



News from the 'Hood

Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



Upcoming Meetings and Speaker Programs

Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership: A United Voice for Maryland's Birds

Presented by Chris Eberly



The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (<https://marylandbirds.org>) was launched in 2014 to build the foundation of a collaborative, sustained effort to conserve Maryland birds and their habitat. Modeled after Partners in Flight, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and other state-level efforts, MBCP is a coalition of government agencies, non-governmental groups, and citizen stakeholders that combines efforts to ensure the long-term health of native bird populations. To undertake this complex goal, MBCP facilitates collaboration on land conservation, research, data gathering and collation, citizen-science monitoring, outreach, and education. The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership is giving birds one united voice in Maryland. Chris will describe how and where the Partnership is working and how you can become a part of this exciting conservation initiative.

About the presenter: Chris Eberly is Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. A Marylander by birth, he worked in the computer industry for 11 years before returning to graduate school at the University of Georgia. After graduating with an M.S. in natural resources/ornithology, Chris coordinated the Department of Defense's bird conservation program (DoD Partners in Flight program) for 17 years. He then served as Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Chris is excited to return to his roots to help make MBCP the leader in bird conservation in Maryland and beyond.

Monthly meetings are held in the
College Park Airport Operations Building, 2nd Floor
1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive
College Park, MD 20740
Free and open to the public

In This Issue

Upcoming Meetings	1
Officers and Directors	2
Field Trips	3
Christmas Bird Counts	5
Hart-Miller Island Update	7
Alert: Banded Sparrows	9
Irish Grove Update	10
New on the PBC Website	11
Patuxent River Conference	11
PG Bird Sightings	12
Conservation Alert: MAGLEV High Speed Train	13
News from around the Web	14
Submissions Invited	16
Time to Renew	16
Membership Application	17
Sanctuary Donation Form	18

Upcoming Meetings and Speaker Programs, *continued*

Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm

Annual Holiday Social and Movie Night



Join the Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George's Audubon Society for popcorn and other refreshments to enjoy during our annual movie night. One of the movies will be ***Birds of May***, filmed in May 2016 on the beaches of the Delaware Bay. The short movie is filmmaker Jared Flesher's ode to the natural spectacle of the Red Knot's annual visit to the Delaware Bay. What makes the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) remarkable is its epic journey of 19,000 miles per year, from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic Circle and back again, one of the longest migrations in the animal kingdom. The film is also an investigation of a potential new threat to Red Knot survival: the expansion of oyster aquaculture onto Red Knot feeding grounds. Against the scenic backdrop of the bay, Flesher interviews both oyster farmers and the shorebird biologists who fear that an oyster farming boom here could push the Red Knot closer to extinction.

One or more additional films on birds and/or conservation may be added to the evening's roster; final movie titles TBA at a later date, so check www.patuxentbirdclub.org for more information.

Patuxent Bird Club Officers & Directors

President	Fred Fallon	fwallon@ymail.com
Vice-President	Marcia Watson	marshwren50@comcast.net
Treasurer/Memberships	Jane Fallon	jefallon90@yahoo.com
First Year Directors (Term 2016-2018)	Peter Hanan David Mozurkewich Barbara Ricciardi	peter.hanan@icloud.com mozurk@bellatlantic.net barbararicciardi27@gmail.com
Second Year Directors (Term 2017-2019)	Ken Cohen Ikumi Kayama	kvulture@aol.com ikumikayama@mail.com
Representatives to MOS State Board	Fred Fallon Marcia Watson	fwallon@ymail.com marshwren50@comcast.net
Field Trip Coordinator Hospitality Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	David Mozurkewich Lynn Kenny Marcia Watson	mozurk@bellatlantic.net pattylynn46@gmail.com marshwren50@comcast.net

Visit us on the web at www.patuxentbirdclub.org





Upcoming Field Trips & Bird Walks

As always, all field trips are co-sponsored with the Prince George's Audubon Society.

Thursday, November 2, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, November 4, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area

Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com).

Wednesday, November 15, 9 am - Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge



Meet at the Bowie Park and Ride to carpool to Blackwater for wintering waterfowl, eagles and other raptors, lingering shorebirds and songbirds. Reservations required; limited to 10 participants. Must contact the leader, David Mozurkewich, (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net), in advance for reservations.

Thursday, November 16, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, November 18, 7:30 am - Governor Bridge Natural Area

Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Route 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Saturday, December 2, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area

Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com).

Sunday, December 3, 8 am - Piscataway National Park

Field trip to this National Park Service facility on the Potomac River in the southwest corner of Prince George's County, for wintering waterfowl, gulls, and songbirds. Meet at the fishing area at the north end of Wharf Road. From the DC Beltway (I-495), go south on Route 210/Indian Head Highway, then right (west) on Farmington Rd. West. Continue on Farmington Rd. to a sharp curve to the left, where you should turn right (north) onto Wharf Road (large wooden sign at intersection reads "Farmington Landing"). Follow Wharf Rd. to its end at the fishing area/boat launch. Contact the leader, David Mozurkewich, (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net), for more information.



Tuesday, December 5, 9 am- Seasons at South Tract

One of a series of quarterly bird walks at the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. We will walk some of the trails and will stop at the bird feeding area by the Visitor Center. Be prepared to walk up to 2.5 miles. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include wintering waterfowl, sparrows and small woodland birds such as

Upcoming Field Trips and Bird Walks, *continued*



kinglets. Additional walks will be in March and June, to explore the seasonal variation in bird use of the South Tract habitats. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered solar recharging station for electric vehicles. For directions, see <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html>. For more information, contact Ken Cohen (kvulture@aol.com).

Thursday, December 7, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, December 16, 7:30 am - Governor Bridge Natural Area

Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Route 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, December 17 - Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count

See accompanying article for details.

Thursday, December 21, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Sunday, January 1, 2018 - Bowie Christmas Bird Count

See accompanying article for details.

Thursday, January 4, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.



Saturday, January 6, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area

Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com).

Thursday, January 18, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, January 20, 7:30 am - Governor Bridge Natural Area

Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Route 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Make Your Birding Count: Volunteers Needed for Christmas Bird Counts in Our Area



Volunteers are needed to census birds near Bowie and near Jug Bay for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. Each Christmas Bird Count is conducted on a specific date within a pre-determined circle of 15 miles in diameter.

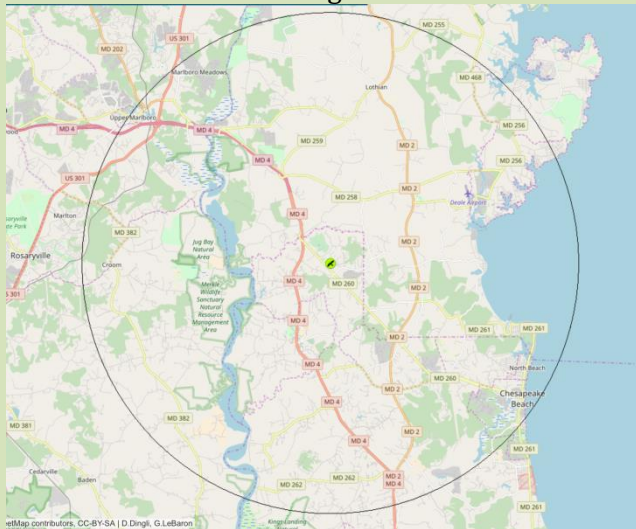
If you live within a count circle, you can do a feeder count at your home. Or perhaps you would like to count birds in your favorite park or natural area within the count circle. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize. You must contact the compiler prior to the day of the count to confirm the area you will cover.

Our two local counts are:

Sunday, December 17, 2017 Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count

As shown below, the count circle includes parts of Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Calvert Counties, and is centered in Bowie.

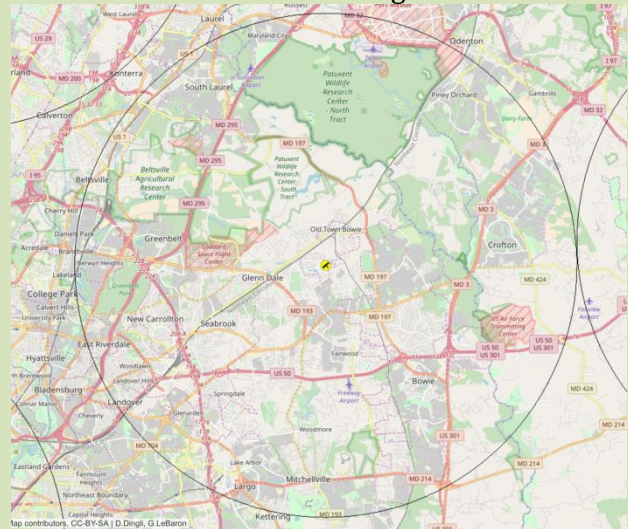
Contact compiler Sam Droege, sdroege@usgs.gov, to be put in touch with a sector leader to receive an area assignment.



Monday, January 1, 2018 Bowie Christmas Bird Count

As shown below, the count circle includes parts of Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties and is centered just east of Jug Bay.

Contact compiler David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, to volunteer and to receive an area assignment.



Additional Christmas Bird Counts in Maryland and Nearby

The following list shows the contact information for each count compiler. For all counts, you must sign up prior to the day of the count, in order to be assigned to a count area within the circle. Compilers work hard to ensure that there is even coverage within the circle.

Christmas Bird Counts, *continued*

For an interactive map of Christmas Bird Count circles, see

<http://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=3dcefef2f4654a94960fc3c8d1cfcc6d>

Saturday, December 16

- Allegany County. Contact JB Churchill, 301-697-1223 or jchurchi@atlanticbb.net.
- Denton (Caroline County). Contact Steve Westre, swestre26@comcast.net.
- Catoctin Mountain (Frederick County). Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.
- Charles Town, WV. Includes a portion of MD in Washington Co. Contact Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.
- Oakland (Garrett County). Contact Connie Skipper, connieskipper@hohnet.net.
- Middle River (eastern Baltimore County). Contact Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.
- Triadelphia Reservoir (Montgomery and Howard Counties, small portion in Prince George's). Contact David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com.
- Washington County. Contact Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432- 7696.
- Washington, DC. Contact Carol Hayes, carol.hayes@ANShome.org or 301- 652-9188 x10 or Larry Cartwright, at prowarbler@verizon.net.
- York, PA. (Includes a portion of northern Carroll County, MD). Contact Bernard Frick, 717-843-6675 or bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu.

Sunday, December 17

- Elkton (Cecil County). Contact Russell Kovach, russell.kovach@gmail.com.
- Lower Kent County. Contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.
- Manassas-Bull Run, VA. Contact Bob Shipman, ships333@yahoo.com.
- Nassawadox (Lower Eastern Shore in VA). Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com.
- Point Lookout (St. Mary's County). Contact Andy Brown, Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov.
- Port Tobacco (Charles County). Contact Mike Callahan, raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or 240- 765-5192.
- Salisbury (Wicomico and Somerset Counties). Contact Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.
- Seneca (Montgomery County, MD plus portion in VA). Contact Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net.
- Southern Lancaster Co, PA. Contact Bob Schutsky, info@birdtreks.com.
- St. Michael's (Talbot County). Special count with YMOS. Contact Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu.

Monday, December 18

- Southern Dorchester County. Contact Bruce Peterjohn, bpeterjohn@usgs.gov.

Saturday, December 23

- Calmes Neck, VA. Contact Margaret Wester, 540-336-9813 or margaretwester@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, December 27

- Crisfield (Somerset County). Contact Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net.

Thursday, December 28

- Central Loudoun County, VA (includes portion along C&O Canal in Montgomery Co, MD). Contact Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542 or joecoleman@rstarmail.com.
- Ocean City (Worcester County). Contact Mark Hoffman, wcbirding@gmail.com or 443-223- 4587.

Christmas Bird Counts, *continued*

Saturday, December 30

- Cape Charles, VA (Lower Eastern Shore). Contact George Armistead, armistead.george@gmail.com, or Ned Brinkley, thalassoica@gmail.com.
- Lancaster, PA. Contact Barbara Hunsberger and Roger Stoner, 717-393- 9030.
- Rock Run (Harford and Cecil Counties). Contact Rick Cheicante, rickcheicante@cs.com.

Sunday, December 31

- Annapolis/Gibson Island (Anne Arundel County). Contact Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, 410- 647-7439 or hal.lynn@comcast.net and Sue Ricciardi, 410- 647-9513 or susiericc@comcast.net.
- Chesterville (Kent & Queen Anne's Counties). Contact Maren Gimpel, 912-660-1541.
- Fort Belvoir, VA (includes portion in MD). Contact Kurt Gaskill, kurtcapt87@verizon.net or for MD sector, contact Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097
- Lititz, PA. Ted Nichols II, 717-856-3851 or tanicholsii@gmail.com.
- Patuxent River (St. Mary's and Calvert Counties). Contact Andy Brown, Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov.
- Sugarloaf Mountain (Frederick and Montgomery Counties with small portion in VA). Contact Janet Millenson, janet@twocrows.com.

Friday, January 5

- Inwood, WV. Contact Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.
- Smith Island, MD and Tangier Island, VA. New count circle. Dependent on availability of hotels, restaurants, ferries, etc. Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com for further information.

Update: Hart-Miller Island Birding Opportunities

Following our club's successful Birding by Bus trip on Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore County) on May 24, 2017 (64 species seen: see complete list at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S37123379>),



the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) and Maryland Environmental Service (MES), who sponsored our trip, have decided to provide two annual Birding by Bus trips to Hart-Miller. These trips will be scheduled in April/May and in August/September each year. MPA and MES will provide a boat to take participants to the island and a bus for the tour on the island, free of charge. MES will also supply a birding leader. Space will be limited to 20 participants, based on capacity of the boat. The trips will be open to anyone and will be announced in advance via the MD & DC Birding

Google Group (<http://www.mdbirding.com/>). You must reserve a seat in advance and demand will be high, so watch for the notices and be prepared to sign up immediately. Contact information will be provided in the notice to the MD & DC Birding Google Group.

There are additional opportunities to visit Hart-Miller Island. If you have a boat, you can visit the the South Cell of Hart-Miller on your own. The South Cell (occupying about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the island) is now administered by the Maryland State Park Service and is open to the public Thursdays

Hart-Miller Island Update, *continued*

through Mondays from 11 am. to 4 pm. The State Park facility also includes a beach, camping area and observation platform on the northwest shore of the island. You must provide your own boat; there are no ferries or boat shuttles. Hart-Miller Island and nearby Pleasure Island (also administered by the State Park Service) are open year-round. A drinking water station and restrooms are available at the camping area on Hart-Miller Island; however, these facilities are only available May through September. At night, the island is closed to everyone except registered campers.



Along with regular day use amenities, State Park visitors can rent bicycles to ride around the South Cell. Staff on the island will also have light concessions for sale such as sodas and snacks, or you can bring your own. Note that glass containers are prohibited on the Island.

Please note: the North Cell of Hart-Miller Island is currently closed to the public. While the island is no longer receiving dredged material, until further notice only the South Cell and the small portion on the northwest side of the island which includes the beach, camping area, restrooms, and drinking water station are open to the public. See

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/central/hartmiller.aspx> for more details.



Yet a third way to visit Hart-Miller Island is to go along on one of the weekly bird surveys conducted by members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. These surveys take place on foot and cover the whole island (North and South Cells), requiring a walk of 7 to 8 miles. The surveys generally take the entire day. Usually, the bird survey is conducted each Monday, but the schedule is subject to change because of weather and other considerations. A seat on the MES workers' boat is provided at no charge, but seats are limited. If you wish to go along, contact Kevin Graff at

keyweststyle2001@gmail.com by Thursday evening of any week to inquire about the schedule and availability of seats for the coming week.



To date, 299 bird species have been recorded on Hart-Miller Island. Every Maryland birder should try to visit at least once to experience the unique habitats on the island.



Be on the Alert for Banded Sparrows

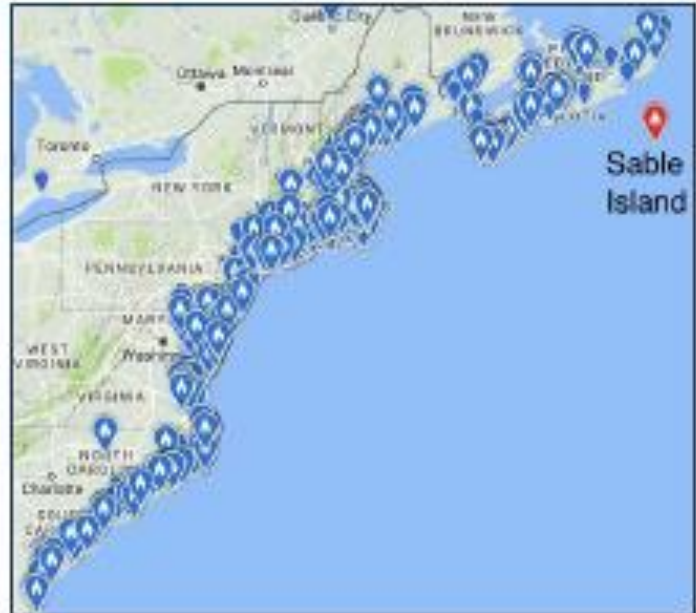
The Ipswich Sparrow Project

Ipswich Sparrows breed on Sable Island, Nova Scotia, but migrate through mainland beaches en route to their wintering grounds in the eastern USA. Sable Island is a relatively small target; how many sparrows survive the journey?

Students from Acadia and Dalhousie Universities have banded 250 sparrows to help answer this question. **We now need your help finding these banded sparrows on the mainland!**

When to Look: October to May.

Where to Look: Sandy dune beaches where marram grass grows, from Massachusetts to Georgia.



Range of Ipswich Sparrows (eBird)



Ipswich Sparrow with red/white split over aluminum bands on the right leg, and black, white, and blue bands on the left leg (Photo: D. Currie).

How to Report: Sparrows have 3 colored bands on the left leg and 1 colored band on the right leg (over an aluminum band).

Tell us where you saw the sparrow, its band colors (from top to bottom on each leg), and the date. Please include photos if you have them!

Send us an [email](mailto:ipswichsparrows@gmail.com), [post on our Facebook page](#), or include Ipswich Sparrows on an [eBird](#) checklist and describe the colored bands in the comments.



Sparrows are wearing 7 possible color bands: red/white split, red, green, blue, yellow, black, and white.

Email: ipswichsparrows@gmail.com

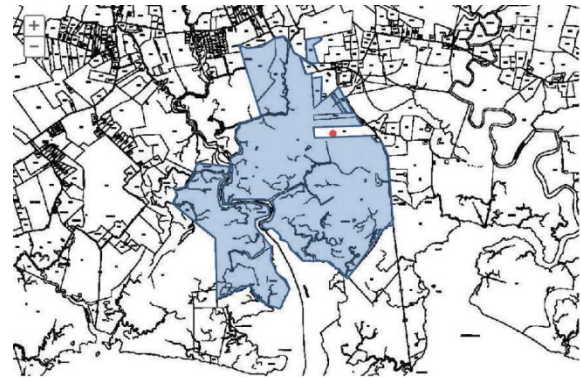
Facebook: [The Ipswich Sparrow Project](#)



Update on Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary

As I reported during my presentation on the MOS Sanctuaries at our September 2017 meeting, the MOS Sanctuary Committee recently became aware of an opportunity to purchase additional land for the Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary in Somerset County. The Committee was given approval by the MOS Board of Directors to enter negotiations for the purchase of the property, and I am happy to report that the purchase of the parcel has been completed, bringing the total size of Irish Grove to 1,610 acres.

The new parcel consists of 32 acres fronting on Rumbly Point Road, just a short distance north of the main entrance to the MOS Sanctuary. The map at right shows the Irish Grove Sanctuary shaded in blue with the new purchase shown as a white rectangle marked with a small red dot. The new acquisition will be known as the ***Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Tract at Irish Grove***, in honor of the Robbins' many hours of dedicated work at Irish Grove and their great love for the place.




The parcel was privately owned and was used primarily for deer hunting. There are no buildings on the property. The \$40,000 purchase price was funded partially by a bequest from the estate of the late Chandler Robbins, and partially by a withdrawal from the MOS Sanctuary Fund. Under normal circumstances, interest from the Sanctuary Fund investments is used to finance annual sanctuary maintenance expenses, and withdrawals of principle are not made. MOS is embarking on a fund-raising campaign to replenish the Sanctuary Fund; **MOS hopes that you will give generously using the donation form at the back of this newsletter.**

Marcia Watson
Sanctuary Committee Member




Photos from real estate listing on the new parcel

New on the PBC Website



Patuxent Bird Club – Prince George's Audubon Society
Calendar of Field Trips and Meeting Programs
Fall 2017 – Summer 2018



Saturday
 September 2
 7:30 am
 Bird Walk

Tran Ulher Natural Area. Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 187 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton (kwisuits@msn.com).

Thursday
 September 7
 3 pm
 Bird Walk

Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (dmzurk@bellsouth.net) for more information. Note start time is 3 pm September through March.

Tuesday
 September 12
 7:30 pm
 doors open at 7 pm

Monthly Meeting & Speaker Program

From Mountains to Saltmarsh: Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries, presented by Marcia Watson

The Maryland Ornithological Society owns nine sanctuaries, totaling over 2,100 acres, spanning the state from Garrett County in the western part of the state, to Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. All of the sanctuaries are open to the public every day of the year, at no charge, and represent a microcosm of the habitats for birds in Maryland. Many people are aware of the Carey Run and Irish Grove Sanctuaries, where work-days are held each year, but the other sanctuaries are seldom visited. Drawing on the files of the MOS Sanctuary Committee, historic accounts in Maryland journals, and photos and materials provided by MOS members across the state, Marcia will review the history of the MOS Sanctuary Program, provide profiles and show maps and photos of all the sanctuaries, discuss the birds and habitats found there, and will cover some of the challenges that MOS faces in managing the properties. Marcia will conclude with suggestions on how interested individuals can become involved with the sanctuaries.

About the Presenter: Marcia Watson is a long-time member of the Maryland Ornithological Society. She was a founding member of the Cecil Bird Club, and served that chapter as president and webmaster. She now lives in Bowie and is Vice-President of the Patuxent Bird Club. Marcia recently joined the MOS Sanctuary Committee and is working to foster awareness of the sanctuaries among MOS members and the public. Interested in biology and the outdoors from the time she was a little girl, Marcia holds a doctoral degree in Biological Sciences, and for over 20 years specialized in research dealing with the environmental signals that animals use to coordinate their life cycles with seasonal changes such as daylength and temperature. Marcia is now retired and is concentrating on getting to know the great birding sites that Prince George's County has to offer.

Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 pm for 7:30 pm meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Building, 2nd Floor, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park, MD 20740

Saturday
 September 16
 7:30 am
 Bird Walk

Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Route 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday
 September 17
 Fall Bird Count

Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact the county compiler David Mozurkewich (dmzurk@bellsouth.net) to receive an assigned area and for more information.

The PBC website has continued to grow and evolve, thanks to suggestions and contributions from many club members. Recently added to the **Calendars** page are two calendars that can be downloaded in PDF format.

The first calendar (snapshot at left) is an 11-page booklet with details for all the field trips, bird counts and meetings/speaker programs for the club year from September 1, 2017 through August 18, 2018.

Also available is a 12-month calendar in traditional calendar-grid format (snapshot below), with field trips, bird counts and meetings/speaker programs shown on appropriate dates, but due to space limitations, no details are given.

Both PDF calendars are formatted to be printer-friendly. The website also continues to display the complete calendar of events in scrollable format.

Download your printable calendars at

patuxentbirdclub.org/calendar-2/

Patuxent Bird Club/Prince George's Audubon Society Calendar, 2017-2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
NOVEMBER 2017						
			1	2 Bird Walk: Lake Artemesia, 6 pm	3	4 Bird Walk: Fran Ulher Natural Area, 7:30 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Meeting: College Park Airport, 7 pm Chris Easley, "MOS Bird Conservation Partnership"	15 Field Trip: Blackwater NWR, reservations req'd	16 Bird Walk: Lake Artemesia, 6 pm	17	18 Bird Walk: Gov. Bridge Natural Area, 7:30 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

For details go to <http://patuxentbirdclub.org/calendar-2/>

Upcoming Event: Patuxent River Conference

December 6, 2017 --- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD

The Patuxent River Conference (PAXCON) is the premier forum uniting scientists, environmental educators, natural resource managers, and anyone passionate about the health and future of the Patuxent River. To know and understand the Patuxent River is to take one more step towards its protection.

PAXCON 2017 will link science to management while exploring four important river and watershed stories: invasive species, habitat restoration, living shorelines, and stormwater best management practices.

To learn more and to register, visit www.paxcon.org/.

PG Bird Sightings Round-Up

It's fall, and birds are on the move, with some birds migrating through our county on their way to warmer areas, and others arriving to settle in for the winter. Here's a smattering of interesting birds reported to eBird or the MD/DC Birding Google Group during September and October.

Possibly the best bird of the preceding two months was an immature **White Ibis** at Patuxent River Park/Jackson Landing on Sep. 11 (Jeff Shenot) and possibly the same bird on Sep. 12 at Schoolhouse Pond (Fred Shaffer; photo at right by Shaffer, Macaulay Library ML68718301).



A **Black-bellied Plover** was at Patuxent River Park/Jackson Landing on Sep. 12 (Jeff Shenot). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at a Clinton airfield on Sep. 2 (Jeff Shenot). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen feeding in hydrilla mats on the Potomac near the Wilson Bridge on Sep. 4 (Mark Rositol) and on Sep. 5 (Warren Strobel). A **Franklin's Gull** was seen by Jeff Shenot at Patuxent River Park/Jackson Landing on Sep. 11. **Black Terns** were near the Wilson Bridge on Sep. 4 (Mark Rositol).



Yellow-billed Cuckoos lingered in our area until mid-October. Joe Wolf caught one on camera (photo at left, used with permission of the photographer) at Piscataway Park on Sep. 8, and reported to the MD/DC Birding Google Group that YBCU was a nemesis bird that had eluded his camera for two years. A **Barn Owl**, now little reported in our county, was seen at Patuxent River Park/Jackson Landing on Sep. 3 (Bill Townsend). Big flights of **Common Nighthawks** occurred in early Sep. through early October, including a high of 29 at the College Park Airport on Sep. 29 (Kevin Bennett).

Two or more **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in mid- to late-September (Michel Cavigelli et al.) A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was there on Sep. 14 (Jeff Shenot). An **Alder Flycatcher** was in a residential neighborhood in north Bowie on Sep. 11 (Hans Holbrook).

A **Bicknell's Thrush** was found in a north Bowie neighborhood on Sep. 20 (Hans Holbrook). A **Connecticut Warbler** was found at BARC on Sep. 14 (Hans Holbrook), and again on Oct. 10 (Hans Holbrook). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at BARC on Sep. 10 (Hans Holbrook) and in the adjoining Greenbelt residential neighborhood on Sep. 11 (Michel Cavigelli). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was reported from Patuxent River Park/Milltown Landing on Oct. 18 (Mark Johnson) and from Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 27 (Fred Shaffer).



One or two **Dickcissels** were at BARC on Oct. 4-6 (Hans Holbrook, Thomas Ostrowski). A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at BARC on Oct. 19 and 20 (Gail Mackiernan, Jeff Shenot). A **Bobolink** was at BARC on Oct. 4 (Jeff Shenot) and another at Oxon Hill Farm on Oct. 19 (Mark Rositol, photo at right, Macaulay Library ML72371301).

Conservation Alert: MAGLEV High Speed Train

As many are aware from reports in the news media, a private consortium is developing plans to build an ultra-high-speed train (reaching 300 mph) that would carry passengers between Baltimore and Washington in about 15 minutes. Only three passenger stations would be built: in Baltimore, in Washington, and at BWI Airport. There would be no local stops.

This train would be built using the same technology as the “bullet train” in Japan, and in fact, part of the funding would be provided by a Japanese company.

Earlier this year, the consortium released information showing 6 possible routes that the train might take. All six routes passed through Prince George’s County, going through Bowie or Greenbelt. Two of the potential routes ran, in part, along the BW&A Trail in Bowie, two ran along the existing Amtrak corridor through Bowie, and two ran parallel to the BW Parkway near Greenbelt. See the map at

http://www.bwmaglev.info/images/boards/april_2017/alignment_map_2017_7_17.pdf.

Recently, the consortium announced that it had narrowed the possibilities to three routes, as shown in the interactive map at <http://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/web-application:>

1. The “E1 Amtrak Modified” route is aligned with the existing Amtrak line in Prince George’s County. This route passes through Bowie near Bowie State University and Old Town Bowie. It then swerves southwest toward Hyattsville and enters DC.
2. The “J1-BP Modified West Route” runs through Prince George’s County on the west side of the BW Parkway.
3. The “J1-BP Modified East Route” runs through Prince George’s County on the east side of the BW Parkway.

All three of the routes currently being considered pass along the boundary of, or very near to, the Patuxent Research Refuge.

Significantly, all three routes include proposed maintenance yards that are quite large. The map at <http://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/web-application> shows these yards as rectangles outlined in dark red. Note that the map layers can be manipulated to visualize wetlands, streams, and other natural features.

- The maintenance yard for the “E1 Amtrak Modified” route lies adjacent to Bowie State University, occupying the land now set aside as the Fran Uhler Natural Area. The yard would extend almost from the Patuxent River at its northeast edge, across the existing Route 197 highway, and would reach residential areas just northeast of Old Town Bowie. The boundaries of the yard lie within wetland areas adjacent to the river.
- One maintenance yard for the “J1-BP Modified West Route” and the “J1-BP Modified East Route” lies along the south side of Route 198, on the north edge of the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge (erroneously labeled “Patuxent Environmental Science Center” on some of the MAGLEV maps). A stream flows through this proposed yard.
- A second maintenance yard for the “J1-BP Modified West Route” and the “J1-BP Modified East Route” lies along the south side of Powder Mill Road, spanning from Soil Conservation Road across Springfield Road, on land currently owned by the Beltsville

Agricultural Research Center (BARC). This maintenance yard would be very close to the northwest corner of the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge and would impact wetland areas and streams.

Given their placement, the proposed maintenance yards and the high-speed rail lines themselves would cause significant loss of habitat and would have impacts on rivers, streams, and wetland resources.

Detailed analysis of the remaining three options will occur over the next several months by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of Maryland. It is still possible that the project may be halted entirely. Note that the official statement from the City of Bowie is: "The City remains opposed to any routes through Bowie and will continue to monitor the matter closely."

Your input is needed. Please become informed and involved!

1. Study carefully the information available at <http://www.bwmaglev.info/>.
2. You may want to sign up to receive updates by submitting your email address at <http://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/public-involvement/join-our-mailing-list>.
3. You may want to attend meetings scheduled by the MAGLEV consortium. These are listed at <http://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/public-involvement/upcoming-meetings>.
4. Please also submit your comments to the MAGLEV consortium by using the comment form at <http://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/contact-us>.
5. In addition, please consider contacting your local legislators (town and county) and your state representatives with your comments and concerns. These elected officials want to hear from you. In Bowie and other towns, some of the elected officials have been quite involved in informing their constituents and in helping to organize groups who oppose the project.
6. There are also local citizen groups springing up in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties to oppose the project. Many have Facebook pages or websites. You might want to attend meetings and be involved with a group in your area.

News from around the Web

Maryland DNR Releases Results of Annual Wild Turkey Survey



The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/10/05/wild-turkey-survey-indicates-slight-improvement/) recently completed the annual [Summer Wild Turkey Observation Survey](http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/10/05/wild-turkey-survey-indicates-slight-improvement/). The reproduction index of 2.3 poults per adult hen was below the 15-year average of 3 poults per hen, but slightly higher than the record-low 2016 index of 2 poults per hen. A poult is a young turkey hatched this spring or summer. For more details, see <http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/10/05/wild-turkey-survey-indicates-slight-improvement/>

Photo by D. Gordon E. Robertson from DNR website

Maryland DNR Announces New State Park

The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) is pleased to announce that the property formerly known as Friends Delight has officially renamed and dedicated as [Sang Run State Park](#). The property, which includes the Friends Store, election house, farm, and waterfront property known as "the greens" was donated to the state in 2008 and has been managed by the [Maryland Park Service](#) and the staff at nearby [Deep Creek Lake State Park](#). For more details, see [http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/09/18/sang-run-state-park-dedicated-at-annual-fall-fest./](http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/09/18/sang-run-state-park-dedicated-at-annual-fall-fest/)

The Friends Delight property in Garrett County was the site of several field trips for the 2017 MOS Conference at Wisp Resort in McHenry.

Blackwater and Other NWRs Receive Funding from Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met in September and approved more than \$5.4 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to secure 2,259 acres at six National Wildlife Refuges, including Blackwater NWR. The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission considers and approves areas of land or water recommended by the Secretary of the Interior for purchase or rental by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

These funds were raised largely through the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps."

Investments for habitat were made specifically for the following National Wildlife Refuges:

- **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland: \$663,000**
- Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey: \$867,600
- Great River National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri: \$677,500
- San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, Texas: \$1,211,500
- Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey: \$440,300
- Swan River National Wildlife Refuge, Montana: \$1,568,000

Source: "*Wingtips*," the newsletter of the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, September 13, 2017. Archived at <http://www.friendsofthestamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Wingtips-13-September-2017.pdf>

2017 Federal Duck Stamp Competition Results

Judging for the 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Competition was held September 15 and 16 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The five species eligible for artwork illustration in this year's contest were:

- Mallard
- Gadwall
- Cinnamon Teal
- Blue-winged Teal
- Harlequin Duck.



Federal Duck Stamp Competition, *continued*

Bob Hautman, an artist from Delano, Minn., is the winner with an acrylic painting of a pair of mallards (photo above). This is Bob Hautman's third time winning the contest: his art previously appeared on the 1997-1998 and 2001-2002 Federal Duck Stamps.

The new stamp will go on sale in June 2018. The Federal Duck Stamp sells for \$25 and raises nearly \$40 million each year to provide critical funds to conserve and protect wetland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of people.

The artwork for all 215 entries in the 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Competition can be viewed online at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq/sets/72157686451028213>.

Source: <http://www.birdingwire.com/releases/414214/>

Photo of winning entry provided by USFWS.

Your Submissions Invited

Do you have an idea for an article you would like to see published in a future issue of *News from the Hood*? Send a note with your suggestion or, better yet, a draft article to the editor, Marcia Watson at marshwren50comcast.net. Worried that you're not a good writer? No worries – Marcia will happily help with your article. Deadline for submission of completed articles is the 20th of even-numbered months (August, October, December, February, and April). If your article is just an idea, please allow more time to develop the text and to seek illustrations, if appropriate.



Time to Renew Your Club Membership!

It's not too late to renew your Patuxent Bird Club membership for the coming year. To renew your membership, or to join for the first time, please print and complete the form on the next page of this newsletter and send with your check to Treasurer Jane Fallon. The mailing address is on the form. Or, you can simply hand your check to Jane at the next meeting.

While you have your checkbook out, please consider adding a bit to the total amount as a donation to the Patuxent Bird Club. Remember that the Club is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and your dues and donation are tax deductible. Your donation will help us continue to provide quality speaker programs - our main expenses are the honoraria for speakers.





MOS/Patuxent Bird Club Membership Application



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone(s): _____

E-Mail: _____

Full dues include Chapter and MOS State membership, and subscriptions to *Maryland Yellowthroat*, *Maryland Birdlife*, and the Patuxent Bird Club Newsletter. (The newsletter will be sent by email unless US mail requested). Dues are tax-deductible; see note below.

Choose Membership category:

Chapter and State combined membership:

- ☐ Household \$33
- ☐ Individual \$26
- ☐ Junior (Age < 18) \$6

or

Chapter membership only:

(must be a full-paying member of another MOS chapter - indicate primary MOS chapter: _____)

- ☐ Household \$8
- ☐ Individual \$6
- ☐ Junior \$1

In addition, I have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution

☐ to Patuxent Bird Club in the amount of _____

☐ to Maryland Ornithological Society in the amount of _____

Make check payable to **Patuxent Bird Club** with this application to:

Jane Fallon, Treasurer PBC
6711 Venus Dr
Huntingtown, MD 20639

"The benefits received from Maryland Ornithological Society membership dues are not considered to be substantial, as determined by criteria in IRS Publication 526. Therefore, members can claim a tax deductible charitable contribution for the full amount of their membership dues."



Maryland Ornithological Society

Sanctuary Fund Donation Form

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is pleased to announce that the children of Chandler and Eleanor Robbins have presented MOS with a generous gift of property in Garrett County, to be known as the Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run. In addition, MOS is purchasing additional land to increase the size of the Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary. Part of the purchase price will come from a bequest from the late Chandler Robbins. To fund the remainder of the purchase price for the Irish Grove land, MOS is seeking donations for its Sanctuary Fund. Donated funds will also provide for ongoing maintenance and operations of the new Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run, as well as the other nine MOS sanctuaries across the state. MOS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

☐ Yes, I want to help the Maryland Ornithological Society maintain its sanctuaries and preserve the habitat so that future generations can continue to enjoy these special places.

Two ways to donate:

Please complete and mail this form with your check
(made payable to Maryland Ornithological Society) to:
David Webb, MOS Treasurer
4141 Quail Way
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Donate online through the PayPal Giving Fund using
your credit card or your PayPal account. Go to the MOS
Donation webpage at
<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2085860>

Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Member of (enter MOS Chapter or other organization): _____

Amount of Donation: _____

I wish to remain anonymous: ☐ or

Please acknowledge my gift in lists of donors published in the Maryland Yellowthroat and elsewhere ☐

The MOS Sanctuaries

1. **NEW:** The Chandler & Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run (Garrett County)
2. Carey Run Sanctuary (Garrett County)
3. Caroline W. Wilson Sanctuary (Garrett County)
4. Seymour B. Cooper Sanctuary (Frederick County)
5. Piscataway Sanctuary (Prince George's County)
6. Mandares Creek Sanctuary (Anne Arundel County)
7. Mill Creek Sanctuary (Talbot County)
8. Marengo Woods Sanctuary (Talbot County)
9. Myrtle Simon Pelot Sanctuary (Caroline County)
10. Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset County)

For more information on the MOS Sanctuaries,
please visit
www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/sanctuaries.html