in Texas on the Gulf coast. Travel across the northern tier of states, down the Pacific Coast and across the 100+degree southwestern deserts and Texas has yielded about 350 species so far. He has seen Spring migrants in Minnesota and is now seeing the first of the Fall migrants here in Texas. Yesterday’s high point was a flock of 28 Roseate Spoonbills at Anahuac NWR. Many days there is a memorable sighting to offset the days when birding is disappointing. Next are the Gulf Coast states and the Carolinas. Seven life birds to date: Baird’s Sparrow, McCown’s Longspur, Cassin’s Vireo, Common Poorwill, Aplomado Falcon, and Couch’s Kingbird.

Chris Wright

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TALBOT COUNTY

Norm & Fran Saunders spent the last two weeks of June cruising in the British Isles, including England, the Guernsey Islands, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, ending up finally in Amsterdam (yes, we know, NOT part of the British Isles). While not a birding trip *per se*, we did manage to tally about 80 species, of which 30 or so were new to our world life list. We're still trying to reconcile British bird names with American names, just so we'll know which species to add to our master list (you know, Divers vs. Loons, Shags vs. Cormorants, etc). It was a wonderful two weeks spent seeing England from a totally different perspective...we highly recommend it! Just before the cruise we finished moving from in-town Cambridge to our new home on 2-1/2 acres out in the country, about a 15-minute drive from downtown Cambridge. Our new yard list has just edged over 100 species, including almost daily flocks of Wild Turkeys meandering through our woods and a female Wood Duck in the pine wood behind the house, and we anticipate many, many more in the coming years, especially with the help of our new across-the-road neighbor, *George Radcliffe*.

Norm Saunders

TRI-COUNTY

Birding the Nassawango Creek

Club President, *Sam Dyke*, has been visiting the Nassawango Creek Watershed in Wicomico County for over 50 years and still finds excitement there each spring. Migration unfolds in late March with the arrival of the Louisiana Waterthrush followed by migrant flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, tanagers and orioles. All have consistent arrival dates from year to year.

The best auto route begins in Salisbury at the junction of Rte. 12 and Johnson Road. Follow Johnson Road about 5 miles and bear right on Mt. Olive Road going about 4.5 miles to a pull-off at the end of a transmission line. Walk a short distance east to the wooden bridge over the Nassawango Creek. On a late April morning the parade of "Swamp" warblers can be dazzling. From the bridge drive east about 0.5 mile and turn left on a sandy road known as Sturgis Road. Traverse this road slowly, even on foot, and you may see Wild Turkey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, and hopefully a Barred Owl. The habitat's specialties are Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Worm-eating, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers, and Summer Tanager. After about 2.5 miles turn left onto Bear Swamp Road and stop at the wooden bridge. Swainson's Warbler has been heard and seen in this vicinity (no tapes please!) The creek is good for Wood Ducks and Rusty Blackbirds. Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers have been recorded here. Continue east on Bear Swamp Road for about 2.5 miles and you will come to the paved Laws Road. You can take Laws Road out to Rte 50 or continue birding to Wango Road and bear right after 0.8 miles on Twilley Bridge Road and explore that road. Sam also recommends heading south on Rte. 12 to Furnace Town. The visitor's center has trail information on exploring the lower Nassawango Creek.

There is no better way to explore the wildlife and scenery of the lower Nassawango Creek.

Welcome!

The Frederick Chapter's loss is Tri-County's gain. Past MOS president *Marcia Balestri* and her husband *Bob* have relocated and joined our club at our annual picnic in September.

Carol Broderick



Birds of Note – by Les Roslund

A graceful and beautiful SWALLOW-TAILED KITE showed up in Washington County on Aug 10, providing great viewing for many Maryland birders. Brad Lanning of Washington County first noticed the bird southeast of Hagerstown, MD, along Hwy 66 near the Albert M. Powell State Fish Hatchery as it dipped and swooped in avid pursuit of what seemed to be locusts. He said the low aerial flight was awesome to observe. After the period of intense feeding, the bird moved up into a thermal and proceeded to give another show by soaring up there in elegant slow circles. Word of this finding was quickly passed, and for the next several days a parade of birders made the drive to Hagerstown in hopes of getting a view. Most were not disappointed, for the bird remained in the same general area until Aug 26. Patricia Wood of Silver Spring captured some of the sense of joy in her words after a successful sighting, "I joined the group along the road and learned I had just missed it. But then (moments later) there it was, just over the trees almost opposite us. It came down below treetop level --- you could see the white head and dark back as well as the black and white pattern underneath. What a beautiful bird! Well worth the drive!" This was the first recorded sighting of a SWALLOW-TAILED KITE in Washington County.

Torrential rains in late July gave Maryland birders the rare treat of a full month of great shore-birding in Caroline County. A farm field on Draper's Mill Road near Greensboro became totally flooded and stayed flooded from Jul 31 through Sep 4. At least 23 species of herons and shorebirds were reported by the many county listers that visited the site. Seven of the species, all recorded in good numbers, were not reported at all in the county during 2012. These included GREAT EGRET, LITTLE BLUE HERON, GREEN HERON, GLOSSY IBIS, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, STILT SANDPIPER AND SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER. Some of the fascinating numbers reported were for GLOSSY IBIS (12), SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (660), LEAST SANDPIPER (95), GREAT EGRET (33), PECTORAL SANDPIPER (34) and LITTLE BLUE HERON (12). The initial tip regarding the presence of this birding bonanza came from Nick Carter of Caroline County. Nick is a highly regarded fisheries biologist. His mention of the site was forwarded to Les Roslund of nearby Talbot County, and the rest is history.

Most years Marylanders are treated to at least one visit by an

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ANHINGA that somehow manages to stray this far north from its more regular home in Florida. This summer there were two such visits, both brief, yet quite fulfilling for the lucky birders who managed to see the birds. The lucky birder for the first visit was Duvall Sollers of Hereford, Baltimore County. On Jul 5 as she was leaving Hughes Hollow in Montgomery County she noticed a medium-sized bird of distinctive shape circling lazily at medium altitude not far from Poolesville. She pulled to the side of the road and got her binoculars on the bird, and behold, it was an ANHINGA! Duvall had little trouble with making the ID because she has been wintering in Florida for the past 10 years where she sees this species quite regularly. The bird must have left our region that day, for there were no reports of later sightings.

The second ANHINGA visit was also of short duration and apparently seen only by the person who filed the initial report. This lucky observer was Terry Proescholdt of Frederick County who noticed the bird on Sep 12. The bird was circling over the storm water ponds near Redland, Montgomery County, around 9 in the morning. No additional reports were filed.

Swan Harbor in Harford County has become a site well-known for the way it provides nesting and/or resting habitat for many marsh birds. Rails and bitterns are amongst the specialties of the place and birders have learned to include it for regular visits. This year two astute Harford County birders, Matt Hafner and Josh Emm, had the good fortune of being there at the right time to get solid confirmation of successful nesting by LEAST BITTERNS in the marshy impoundment. On Jul 22 Matt and Josh shared the fun of watching a small juvenile LEAST BITTERN crawl around on the mud and water in the dense stand of cattails. The bird still carried lots of its downy fuzz. There were two adults of the species flying around, perhaps trying to ensure that these human visitors did no harm to their little darling.

During 2012 quite a few WHITE IBIS visited Maryland, but only a few have been seen in 2013. One of the few showed up at a pond on Locust Point Road in Cecil County where it was discovered by Mark Johnson of Aberdeen, Harford County. Mark was looking for some previously reported GLOSSY IBIS, and saw nine of them in the air as he approached the pond. Several CATTLE EGRETS were also present in a nearby field, but the juvenile WHITE IBIS was clearly the star of the show. Mark saw the bird in mid-afternoon on Jul 4 and reported it promptly. At least one other birder managed to see and enjoy it that day, and another found it the morning of Jul 5. After that there were no further reports.

On Sep 19 two more juvenile WHITE IBIS were found by Gabby Cammarata, a member of a Salisbury University birding class led by Ron Gutberlet of Wicomico County. The class was birding on Assateague NWR in Worcester County. Gabby spotted the two brown birds in a tree at the end of the Life of the Forest Trail and they were close enough for all 24 members of the class to thoroughly view and appreciate them. Ron's birding classes are quite popular for good reason.

Changes to the Maryland and District of Columbia Lists of Birds

By Phil Davis, Secretary,

Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee

1. Background

The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) is the Maryland Ornithological Society's (MOS) designated source of taxonomy. Its system of bird classification provides the ordering and relationships of species, as well as the common and scientific names that we use for our checklists and other publications. The AOU maintains a master checklist of the birds of North America, and the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC), a standing committee of the MOS, maintains the Official Lists of the Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

AOU Checklists. The AOU periodically publishes a detailed, formal, fully-annotated *Check-list of North American Birds*. The first edition was published in 1886. The current version, a lengthy hardbound work with detailed notes on distribution, systematics, references, etc., is the *7th Edition*, which was published in 1998. The placement, order, and names of families, genera, and species of birds now change frequently, primarily in response to ongoing genetic analyses that advance our understanding about the evolutionary relationships of species. More information on the AOU Checklist can be found at <http://checklist.aou.org/>

AOU Checklist Supplements. Changes to the formal AOU checklist occur due to additions of new species, splits, lumps, re-ordering of sequences, and name changes. The AOU publishes these changes in the organization's journal, *The Auk*, as "checklist supplements." Previously, supplements were published every two years; however, due to the increased volume of genetic analyses, these supplements are now published annually, in each July issue of *The Auk*. The most supplement recent is the 54th, published in July 2013.

The MD/DCRC Lists and Database. The MD/DCRC generates its checklists and reports based on data tables maintained in a relational database. Each year, we update our data tables to reflect the latest AOU changes. The data elements that primarily affect our MD/DCRC outputs involve the placement and order of species, and their common and scientific names. The official MOS MD and DC lists, and other information on the MD/DCRC can be found at <http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

2. 54th Supplement Changes that Apply to the MD and DC Lists

The following changes, gleaned from the 54th Supplement, relate to our current regional Maryland and DC lists:

2a. Order Charadriiformes. This large order includes waders, gulls, and the auks.

Waders - Stilts, Avocet, and Oystercatcher. Stilts, avocets and oystercatchers were moved forward in the checklist from a

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place between Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper, to a place between Sandhill Crane and Northern Lapwing.

Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
American Oystercatcher

Waders – *Calidris* Sandpipers. Some sandpipers were moved into the genus *Calidris* and the overall order of this genus changed. The order and updated scientific names of the *Calidris* sandpipers now appear between Ruddy Turnstone and Short-billed Dowitcher.

Ruff (now *Calidris pugnax*)
Stilt Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper
Red-necked Stint
Sanderling
Dunlin
Purple Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Little Stint
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (now *Calidris subruficollis*)
Pectoral Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper

Skuas, Jaegers, and Auks. These species moved forward in our checklists from between Black Skimmer and Rock Pigeon, and now appear following Red Phalarope and before Black-legged Kittiwake.

Great Skua
South Polar Skua
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Dovekie
Common Murre
Thick-billed Murre
Razorbill
guillemot species
Atlantic Puffin

On our MD and DC lists, the full order Charadriiformes now appears after Sandhill Crane and before Rock Pigeon.

2b. Family Mimidae. A revised sequence was adopted because of new phylogenetic data for genera and species in the family Mimidae. The following MD/DC species were re-ordered as shown, appearing after Varied Thrush and before European Starling:

Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Sage Thrasher
Northern Mockingbird

2c. Genus *Haemorhous*. A revised sequence was adopted because of new phylogenetic data for species in the genus *Haemorhous*. The following MD/DC species were re-ordered, appearing after Pine Grosbeak and before Red Crossbill:

Purple Finch

House Finch

Revised Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC are found on our MD/DCRC web page and reflect these 54th Supplement changes.

3. Other United States/ABA Checklist Changes

I won't summarize the AOU changes that apply only to species found in Mexico and Central America, but for the benefit of MOS members who are US or American Birding Association (ABA) listers, the following AOU "north of the [Mexican] border" changes may be of interest:

3a. Additions. The following species were added to the AOU checklist:

Six new species were added to the main AOU checklist on the basis of new distributional information (including three species transferred from the AOU Appendix of "hypothetical" records):

*Providence Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*). This addition to the AOU checklist is based on an accepted record by Maryland's own Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper of birds observed off Attu, Aleutian Islands, AK in 2011. Also known as Solander's Petrel.

*Fea's Petrel (*P. feae*). This AOU checklist taxon is now separated from the similar Zino's Petrel.

*Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). This addition to the AOU checklist is based on a 2010 record from Shemya, Aleutian Islands, AK.

*Rosy-faced Lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*). This species is now considered to be established in the Phoenix, AZ area. Also known as the Peach-faced Lovebird.

*Nanday Parakeet (*Nandayus nenday*). This species is now considered to be established in southern FL. Also, known as the Black-hooded Parakeet or Nanday Conure.

*Asian Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte arctoa*). This addition to the AOU checklist is based on a 2011 Adak, Aleutian Islands, AK record.

One species was added to the checklist of species known to occur in the United States:

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*). This species was added to the US checklist based on an accepted 2011 record from High Island, TX.

One western US species was split which added a new species to the list and changed the related existing common and scientific names of the other species:

Sage Sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli*) is split into:

Sagebrush Sparrow	(<i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i>)
Bell's Sparrow	(<i>Artemisiospiza belli</i>)

3b. Name Changes. The following US/ABA common and/or scientific names were changed:

The common and scientific names of one Atlantic Ocean pelagic species was changed because of a split from an extralimital species:

Barolo Shearwater (*Puffinus baroli*) replaced Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*)

One Hawaiian species scientific name was changed due to a transfer from one genus to another:

Hawaii Creeper changes from *Oreomystis mana* to *Loxops mana*

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One western US owl genus was changed as a result of a split from another genus:

Flammulated Owl becomes *Psiloscops flammeolus*

The spelling of one genus was corrected, resulting in changes to scientific names of two US accidental species:

Gray Silky-flycatcher becomes *Ptiliogonys cinereus*

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher become *Ptiliogonys caudatus*

4. Rejected Proposals

Proposals the committee did not adopt are often of interest. The AOU did not accept the following proposals that would have affected our local or US checklists to (a) change the genus of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, (b) split the American Cabot's Tern from Sandwich Tern; (c) further split the Canada Goose; (d) split the eastern and western White-breasted Nuthatch; (e) and lump all three of the American-breeding rosy-finches.

5. Literature Cited

American Ornithologists' Union. 2013. Fifty-fourth supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 130(3):558-571.

MOS Announces 2014 Scholarships

By: Kate Tufts

Many of Maryland's finest teachers and naturalists have expanded their ecology and birding knowledge by attending weeklong workshops on Hog Island, Maine and at Washington College on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Maryland Ornithological Society is now accepting scholarship applications for these workshops to be held in June and July of 2014. Maryland teachers, youth leaders, park rangers and nature center staff may apply. Each award covers the cost of tuition and room and board.

Workshops will be offered in Maine Seabird Biology and Conservation, Joy of Birding, Field Ornithology, Arts of Birding, Sharing Nature: An Educators' Week and Maryland Birds and Habitats. The level of instruction is top notch with instructors such as author and ornithologist Scott Weidensaul, Birdwatchers Digest editor, Bill Thompson III and artist and author, Julie Zickefoose.

As one of this year's attendees stated, "It was truly an amazing experience and fostered in me a new passion and rejuvenation for environmental education."

Now is the time to start the scholarship application process. For full information on the Maine workshops and the application process go to the MOS web site: <http://mdbirds.org/education/scholarships>. For information about the Maryland residential workshops, please refer to: <http://www.ymos.org/educator-resources>.



YMOS NEWS

By GEORGE RADCLIFFE

In July, George Radcliffe submitted a report of recent YMOS activities for inclusion in the Sept/Oct Yellowthroat. I omitted that report by mistake. The following item is an updated version. Richard Donham

2013 World Series of Birding

On May 11, fourteen Maryland youth supported by parents and coaches participated in the 30th World Series of Birding in Cape May, NJ. Four Maryland youth teams spent 3 days scouting Cape May County and then set out at midnight on the Big Day for 21 hours of tracking down species. Despite a mediocre migration fall-out that day, the group excelled. Two of the four teams placed first in their age level.

The Marsh Giggers, our elementary team, placed 1st in their division with 160 species identified. Consisting of Daniel, Jack, and Jonathan, all from Queen Anne's County, they topped the elementary school record by 25 species. The Zombirders, consisting of Callum (Harford), Miles (Baltimore), Eli (Queen Anne's), and Kevin (Montgomery) placed 1st in the middle school division with 162 species. They also placed 6th overall in the entire competition.

Also competing were the Fox Sparrows (Emma, Malaika, and Kara, all from Baltimore). They had a fantastic day for a beginner team. Our high school team, the Carbonated Swamp Warblers competed well in the high school division. This team consisted of Alex (Montgomery), Emmett (Queen Anne's), Colin (Harford), and Faye (exchange student from China). We were only able to field these great teams with the support of the many MOS members who pledged money during last March's Birdathon. Our sincere thanks go out to all of you.

YMOS Backpacks

A backpack will be given out to each chapter again this year. The pack will contain a pair of Eagle Optics 8 x 42 binoculars, a field guide, and the yellow MOS publication, *Birds of Maryland*.

Many of the chapters have devised their own method of awarding the pack. These include having youth submit a birding list for a period of time and keeping a birding journal with descriptions and drawings. Each chapter will be given a pack at the September Board Meeting.

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YMOS Summer Program

This past June a group of students and adults from across the state met at Washington College for the fourth annual Maryland Birds and Habitats summer workshop. The group, including two from Toronto, Canada, learned how to collect and report data on eBird, use bird breeding atlas protocols, and set up a bird monitoring site. On the final day the group was treated to a bird banding activity at Chino Farms. The program will be repeated June 22-27, 2014, and both detailed program information and application are posted on the YMOS webpage, www.ymos.org.

YMOS Birding Trips and the World Series of Birding

YMOS runs trips during the year for interested youth. Each chapter offers trips that young people can participate in, but the YMOS trips provide an opportunity for youth from different chapters to meet and learn together. The trip dates are found on the YMOS webpage, www.ymos.org and in the Yellowthroat Calendar. The trips will also be used to identify and prepare youth teams for the 2014 World Series of Birding in Cape May.

Each chapter should actively search for young people in their areas with a particular interest in birds. Get them out on a trip with your chapter, direct them to the YMOS website, encourage them to go on a YMOS trip, and direct them to me, George Radcliffe, at radclifg@gmail.com if they would be interested in participating on a World Series of Birding team. This coming year we will once again field both middle and high school teams. Experience is not necessary; love of the natural world is.

Maryland Birdlife is back – submissions requested

By Mark Johnson

After a several year hiatus, the Maryland Ornithological Society's journal, Maryland Birdlife, is back in production. This renewed effort began with publication of March 2013 Volume 62 Number 1 (released in August 2013). Maryland Birdlife was first published in 1945 and has an excellent reputation in the ornithological/birding community.

The hiatus was based primarily on a lack of submissions. Recent contributions provided the material that initiated the latest editions. Planned are articles on seasonal counts (Christmas, May, Fall, Mid-winter), rare bird sightings, and other scientific contributions. One feature of Maryland Birdlife that is not currently planned for continuation is "The Season" report, a quarterly compilation of, and comments on, bird observations from across the MD/DC region. The shift toward eBird reporting and the related data overload has swamped efforts to generate this report, at least for the time being. If anyone who has an appreciation of the arrival and departure timing of species and range distribution within our area would be interested in compiling these data, please contact the editors.

Articles (short communications or scientific observations) are welcomed that deal with Maryland or District of Columbia bird observations and activities. Scientific contributions should follow traditional format (introduction, methods, results, discussion, and references). Short communications are also encouraged. Examples include rare bird sightings, unusual behavioral observations, Society interactions and activities, birding activities, etc. Text and photos are welcome. Future publications will continue to be produced in black and white hard copy and also electronically in color posted to the MOS website.

Thanks go to Editor-in-Chief, Chan Robbins, Janet Millenson for design and publication, and Bob Ringler as Assistant editor. Any queries and submissions please contact the Managing Editor (me), at Mark.Steven.Johnson@comcast.net

Final Alert for the 2014 MOS pin contest

What artist wouldn't like to see their work grace a piece of jewelry worn by hundreds of people? Well for those of you who love painting birds as well as watching them, now's your chance; the winning entry for the 2014 contest will be featured on the pin given to the attendees at next May's conference in Solomons. But time's a wasting, so get to work on your design of a bird appropriate for Calvert County. Perhaps a Summer Tanager or Kentucky Warbler typical of Southern Maryland deciduous forests, a brilliant Blue Grosbeak common in coastal plain meadows, or maybe a Prothonotary Warbler from Battle Creek Cypress Swamp.

The deadline for the receipt of entries is January 17, 2014. The rules are simple: the bird must be appropriate for the conference site (Calvert County); the design must include the phrases "MOS" and "2014"; the artist must be an MOS member and the entries must be in hard copy. Put your name, address, e-mail address, phone number and chapter affiliation on the back of each entry. Send entries to Ellen Lawler, 412 Monticello Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801.

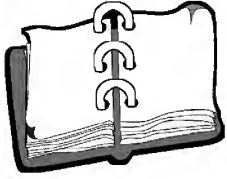
To see the complete rules and tips about designing entries for the contest visit the MOS web site (Annual Conference pages) or contact Ellen at 410-546-9056 or emlawler@salisbury.edu.

Ellen Lawler

2015 MOS Conference Chair Needed

2014 will be my last conference and we are looking for a new chair. Since the 2014 Conference planning is in full swing, it would be very useful to that volunteer for he/she to come aboard asap. Anyone interested should contact me or Maureen Harvey.

Janet Shields, 410-901-1039, janetbill@prodigy.net
Maureen Harvey, 410-795-3117, tangara@comcast.net



MOS Calendar

Nov - Dec 2013

By Andy Martin

Friday, November 1

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Using Birds to Connect Youth to the Natural World," *George Radcliffe*, Coordinator, YMOS. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd., Millersville, MD 21108. Info: Colin Rees, reescolin@hotmail.com.

Saturday, November 2

ANNUAL BANQUET. Allegany/Garrett. Topic and speakers: TBA. Gathering starts at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6 PM. The event is at the Frostburg United Methodist Church. Please contact Charlotte Folk for dinner reservations at 301-689-6587 or mail your check to her at 179 Mt Pleasant St, Frostburg. The cost for the dinner is \$15.

Carroll and Howard. Dickey Farm, Howard Co. Meet 8 AM at the P&R on MD Rte 32 just north of I-70. Moderate but long hike. Good mixed habitat, expect good sparrow numbers. Leader Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117.

Frederick. Hawk Watch at Town Hill. Leader: Tom Humphrey, 301-696-8540.

Harford. Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the trails of this Deer Crk woodland to enjoy the late fall avian spectacle. Gather at the ranger station parking area on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd at 8 AM. Leader: Mark Magnani, 410-838-1778 or mmagnani@peoplepc.com.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Washington. Lambs Knoll. Observe Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, camera, and be prepared to stay as late as midnight. Meet at 9:15 PM at the Boonsboro P&R next to Thompson's Gas. Registration is limited. Call Anna at 301-797-8454 to register.

YMOS. Chincoteague NWR. Herons, waterfowl, skimmers, raptors, and thrushes. This is a great opportunity to get a good look at a lot of bird species. Waterfowl will be back, and Chincoteague provides a unique opportunity to explore many types of habitats. Full day, 5 AM to 8 PM. Lodging will be provided either Fri and/or Sat night for students coming from a distance. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com for details if interested.

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3

MOS. Irish Grove Fall Workdays. Please contact Dotty Mumford, 410-849-8336 for more info and to RSVP. User fees are waived

for the workdays.

Sunday, November 3

Anne Arundel. Piney Orchard Nature Preserve. The Piney Orchard Nature Preserve is a wetland restoration project nestled within the community. We should arrive at the Preserve by 8:30 AM and finish by noon. The trails have very little elevation changes. No facilities are available. Leader: Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

Howard. Centennial Park. Meet 8 AM West end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Leader: Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408.

Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Full day (to dusk). Early waterfowl, sparrows, and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit: 12. For meeting place, time, and reservations, contact the leader: Andy Martin at martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066 (cell).

Washington. Waggoner's Gap. Visit the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch near Carlisle for Golden Eagles. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, 240-291-6465, for travel arrangements and to register.

Talbot. Wye Island. Good time for arriving sparrows, waterfowl, and other late fall migrants. We will also make a stop to honor the 290 yr-old American Holly Tree. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot 7 AM or meet Danny at the Wye Island Bridge at 7:30 AM.

Tuesday, November 5

MEETING. Baltimore. Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: "Winged Seduction: Birds of Paradise." National Geographic video on expedition to New Guinea to film all 39 species of Birds of Paradise. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 (cell) or pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, November 6

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. Carroll. "Birding in Western Alaska" by *Phil Davis*. 7:30 PM at the Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. Cecil. Program and Speaker: TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

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Thursday, November 7

MEETING. Frederick. *Jeff Meshach* will tell us about the work of the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, MO. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info contact Tom Humphrey, or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.

Saturday, November 9

Anne Arundel. Swan Creek. The Swan Creek wetlands are adjacent to the Port of Balt's dredged material placement site at Cox Crk, near Key Bridge. It is a very limited access area that has quickly developed into a magnet for all types of birds moving up and down the bay. We'll meet at 7 AM. Park on the right side at the end of Kembo Rd and sign in at the first trailer. The trails are generally flat and covered with gravel or large rocks. There are no facilities. Scopes are recommended for the large ponds. Leader: Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com.

Cecil. Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch. Waggoner's Gap has been a hawk watching site since 1948. Located near Carlisle, PA, on the ridges favored by migrating hawks, this site is known for an excellent place to see Golden Eagles. Pack a lunch and dress warmly, it can be very windy and cold up there. Also, be aware that this is a steep, rocky outcrop, so strong shoes or hiking boots are helpful, as is a seat cushion. Meet at the North East Food Lion parking lot on Rte 40 at 6 AM for an all-day trip. Leader: Parke John, parke@del.net or 410-287-6037.

Harford. Perryman Area. Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsindmd@verizon.net will lead an expedition driving to various locations in the Perryman area known to harbor interesting bird life from Horned Larks and pipits to waterfowl and shorebirds. Depart from the Aberdeen WalMart (Rte 40) at 7:30 AM.

Howard. Sharps at Waterford Farm. Meet 8 AM at farm parking area, through barns on right. Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads, and paths on this working farm. Porta-pots available. Waterproof footwear and clothing advisable in wet weather with one small stream crossing planned. Leader: Wes Earp, the_earps@verizon.net or 410-531-3197.

Montgomery. Lois Y. Green Park: Remembering Lou. Half day. A new walk in honor of former MBC president and all-around naturalist Lou DeMouy, who passed away in Nov 2012. The trip will be jointly led by a group of his friends. Meet at 8 AM. Reservations required. For more info and reservations, email Linda Friedland at linnet1@verizon.net.

Sunday, November 10

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for early waterfowl, raptors, and passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM (contact leaders for meet location). Leaders: Bob

Rineer, 410-252-6408 or brineer@verizon.net, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Howard. Centennial Park. See Nov 3 listing. Leader: Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408.

Talbot. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC). We will search open water, ponds, scrub growth, woods, and fallow fields for whatever goods they may harbor. Always a good location for a nice mix of diving and puddle ducks. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot at 7 AM or meet Danny at CBEC at 7:30 AM.

Monday, November 11

Montgomery. LBJs at Blue Mash Nature Trail. Blue Mash is hoppin' with Little Brown Jobs, making it a good place to work on the basics of sparrow ID. We'll look for similarities and differences among the common species, like Song and Field and Chipping, while keeping an eye out for less-likely White-crowned and Swamp. This trip is primarily for beginners, but all are welcome. Half day. For reservations, time, and directions, contact the leader: Lydia Schindler at 301-977-5252 or lydiaschindler@verizon.net.

Tuesday, November 12

MEETING. Kent. "Maine and Maritime Canada from Bonaventure to Nunavut" by *Bob Schaefer*. 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MEETING. Patuxent. "Trinidad and Tobago: Vacation Birding in a Tropical Paradise" by *Linda Weir*. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call 301-509-2212 or go to <http://www.pgaudubon.org/programs.html>.

Thursday, November 14

MEETING. Howard. "Birds of the Antarctic Region," by *Steve Kent*. Steve has made two trips over several years to the south polar continent and adjacent islands. Hospitality 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: West Earp, 410-531-3197.

Saturday, November 16

Allegany/Garrett. Shawnee SP, Bedford Co, PA. Leader, time, and meeting place TBD. Contact Mary Huebner for more info at marybrd22@gmail.com.

Anne Arundel. Family Bird Walk at Kinder Farm Park. Meet 9 AM in the parking area next to Visitor Center. Park has paved, level trails. Leader: Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Erin Lineberry, 410-530-0083.

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Baltimore. Patuxent Wildlife Center. All day youth birding and tram tour of the Patuxent Wildlife Center in Laurel. Meet Marty Brazeau at the center at 8:30 AM. Bring a bag lunch. We will be back in Baltimore at 4 PM. Contact Marty to register: 410-583-0275 or tropicbirder@verizon.net.

Howard. Waterfowl Search. Meet at Broken Land Pkwy lot, Lake Elkhorn at 8 AM. We'll carpool to search the Howard Co waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers, and loons. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643 or krschwal@verizon.net.

Kent. Assateague Island, Worcester Co. The coastal habitats on Assateague shelter late migrants and arriving wintering waterfowl, late shorebirds, and the occasional surprise may be found on the bay and ocean. Full day, dress warmly and bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terr) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Tri-county. Bombay Hook NWR. Ducks, geese, and lingering shorebirds. Meet 7:30 AM Ward Museum parking lot at 909 South Schumaker Dr., Salisbury. Contact leader Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853 for directions and more details.

Sunday, November 17

Anne Arundel. Let's Wing It. We will meet up and select a destination based on recent reports of bird activity. Since we don't know where we will end up, it's wise to bring boots and insect repellent. We will leave Parole P&R (located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva and South Haven Rds) shortly after 8 AM and conclude the trip around noon. Leader: Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

Harford. Bombay Hook. The "Hook" is a reliable location for finding a wealth of shorebird activity. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Rte 155/I-95 P&R. The leader is Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net.

Howard. Centennial Park. See Nov 3 listing. Leader TBD. For more info contact Joe Hanfman at auk1844@gmail.com.

Montgomery. Mystery Morning! Half day. Ed Patton will guide us to an as yet undetermined spot to search for seasonal songbirds and raptors with the possibility of a rarity or two. Reservations required. For directions and reservations, call the leader: Ed Patten, 301-948-5648.

Talbot. Casson's Neck, Dorchester Co. After such an enjoyable and productive visit to Bill and Sue West's 100 acre + farm this past spring, we have been invited back to see what fall

and wintering birds might abound in the wide variety of habitats there. Wear or bring waterproof boots as we may walk through some shallow waters. Leaders: Bill and Jesi West and Terry Allen, 410-829-5840. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot at 6:30 AM.

Wednesday, November 20

MEETING. Montgomery. "Nicaragua" by Rich Galloway and Kent Minichiello. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at urcioloa@sidwell.edu.

Thursday, November 21

MEETING. Caroline. "Impacts of Urbanization and Forest Fragmentation on Declining Songbirds" presented by Zachary Ladin. Will include his Wood Thrush research conducted through the University of DE. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton. For info contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.

MEETING. Talbot. 7 PM at Wm. Hill Manor 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton. Speaker: Wil Hershberger, author and noted wildlife photographer. Program: "Bird Songs Through the Seasons." Info: Terry Allen, 410-829-5840.

Saturday, November 23

Baltimore. Blackwater NWR. Joint trip, adults and BBC youth group. All-day trip to see ducks, thousands of geese, Bald Eagles, and Brown-headed Nuthatches. White Pelicans possible. Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl possible in late afternoon. Bring lunch. Meet at 7:30 AM at Nursery Rd/Hammond Ferry Rd P&R. Leader: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@junio.com.

Frederick. Terrapin Park and Sandy Point. Full day trip. We'll look for early winter waterfowl and other birds. Contact leader for meet place and time. Leader: Kathy Calvert, 301-810-5677.

Harford. Sweet Air section of Gunpowder Falls SP. Explore a variety of trails that meander among pines, deciduous woods, open fields, and riparian habitats. Meet 8:30 AM in the Dalton-Brevard Rd parking area west of Rtes 165 and 152. The leader is Susan Hood, 410-937-7552 or Susanjhood@comcast.net.

Patuxent. Point Lookout for waterbirds and late raptor migrants. Meet 7:30 AM at the Bowie P&R to carpool. Contact Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com or 410-240-8152 for more info.

Sunday, November 24

Anne Arundel. Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. We will tour Merkle in our cars, stopping at the better birding spots along the way. Bring a lunch, so we can stop at the Visitor Center at

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the end of the trip. There won't be much walking, with the exception of the tower. We'll meet at the Parole P&R at 9:15 AM for this half day trip. Leader: Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Howard. Centennial Park See Nov 3 listing. Centennial Park. Leader: Allen Lewis, allenrlewis@gmail.com.

Talbot. Prime Hook and other DE Coastal Sites. Leader: Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.

Monday, November 25

MEETING. **Tri-County.** Program: "Birding in Kenya," by *Mike Walsh*. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury. For more info contact Betty Pitney at 410-543-1853.

Friday, November 29

Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR. Wetlands, waterfowl, and Bald Eagles. Meet 9 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center. Bring lunch. Very little walking is required. Facilities are found at the Visitor Center. Barbara Ricciardi, Barbara.ricciardi@bipc.com.

Saturday, November 30

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Balt. Meet 8 AM at the White House just inside the west edge of the park at intersection of S. Patterson Park Ave and Lombard St. For questions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

Cecil. Eagle Watch at Conowingo Dam. Half day. Meet 9 AM at fisherman's lot below dam. Bring scope if you have one. Optional: lawn chair, blanket, hot drinks, and snacks. Dress for possible extreme cold and windy condition. No leader, this is an informal event. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Harford. Conowingo Eagle Watch. Meet 8 AM at Fisherman's Park below the dam. Expect more than 100 Bald Eagles and possibly Golden Eagle. There will be waterfowl and early winter songbirds. Contact leader Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com for more info.

Sunday, December 1

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. Half day. During the warmer months, this park serves as a popular destination for bikers, joggers, and dog walkers, but during the winter it is a great location to search for wintering birds. We'll meet at Severna Park P&R at 9 AM. The main trail is paved and the unimproved trails are grass covered with little change in elevation. Facilities can be found at the farm area behind the Visitor Center. Leader: Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

Montgomery. Occoquan Bay NWR. Half day. Explore the diverse habitats in this one-square-mile refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers in Woodbridge, VA. A variety

of migratory ducks and boreal migrants should be present. Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge at 8 AM. Reservations required. Limit: 20. For reservations and more info, call one of the leaders: Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, or Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net.

Patuxent. Piscataway Creek for waterfowl. Meet 1 PM at the boardwalk parking lot. Itinerary may change depending on conditions. Contact David Mozurkewich at 301-509-2212 for add'l info.

Talbot. Dorchester County. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot 6:45 AM or meet the leader and start birding at 7:15 AM at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge. Leader: George Radcliffe, 410-228-7670.

Wednesday, December 4

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Up Against the Wall - Birding in England with Hadrian" by *Don Jewell*. 7:30 PM at the Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speakers: *Laura Belascio* will update us on plans for the 2013 Elkton CBC and *Pat Valdata* will recap this year's Hawk Watch. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton, Rm B120. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 5

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MEETING. **Frederick.** For our annual dinner, our speaker will be *Dave Ziolkowski*, speaking on his trip to the Panama Canal area. Dinner will be at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont at 6 PM at a cost of \$15.50 per person. Please make reservations with and send money to Treasurer Nancy Parker before 11/23/2013.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.

Friday, December 6

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "The Wonder and Perils of Bird Migration and What We Can Do" by *John Beavers*, National Audubon Society. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville. Info: Colin Rees, reescolin@hotmail.com.

Saturday, December 7

MOS BOARD MEETING. 10 AM. Hosted by the Montgomery Bird

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Club, Black Hill Regional Park. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary at janetbill@prodigy.net for add'l info.

Howard. Blackwater NWR. Full day. Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly! Entrance fee or Duck Stamp required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details, including meet time and location. We will carpool. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.

Sunday, December 8

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM at the nature center. Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or rrineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Carroll. Piney Run Park. Meet 8 AM at the parking lot outside the gate to Piney Run Park on Martz Rd off White Rock Rd. Moderate walking around Piney Run Lake to scope early waterfowl and explore mixed forest and field edges for late migrants and winter resident birds. For info call Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117.

Harford. DE Coast. Meet at the Rte 155/I-95 P&R at 6:30 AM. This trip will visit several hotspots along the DE Bay for wintering specialties. Contact leader Russ Kovach at 443-386-4787 or russell.kovach@gmail.com.

Montgomery. Lilypons/New Design Road. Half day. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and American Tree Sparrows and possibly Virginia Rail and American Bittern. Reservations required. For more info and reservations, contact the Leader: Gail Mackiernan, 301-989-1828.

Talbot. Rare Bird Chase. Once again the Thut's will find where the rare birds are and lead us to them, wherever they may be. Leaders: Priscilla and Paul Thut, 410-745-6657. Contact leaders for departure time and meet place.

Tuesday, December 10

MEETING. **Kent.** "Rare Cranes of China" by *Don Messersmith*. 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** Program and speaker TBD. 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call 301-509-2212 or go to <http://www.pgaudubon.org/programs.html>.

Wednesday, December 11

MEETING. **Montgomery.** "Lights Out Baltimore" by *Lindsay Jacks*. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at urcioloa@sidwell.edu.

Thursday, December 12

MEETING. **Howard.** "Philippine Mega Birds," by *Gail Mackiernan*. The Philippines encompasses 7100 islands and hosts almost 200 endemic bird species. Hospitality 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia. Info: West Earp, 410-531-3197.

PLANING MEETING AND COVERED DISH DINNER. **Talbot.** Host: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451. Plan on attending and bring a covered dish and ideas for walks and speakers for the spring.

Saturday, December 14

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Allegany County, MD** (includes a portion of WV). To participate, contact J.B. Churchill at 301-697-1223 or jchurchi@atlanticbb.net to get an area assignment.

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Denton MD.** Coordinator: Steve Westre, 410-479-0338 or swestre26@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Oakland, MD** (includes a portion of WV). To participate, contact Connie Skipper at connieskipper@hohnet.com or 301-387-5227.

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Middle River, MD.** New count for 2013, replaces Loch Raven CBC. Birders of all levels of expertise or experience are welcome and urged to participate. The area being surveyed is a 15 mile diameter circle centered in Middle River, from Fort Howard Park up to Baltimore/Harford Co line at the mouth of the Gunpowder River. Contact compilers: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com or Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, for area assignment.

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Triadelphia Reservoir, MD.** Compiler: David Holmes, musiclbndr@verizon.net (preferred) or 410-730-7083.

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Washington, DC** (includes portions of MD and VA). Compiler: Larry Cartwright. Info: Carol Hayes at Audubon Naturalist Society, chayes@audubonnaturalist.org or 301-652-9188 x10.

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Charles Town, WV** (Includes a portion of MD in Washington Co). Compiler: Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS COUNT. **York, PA** (the southern area of this count circle includes a portion of MD in northern Carroll County). Compiler: Bernie Frick, 717-843-6675 or bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu.


CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Wachapreague, VA.** Compiler: Irv and

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Marilyn Ailes, imailles@verizon.net.


 **Anne Arundel.** Let's Wing It. See Nov 17 listing.


 **Harford.** Rumsey Island/Mouth of the Gunpowder. Avian activity will be surveyed with an emphasis on wintering waterfowl and songbirds at this estuarine location. Meet co-leaders Julio Perez and Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com at the Joppatowne Shopping Center at 8 AM.


Sunday, December 15


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Elkton, MD.** Full day census of all birds in a circle of 7.5-mile radius centered at Black Hill on Elk Neck. Compiler: Laura Balascio, avocet@udel.edu or 302-456-0914. Tally Rally at McDonald's in Elkton at 4 PM.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Catoctin Mountain, MD.** Contact Mike Welch at 301-685-3561 or manddwelch@comcast.net to participate.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Lower Kent County, MD.** Covers area from just south of Chestertown and Tolchester to Eastern Neck Island. Full day of counting, followed by countdown dinner. Contact compiler Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com for area assignments or more info.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Seneca, MD and VA.** Compiler: Jim Nelson, 301-530-6574 or kingfishers2@verizon.net.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Jug Bay, MD.** Compiler: Sam Droege, 301-497-5840 (w), 301-390-7759 (h) or sam.droege@yahoo.com.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Salisbury, MD.** Take a break from the holiday rush and join this traditional Christmas birding event. Compilers: Sam Dyke, 410-603-7615 and Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Southern Lancaster, PA** (the southern area of this count circle includes a small portion of MD in northern Cecil County). Compiler: Bob Schutsky, 717-548-3303 or info@birdtreks.com.

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Port Tobacco, MD.** Compiler, Gwen Brewer, 301-843-3524 or Glbrewer@comcast.net.

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Nassawadox/Brownsville, VA.** Compiler: Harry Armistead, 215-248-4120 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Manassas-Bull Run, VA.** Compiler: Bob Shipman, ships333@yahoo.com or 703-883-3868.

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. St. Michaels, MD.** If you can help with all or part of this count, contact compiler/coordinator: Wayne Bell, wbell2@washcoll.edu. Potluck Dinner: 5:30 PM at Episcopal Parish Hall, St. Michaels. Dinner Coordinator: Margie Steffens, 410-822-1966.


 **YMOS.** Youth Birding Trip to help with St. Michael's CBC.


Join other youth birders to count birds on the Eastern Shore of MD. Overnight accommodations can be provided. You will need to have money for meals. More info at <http://www.ymos.org>. Pre-registration required (2 weeks prior). Contact George Radcliffe at radclifg@gmail.com.


Thursday, December 19

 **Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 for more info.


Saturday, December 21


 **Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Ben Poscover, 410 882-1309.


 **Baltimore.** Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Balt. Meet 8 AM at the White House just inside the west edge of the park at intersection of S. Patterson Park Ave and Lombard St. For questions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410-558-2473.

 **Patuxent.** Governor Bridge NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.


Sunday, December 22

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Chesterville, MD.** Covers most of eastern Kent Co and some of northern Queen Anne's. Full day of counting, followed by count down dinner. Compiler: Maren Gimpel at funkymoss@yahoo.com or 912-660-1541.


 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Point Lookout, MD.** Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 410-394-1300 or 410-610-5124 (m) or bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Milford, DE.** Compiler: Chris Bennett, Chris.Bennett@state.de.us or cpb2564@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 26

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Southern Dorchester County/Blackwater, MD.** Compiler: Chan Robbins, crobbsin@usgs.gov.

Friday, December 27

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Crisfield, MD** (the southern area of this count circle includes a small portion of VA across Pocomoke Sound to Saxis Island). Compiler: Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net or 443-783-1268 (m) or 410-572-9950 (h). Tally afterwards at the Bystraks.

Saturday, December 28

 **CHRISTMAS COUNT. Rock Run/Harford, MD.** Contact the

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compiler Rick Cheicante, rickcheicante@cs.com or 410-803-2712 to volunteer and be assigned to a group.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Washington County, MD** (includes portion of WV). Contact Mark Abdy, 301-432-7696 or mjabdy@yahoo.com, to participate.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Ocean City, MD**. Compiler: Jay Sheppard, JMSheppar@aol.com (preferred) or 301-725-5559.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Wilmington, DE**. Compiler: Jim White, hylajwhite@aol.com or 302-593-9622.

Sunday, December 29

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Sugarloaf Mountain, MD**. If you can help out, contact Janet Millenson, 301-983-9337 or janet@twocrows.com.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Central Loudoun, VA** (this count includes 5 miles along the C&O Canal in Montgomery Co, MD). Compiler: Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542 or joecoleman@rstarmail.com.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Patuxent River, MD**. Compiler: Andy Brown, 410-535-5327 or brownaj@co.cal.md.us.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Chincoteague N.W.R., VA**. Compiler: Gerald Tracy, gerald.tracy@verizon.net or 757-442-5237.

Monday, December 30

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Cape Charles, VA**. Compiler: Harry Armistead, 215-248-4120 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, January 1

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Bowie, MD**. Compiler: David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212, mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

🏠 **Baltimore**. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

🏠 **Baltimore**. Loch Raven. Start the New Year birding. Varied habitats including woods, fields, and the reservoir. Probably also birding other sites for a "Big Day" in Balt City and Co. Meet 8:30 AM, contact leader: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-557-2456 for location.

🏠 **Harford**. Perryman Area. Celebrate the new year/recover from New Year's Eve by birding the always productive Perryman Area with leader Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net. Meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:30 AM.

🏠 **Howard**. Start Your 2013 List! Half day. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Meet 8 AM at Howard Conservancy/Mount Pleasant Farm. Expect moderate walking. Possibility of lunch stop depending on the weather. Facilities at

some spots. Leader: Bonnie Ott, 443-285-3302 or bonnieott@verizon.net.

🏠 **Montgomery**. Earliest Bird Walk, Georgetown Reservoir and DC Hotspots. Half day. Start the New Year right. Meet at 8 AM at Georgetown Reservoir, DC by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. Reservations required. Strict limit: 20. Leader: Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com.

Friday, January 3

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Seaford-Nanticoke, DE**. Compiler: Glen Lovelace, Glen.Lovelace@state.de.us or 302-628-3978 (h) or 302-760-2321 (w).

Saturday, January 4

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Inwood, WV**. A count centered near Martinsburg, WV. Compiler: Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Rehoboth, DE**. Compiler: Sally O'Byrne, salobyrne@gmail.com.

🏠 **Kent**. Eastern Neck NWR. Kick off your birding year looking for waterfowl, eagles, and winter land birds. Meet 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terr) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact the trip leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 5

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Annapolis-Gibson Island**. Coordinators: Sue Ricciardi, 410-647-9513 and Hal and Lynn Wierenga, 410-647-7439.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Fort Belvoir, VA and MD**. Compiler: Kurt Gaskill, 703-768-2172 or kurtcapt87@verizon.net. MD Sector Leader: Carol Gheblian, 301-753-6754 or gheblian@comcast.net.

❖ CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Calmes Neck, VA**. Compiler: Margaret Wester, 540-837-2799 or margaretwester@hotmail.com. This count includes much of far-western Loudoun as well as Clarke Counties.

🏠 **AUDREY CARROLL MID-WINTER COUNT. Frederick**. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6:30 AM. You may want or need waterproof boots. Compiler: David Smith, 410-549-7082.

🏠 **Tri-County**. MD and DE Coast. Full day. Search for winter specialties and perhaps a rarity from recent CBCs. Bring a lunch. Dress for the weather. Meet 7:30 AM Ward Museum parking lot, 909 South Schumaker Dr., Salisbury. Contact leader Sam Dyke, 410-603-7615 for directions and more details.

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Editor: Richard Donham
rdonham8@gmail.com

Designer: Eric Skrzypczak
ericskrz@gmail.com

Calendar Editor: Andy Martin
martinap2@verizon.net
301-294-4805

Chapter Chatter: Jean Wheeler
jswheeler3@verizon.net

Mailing list: Russell Johnson III
mosmemberlist@gmail.com
301-696-9745

MOS web site: <http://www.mdbirds.org>

Webmaster: John Hays Christy
SiteMaven@mdbirds.org

*Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
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Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
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