

The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Maureen F. Harvey

I have a few scattered thoughts to share... After all, sharing is what MOS members do. We share time, ideas, efforts, and adventures. Connecting with each other while enjoying wildlife, especially observing those amazing feathered creatures, is an important part of the organization.

MOS Board Meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in learning more about how what the organization does and how it operates, come to a board meeting. You may hear about the goings-on by your Chapter President or Chapter Directors, but you also might like to hear the goings-on with your own ears. It's easy to come to a board meeting close to your own stomping grounds when your chapter is playing host. Check us out; you might make new friends or find a project that interests you.

Meetings are often held at good birding spots and feature a bird walk beforehand. MOS Board Meeting notices and directions are sent to your chapter president and directors, and you may also ask for this information yourself via e-mail from any state officer (e.g., president@mdbirds.org, vicepres@mdbirds.org).

Your opinion counts. I'd like to hear what's on your mind regarding anything related to MOS activities. What is MOS doing right? Where can the organization improve? Please share your thoughts and ideas.

My last thought: Wow, fall birding is here -- migrating warblers, shore birds, raptors. Soon enough (maybe too soon) we'll see wintering sparrows and waterfowl, too. We live in a great state! Take time to enjoy the beauty of fall (yes, even when you're not birding) in

Maryland.

The Seabird Trip to Die For By George Jett

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Normally when I think about pelagic birding (birding out at sea) I conjure up horrible scenes of rolling rough seas, cold weather, poor visibility, vomiting, and just a bad time. Even so, I have gone on pelagic trips since 1978 looking for the group of birds that spend most of their time at sea. The birders that do this are a strange breed. We suffer all kinds of discomforts for just a poor view of storm-petrels, shearwaters, alcids, rare gulls and terns, jaegers, or even better an albatross. It's a tough way to bird, expensive, and hard on the body, but if you want to see some of these sea-dwelling animals you have to pay the price.

On Thursday August 24 at 11 PM, a group of about 40 pelagic birders boarded the 105 foot boat, The Thelma Dale IV, in Lewes,



Herald's Petrel - George Jett

Delaware and prepared to head out to the gulf stream about 60 miles offshore in Maryland waters. The gulfstream is warm, deep water that attracts much marine wildlife including these pelagic birds. The trip out was a bit rough with 5 to 7 foot seas. A few of the inexperienced began to chum (vomit) before dawn. Just before dawn, the leader, Paul Guris and his crew, began to put down an animal oil slick. The pungent odor of this oily substance attracts the storm petrels -- normally **Wilson's**- which then lures other birds toward the slick. Wilson's is one of the most abundant bird species in the world even though most land birders have never seen one.

As the day began, the lazy ones began to take up their binoculars, and now, more common than in the past, cameras and lenses. We headed out from our sleeping benches to see what the day would bring. You need to get up early to see some of the more uncommon to rare storm-petrels like **Leach's** and **Band-rumped**. Much to our delight, just before the sun broke the horizon, calls came from the several spotters that Paul had hired that

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Band-rumps were present. We rushed to the bow (the front of the boat), quickly aiming binos and camera lenses at the flying critters. Poor light and overcast skies required pushing the digital cameras beyond what would produce good quality images, but we could get identifiable images that were not too blurry. Remember you are on a boat that is moving, the bird is flying, and you are trying to stand still in 5 to 7 foot waves. Some of the images from the day are attached.

The Band-rumps were soon followed by Leach's, my nemesis pelagic bird for photos. I got reasonable images of both species and began to think this is a great trip so far. As the daylight began to make faster shutter speeds possible, **Great, Audubon's, and Cory's Shearwaters** showed up to munch on the chum. I became more hopeful. At about 7:13 AM a shout rang out. Jaeger on the port side! With poor light and my ailing eyesight, I could not see a jaeger (mostly a dark bird). Shortly thereafter, Paul Guris began to scream. When Paul screams, you pay attention. Last time I heard Paul scream he said **Cape Verde Shearwater** (which was the second North American record and first Maryland record). This time - **Herald's Petrel!!!!**

The electricity shot through the seasoned sailors since we knew this was a first record for Maryland. Cameras fired away as the dark **Herald's Petrel** continued to fly toward the boat. This petrel, sometimes called Trinidad Petrel,



Black-capped Petrel - George Jett

is more often found in the south Atlantic. The bird, as the picture shows, is mostly dark like a **Sooty Shearwater** with light patches on the underside of the primaries. The bird stayed around long enough for all those not too sick to see it on its brief visit. To our pleasure, the bird turned and returned to the slick, bringing on more looks, images, and high fives.

I have 393 species on my Maryland life list, and new species are few and far between. A new state record was very satisfying. How could this get better? Well, wait a few minutes, and listen for Paul to scream again – **Black-capped Petrel!!!** What, two new state birds on the same day, in the same hour? The fact that this was perhaps the third state record did not lessen the electricity. Binos up and staring, lenses/cameras firing away once again. Soon a second Black-capped Petrel flew by the boat, and all got good looks, many images, and there were more high fives.

What's next? Shortly after 8 AM someone yelled "Tern on the starboard side." (I don't know why it is called starboard.) Close inspection of this sadly distant bird proved to be an immature **Arctic Tern**. The bird was flying directly at the boat at 2 o'clock – imagine the boat as a clock and the bow is 12. The few shots I got were not adequate to identify the bird to species as the bird evaporated into the clouds.

After an incredibly productive morning in Maryland waters we started heading north to the Delaware boundary. Mostly exhausted and heading for the evil empire of Delaware (which some don't list in), we went inside for food, drink, and to look at our images. I had not come to a full rest when the screams went out again - **White-faced Storm Petrel**. Ed Boyd and a few hardy sailors had refused to come in from the elements.

They stood watch at the bow while we were inside and had a great find. When the alarm rang, a mad rush ensued as most of the birders were crushing each other in the front trying to see this dainty gray and white bird that does not fly, but dances on the water. Paul spent much effort to his credit to help me and my bad eyes see this animal. Eventually I got

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by Nov 20, 2012 for the Jan/Feb 2013 issue.

p. 7 copyright National Geographic Society
Photograph p. 1,2 ©George Jett

shots and saw the bird (thank you Paul). Since this was Ed's first in the state, he was very much pleased to have found it and shared it with his fellow sailors.

Why so many rare seabirds on this trip? Michael O'Brien, a professional birder I know, had remarked recently that the gulfstream was closer to shore this year than in many years. Maybe the serious drought, global warming – who knows, but these species feed in the gulfstream and we got lucky. Something caused these animals to wander much further north that day much to our delight. I wondered aloud if we were in North Carolina where these species are more common than in Maryland, but Paul and the GPS unit assured me I was in Maryland.

I took the opportunity to needle Paul
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since my target bird, **South Polar Skua**, had yet to be seen, and it was now after 8:30 AM. Paul shot back – “Never satisfied, are you Jett”. We never did find a South Polar Skua, so I guess I will have to sail again next August with See-life Paulagics. Maybe on the next trip I will find my elusive Skua.

We did find some other good seabirds after we passed into Delaware like **Long-tailed Jaeger, Bridled Tern, and Manx Shearwater**, but I went to sleep. What an incredible trip.



Birds of Note by Les Roslund

- On Sep 8 an adult **SABINE’S GULL** was discovered in Nichols Cove on Triadelphia Reservoir, Howard County. Finders were Tom Feild and Geraldine King. The bird remained at essentially the same location through Sep 12, and provided delightful viewing and rewarding photos for many Maryland birders during the stay. It was a first for Howard County, and most of the previous Maryland sightings have occurred at the shorelines of either the Atlantic Ocean or the Chesapeake Bay.

- On Sep 15 a **SWAINSON’S HAWK** caught the attention of George and Harry Armistead of Talbot County while they were doing a fall survey of the birds of Dorchester County. This bird was first seen at 7:05 a.m. from Meekins Neck Road, Taylor’s Island, Dorchester County. Additional sightings from closer range were attained by the same viewers later in the morning along Swan Harbor Road. From George’s photographs the conclusion was reached that the bird was entering its 2nd year. It still showed the streaking of a young bird, but was clearly molting both tail and wing feathers. Unfortunately, this bird did not stay around, but continued on a southward migration route to potentially provide some excitement for lucky birders to our south.

- The high heat of our summer months may have limited the activity of some of the Maryland birders, but it may also have contributed to visits by some of the species that are usually found only to our south. One such species is the **WHITE IBIS**, regularly found in Virginia, and usually found in small numbers in Maryland along the Atlantic coast. This year several showed up in unusual places, including one in the Tanyard Marsh beside the Choptank River in Caroline County. This **WHITE IBIS**, an immature bird, was first reported on Aug 19 by Warren and Lisa Strobel of Annapolis. Over the next nine days numerous additional sightings were reported, though usually the bird was fairly far out in the marsh, and there are not good pull-off places along the only viewing road for the marsh. Another juvenile **WHITE IBIS** was seen on Sep 3 and again on Sep 9 at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in DC. The discovery on Sep 3 was by Mike Resch who spread the word fast enough for Paul Pisano, Rob Hilton, Lisa Shannon and Jason Berry to get there for great views.

- Many Maryland birders look forward to the years when irruptive species reach our area in good numbers. 2011 was not that kind year, but autumn arrivals of 2012 are quite encouraging. **RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** arrivals throughout the state have already been widely reported. One of the first reports came on Aug 19 from Mike Ostrowski of Montgomery County who found a **RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** at Lake Needwood in Montgomery County. Within the next two weeks the state was essentially blanketed with these cute and entertaining little birds.

- In an irruptive year there should eventually be lots of reports of **PINE SISKINS**. So far, there has only been one. A single **PINE SISKIN** was seen on Aug 29 by June Mundis of Conowingo, Cecil County, MD. The bird was enjoying the offerings of a bird feeder in June’s yard that day, but there have been no reports of more recent visits.

- If this were to be a really big irruptive year, then birders would be looking for both **RED** and **WHITE-**

WINGED CROSSBILLS. Such looking has commenced and one of the first to be rewarded was Mikey Lutmerding of Croom, MD. On Sep 11 he heard and then saw one **RED CROSSBILL** while checking for possible early morning birds at Governor Bridge Natural Area near the pond south of the parking lot. The bird was calling as it flew overhead and Mikey was even able to get cell phone recordings of a few of these calls before the bird departed. An even earlier sighting of a “possible” **RED CROSSBILL** was reported by Todd Day of Anne Arundel County. On Sep 2 while looking out over the Chesapeake Bay from his home near Holland Point he heard a distinct call and then, through binoculars, saw a small bird high up against a bright white sky. Conditions were not good for seeing detail, but size, general shape and flight style all supported identification of the bird as a finch. It sounded a lot like a **RED CROSSBILL**, and if that identification was correct, then this was the first seen in Maryland this season.

- The conditions of high heat and humidity from early July until mid-August changed enough on Aug 17 to bring in nice “First of Season” sightings for some grassland birds. In Kent County on the 17th Mark Johnson of Aberdeen discovered a total of twelve **UPLAND SANDPIPERS** in a recently mowed field beside Sassafras Caldwell Road. On Aug 18 Nancy Magnusson of Howard County reported presence of a **GOLDEN PLOVER** in Queen Anne’s County at the Central Sod Farm on John Brown Road. Also on Aug 18, a **DICKCISSEL** was found at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary by Mikey Lutmerding of Croom, MD. And still on Aug 18, the first **COMMON NIGHTHAWKS** of the season showed up as yard birds for Andy Wilson in Frederick, MD. Three of these birds passed over the deck of his house, and were not a total surprise since he has been entertained by regular autumn **COMMON NIGHTHAWK** visits for the past several years.



The Washington, DC Police Quail Surveys by Phil Davis

I. Discovery of Survey References in Smithsonian Archives

During my continuing research of MD/DC Records Committee historical rarities reports, I stumbled across an intriguing file in the Smithsonian Institution Archives that drew my attention. My eyes were drawn to a single manila folder labeled, "Quail Census conducted by the Metropolitan Police Department, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1925, 1928."

What??? !!

Although "quail" [Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)] is not a MD/DC Records Committee "reviewable" species, how could I pass up the opportunity to peek into this folder? (Geek alert: for the record, this file was in the Smithsonian Archives Record Unit 7294, "Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Records, 1893-1980 and undated" in Series 16, "Miscellany, 1901-1978 and Undated," Folder 5. Whew!)

The folder contains correspondence between the Metropolitan (DC) Police Department and T. S. Palmer of the Audubon Society of Washington, DC. (The organization changed its name in 1959 to the current Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States.) The file also contains internal Metropolitan Police Department correspondence between the Superintendent of Police and various precinct captains describing the locations of coveys and the number of quail, as well as receipts for reimbursement of wheat purchased to feed the birds. The letters cover five separate years: 1918, 1920, 1925, and 1928.

The following are samples of the quail survey correspondence.

This letter from the Police Superintendent to some of his precinct captains charged them to conduct the 1922 surveys:

Memorandum

Office of the Major and Superintendent of Police, D.C.

[handwritten]

January 30, 1922

10:45 a.m.

Captain:

You will report to this office in the morning the number of covey of birds, there [sic] location and number in each covey. This is done with the view of feeding them during the extreme cold weather.

To #7, #9, #10, and #11 Precincts

A total of \$25 was allocated to the precincts to feed the birds, with bills to be sent to the Superintendent.

This letter is a sample of one of the 1922 precinct survey results:

[typed - all misspellings (sic)]

10th Precinct

Metropolitan Police Department

Washington, DC

January 31st., 1922

To the Acting Major and Supt.

Coveys of birds are located in this precinct at the following places.

25	Robinson Woods on Harewood Road
18	Lincoln Road, near Trinity Colledge
20	Fort Totten Hill
20	Riggs Road, near B & O Tracks
18	Sisters College and B. & O. Tracks
18	18th. & Bunker Hill Road
20	Golf Grounds & Ill. Ave.
20	Back of Green House, opposite Walter Reed Hospital
15	In field, Bet Ga. Ave & 3rd St. Shepard Road & Rittenhouse St
60	Blagdon Estate 3 coveys (20 each)
18	New Hampshire Ave, back of Rock Creek Cemetary
17	Blair Road, near Aspin St.

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NEW PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOOK

After the great birder and wildlife photographer, Luther C. Goldman, died a group of his friends wanted to have a proper memorial for him. The committee has established the Luther Goldman Memorial Bird Trail around Lake Artemesia in Prince George's County. I was asked to write a history of P. G. birding and dedicate it to him. The book has just come off the press. It's called "A HISTORY OF BIRDING IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND 1634 TO 2011" by Donald H. Messersmith. The 72-page book includes not only the history, but also research and other activities of the famous ornithologists who worked at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center which is in P. G. County as well as the contributions of many amateur birders. There are 36 color photographs illustrating some of the top birding spots in the County. Copies of the book may be obtained by sending a check for \$10.00 plus \$2.50 postage to: Don Messersmith, 3158 Gracefield Road, Apt. 322, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

Don Messersmith

Quail continued from page 4

This letter is from TS Palmer of the local Audubon Society to the Police Superintendent:

February 6, 1922

Inspector Chas. A. Evans
Asst. Superintendent, Metropolitan Police Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 4 transmitting paid bills amounting to \$22.80 covering expenditures for feed for quail during the recent snow storm. Enclosed please find check for \$22.80 for this account.

In behalf of the Audubon Society for the District I take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the prompt and efficient work performed by the officers and men of the seventh, ninth, tenth, and eleventh precincts in locating the various coveys of quail and putting out the grain. The reports submitted by the various precincts contain much information of value for future reference. So far as I am aware this census of quail of the District of Columbia is the most complete and accurate of any census of the kind ever made.

Very truly yours,
T. S. Palmer

Tidbits:

- The 11th precinct Captain noted in 1920 that, "owing to the large number of coveys of quail found in the precinct, the amount for feed authorized was insufficient, and I added \$2.40 more with the hope of tiding them over during the extreme cold weather, which amount I will take care of myself."
- In 1920, the 7th precinct Captain noted that the birds in Rock Creek Park were being fed by the Assistant Superintendent of the park. He also noted that private parties were feeding some coveys in Montgomery County, along the DC line.
- A 1922 status note in the file, initialed by Superintendent Charles A. Evans states, "Precincts report birds in good condition, very few lost, all fed."
- I calculated that the 1922 \$22.80 cost of the wheat, then around \$2 a bushel, adjusted for inflation, would now equal about \$300. Palmer indicated in one letter that "the feeding of the quail was attracting considerable attention among various residents of the city." Indeed, one resident of Friendship Heights contributed \$1 (!) to the fund for quail feeding.
- In a 1925 letter, Palmer thanked the police for locating and feeding the quail and added, "Should we have another snow storm or blizzard, the Society is prepared to expend \$25 in further feeding of the birds."

These documents raised a myriad of questions. Why were the police surveying quail? What was Palmer's role? How were the survey data being used? Why was the Audubon Society paying for the feed.?

2. Palmer and the Biological Survey

Since the Audubon Society was involved in these surveys, my first questions focused on TS Palmer and his role in the society.

TS Palmer

(mostly from McAtee, W.L. 1956. In Memoriam: Theodore Sherman Palmer. *Auk* 73(3): 367-377)

Although I knew of TS Palmer, I did not know much about him. I learned that Dr. Theodore Sherman Palmer (1868 - 1955) was an ornithologist who joined the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1889 under Clinton Hart Merriam. During the period from 1918-1928, he worked for the Bureau of Biological Survey (the predecessor to the US Fish and Wildlife Service) in the Division of Game and Bird Conservation. He was Chairman of the committee which prepared the first regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918). He retired in 1933. Very active in the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), Dr. Palmer became acquainted with George Bird Grinnell who founded an early Audubon Society and with William Dutcher, main instigator of the organization which later became the National Audubon Society (NAS). In 1908 Palmer became the First Vice-President of the NAS, in which capacity he served until 1936. Palmer also helped to found the local Audubon Society of the District of Columbia in 1897, serving as its President, 1924-1941.

So, was Palmer's relationship to the police quail surveys through the local Audubon Society or his employer, the Biological Survey? Apparently, the answer is "both."

The Biological Survey and "Economic Ornithology"

(largely from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center web site; <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/history/bsphist2.htm>)

The United States Government has a long history of involvement in research on wildlife. The Biological Survey Unit traces its roots back to 1885 and the formation of the Section of Economic Ornithology in the Department of Agriculture. This Section, originally proposed by the American Ornithologists' Union and the Smithsonian Institution, was established by Congress to investigate food habits and migration of birds in relation to insects and plants. The section, under the leadership of Merriam, was expanded in 1886 to include mammals, and was elevated to division status as the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy. Its general function was to provide information on pests to the rapidly expanding farm industry, and for the first few years, studies of food habits were emphasized. Merriam, however, was more interested in plant and animal distributions and in the physical and climatic factors that influence them than he was in crop pests and feeding habits. As a result, the Division began conducting general surveys of bird, mammal, and other biotic community distributions, plotted the results and used

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them to construct life zone maps. In 1896, the name of the division was changed to the Division of Biological Survey to reflect more accurately the work being done.

Gradually, however, as commercial agriculture continued to expand, Division personnel were compelled to spend more time on the “economic” aspects of birds and mammals. Using information gained through survey work, the Division addressed many questions of economic importance and provided sound advice concerning the management of injurious as well as desirable species of wildlife. Although survey work did not stop, application of the knowledge gained from earlier surveys dominated the Division’s work. In 1905 the Division became a bureau within the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

So, Palmer’s official work clearly involved surveys and focused on the economic impacts of birds, especially game birds. Some of Palmer’s publications of this period were “*A review of economic ornithology in the United States*” (1900); “*Some benefits the farmer may derive from game protection*” (1905); and “*Game as a national resource*” (1922).

3. The DC Quail Surveys - Historical Published References

Researching internet sources, I located published references to the DC Police quail surveys:

1912. In Vol 14, No. 2 (1912) of *Bird-Lore* in a note on “Bird Famine Relief Work,” T. Gilbert Pearson reported the following:

“It is probable that the individuals concerned in feeding non-game birds outnumber those actively distributing food for Quail, but Quail feeding is conducted on a larger scale and by more systematic methods.

Thus, during the prevalence of the arctic weather of the present winter, in addition to the many farmers who scattered grain in various places about their farms, game associations, game wardens, rural free-delivery carriers, and other officials, more or less systematically placed Quail food in suitable places. **In the District of Columbia, the mounted police, under the order and at the expense of the police department, maintained regular feeding-stations for Quail and other birds**” (emphasis added).

So, it seemed that interest in the quail of DC began by least 1912, even before the formal surveys.

1918. In the *Journal of the Biological Society of Washington* (Vol 8, No. 9; 1918) Palmer made remarks on the systematic feeding of quail in the city of Washington during the past winter. A census of these birds showed 60 coveys with a total of 1235 individuals.

1920. In the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* (Vol 10, no. 10; 1920) the following item was reported:

“Dr. T.S. Palmer commented upon the feeding of quail during the inclement weather then prevailing”. He stated that the Metropolitan Police, the Audubon Society, and individuals were actively cooperating in the work in a number of widely scattered places. Advantage is taken of the opportunity to count the number of covies and individuals. In 1918 about 1200 quail were reported; this year, incomplete returns show an increase in several precincts.”

1922. In the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* (Vol 12, no. 12; 1922) the following item was reported:

“Dr. T.S. Palmer reported that the recent census of the quail in the District of Columbia, made by the police, who had feed the birds during the period of deep snow, the food being furnished by the Audubon Society.” The census showed that over 100 covies in the District, with a total of approximately 2095 birds.

1925. In the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* (Vol 15, no. 10; 1925) the following item was reported:

“T.S. Palmer described the feeding of quail in the District of Columbia by police using food supplied by the Audubon Society.” Their reports, which covered only a few days and do not include the whole of the District, enumerated about 79 covies, amounting to some 918 birds. A similar census made about six years ago gave the number of birds as 1200, and one made two years later, 1400.”

Year	Date	# Coveys	# Quail	\$ for Wheat
1918	01/23/1918	76	1235	\$31.97
1920	~02/15/1920	104	1424	\$29.60
1922	01/31/1922	133	2012	\$22.80
1925	~01/16/1925	78	918	?
1928	~02/02/1928	86	~1500	\$18.35

Figure 1 - Survey Summaries

1929. In the “Bob-white” account in her annotated checklist, *Birds of the Washington, D.C., Region*, published in the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* (1929), May Thacker Cooke reports the species as

“common” and adds, “For some years it has been the custom of the D.C. Audubon Society to provide grain for feeding quail whenever snow endangers them. Through the kindness of the local authorities, this is distributed by the police in the outlying sections, and several times censuses of the quail have thus been taken.”

1930. In the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* (Vol 43; 1930) , T.S. Palmer provided a note (unpublished) of the feeding of quail by police.

Survey Summaries (see figure 1). From the archive files and published references, the following is a compilation of the results of the District quail surveys the over the years:

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4. DC Police and Audubon Society Roles in the Quail Surveys

Why were the police involved in these surveys? One likely reason is that during this era, the DC police served as the game wardens of the jurisdiction, as documented in *The Outdoorsman's Handbook* (formerly *The Angler's Guide*) (Volume 1910) which states, "The Superintendent of [DC] Police is effectively the game warden and enforces hunting laws ..." The various Audubon society organizations were leading the bird conservation movements of the early 1900s and already habitat destruction of natural areas, in DC as well as other locations, was a growing concern. It seems clear that Palmer collaborated with the DC police in both his official Government Biological Society capacity and also as a leader of the local Audubon organization to have the police conduct the quail surveys so they knew where to provide feed during harsh winters, with the reimbursement of bird food provided by the Audubon Society.

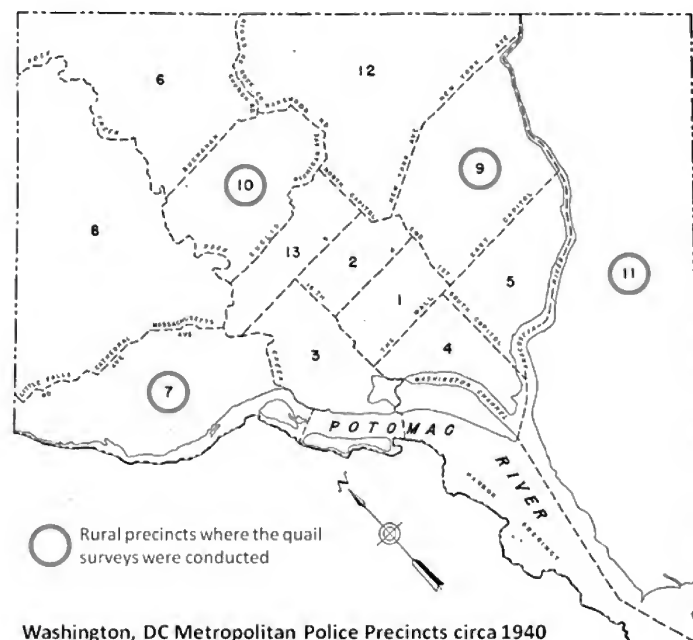
5. The Washington, DC Police Precincts of the Era

What were the boundaries and nature of the four police precincts where the surveys were conducted and why were they selected?

I located an applicable precinct map of the Metropolitan Washington, DC Police Department from 1940. The quail surveys were conducted in precincts: 7, 9, 10, and 11. These precincts included "suburban" or "county" portions, as they were then called, and consisted of the villages and populations, summarized below, from the *Report of the Major and Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police District of Columbia for 1920* (Gessford, Harry L. 1920).

Seventh Precinct: Key villages: American University, Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Tenley, Woodley Park. Includes: Rock Creek Park, Naval Observatory, and the river front.

Ninth Precinct: Key villages: Catholic University, Brightwood, Brookland, Takoma Park and includes the "railroad yards."



Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Precincts circa 1940

Tenth Precinct: Key villages: Brightwood, Brookland, Takoma Park.

Eleventh Precinct: Key villages: Blue Plains, Congress Heights. Includes: the "Government Hospital for the Insane [St. Elizabeth's]" and several villages scattered between Washington and Maryland.

6. Winter Conditions 1918-1928

I had one more question. How severe were these winters when the quail surveys were conducted and feed was provided? From the NOAA web pages, Mid Atlantic Winters: *Snow, Wind, Ice And Cold*, Washington's Historic Winter Storms and Cold Waves (<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/winter/DC-Winters.htm>), I located descriptions of these winters:

December 1917 to January 1918: This was the coldest December since 1876. It was not until December 1989 that the area would experience such extended cold in December. Navigation stopped on many of the rivers by the 9th. There was 8 to 10 inches of ice across the mouth of the Patuxent. The cold continued into January. Snowfall for the month was about 3 times the normal in many areas and all but the southernmost portion of the state remained under a white blanket. Central Maryland and the Upper Shore saw around two feet of snow. Southern Maryland and the Lower Eastern Shore saw around 18 inches. By the end of the month, heavy ice covered the entire Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries south to the Potomac River. On the coast, Chincoteague Bay was also frozen with ice 10 inches thick across its mouth. Ice conditions on the bay did not clear until February 13 and the

Northern Bobwhite

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National Geographic



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Upper Bay not until the 20th.

January 27-29, 1922: Exactly 150 years to the day after the 28 Jan 1772 “Washington and Jefferson Storm” [noted in each of their diaries], a powerful nor’easter brought the deepest snow of 20th century to Maryland and the District of Columbia. College Park and Cambridge both set record one day totals with 24 inches of snow in 24 hours. By the 29th, a maximum snow swath of 30 to 32 inches lay across southern Baltimore, eastern Howard, northern Prince Georges, northern Anne Arundel and portions of DC. Strong northeast winds (gusting up to 50 mph) created blizzard conditions and heavy drifting blocked roads. Some remained impassable for days. The weight of the snow caused the roof of the Knickerbocker Theater on 18th Street and Columbia in Northwest DC to collapse. An estimated 900 people were in the theater at the time. While many escaped, 98 people were crushed to death and another 158 injured. The storm became now known historically as the Knickerbocker Storm.

December 31, 1924 to January 2, 1925: Heavy snow fell across southern Maryland on New Year’s Eve. It was followed by more moderate to heavy snow on January 2nd. This second snow also hit the central and northern portions of the Eastern Shore and heavy snow fell across northcentral and western Maryland. In Harford county, 22 inches was recorded at Darlington and Calvert County saw 18 inches at Ferry Landing. Some sleet also fell toward the end of the storm in the east. Baltimore saw 11 inches of snow and 3 inches of sleet. Roads were blocked on the upper Eastern Shore and across northcentral Maryland for several days. Thawing and freezing over the next couple weeks turned the snow into an ice pack.

January 28, 1928: Between 10 and 18 inches of snow fell across the northcentral Maryland and the Upper Eastern Shore. Baltimore County saw the most snowfall with 14 to 30 inches of snow. Strong northwest winds followed the storm causing severe drifting which blocked roads for several days.

From these descriptions, it is easy to see how the DC quail population would have been severely impacted. Also, consider these horrific snow conditions with the appreciation that mechanical snow removal equipment was primitive during the 1920s.

7. Northern Bobwhite Natural History Factoids

Natural History (mostly from *2nd Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and this District of Columbia*. Ellison, 2010).

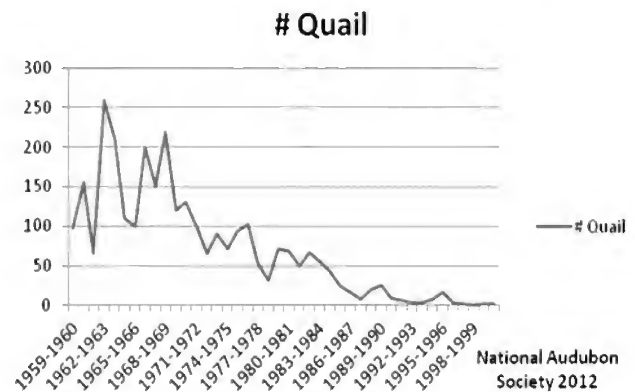
Northern Bobwhites inhabit mixed farming landscapes that combine woodland edges, overgrown fields, and cropland with hedgerows. Grassy areas near cover are required for nesting, and waste grain near cover helps ensure survival through the winter months. Winter climate can affect abundance.

Distribution. The Northern Bobwhite was mentioned in seventeenth-century accounts of Maryland and the Delmarva Peninsula because it was a useful game animal. Historical references generally refer to quail as common, although serious

declines took place in response to harsh winters in western Maryland.

Quail Population Trends. The earliest DC Audubon Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), from the count’s inception in 1900 through 1943, were each conducted by only a few observers, mostly professional ornithologists, varying in numbers from typically from just 1 to less than 10. Beginning in 1944, the DC CBC was sponsored by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia (founded in 1897) and within a year the number of observers jumped to 38. In the ensuing years, the number of observers climbed to over 100. Apparently “quail” were not reported on the DC CBC until 1959. Although the trend data of quail observed on the DC CBC does not begin until well after the DC Police surveys, the decline in the number of DC birds reported in later years is still dramatic.

DC Christmas Bird Count Results



Summary. Apparently Palmer’s influence in the 1912-1930 era convinced the DC Police, who had wildlife warden responsibilities, to survey the District’s quail to track declining numbers for the US Biological Survey and, in cooperation with the local Audubon Society, to provide food for the birds to prevent famine during the series of very harsh winters of that era.

The quail surveys were some of the most comprehensive of the time, in the face of already declining numbers, and the feeding practices were notable during the early years of bird feeding. It seems that no one had ever fit all of these pieces of the DC police quail survey story together for an interesting chapter of the avifauna of our region.

Phil is the Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee.

2013 MOS Conference
Edgewood, Harford County
May 24-26

With the help of many volunteers, I am pleased to report arrangements for our conference are progressing. Our keynote speaker will be Dave Ziolkowski, a wildlife biologist at the USGS's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center where he serves as the program ornithologist for the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Dave is also a long-time Harford Bird Club MOS member. His topic will be "Counting those who count on us... but are you sure your numbers really talk sense?" This is a time when it is particularly important to monitor bird numbers in order to help decide when/where environmental issues need to be pursued and which numbers give us the scientifically valid information to help do so. The topic should also be of interest to people using eBird and many MOS members are using it.

Field trip planning has started. Dennis Kirkwood, Harford Bird Club president, with two other Harford members will be setting up the field trips. People attending the 2008 Harford conference will remember the many wonderful birding locations found there. An added bonus was many of them were only a short distance from the conference. There will be some excursions into Baltimore and Cecil Counties as well. Of course, there will be listers trips and Bob Ringler will be leading his butterfly field trip.

Field trip leaders are needed. Anyone interested in helping should contact Dennis Kirkwood at newarkfarms@gmail.com.

Maryanne Dolan, Statewide Education Chair, has arranged for MOS Past President Mark Johnson to conduct a Warbler ID Workshop for sixty people on Friday afternoon. Mark will do a follow-up field trip Saturday morning with twenty lucky birders. Signups for both the workshop and field trip will be done via your conference registration.

The Silent Auction and Raffle will be run this year by Jean Wheeler. She needs help manning the Silent Auction on Friday and Saturday. Interested people should contact her at jswheeler3@verizon.net. Each year the proceeds from our Silent Auction and Raffle are donated to a local organization. This year the recipient will be Harford Land Trust.

Matt Mathias of the Audubon Naturalist Society Bookshop will be back with us again this year. The title of his ANS operation is Bookshop but Matt carries many other diversified items relating to birding. He was with us for our Winter Conference in February and we welcome him back to our 2013 conference..

So we are busy getting ready for May. I hope to have the registration forms mailed out and on our MOS website in January. Keep in mind people do not have to be MOS members to attend. Also, we would love to have some children accompanied by adults of course. Registration for children under eighteen is free.

Volunteers needed for the 2013 Conference

Field Trip Leaders – Contact Dennis Kirkwood, [\[gmail.com\]\(mailto:gmail.com\) or
410-692-5905](mailto:newarkfarms@</p>
</div>
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Silent Auction/Raffle – Contact Jean Wheeler, jswheeler3@verizon.net or
410-838-6774

Volunteers needed for Future Conferences

Field Trip Coordinator

Silent Auction and Raffle Coordinator

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Contact Dennis or Jean (information above) if you would like to help with field trips or the Silent Auction and Raffle for 2013. Or, contact me if there is something else you would like to do or if you would like to help with future conferences. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

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



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

In July *Peter Hanan* led a trip to Ecuador with *Peter Bungay*, *Stephen Hult*, *MaryLou McCutcheon*, *George DuBois* (Frederick County), and *Jean Wheeler* (Harford County). George's daughter *Christine DuBois-Buxbaum* (PA) and her friend *Karen Huffman* completed the group. The trip was arranged through *Neblina Forest*, an Ecuadorian Birding tour company (www.neblinaforest.com). After a night in Quito, we headed West toward Mindo and the western slope of the Andes. Our guide *Sandra Patiño* lives in Mindo and she knew where to find birds. We had fantastic views of *Shining Sunbeam*. This trip was a quest for antpittas. On the first day we saw *Rufous* and *Tawny Antpitta*. However, antpitta nirvana was *Paz de Las Aves*, the home of *Angel la Paz*. This gentleman is an antpitta whisperer if there is such a thing. We observed the *flashy Andean Cock of the Rock* for a bit, but then *Angel* started calling "Anita" and out of the forest came a *Giant Antpitta*. *Moustached* and *Ochre-breasted* were a little more challenging to find and see. While in Mindo, we visited the school and donated school supplies and thanks to *Karen*, *National Geographic* magazines for children. Next we headed East to *Antisana* for paramo specialties like *Andean Lapwing*. The *Giant*

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Hummingbird was a great find as well as was the Andean Condor. From there we traveled down the eastern slope stopping at two lodges. We checked off 2 more antpittas at San Isidro, White-bellied and Chestnut-crowned. It was here Sandra proved to be an owl magnet. Just as we started a silent search for a non-calling Black-banded San Isidro Owl, it practically flew at her. We all got great looks at it. About a minute later she spotted a Rufous-banded Owl. There were no calls from us or the owls! Finally, we ended at Sacha Lodge on the Napo River. Here we found our 8th Antpitta, the Plain-backed. The group listed over 440 species including 58 species of hummingbirds. *Jean Wheeler*

CAROLINE COUNTY

Bird Club member *Mike Todd* saw a Great Egret with an orange wing tag on his pond in Wyoming, DE ten times during the months of August and September. It had numbers and letters on it. *Debby Bennett* helped him research it online to track down who had tagged the bird. Dr. Susan Elbin, Director of Conservation and Science of the NYC Audubon responded that she tagged this bird on June 19, 2012, right before it fledged, on Hoffman Island, NY. Hoffman is just under the Verazzano Bridge, off the northeast shore of Staten Island. She only tagged 7 birds on Hoffman, and this is the second one that has been seen! The first one was observed in Barnegat Bay, NJ. Dr. Elbin tagged 18 other Great Egrets this past summer, but they were all from Jamaica Bay. These tagged birds are part of a study, intended to see how the egrets nesting in the NY Harbor use the NY/NJ landscape and where they go from there. *Debby Bennett*

CARROL COUNTY

The Carroll County Bird Club has a new newsletter. Called The Whoosletter, it will be published quarterly. A copy of the first issue has been posted on the club's MOS web page. Included are spring count results, a book review, a story about the recent discovery of a black-crowned night heron behind a gas station, and a description of Lake Jiffy, the latest birding hotspot. Members of other clubs are encouraged to take a look to see what is going on in Carroll County: <http://www.mdbirds.org/about/chapters/CCBC%20August%202012.pdf>. *Don Jewell*

HARFORD COUNTY

Peruvian Adventure:

In August, *Dennis & Jean Kirkwood* organized a trip to southern Peru. Participants included *Tom Congersky, Tom Gibson, Pam Higginbotham, Bob & Susan Hood, Diane Jones, Amanda Koss, and Macrina Seitz*. We met our guide, Doris Valencia from Manu Expeditions (<http://www.manuexpeditions.com/>) in Cusco, a city high in the Andes. After spending a day exploring the historic town and acclimating to the altitude, we traveled by bus and train to Machu Picchu, the famous "lost city" of the Incas. Along the way we birded and enjoyed magnificent river and mountain scenes. How appropriate that we found the Inca Wren near the ruins! We also spotted many Andean avian specialties at wetlands in the high valleys, where herds of llamas and alpacas wandered the slopes. Next we rode the long and winding dirt road over the mountains, from the dry western slopes to the eastern cloud forest, often walking portions of the path to find more species.

The Manu Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, is one of the most important conservation sites in the world because of its biological diversity. It covers a large expanse from the cloud forest down to the Amazonian rainforest. We stayed at several wonderful, rustic lodges and didn't miss electricity since the candlelight was so beautiful. One of our stays was near an Andean Cock-of-the-rock lek, where Peru's national bird performs its unique mating ritual at dawn. The nine colorful males we watched didn't disappoint, though photography was difficult in rain and low light. We also enjoyed the amazing flight display of a Lyre-tailed Nightjar at dusk. The feeder stations at the lodges attracted so many hummers and tanagers, among others, that it was tempting to sit on the deck and watch them instead of venturing into the jungle or climbing the canopy towers to see more species. We also explored oxbow lakes and were amused by Horned Screemers and peculiar Hoatzins, and were regularly serenaded by oropendolas and caciques.

The common transportation in the lowlands is by boat, so our group traveled in comfortable "motorized canoes" several hours along the vast Madre de Dios River between lodges. Another amazing spectacle was the "clay licks" where large flocks of parrots and macaws gather to take nutrients from the soil, while we observed them from blinds just yards away, shooting hundreds of photos of hundreds of birds, as each species took turns at the site. We also encountered many colorful butterflies, and a few reptiles (Rainbow Boa was a surprise!), as well as active monkeys and unusual mammals (Capybara, Tapir, Agouti, Viscacha). Our 2-week trip was extended by 5 days as we were stuck in Lima on our homebound journey when Hurricane Isaac shut down Miami Airport. We made the most of our frustrating situation in the big city, exploring on foot (thankfully the zoo was nearby). We taxied to nearby parks, and we connected with a local guide who provided a city tour and arranged a birding day south along the Pacific coast where we found many more new species, including Humboldt Penguins, Blue-footed and Peruvian Boobies, Inca Tern, and the endemic Surf Cinclodes. Our group listed over 400 species for the trip, but we also had the adventure of a lifetime in a fascinating country where the diversity is amazing.

Susan Hood

HOWARD COUNTY

My best friend Val Barnes (PA) and I took a WINGS <http://wingsbirds.com/> trip to Oregon this summer. She had never birded the far west; I had never birded Oregon; and I really needed to see an albatross - any albatross. The first bird we chased (while waiting for the last two folks to arrive) was an Indigo Bunting, which appealed to our sense of the ridiculous and got the trip off to a great start. There were 6 of us, our guide Rich Hoyer, a white van, and a step-stool named Matilda - together we logged 2600 miles around the state checking out the birds, butterflies, herps, odenates, flowers, etc. Oregon provided a continuous geology lesson as well.

Our first full day was a pelagic trip out of Newport where we saw my much coveted albatross (Black-footed) as well as at least 10,000 Common Murres, a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, and the

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largest Mola Mola (ocean sunfish) any of us had ever seen, rivaled (well, almost) the albatrosses. Some of the other highlights of the trip follow.

Both of us saw Varied Thrushes for the first time where they actually belong instead of in Pennsylvania. Their song is other worldly, awesome; once heard, never forgotten. Flammulated Owl was another audio highlight. Although it sounded about half a mile away, it was in the next tree over! How does one describe the estimated 200,000 (!) Wilson's Phalaropes staging at Lake Abert? I can't! And the Painted Hills of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument are just stunning and not to be missed. From a distance the hills look as velvety as Cedar Waxwings. Herps of note were Western Rattlesnake and a Rubber Boa which spent a couple days with us. Rich's dad studies these boas. After taking measurements and recording the head scale pattern, he returned her to the same campsite.

We did lots of butterflying. There was an infestation of Pine Whites in the Blue Mountains this year, and at times it looked like a snowstorm at the tops of the trees. An impressive sight, but the trees were suffering from the onslaught. Something I got a real kick out of was how excited the three Brits were when we tracked down a Pileated Woodpecker at the end of the trip. Lastly, I got Common Poorwill off my heard-only list after a mere three decades!

On our last day (we were on our own by now and back at the coast), we chanced upon a Japanese dock float torn loose by the tsunami: 165 tons, 66x19x7 feet. Oregon itself seemed vast, but it's a very small world. *Nancy Magnusson*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Gerry Hawkins has written an article on conflicts in North American molt terminology that was published in the June 2012 issue of *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. The article, 'First Basic Problem' Revisited: A Re-evaluation of Howell et al. (2003), *Wilson J. of Ornithology* 124: 409-419, evaluates the modifications proposed by Howell et al. (2003) to the system of molt terminology for birds developed by Humphrey and Parkes in a seminal article published in *The Auk* in 1959. In his article *Gerry* maintains that the modifications to the Humphrey-Parkes system proposed by Howell et al. (2003) to address a perceived inconsistency in the Humphrey-Parkes system termed the 'first basic problem' are premature and unnecessary. *Gerry* also proposes a simple interpretation of the Humphrey-Parkes system that resolves the 'first basic problem' without adopting the modifications to the Humphrey-Parkes system proposed by Howell et al. (2003). *Gerry* also is lead coauthor of an article on delayed plumage maturation in birds that was published in the May 2012 issue of *Biological Reviews*, an international journal published by the Cambridge Philosophical Society. The article, Delayed Plumage Maturation and Delayed Reproductive Investment in Birds, *Biological Reviews* 87: 257-274, attempts to bring some order to the extensive literature and current thinking on delayed plumage maturation. *Gerry's* coauthors are Geoffrey E. Hill, a leading expert and prolific author on bird coloration, and Austin Mercadante, a recent graduate student in Dr. Hill's lab. *Chris Wright*

TRI-COUNTY

Ron Guberlet, Mike Walsh and Jim Brighton spent 6 days in July poking around the hills of West Virginia - birding, bugging, botanizing and salamandering. They began in the south at the New River Gorge and worked north to the Gauley River National Recreation Area, the Canaan Valley, Sleepy Creek Lake and ended along the Shenandoah River. Their campsite at Summit Lake featured a Black Bear and they saw another at the Cranberry Glades boardwalk. Highlights included a singing Olive-sided Flycatcher, 21 species of warblers, five blooming orchid species and multiple Wehrle's Salamanders and a few Cheat Mountain Salamander species.

They managed to do all of this without getting into trouble. However, this may be due to the mature presence of Tom Feild who joined them for three days.

At the 26th annual club picnic held at *Carol Broderick's* this September we toasted *Sam Dyke* and *Joanne Wilbur* on their second sighting of a Black-throated Gray Warbler on the Eastern Shore. The first was on 10/22/03 at Assateague campgrounds and the second was Nov.20th, 2011 in Salisbury. Great bird!

Sam Dyke reports on the great shorebird spots in Wicomico County. Commercial sod farms continue to add to the yearly totals. Productive areas are mostly northwest of Salisbury between Routes 13 and 50. From mid-July until late September one may find as many as 20 species of shorebirds, including American Golden Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, Western, White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. Look for grassy areas close to bare soil where sod has been recently lifted. Poned water from irrigation or rainfall is an added attraction for many species. Good luck next fall. - *Carol Broderick*

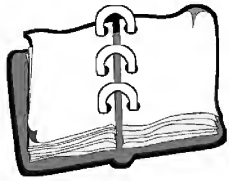
Mark Your Calendars - Duck Workshop February 8 and 9 - Ocean City

Derek Stoner, Conservation Project Coordinator for the Delaware Nature Society, will again offer his workshop on Ducks of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Derek got rave reviews when he gave this presentation at the MOS conference last year so the State-wide Education Committee (that's me!) decided a repeat is in order.

We'll hold the workshop at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City. The lecture portion will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, February 8, followed by a field trip at 7:00 am the following morning, Saturday, February 9.

To reserve space in the workshop, send a check for \$20 for each participant, made payable to Maryland Ornithological Society, to Maryanne Dolan, 104 Milestone Road, Elkton, MD 21921. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (410) 398-7567, or via email at maryanne.dolan@gmail.com

Please call the hotel direct at (410) 524-1600 to make your room reservation. - Maryanne Dolan



MOS Calendar

Nov - Dec 2012

Thursday, November 1

MEETING. Frederick. Members' Night. This will feature a variety of short presentations of photos, slides, and/or videos from our members. Who knows where it may take us! 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, or if you want to be on the agenda, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 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, 301-459-3375 for more info.

Friday, November 2

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Speaker: Greg Kearns, Naturalist, Patuxent River Park, "The Natural History of Ospreys." 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville. For add'l info contact Barbara Johnson at barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Frederick. First-Friday Trip. Leader and destination TBA. Meet at 8 AM at Culler Lake in Baker Park to join this half-day trip. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

DINNER MEETING. Harford. It will be a dinner meeting starting at 6:15 PM with a business meeting to follow at 7 PM. Program TBD. Call 410-692-5905 for dinner reservations or for more info.

Washington. Lamb's Knoll. Visit Project Owl-net at Lamb's Knoll and observe Northern Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, 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 Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to make reservations.

Saturday, November 3

ANNUAL BANQUET. Allegany/Garrett. Speakers: Dave & Maureen Harvey. Topic: Borneo (or Turkey). 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, MD 21532. The cost for the dinner is \$15.

Anne Arundel. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). Half day. Meet 7:30 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: David Gillum, dagmapper@verizon.net.

Harford. Eden Mill Park. Walk the trails here to enjoy northern Harford Co's bird life along Deer Crk. Enjoy scenic woodlands and fields. Meet leader Susan Hood, 410-877-0574 or susanjhood@comcast.net at the Mill at 8 AM.

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.

YMOS. Youth trip to Chincoteague NWR for herons, waterfowl, skimmers, and raptors. 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. Lodging will be provided either Fri and/or Sat night for students coming from a distance. Pre-registration required. Contact George Radcliff at radclifg@gmail.com at least 2 weeks prior.

Saturday to Sunday, November 3 to 4

MOS. Irish Grove Work Weekend. We will be working to maintain the trail system at this MOS sanctuary and prime birding site. You are welcome to come for a day or stay overnight at the sanctuary house or in your tent! Besides birding the sanctuary property, there's Rumbly Point Rd, and Chincoteague is not far away. You can also choose to kayak or canoe. Directions and more info about Irish Grove are available on the MOS web site, www.mdbirds.org, (and there is a separate announcement in this Yellowthroat). If you can come, please contact Dotty Mumford, dottymum@comcast.net.

Sunday, November 4

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 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).

Talbot. Wye Island. Good time for arriving sparrows, waterfowl, and other late fall migrants. We will also make a stop to honor the 290 year-old American Holly. 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.

Wednesday, November 7

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 Borneo and Peninsula Malaysia" by Dave and Maureen Harvey. 7:30 PM at the Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Contact Dave Harvey at

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410-795-3117 for more info.

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

Thursday, November 8

MEETING. **Howard.** "Birding in New Zealand," by Tom Feild and Geraldine King. Come and hear an American's view of birding the other "down-under" tempered by practical tips for travel from the "Kiwi" of the pair. Hospitality 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

Friday, November 9

Frederick. Saw-whet Owls Banding. Late night trip. Reservations are required and the number of participants is limited on this special night-time trip to the Saw-Whet Owl banding station at Lamb's Knoll. Contact Tom Humphrey for info and reservations at 301-696-8540.

Saturday, November 10

Anne Arundel. Swan Creek. The Swan Creek wetlands are adjacent to the Port of Balt's dredged material placement site at Cox Crk, near the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Swan Creek is a very limited access area that has quickly developed into a magnet for all types of birds. We'll meet on site at 7 AM and please be prompt as we only have a limited period of time on the property. Scopes are recommended for the large ponds. Contact leader, Stan Arnold at thrushhost@gmail.com for more info and directions.

Cecil. Woodlawn. Meet 7 AM at Woodlawn Wildlife Area. Wear walking shoes. Leader: Parke John, parke@del.net or 410-287-6037.

Harford. Perryman Area. Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@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.

Sunday, November 11

Anne Arundel. Bird Banding at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory. We will spend time at the banding station and then walk the grasslands for birds. Meet at the Bay 50 Shopping Center parking lot (located off Rte 50 on Whitehall Rd) at 7 AM. Leader: Dan Small and Kevin Smith, ravens3077@yahoo.com, will coordinate at Bay 50.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for early waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point

overlooking Dundee Crk. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM. Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or rrineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.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: Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

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. 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.

Talbot. Pickering Creek. Good time for sparrows, waterfowl, and perhaps a lingering shorebird or two. With most of the leaves off the trees, searching for small arboreal dwellers will be easier. Depart Easton Acme Parking Lot 7 AM. Leader: Les Roslund, 410-763-8169.

Tuesday, November 13

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: "South Florida and the Dry Tortugas" with Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. Info: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and speaker TBA. 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 rossgull@baybroadband.net.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** Peter Marra will discuss the "Migratory Connectivity Project." 7:30 PM at the College Park Airport Annex, College Park, MD. For add'l info call David Mozurkewich at 301-459-3375 or go to <http://www.pgadubon.org/programs.html>.

Thursday, November 15

MEETING. **Caroline.** "Strikers in the Night: The Ecology and Natural History of Black Skimmers" presented by Dave Brinker. 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, 301-459-3375 for more info.

MEETING. **Talbot.** 7 PM at Wm. Hill Manor 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton. Speaker: Ellen Lawler, member of Tri-County Bird Club and professor at Salisbury U. Topic: "Henry Callister: Colonial Merchant and Amateur Naturalist." Ellen will discuss the nature

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writings of Henry Callister, a tobacco merchant who lived on the Upper Shore in the mid-18th century. For more info contact Terry Allen, 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com.

Saturday, November 17

Anne Arundel. Family Bird Walk, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. These field trips are designed for beginners and families to discover the joy of bird watching. Meet in the parking area at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary at 9 AM. This park has dirt trails with moderate elevation changes. Leader: Stacy Epperson, 410-987-7533 or tryswim@comcast.net.

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: Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

Carroll. Dickey Farm, Howard Co. Joint trip with HBC. Meet 8 AM at Rte 32 P&R just north of I-70. Good mixed habitat, expect good sparrow numbers. Leader: Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117.

Frederick. Kent Island and Terrapin Park. Full day trip. We'll look for early winter waterfowl and other birds. Leader: Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690.

Harford. Wild Card Birding Excursion. This is one of the best times to spot rarities passing through Harford. With a little luck, this trip should provide a good time for all from beginner to expert. Contact the leader, Matt Hafner, 410-971-3203 or mh1920@aol.com for meeting location and time.

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.

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. Prime Hook NWR. Waterfowl, raptors, and sparrows, all day trip. Meet 7:30 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Contact leader Betty Pitney at 410-543-1853 for more info. Bring lunch and drinks.

Sunday, November 18

Anne Arundel. Owl Prowl at the North Tract. The North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge encompasses over 8,000 acres that were formerly a military training area. For this trip we'll be in search of owls in the early evening at the North Tract. Meet at the Parole P&R (on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva and South Haven Rds). Leader: Rod Burley. Contact Kevin Smith, ravens3077@yahoo.com for more info and meet time.
PELOT SANCTUARY CLEANUP. **Caroline.** 8 AM. Dress

appropriately including bringing work gloves and trash bags. Coordinator: Bill Scudder. Directions: From Rte 313 in Greensboro, turn right on to Whitelysburg Rd, Left on Wothers, then right on Boyce Mill Rd. Left on Drapers Mill Rd, look for sanctuary sign on the right. For info contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.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.

Kent. Kent Waterfowl. Twenty or more species of ducks and geese migrate through or to Kent Co. We will explore landings, small ponds, and Chesapeake Bay to see how many of them have arrived before Thanksgiving. Half day, bring snacks. 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 rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Montgomery. Lois Green CP. Half day. Explore the varied habitats of this relatively new 204-acre Mont Co park. Songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl are possible. Meet 7:30 AM at parking lot on Snouffer School Rd, Gaithersburg. Reservations required. For detailed directions and reservations, call the leader: Ed Patten at 301-948-5648.

Talbot. Ferry Neck. Wintering sparrows, lingering passerines, and early waterbirds call us to the home of Harry and Liz Armistead where over 200 species have been seen over the years. Leader: Les Coble, 410-820-6165. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.

Friday, November 23

Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR. Wetlands, waterfowl, and Bald Eagles. Meet 9 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center. Bring lunch. Leader: Kathie Lambert, kbert59@yahoo.com.

Saturday, November 24

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. Eagles at Conowingo Dam. Half day. Meet 8 AM at fisherman's lot below dam. Leaders: Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net and Charley Gant.

Harford. Conowingo Eagle Watch. Meet 8:30 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, Les Eastman at 410-734-

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6969 or les@birdtreks.com for more info.

Sunday, November 25

Anne Arundel. Sassafras NRMA. Sassafras NRMA is located along the scenic banks of the Sassafras River and Turner's Creek in Kent Co and operated by the MD DNR. Songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Leader: TBD. Contact Kevin Smith, ravens3077@yahoo.com for more info and meet place and time.

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: Allen Lewis, allenlewis@gmail.com.

Montgomery. Occoquan Bay NWR. Half day. A variety of raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes, and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge at 8 AM. Leaders: Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins at 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 301-459-3375 for add'l info.

Talbot. DE Coast. All day trip to burn off your Thanksgiving leftovers. Plan to leave early, dress warmly and spend the day along the Delaware Bay and Atlantic coasts of Sussex Co, DE. There should be plenty of wintering waterfowl, including large flocks of Snow and Canada geese along with wintering raptors, shorebirds and sparrows. Weather permitting, the trip will start at Prime Hook NWR and work south, ending at Indian River Inlet. Bring lunch and drinks. Leader: Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM.

Monday, November 26

MEETING. **Tri-County.** Program: "Birding in Ethiopia" presented by Joelle Buffa and Clyde Morris. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury.

Tuesday, November 27

MEETING. **Washington.** Meet at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, Hagerstown at 7 PM. Speaker and Program TBA. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 for info.

Wednesday, November 28

MEETING. **Montgomery.** Speaker: Suzanne Dater. Topic: Midway Island. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info contact Anna Urciolo at urcioloa@sidwell.edu.

Saturday, December 1

Anne Arundel. Oxbow Lake. Join us for an early morning adventure around Oxbow Lake. Marcy Stutzman will lead us

through the extensive trail system and show us the birding hotspots. Don't forget your bug repellent and scopes are helpful. Meet at Parole P&R at 7:30 AM. Leader: Marcy Stutzman. Contact Kevin Smith, ravens3077@yahoo.com for more info.

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.

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, krschwa1@verizon.net, 410-461-1643.

MOS BOARD MEETING. 10 AM. Hosted by the Cecil Bird Club at Conowingo. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary at janetbill@prodigy.net or 410-901-1039 for add'l info.

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.

Sunday, December 2

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.

Patuxent. Piscataway Creek and the Potomac River. Searching for waterfowl and other early winter birds. Meet 7:30 AM at the Beltway Plaza P&R to carpool or 8:15 AM at the end of Wharf Rd. Itinerary may change depending on conditions. Contact David Mozurkewich at 301-459-3375 for add'l info.

Talbot. Dorchester County. Trip will visit Blackwater NWR and surrounding area of Dorchester Co. There should be lots of Bald Eagles, geese, and other wintering waterfowl along with songbirds. We will stop for lunch/compilation at a local restaurant. Leader: Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM.

Wednesday, December 5

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.** "Traveling with Lauren and Thelonious-Birding Adventures from Texas to Arizona," by Don Jewell.

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7:30 PM at the Westminster Senior Center, 125 Stoner Ave, Westminster. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

Thursday, December 6

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MEETING. Frederick. For our annual dinner, our speaker will be Peter Kaestner, one of the world's leading birders. 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 11/23/2012 (Treas@FrederickBirdClub.org or (301) 663 1909).

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, 301-459-3375 for more info.

Friday, December 7

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Speaker: Dr. Graham Watkins, Environmental Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank. Title: "South American Wetlands-the Rupununi and the Pantanal." 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville. For add'l info contact Barbara Johnson at barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 8

Anne Arundel. Terrapin Park. Terrapin Park sits on 276 acres of Bay front land north of the Kent Island, terminus of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. This location offers great views of wintering waterfowl. Leader: TBD. Contact Kevin Smith, ravens3077@yahoo.com for more info and meet time.

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.

Sunday, December 9

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 rineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Cecil. Duck Search. Meet 8 AM at Perryville Town Park. We will start at Perryville and travel up Rte 222 in search of ducks. For more info, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Talbot. White Marsh Park. Bloomberg Farm (one of Queen Anne's Co's newest additions to the park network). Easy walking and viewing. Leader: Andrew Bullen, 410-763-8156. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM or meet Andrew at 7 AM at the Rte 50/404 P&R. Breakfast/compilation at Trailways Truck Stop on Rte 301. Andrew claims it's the "Best breakfast on the Eastern Shore."

Washington. Lilypons. Contact Mark Abdy, 301-432-7696, for a departure time from the Rte 66 P&R for this ½ day trip.

Tuesday, December 11

MEETING. Kent. Program and speaker TBA. 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 rossgull@baybroadband.net.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. Patuxent. Time and place TBD. For Add'l info contact Call David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 or go to <http://www.pgaudubon.org/programs.html>.

Thursday, December 13

MEETING. Howard. "Atlantic Seaduck Project; from Chesapeake Bay to Hudson Bay," by Dr. Matthew Perry (Emeritus), USGS-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Hospitality 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

Saturday, December 15

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. Meet at Severna Park P&R at 9 AM. Leader: Kevin Smith, ravens3077@yahoo.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: Wendy Alexander, 410-788-4080.

Harford. Susquehanna Waterfowl. Tour both sides of the river beginning in Havre de Grace and ending in Perryville to take in the many varieties of waterfowl that frequent those waters. Co-leaders are Tom Congersky, (410-658-4137; jnjtcon@zoominternet.net) and Randy Robertson. Meet at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace at 8 AM.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Wachapreague, VA.** Compiler: Irv and Marilyn Ailes, imales@verizon.net.

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

Sunday, December 16

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Loch Raven, MD.** New Count! Birders of all levels of expertise or experience are welcome and urged to participate. The area being surveyed is in a 15 mile diameter touching Lake Roland on the south, Hereford on the north, and centered in Cockeysville. Contact compiler Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com, for area assignment with one of the sector coordinators.

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Salisbury, MD.** Take a break from the holiday rush and join this traditional Christmas birding event. Compilers: Sam Dyke, 410-742-5497 and Mike Walsh, 410-546-8425.

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

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Lower Kent County, MD.** Full day of counting, followed by countdown dinner. Contact compiler Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@baybroadband.net for area assignments or more info.

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Elkton, MD.** Compiler: Laura Balascio, avocet@udel.edu or 302-456-0914. Tally Rally 4 PM, location TBA.

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Jug Bay, MD.** Compiler: Sam Droege, 301-497-5840 (w), 301-390-7759 (h) or sdroege@USGS.GOV.

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Seneca, MD and VA.** Compiler: Mark England, 240-207-3132 (h), 240-375-4500 (m) or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - St. Michaels, MD.** If you can help with all or part of this count, contact compiler/coordinator: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu. Potluck Dinner: 5:30PM. Location TBA. Compilation begins after dinner.

❖ **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 - 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.

❖ **YMOS.** Youth Birding Trip to help with St. Michaels 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 Radcliff at radclifg@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 20

❖ **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, 301-459-3375 for more info.

Saturday, December 22

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Milford, DE.** Compiler: Chris Bennett, Chris.Bennett@state.de.us.

❖ **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 bernard.frick@verizon.net.

❖ **Anne Arundel.** Eastern Neck NWR, Kent County. Wintering waterfowl and other land birds. Meet 7 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center parking lot (Located off Rte 50 on Whitehall Rd). Leader: Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674, tabslab@aol.com. Bring lunch.

❖ **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.

Sunday, December 23

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Chesterville, MD.** Compiler: Maren Gimpel at funky moss@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.

Wednesday, December 26

❖ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Southern Dorchester County/**

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Blackwater, MD. Compiler: Chan Robbins, crobbsins@usgs.gov.

Thursday, December 27

☛ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Crisfield, MD** (the southern area of this count circle includes a 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.

Friday, December 28

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

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

Saturday, December 29

☛ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Rock Run/Harford, MD.** Contact the 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, to participate. Tally dinner starts around 5 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Everyone brings a dish to share. Place settings, drinks, and a main dish meat are provided.

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

☛ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Chincoteague N.W.R., VA** (tentative, no official date confirmed as of 9/28). Compiler position currently vacant. If interested in compiling, please contact Teta Kain at tkdragonrun7@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 30

☛ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Sugarloaf Mountain, MD.** If you can help out, contact Helen Horrocks (Frederick), 301-831-6315/hlh_37@yahoo.com or Janet Millenson (Montgomery), 301-983-9337 / janet@twocrows.com.

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

☛ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Fort Belvoir, VA and MD.** MD area Compiler: Carol Ghebelian, 301-753-6754 or ghebelian@comcast.net. VA Compiler: Kurt Gaskill, 703-768-2172 or kurtcapt87@verizon.com.

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

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

Monday, December 31

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

Tuesday, January 1

☛ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Bowie, MD.** Compiler: David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375, mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

☛ **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 along Stone Hill Rd. All cars need to park on the same side of the road. Leader: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-557-2456.

☛ **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 birdsindm@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 boat ramp of Centennial Park. Expect moderate walking. Possibility of lunch stop depending on the weather. Facilities at some spots. Leader: Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361.

Wednesday, January 2

☛ **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.

Thursday, January 3

MEETING. **Frederick.** Mike's Bird Quiz! Your bird identification skills will be challenged as Mike Welch presents a series of photos. 7 PM at Homewood at Cruiland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

Friday, January 4

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** Dan Haas will reveal some of Anne Arundel Co's birding hotspots and show off his dazzling photography. 7:30 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville. For add'l info contact Barbara Johnson at barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

☛ **Frederick.** First-Friday Trip. Leader and destination TBA. Meet at 8 AM at Culler Lake in Baker Park to join this half-day trip. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org.

Saturday, January 5

☛ **CHRISTMAS COUNT - Calmes Neck, VA.** Compiler:

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Christmas Bird Count continued from page 18

Margaret Wester, 540-837-2799 or margaretwester@hotmail.com. This count includes much of far-western Loudoun as well as Clarke Counties.

Sunday, January 6

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. Ocean City to Cape Henlopen. Searching for

winter coastal birds. Bring a lunch. Dress for the weather. Meet 7:30 AM Ward Museum parking lot. Contact leader Sam Dyke, 410-742-5497 for directions and more details.

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

Mammal Expert Needed!

The MOS/BBC nature collections at Cylburn Arboretum include a number of mounted mammals that are used for educational purposes. There is also a large collection of Antarctic marine mammal skulls, some of which may be rare and from endangered species. In the future the MOS/BBC Collections will focus primarily on ornithological specimens and we will probably be donating these mammal specimens to other educational and scientific institutions. The MOS/BBC Collections Committee needs someone with expertise to inventory (the skulls are already inventoried) and evaluate them. If you have a few hours to spend helping us, please contact Karen Morley at kdmorley@yahoo.com or 410 235-4001 (after Oct.15) - or Joan Cwi at jafjsc@verizon.net or 410 467-5352.

Karen Morley

2013 MOS Maine Scholarship Program

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the summer 2013 scholarship program, open to Maryland teachers, nature center staff, park rangers, and youth leaders. Recipients will attend weeklong ecology and ornithology workshops at the beautiful Hog Island Audubon camp in Maine. As many as 10 awards will be given, each valued at about \$1000, and cover tuition, room, and board for an intensive six days of field study and instruction in ecology, ornithology, conservation, or natural history. Travel expenses to and from the workshops are the responsibility of the recipient. The 2013 workshop selections and application process are the same as for 2012.

Maine Seabird Biology & Conservation May 31 – June 5 & Sept 8 – 13

Joy of Birding June 9 – 14 & June 23 – 28

Field Ornithology June 16 – 21

Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week July 18 – 23

Applications are due November 30, 2012 and selections are announced in January. Applicants are not required to be MOS members. All members are asked to publicize this opportunity to seek possible candidates. More information is available on the MOS website (www.mdbirds.org, select Education and then Scholarships). Questions? Please contact the Scholarship Chair at scholarships@mdbirds.org.

Tom Strikwerda

YMOS NEWS



YMOS News Fall 2012: Maryland Birds and Habitat Summer Program

MOS in conjunction with Washington College will once again offer the Maryland Birds and Habitats workshop this summer. The residential program will be offered from June 23 - 28, 2013 at Washington College. In addition to a wide variety of field activities, the group will learn how to use technology to locate bird observations and to report data on eBird. As last year the program will be offered concurrently for both educators and students incoming into grades 7 - 12.

The program is open to participants of all ability levels. Beginners will receive instruction on both visual and auditory identification. Participants will learn to bird by habitat and will use atlas strategies and technology to document bird breeding. All will also learn how to use eBird to record, store, and access data. The instructors will be Dr. Wayne Bell and George Radcliffe, YMOS Coordinator.

Application information and program details are available on the YMOS Webpage at <http://www.ymos.org/>. Some scholarships are available for both students and educators. Deadline for application is March 30, 2013. Applications can also be obtained from George Radcliffe at radclifg@gmail.com. MOS members should get this information into the hands of any potentially interested students or educators as soon as possible. Every year we have applications reaching us too late. We'd like to have an application from each chapter this year.

George Radcliffe

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Reminder: Volunteers are needed for the Christmas Bird Counts.
Please check the calendar for dates and locations.

Final Alert for the 2013 MOS Conference Pin Contest

What species will represent the 2013 Conference in Harford County? Perhaps a Yellow-throated, Kentucky, or Cerulean Warbler from Susquehanna State Park or a Bald Eagle from Conowingo Dam.

The deadline for artists wishing to submit their entries must get them to Ellen Lawler by January 17, 2013. The rules are simple: the bird must be appropriate for the conference site; it must contain the phrases "MOS" and "2013;" the artist must be a member of MOS; and entries must be in **HARD COPY**. To see all the rules, and more tips about designing pins for the contest, visit the MOS web site or contact Ellen.

Put your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, chapter affiliation, and the species on the back of each entry. Send the entries to Ellen Lawler, 412 Monticello Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801. If you have questions, contact her at emlawler@salisbury.edu or 410-546-9056.

Janet Shields

IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY WORKDAY SCHEDULED

Dotty Mumford has scheduled the Irish Grove Fall Workday for Saturday, November 3, 2012. Irish Grove is a sanctuary of the Maryland Ornithological Society and is located near Crisfield in Somerset County, Md. Workdays are scheduled twice a year, with reliance on volunteers to help keep the sanctuary in shape. The workday is a wonderful opportunity not only to help with upkeep on this MOS property, but also to bird in a wonderful marshland setting. Canoeing (bring your own) is also possible as well as a foray to Chincoteague. The sanctuary has overnight facilities and several trails. A major project this workday will be to make repairs to the tower overlook on Round Pond Trail. Saturday lunch and dinner will be provided. Dotty will be arriving on Friday and leaving on Monday. More information and directions can be found at:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/igrove.html>.