



*Last Issue
until Fall*

News from the 'Hood

Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



Upcoming Meetings and Speaker Programs

Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm

Marshes for Tomorrow – The Fight to Save Maryland’s Salt Marshes from Sea Level Rise Presented by Dr. David R. Curson



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge lies at the heart of one of the largest tidal marsh complexes in the northeastern United States, which is recognized as an Important Bird Area (Southern Dorchester County IBA) supporting globally important populations of Black Rail and Saltmarsh Sparrow. Rapid sea level rise threatens the survival of this ecosystem during the current century. Audubon is working with Federal, State and NGO partners to ensure that Maryland’s salt marshes and their birds do survive, by implementing innovative strategies including thin-layer sediment application, removing salt-stressed trees to facilitate the transition of dying forests to salt marsh, and enhancing tidal exchange through hydrological management.

About the presenter: Dr. David Curson has worked as Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Maryland-DC since 2004, overseeing the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program and running conservation projects for birds and their habitats. In recent years, David’s work has focused on tidal marsh conservation and climate change issues in the Chesapeake Bay. David also teaches ecology classes at Johns Hopkins University as an adjunct professor. David received his B.Sc. in Ecology at the University of East Anglia, UK and earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His graduate research focused on the ecology and behavior of Brown-headed Cowbirds.

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

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Upcoming Meetings and Speaker Programs, *continued*

Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm

Members' Night

Join members of the Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George's Audubon Society as they present a few of their favorite photos and give brief presentations about their birding adventures. Members who wish to present must contact Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com no later than June 5 so that he can organize the agenda.



Welcome New Members!

- Mary & Derek Delia
- Ross Geredien
- Esther Woodworth



In Memoriam: Stuart B. Robbins



Stuart Robbins, known to all as "Stu," passed away on March 31, 2018. Stu had been admitted to the hospital on March 21 and was diagnosed with acute leukemia, to which he succumbed just 10 days later.

Stu was a long-time member of the Patuxent Bird Club, having been introduced to the club when he was still a youngster by his parents, Chandler and Eleanor Robbins. Stu was honored with a life membership upon celebration of 50 years of membership in May 2009. He was a regular participant in Spring Counts and Christmas Bird Counts in the Laurel area, and his name often appears with notable bird sightings in "The Seasons" reports in *Maryland Birdlife*.

Stu was also a life member of the Brooks Bird Club in West Virginia, and served as President in 2012-2013.

Besides his interest in birds and nature, Stu was a devoted fan of classic cars, notably Corvettes. His memorial service on April 14 in Laurel featured many items from his memorabilia, illustrating his interests in birds and in classic cars, and commemorating the several places that he worked.

The following obituary was published by the Donaldson Funeral Home in Laurel.

Stuart ("Stu") Bradley Robbins of Laurel, Maryland, died suddenly only one week into diagnosis and treatment of acute leukemia. Stu was born in Laurel, June 12, 1950, son of Chandler S. and Eleanor C. Robbins. He graduated from Laurel High School in 1968 and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Western Maryland College. His second marriage was to Kathleen DeGraff in Dec., 1996.

Continued on next page



In Memoriam: Stu Robbins, *continued*

During and after college, Stu was employed by Maryland Department of Corrections, YMCA (King's Landing Camp), and a Shell Service Station. He worked for C&P Telephone (later known as Bell Atlantic, then Verizon) for the next 32 years, as an operator, a lineman, and finally as a troubleshooting technician.

Stuart was a 50-plus-year member of the Maryland Ornithological Society and a 'life' member of the Brooks Bird Club where he served as a past president. He was also a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. Stu enjoyed traveling with his family on world birding adventures, visiting Trinidad, Panama, Spain, Equador, Australia, South Africa and more.

Stu's passion was working on and driving cars. He was a member of the National Corvette Museum. He founded the Corvette Pace Car Club and also participated in the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America. As you can tell, his favorite cars were Corvettes and other Chevrolets. He owned many over his lifetime.

As a youth at the First United Methodist Church of Laurel, and later with his wife Kathy at the First Alliance Church, Stu added his bass voice to the choir.

Stuart is survived by siblings Jane and Nancy of Maryland, and George of New Hampshire, and nieces Melissa and Michelle. Survivors also include step-children Debbie, Stephen, and Jennie as well as step-grandchildren Koby, Mason and Victoria, Austin, Erin and Sydney, Connor, McKenzie and Meadow.

Stuart could always be seen working on some project or assisting others with their projects. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1968.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Stuart's memory to the Brooks Bird Club, Wheeling, WV, the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA), Irving, TX, the First United Methodist Church of Laurel, Maryland, or to a charity of your choice. A memorial service [was] held at the First United Methodist Church of Laurel (424 Main Street) on April 14, 2018 at 2:00 PM.

Patuxent Bird Club Officers & Directors

President	Fred Fallon	fwfallon@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@gmail.com
Representatives to MOS State Board	Fred Fallon Marcia Watson	fwfallon@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 Elections for Patuxent Bird Club Officers & Directors

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Patuxent Bird Club, the following slate of nominees will be presented for election by the members at the meeting to be held on June 12, 2018.

Chapter Officers *(all officers serve one-year terms)*

President: Marcia Watson
Vice-President: Fred Fallon
Treasurer/Memberships: Jane Fallon (incumbent)
Secretary: open

Chapter Directors

For two-year terms from June 2018 through May 2020

Ken Cohen (incumbent)
Ross Geredien
Ikumi Kayama (incumbent)

**To fill an unexpired term until May 2019
(Current director is resigning because of illness)**

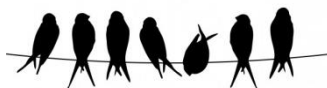
Pat Tate

**The following chapter directors have agreed to continue as previously elected for two-year terms
from June 2017 through May 2019 (no election needed)**

Peter Hanan
David Mozurkewich

Representatives to the MOS Board of Directors

Marcia Watson (ex-officio as President)
Fred Fallon





Upcoming Field Trips & Bird Walks

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



Thursday, May 3, 6 pm (Note: start time is 6 pm April through August) - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

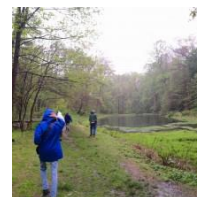
Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 6 pm at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information. (*Tree Swallow at Lake Artemesia, Photo by Hugh Vandervoort, Macaulay Library ML95516721*)

Saturday, May 5, 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).

Saturday, May 12, Spring Bird Count

Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. Pick your own start and stop times. See [related article starting on page 6](#) of this newsletter for details. Must contact the county compiler Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com to receive an assigned area and for more information.



Thursday, May 17, 6 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 6 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, May 19, 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, May 26, 7 am - Delaware Bayshore

Full day trip. Join leader Fred Fallon for our annual Memorial Day weekend shorebird hunt at the great refuges of the Delaware Bayshore. Migrating shorebirds are the main target species. We can also expect to see gulls, terns, some waterfowl, and waders. Exact route and stops will be determined by current bird reports and by tides. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, scope, and money for tolls and possible dinner stop. Reservations required. Carpool will leave from the Bowie Park and Ride at 7 am. Please contact Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com no later than May 20 to reserve your spot, and for more information. (*Photo of Bombay Hook NWR courtesy of USFWS.*)



Saturday, June 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).

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Upcoming Field Trips, *continued***Tuesday, June 5, 8 am – Seasons at South Tract**

Half-day walk. The last 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 Pollinator Garden bird feeding area by the Visitor Center. Be prepared to walk up to 2.5 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include late migrating landbirds and resident breeding birds. Meet at 8:00 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 further information, contact the leader, Ken Cohen at kvulture@aol.com.

Thursday, June 7, 6 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 6 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, June 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.

Thursday, June 21, 6 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area

Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 6 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.



Calling all Birders: Annual Spring Bird Count - May 12



By Fred Fallon

The annual "May Count" or "Spring Count" is the premier birding event of the spring migration season, timed to coincide with maximum species abundance, and is a great activity to be part of. The count is organized by county and volunteers have the whole county at their disposal, not just a restricted circle as in the Christmas Bird Counts. And now we are poised at a point where the May Counts are about to reveal more useful information than ever before (more below). So please plan to go out for at least an hour or two on count day and make a contribution to the effort while having fun doing what we all like to do anyway.

Some history. Since the 1940's, May Counts have been conducted in Maryland, and in some other states as well. They were intended to get an idea of the numbers of birds passing through, or returning to breeding grounds during spring migration, but there was little system to it. Counters were few, and the different states might hold their counts on different days. The Maryland count totals were compiled by county and

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May Count, *continued*

published in *Maryland Birdlife*. Over the years trends might emerge, and interesting highs and lows of particular species might occur from time to time, but after the initial excitement of the count day the printed numbers would lie in those pages undisturbed, like Mayan ruins in the jungle.

All this changed in 1992, when then-May Count compiler Jim Stasz had a brilliant insight: we may not be able to get that accurate a count of migrants, but if we count on the **same day all across the country** then at least we can get the shape of the advancing wave of migration, species by species. Many of the migrants will be missed. But any bird counted can be at only one place at a time. By pooling counts from a wide swath of the country, the pattern of distribution will emerge even if some areas are not well covered – in the same way a word or an image on a sign can still be made out even when much of it is erased.

So accordingly, the Maryland May Count contacted bird clubs in all the states and proposed they all hold their May Counts on the same day – the second Saturday of May. Moreover, some states had to be encouraged to get more birders out on count day and recruit state-wide through their local bird clubs, not just in traditionally high birder-density counties. Some sacrifices were needed: southern states liked an earlier date, while far northern ones would have rather waited until more migrants reached their latitudes. But agreement was reached; the network was extended to Canada (and to some extent Mexico); and the new-improved May Count became the “North American Migration Count,” and then eventually became “International Migratory Bird Day,” and more recently “Global Bird Migration Day” (see <http://www.migratorybirdday.org/about-wmbd/>). But it is still popularly called the “May Count.”

Today. In recent times Cornell’s eBird has arrived on the birding scene. Now observations can be entered by anyone on any day, and the wave of migration can be tracked day by day. Why then do we still need a specific May Count date? Because – most birders cannot put in the same intensive effort except for a few days during the migration period, and so it is still valuable to promote one day for a massive turn-out. In the future, “May Count” may indeed evolve to include two or more separate days, and some Maryland counties have already added such days to their schedule. But for now we still need county coordinators to allocate the areas covered, spreading the coverage optimally and avoiding overlap. Besides, not everyone uses eBird yet.

The future. The May Count (and its sister Fall Count), in conjunction with eBird, can help answer some questions about migration patterns that have only been nibbled at in past studies, such as: Do migrants really follow pathways or flyways? Do they avoid some geographic features? Favor others? Here in Maryland, do they tend to cross the Bay at its widest? Or narrowest? Do they favor one side of the Potomac going north, the other heading south? The late Chan Robbins speculated that migrants avoided certain counties, and even disposed of a land holding on that basis – was he right? Answers to these questions would help us decide which areas to try to protect. Time-lapse videos from sightings in eBird may give insights unguessed (see [related story on the new BirdCast migration maps from the Cornell Lab, page 13](#) in this newsletter).

How to take part.

- 1) Pick an area you would like to cover – as small as your back yard, or as ambitious as a favorite park or Wildlife Management Area. Choose to stay out for as long or short a period as you wish. This year we are encouraging more people to go afield, even if for only a short time in the morning. Two people out for just two hours in the early morning is better than one person out for four hours, because birds are so much more visible and audible just before and after sunrise, and because two pairs of human eyes and ears provide better detection capabilities.
- 2) **No later than Wednesday May 9, contact the Prince George’s County coordinator, Fred Fallon** (410-286-8152, or fwfallon@ymail.com) and specify your preferred area to count. If you don’t have

Continued on next page

May Count, *continued*

an area in mind, you can ask Fred for an assignment suitable for your experience and proximity to the site. If you're relatively new, you may wish to ask to accompany a more experienced birder. In our county, the Beltsville Agricultural Center (BARC) and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) have restricted access, so they have separate sub-coordinators operating in conjunction with site management. The county coordinator will refer you to those gate-keepers if you wish to count at those two sites, but be mindful that accommodation can't be guaranteed due to security regulations beyond their control. For sites in Anne Arundel County, such as the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract, contact AA County coordinator Dotty Mumford, 443-214- 5154, or dottymum@comcast.net.

- 3) Go out and count the birds on Saturday May 12!
- 4) Tear out the checklist provided on the last page of this newsletter (or download the form from <https://testmwww.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/may-count-checklist-2018.pdf>) and enter your day's totals for each species. Checklists may also be obtained from Fred Fallon. The checklist is in PDF format and is not an interactive file, and so must be printed and filled out by hand. Please enter actual numbers for each species seen, not a mere checkmark for birds seen or heard. Be sure to include the site name, the hours and miles you covered, and weather information. Then scan the form and e-mail it to the compiler, or mail it to Fred at the address shown on the form.

A word about the checklist. As you may know, taxonomists are always re-arranging the order of species listed on checklists, to the confusion of the rest of us. They can't help it, because ongoing DNA analyses reveal more of the evolutionary tree that has come down to the present diversity of species. For example, some parrots took a wrong turn somewhere and ended up as falcons even though not related to the hawks and eagles. ("But they're still raptors," argue some, "however they got there" – an issue for another day). This year's checklist reflects many recent changes – in case you can't find Kestrels at first, they now come after woodpeckers; House Sparrow and American Goldfinch now come after waxwings, and warblers are now almost last(!). So please use this list and not one from a previous year, and maybe look it over in advance.

A word about eBird. If you use eBird, by all means submit your May count sightings on eBird. However, Fred will still need to receive your total bird counts on the checklist provided.



A Potpourri of Upcoming Local Events



Lake Artemesia Clean-up and Planting

Saturday, May 5, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

(Postponed from previously announced date because of bad weather)

MNCPPC Conservation Coordinator and PGAS Board Member Lisa Bierer-Garrett is organizing a **cleanup and planting project at the Luther Goldman Memorial Bench & meadow habitat at Lake Artemesia**. This event was previously scheduled in March but was postponed because of a snow forecast.

Our project:

Bird club members are cordially invited to come out from 9:00 am-12:00 pm, to celebrate the Audubon "Plants for Birds" Initiative by planting new native plants and cleaning the area. Folks can park at the Lake Artemesia parking lot (corner of Berwyn Rd and 55th Ave.) and walk in to the garden area.

Baltimore Birding Weekend

May 18-20, 2018

Registration is open for Audubon's 2nd Annual Spring Baltimore Birding Weekend. The weekend is organized by the Patterson Park Audubon Center and features field trips and an opportunity for a paddle on the Patapsco River. For more information and to register, go to <http://baltimorebirding.com/>.



Celebrate
Birds in
Baltimore:
**Migration
Magic**

May 18-20, 2018



Celebrate Birds in Baltimore: **Migration Magic**

Join Audubon for guided walks or a paddle in the Patapsco to search for birds in the city.

Baltimore's green spaces are important to wildlife and ready for you to discover them!

For event schedule and registration:
baltimorebirding.com
To sponsor this event:
baltimore@audubon.org



SERC Open House, Saturday, May 19, 10 am – 3 pm

The annual open house at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Anne Arundel County will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 10 am to 3 pm. The event is a festival celebrating science and Bay Optimism! Enjoy hands-on activities in the water and on the land with the Smithsonian scientists. Learn about the many projects being conducted by SERC. You'll also discover what's working in conservation in the Chesapeake Bay and around the world, and how you can be part of it. Check serc.si.edu/event/serc-open-house for details and schedule.

Field Trip Report: Gulls on the Susquehanna

Trust Gene to Find the Gulls

By Ken Cohen



At Lapidum Boat Launch

On March 24, 2018, Gene Scarpulla led seven adventurous bird watchers to Havre de Grace and the Susquehanna River in search of gulls and early migrants. He also hoped to lead us to a stray Black-throated Gray Warbler which had been visiting a feeder in town. Although the group was not successful at observing the warbler, two trip members did return to the site and were rewarded for their patience by its appearance.

Our trip started at Tydings Marina in Havre de Grace, and then we moved north along the Susquehanna River to the Lapidum Boat Launch. The weather was sunny and cold and the gulls were very cooperative. We saw Ring-billed, Great Black-backed, Herring, Bonaparte's and a Little Gull, a rare visitor from the north.



Little Gull

The Little Gull cruised the east shore of the Susquehanna River just out of decent photography range, but was clearly visible with binoculars and scopes. It showed its black underwing and lack of contrast on its back and wings. While Gene was great at finding this gull, he was not able to induce it to cross the river to be closer to where we were stationed at Lapidum on the western shore of the river.



Ring-billed Gull

After observing the Little Gull, Gene led us north to Conowingo Dam. We observed numerous Bald Eagles, Black Vultures, Great Blue Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants. We searched in vain for the Peregrine Falcon that likes to hang out on the electric power superstructure above the dam.

Other trip highlights of the forty species observed were Eastern Phoebe, Tundra Swan, Cedar Waxwings, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Song Sparrow. We also observed a mute swan next to a purple flamingo (*Go Ravens!*), in a yard in Havre de Grace (see photo). Once again Gene used his expertise to provide an exciting and productive field trip.



Eagles at Conowingo



Havre de Grace Yard Art

All photos by Ken Cohen, except Little Gull by Mark Johnson, Macaulay Library ML87062341.



Black-throated Gray Warbler

Conservation Update: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act

A Report on My Visit to U.S. Department of the Interior to Discuss the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

By Ken Cohen

On December 22, 2017, the Office of the Solicitor of the U.S. Department of Interior issued Memorandum Opinion 37050. That opinion reexamined the issue of whether the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibited unintentional killing of migratory birds in the exercise of lawful industrial or other business activities. It characterized these deaths as “incidental take.” The opinion examined the history of the act, the judicial interpretation of the act, and principles of statutory construction. **It concluded that the MBTA applies only to acts for which the intention was to kill migratory birds.** This interpretation directly contravenes the prior administration’s opinion, M-37041, which concluded that the prohibition contained in the MBTA included “incidental taking and killing.”

The response of the conservation community in opposition to this opinion has been overwhelming. On February 8, 2018, the National Audubon Society coordinated action by over 40 national organizations and over 450 local organizations to send a letter to every Senator and Congressman expressing opposition to the opinion and urging opposition to any action that would diminish the protections the MBTA affords birds. National signatories to that letter include the National Audubon Society, American Birding Association, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, the Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, the Humane Society of the United States, the Pollinator Partnership, and the World Wildlife Fund. Local organizational signatories include Prince George’s Audubon Society, the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Maryland Conservation Council, Friends of Blackwater, DC Audubon Society, American University Washington College of Law, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Rockbridge Bird Club, and the Virginia Bluebird Society, among others. The signatory organizations from California are so numerous they occupy almost a full page.

Seeking to discuss the opinion, I phoned Daniel H. Jorjani, the Principal Deputy Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, whose name appeared on Memorandum Opinion 37050. After a cordial exchange of phone calls, we established a meeting at his office on April 5, 2018 to discuss the opinion. Mr. Jorjani was delayed and was not present at the start of the meeting; however, I did speak with Ann Navarro and Gary Lawkowski, two attorneys in the Department.

What could I add to the conversation between conservation groups and the Department of the Interior that would be helpful and different to induce the Department to change its opinion? Representatives for other groups were criticizing the reasoning and conclusions in M-37050. My criticisms would only be more of the same.

But I was able to bring a new approach. During its discussion of how the courts considered the application of the MBTA to industrial bird deaths, the opinion cited *United States vs FMC Corporation*, a 1978 decision from the Federal Court of Appeals. That decision upheld the conviction of FMC Corporation for killing birds which died after ingesting insecticide-laced water contained in a discharge pond on its property in Middleport, NY. As a young federal prosecutor in Western New York in the 70s, I led the FMC investigation, made the prosecutorial recommendations, presented the evidence to the grand jury, tried the case, and argued the appeal. My approach during my visit with the Department of the Interior would be to present the point of view of people in the field charged with applying the MBTA to an industrial bird kill (“incidental taking”).

Continued on next page

MBTA Report, continued

Neither Ms. Navaro nor Mr. Lawkowski were previously aware of my relationship to the FMC case. They listened with close attention to my presentation. The first requirement in that case was to determine whether the FMC holding pond presented a continuing health hazard to the community. It was only after obtaining the knowledge that FMC had agreed to eliminate the holding pond and install a waste water processing plant that we approached application of the MBTA to the bird deaths. The factors which went into consideration of the decision to prosecute included proximity of the pond to a school, proximity of the pond to a National, State, and County wildlife refuge system, number of and variety of bird deaths, and the time required to eliminate the pond. Factors that were considered in not charging any individuals included the need to discharge untreated insecticide into the pond to avoid human poisoning, the fact that the insecticide was biodegradable, and the prior decision to eliminate the pond. The prosecutorial approach was to use the strict liability imposed by the MBTA as an incentive to induce the company to take the action required to reduce or eliminate the danger the pond posed to humans, birds, and other wildlife.

One of the first remedial actions FMC undertook was to repair the fence around the holding pond to prevent children from using it as a shortcut to school. The Department of the Interior's agent worked with FMC during the investigative period to try several different approaches to reduce the bird deaths. Neighbor complaints quickly eliminated the use of noise canons to keep birds from the pond. Guards proved ineffective. Eventually FMC and the Department of Interior improvised a series of floats that made the pond substantially less attractive to the birds. At that point the investigation ended.

The MBTA provided agents in the field with the authority to work with industry to develop cooperative solutions to eliminate or alleviate bird deaths. Agents have the intelligence, expertise, and local knowledge to initiate investigations, cooperate with the private sector to develop bird friendly solutions, and monitor the success of these efforts. I made all these points during my meeting with the Department of Interior lawyers.

Just as we concluded the meeting, Mr. Jorjani arrived. He asked Ms. Navarro for her takeaway from the meeting. She succinctly stated that government and industry could work together to eliminate or reduce bird deaths and that I thought it would be a mistake to remove the authority of the field agents to investigate and prosecute industrial bird deaths. Mr. Jorjani invited me to further meetings on the subject.

My impression is that I did not waste my time. Mr. Jorjani is now aware of my involvement with the FMC case, the Department of Interior is being forced to reconsider its opinion, and Mr. Jorjani had expected the Department of Interior to receive substantial criticism of its opinion, which is proving to be the case.

**Your Submissions Invited**

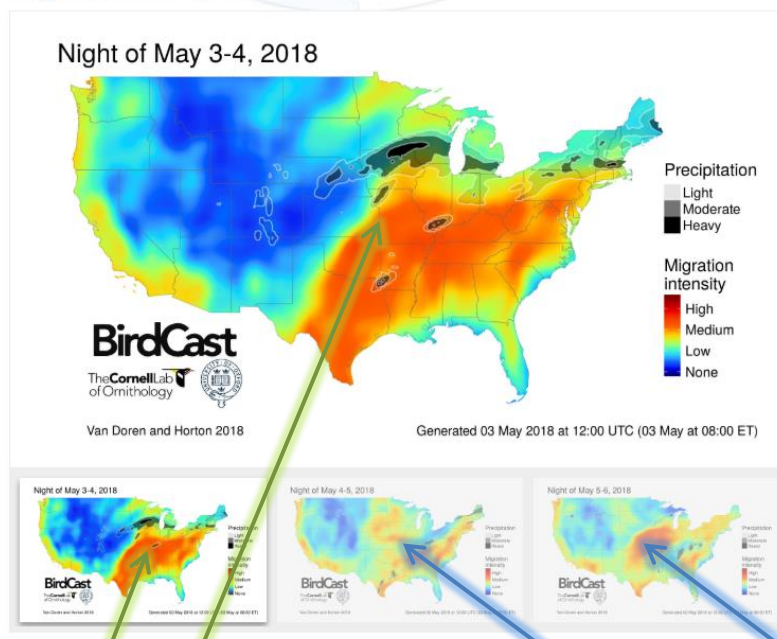
Do you have an idea for an article you would like to see published in a future issue of *News from the 'Hood*? Send a note with your suggestion or, better yet, a draft article to the editor, Marcia Watson at marshwren50comcast.net. Worried that you're not a good writer? No worries – Marcia will happily 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 a rough idea, please allow more time to develop the text and to seek illustrations, if appropriate.

New Migration Forecast Maps from Cornell

The **BirdCast project at Cornell Lab of Ornithology** recently unveiled powerful new map tools to help birders determine when migration will heat up in their area. The new map tools are available at <http://birdcast.info/>. No subscription fee or user account is needed to view the maps; they are provided on the internet free of charge to anyone. The maps are updated daily.

There are two types of maps (see screenshot and explanatory notes below). The first is a set of three maps showing **migration forecasts** for the continental US for the upcoming three nights; the color-coding shows the predicted strength of migration in various parts of the country. The second type of map shows an **analysis of actual migration as detected by radar during the previous 24 hours**; this second map includes arrows that shows the actual direction of bird movements.

Migration Forecast



Tonight's forecast. Brighter colors indicate more birds on the move.

Forecasts for the next two nights. Click each map to enlarge (the map you click will replace the bigger map).

Live Migration Maps



Real-time bird migration maps show intensities of actual bird migration as detected by the US weather surveillance radar network. All graphics are relative to the Eastern time zone.

[View Live Migration Maps](#)

Live radar map shows how many birds are in the air. Click on the green "View Live Migration Maps" button to open a page with animation showing migration in action. Check it at night or replay in the morning.

The maps provided at BirdCast are not interactive, in that you can't open them and zoom in to show detail for your local area. Instead, the maps are intended to give a broad view of where migration will be taking place. Also note that the maps show migration as a whole, rather than for individual species.

The maps are the result of sophisticated long-term research and modelling conducted by a consortium that includes the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Oregon State University. The migration models were made possible by additional research at University of Massachusetts Amherst and University of Oklahoma. Support for this research comes from Leon Levy Foundation, Edward W. Rose Postdoctoral Fellowship, and the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission. The BirdCast project was funded by grants from the National Science Foundation and Leon Levy Foundation.

To learn more about the details of the forecasting system, see <http://birdcast.info/research/review/> and <http://birdcast.info/research/>, as well as other links provided at <http://birdcast.info/>.

Citation: Van Doren, B. M. and K. G. Horton. 2018. A continental system for forecasting bird migration. bioRxiv. <https://doi.org/10.1101/293092>.

From eBird: New Bird ID Quiz

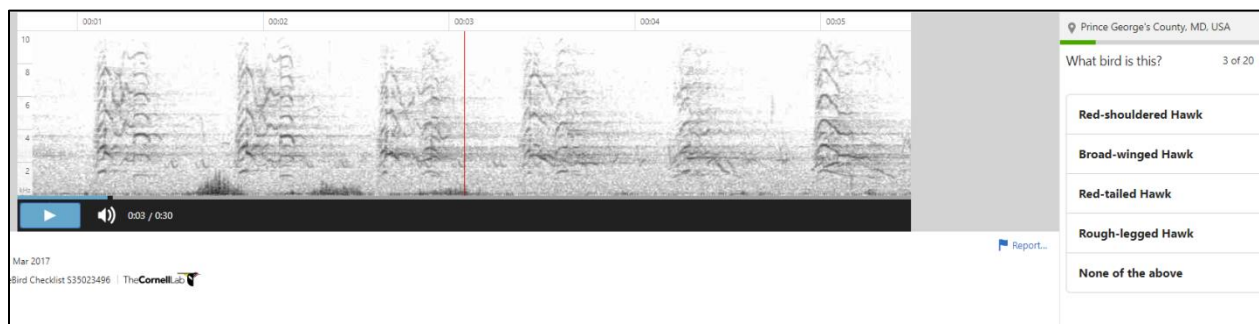
Does spring migration have you ready to challenge your bird identification skills? eBird has just launched a new online bird ID quiz that can help you hone your skills at bird identification, both by sight and by sound. The quiz, available for free at <https://ebird.org/quiz/>, requires you to sign in with your eBird account. Once logged in, you can choose the location and date for the birds to be presented to you in the quiz.

Do you feel that you already know the local birds? Then test yourself on, say, birds of Alaska in the fall. Or get ready for a trip to Costa Rica by choosing that location and the date of your trip. The possibilities are endless.

You can choose to be tested with photos or with sound clips. Either way, the quiz will be multiple-choice.

If you choose to be tested with sound clips instead of photos (maybe to tune up your ears for spring migration and the summer breeding season), the sound clip quiz will display a sonogram as well as an audio file that you can hear.

See sample screenshots of the photo quiz and audio quiz below. Try it at <https://ebird.org/quiz/>!





PG Notable Bird Sightings

The most exciting local sighting of the last two months was the **Eurasian Collared-Dove** found by Mikey Lutmerding in Bowie on April 16, 2018. The bird flew across a road and then landed on the top of a house at the intersection of New Haven Drive and Northview Drive near the Bowie Town Center. This is a potential new bird for the Prince George's County checklist, pending acceptance by the MD/DC Records Committee. Mikey snapped the accompanying photo and submitted it with his eBird report. The bird was not reported by anyone else, although at least one person (your editor) looked for it several times. (Photo at right by Mikey Lutmerding, [Macaulay Library, ML94898341](#)).



A **Red-throated Loon** made a surprise appearance at Rocky Gorge Reservoir. Found by Derek Richardson on March 30, 2018, it was subsequently seen by several other birders over the next few days. This salt-water loving species rarely makes an appearance at inland, freshwater locations. (Photo at left by Derek Richardson, [Macaulay Library, ML92011541](#)).

A **Long-tailed Duck** was another surprising find at Rocky Gorge on April 7, 2018; this bird was found by Mark Rositol.

Marcia Watson found a **Cackling Goose** at the pond on Science Drive at Melford on April 5, 2018, and another was seen at the Piscataway Park Boardwalk by Bill Townsend on April 7, 2018. Four Trumpeter Swans were reported from the Central Tract (restricted access) at Patuxent Research Refuge on February 27, 2018, by Danny Bystrak. These birds were seen off and on over the winter by research personnel there.

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at the Aquasco Farm section of Patuxent River Park on April 18, 2018, found and photographed by Jim Stasz. (Photo at right by Jim Stasz, [Macaulay Library, ML57113491](#)).



A **Glossy Ibis** was found at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on April 25, 2018 by Leigh Broadhurst and later was seen by several others. Another bird, or possibly the same one, was in wetlands near the NOAA/APHIS compound off River Road at the UMD campus on April 27, found by Ross Geredien.

A **Golden Eagle** was seen at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on March 9, 2018 by Hans Holbrook.

Karen Jackson and Marcia Watson found a **Cerulean Warbler** at Jackson Landing in Patuxent River Park on April 21, 2018. This spring migrant rarely makes its way through Prince George's County.

The long-lingering **Harris's Sparrow** on the Anacostia River Trail near Bladensburg Riverfront Park was last reported on March 11, 2018, fittingly by Robert Steele, who first discovered it in November of 2017.

There's still time to renew
or join – see discounted
rates below!



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:

or

Chapter membership only:

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

- ☐ Household ~~\$33~~ \$16.50 after Feb.
☐ Individual ~~\$26~~ \$13 after Feb.
☐ Junior (Age < 18) ~~\$6~~ \$1.50 after Feb.

- ☐ Household ~~\$8~~ \$4 after Feb.
☐ Individual ~~\$6~~ \$3 after Feb.
☐ Junior ~~\$1~~ \$0.50 after Feb.

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."

Names of Participants:

Maryland May Count 2018

Date:

County:

Territory:

Brant	Chimney Swift	Bonaparte's Gull	Broad-winged Hawk	Purple Martin
Canada Goose	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Laughing Gull*	Red-tailed Hawk	Tree Swallow
Mute Swan	Black Rail*	Ring-billed Gull	Golden Eagle	N. Rough-winged Swallow
Tundra Swan	Clapper Rail*	Herring Gull	Barn Owl	Bank Swallow
Wood Duck	King Rail	Iceland Gull*	Eastern Screech-Owl	Cliff Swallow
Blue-winged Teal	Virginia Rail	Lesser Black-backed Gull*	Great Horned Owl	Barn Swallow
Northern Shoveler	Sora	Glaucous Gull*	Barred Owl	Carolina Chickadee*
Gadwall	Common Gallinule	Great Black-backed Gull*	Short-eared Owl	Black-capped Chickadee
American Wigeon	American Coot	Least Tern*	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Tufted Titmouse
Mallard	Sandhill Crane	Caspian Tern	Belted Kingfisher	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Black Duck	Black-necked Stilt*	Black Tern*	Red-headed Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Pintail	American Avocet	Common Tern	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Brown-headed Nuthatch*
Green-winged Teal	American Oystercatcher*	Forster's Tern	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Brown Creeper
Canvasback	Black-bellied Plover	Royal Tern*	Downy Woodpecker	House Wren
Redhead	Semipalmated Plover	Black Skimmer*	Hairy Woodpecker	Winter Wren
Ring-necked Duck	Piping Plover*	Red-throated Loon	Northern Flicker	Sedge Wren
Greater Scaup	Killdeer	Common Loon	Pileated Woodpecker	Marsh Wren
Lesser Scaup	Upland Sandpiper	Northern Gannet*	American Kestrel	Carolina Wren
Surf Scoter	Whimbrel*	Double-crested Cormorant	Merlin	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
White-winged Scoter	Marbled Godwit*	Great Cormorant*	Peregrine Falcon	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Black Scoter	Ruddy Turnstone	American White Pelican	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Long-tailed Duck	Red Knot	Brown Pelican*	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Bluebird
Bufflehead	Stilt Sandpiper	American Bittern	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Veery
Common Goldeneye	Sanderling	Least Bittern	Acadian Flycatcher	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Hooded Merganser	Dunlin	Great Blue Heron	Alder Flycatcher	Bicknell's Thrush*
Common Merganser	Purple Sandpiper*	Great Egret	Willow Flycatcher	Swainson's Thrush
Red-breasted Merganser	Least Sandpiper	Snowy Egret	Alder/Willow Flycatcher(Traill's)	Hermit Thrush
Ruddy Duck	White-rumped Sandpiper	Little Blue Heron	Least Flycatcher	Wood Thrush
Northern Bobwhite	Pectoral Sandpiper	Tricolored Heron*	Eastern Phoebe	American Robin
Ring-necked Pheasant	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Cattle Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Gray Catbird
Ruffed Grouse	Western Sandpiper	Green Heron	Eastern Kingbird	Brown Thrasher
Wild Turkey	Short-billed Dowitcher	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Loggerhead Shrike**	Northern Mockingbird
Pied-billed Grebe	Long-billed Dowitcher	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	White-eyed Vireo	European Starling
Horned Grebe	American Woodcock	Glossy Ibis	Yellow-throated Vireo	Cedar Waxwing
Red-necked Grebe	Wilson's Snipe	Black Vulture	Blue-headed Vireo	House Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Spotted Sandpiper	Turkey Vulture	Philadelphia Vireo	American Pipit
Eurasian Collared-Dove**	Solitary Sandpiper	Osprey	Warbling Vireo	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Lesser Yellowlegs	Mississippi Kite	Red-eyed Vireo	Purple Finch
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Willet	Bald Eagle	Blue Jay	Pine Siskin
Black-billed Cuckoo	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Harrier	American Crow	American Goldfinch
Common Nighthawk	Wilson's Phalarope	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Chuck-will's-widow	Red-necked Phalarope	Cooper's Hawk	Common Raven	Chipping Sparrow
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Red Phalarope*	Red-shouldered Hawk	Horned Lark	Field Sparrow

Names of Participants:

Vesper Sparrow		Bay-breasted Warbler	
Savannah Sparrow		Blackburnian Warbler	
Grasshopper Sparrow		Yellow Warbler	
Henslow's Sparrow*		Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Nelson's Sparrow		Blackpoll Warbler	
Saltmarsh Sparrow*		Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Seaside Sparrow*		Palm Warbler	
Fox Sparrow		Pine Warbler	
Song Sparrow		Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Lincoln's Sparrow		Yellow-throated Warbler	
Swamp Sparrow		Prairie Warbler	
White-throated Sparrow		Black-throated Green Warbler	
White-crowned Sparrow		Canada Warbler	
Dark-eyed Junco		Wilson's Warbler	
Bobolink		Summer Tanager	
Eastern Meadowlark		Scarlet Tanager	
Orchard Oriole		Northern Cardinal	
Baltimore Oriole		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
Red-winged Blackbird		Blue Grosbeak	
Brown-headed Cowbird		Indigo Bunting	
Rusty Blackbird		Dickcissel	
Common Grackle			
Boat-tailed Grackle*		Scaup sp.	
Yellow-breasted Chat		Gull sp.	
Ovenbird		Tern sp.	
Worm-eating Warbler		Crow sp.	
Louisiana Waterthrush		Blackbird sp.	
Northern Waterthrush			
Golden-winged Warbler			
Blue-winged Warbler			
Black-and-white Warbler			
Prothonotary Warbler			
Tennessee Warbler			
Orange-crowned Warbler			
Nashville Warbler			
Mourning Warbler			
Kentucky Warbler			
Common Yellowthroat			
Hooded Warbler			
American Redstart			
Cape May Warbler			
Cerulean Warbler			
Northern Parula			
Magnolia Warbler			

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

(please provide details of sighting on separate sheet)

Total Species

Total Individuals

Weather Data (*describe briefly*)

Temp range

Cloud cover

Precipitation

Wind speed and direction

EFFORT

of Parties

of observers

Start Time

Stop Time

Driving

hours

miles

Walking

hours

miles

Other (specify)

hours

miles

Owling

hours

miles

Stationary

hours

* Must be accepted by MD/DC Records Committee
if this species is outside its accepted range

** MUST be accepted by MD/DC Records Committee
if this species is to be included in final count

Scan and e-mail to fwfallon@ymail.com

or

Mail to:
Fred Fallon
6711 Venus Dr
Huntingtown MD 20639