

# **“News from the ‘Hood”**

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club  
of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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**December 2014 – Jan. 2015**

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## **New/Old Meeting Place**

As announced in a special mailing last week, the November and all subsequent meetings for the program year will be held at the College Park Airport Museum – (where we have sometimes met in the past) - not the “annex” trailer as last year and most previous years.

The road we normally take to the museum is closed and the detour to the museum parking area is not as clearly marked as it could be. Here are detour directions:

- After turning from Paint Branch Parkway onto Cpl. Frank Scott Dr.,
- Turn right at first stop sign. The road is College Ave and the turn is marked with an easily missed yellow detour sign directing to museum parking.
- College Ave. is more an alley between a gauntlet of garages and light industrial buildings.
- The museum parking is at the end of the street on the left.

## **December 9 Meeting**

### **Holiday Social and Movie Night: “The Central Park Effect”**

An amusing video about birding in New York City’s Central Park, an island of green space in the middle of the city, and the colorful birds and birders who synchronize their lives to the rhythms of migration. Featuring spectacular wildlife footage capturing the changing seasons, the film reveals that Central Park acts as a magnet for the millions of birds migrating down the Atlantic Flyway and along the Eastern Seaboard twice every year. Desperate for a rest-stop, the tiny birds funnel into this oasis of nature amid a sea of steel and concrete – a phenomenon known as the “Central Park Effect.” Filmmaker Jeffrey Kimball’s lyrical film transports the viewer to a dazzling world that goes all but unnoticed by most of the 38 million who people America’s most famous park each year. The camera work, some of it aerial, is impressive and colorful. We see how reports of rarities lead to crowds of fascinated Gothamites, and often lead to the reports of more rarities. A snappy musical score enhances the production.

Bring food for at least yourself. Beverages and napkins will be provided.

## **January 13 Meeting**

### **“Vernal Pools and Salamanders” with Karen Molines**

Calvert County Parks Director Karen Molinas, known to many of us as sometime director of Jug Bay Wetlands Park, presents a program on the world of vernal pools – ephemeral shallow pools that fill up during early spring and so are free of overwintering, predatory, fish. Amphibians such as frogs and salamanders lay their eggs here, which have a chance to develop without getting eaten and before the pools dry up in summer. Salamanders are inconspicuous and little-known to most people. But Eastern N. America hosts a surprising diversity, some – since they can't fly - with very small ranges. Ms Molines will describe the life cycles of these creatures and how to look for them.

## **Coming Field Trips**

**Saturday November 15 Field Trip: Governor Bridge NA.** Joint trip with PGAS. Habitat includes mature woods along the Patuxent River, brushy fields, and a network of freshwater wetlands, ponds and small streams. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge NA . No reservations required. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com) or David Mozurkewich at [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

**Sunday November 23 Field Trip: Full-day trip Point Lookout SP** for water-birds and late raptor migrants. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at the Bowie P&R to carpool. Dress warm for possibly blustery conditions; bring lunch and snacks plus scope if you have one. Contact Bill Sefton, [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com)

**Thursday December 4 Field Trip: Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail).** Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call or write David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212/ [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more info

**Saturday December 6 Field Trip: Fran Uhler NA.** Joint trip with PGAS. Habitat includes brushy fields, woods and hedgerows for a good mix of species. Side trip to freshwater wetland at Horsepen Branch also possible. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com) or David Mozurkewich at [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more info.

**Sunday Dec 7 Field Trip to Piscataway Creek estuary for waterfowl.** Meet at Beltway Plaza at 7:30 AM, or at end of Wharf Rd, Piscataway at 8 AM. Contact leader Dave Mozurkewich, [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

**Saturday December 13 Field Trip: Governors Bridge Wildlife area.** No reservations required. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com) or David Mozurkewich at [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

**Thursday December 18 Field Trip: Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail).** Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call or write David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212/ [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more info.

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## Regional Christmas Bird Counts

**Sunday Dec 14. Jug Bay CBC.** Compiler: Sam Droege, [sdroege@usgs.gov](mailto:sdroege@usgs.gov); 301-497-5840 (w) or 301-390-7759 (h).

**Saturday Dec 20. Triadelphia CBC.** Compiler: David Holmes, [musiclbndr@gmail.co](mailto:musiclbndr@gmail.co).

**Thursday Jan 1. Bowie Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** All levels of experience welcome on this classic bird count. Contact compiler David Mozurkewich at [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for area to cover or team to join. PGAS is the sponsor of this long-running and popular count.

**Sunday Jan 4. Annapolis CBC.** Compilers, Hal & Lynn Wierenga, [hal.lyn@comcast.net](mailto:hal.lyn@comcast.net), 410-647-7439; and Sue Ricciardi, [susiericc@comcast.net](mailto:susiericc@comcast.net), 410-647-9513.

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**Thursday January 1 Field Trip: Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail).** Joint trip with PGAS. See Dec 4 above. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Note this same day as Bowie CBC; leader as available.

**Saturday January 3 Field Trip: Fran Uhler NA.** Joint trip with PGAS. Habitat includes brushy fields, woods and hedgerows for a good mix of species. Side trip to freshwater wetland at Horsepen Branch also possible. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U. and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com) or David Mozurkewich at [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more info.

**Saturday January 10 Field Trip: Governors Bridge Wildlife area.** No reservations required. Meet at 7:30 am. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com) or David Mozurkewich at [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

**Thursday January 15 Field Trip: Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail).** Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call or email David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212/ [mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more info.

**Saturday January 24 Field Trip: Brown Station Rd Landfill for variety of gulls,** with noted gull expert Gene Scarpulla. Meet at Bowie P&R at 7:30 AM. Numbers limited, **reservations strictly required**. Contact Gene Scarpulla, [ejscarp@comcast.net](mailto:ejscarp@comcast.net).

**Saturday January 24 Field Trip: Governors Bridge Wildlife Area. Meet at 7:30 am.** No reservations required. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, see Jan. 10 above.

Coming – Eastern Shore week-end Field trip in February!

## Cultivated Rice/Rails Connection

Rice is cultivated in a relatively small area of the United States, some of that in southern Louisiana. This is an area of very flat land, bayous and wetlands, mild winters – ideal for rice. The rice growers in this area are reaching out to birders and conservationists for a mutually advantageous partnership. The reason – some of these rice fields are flooded in winter for crawfish cultivation, creating ideal habitat for wintering waterfowl; and more remarkably, where rice has grown earlier in the year and not yet harvested, it has been discovered by accident that these fields are alive with *rails*, especially the seldom seen Yellow Rail – a wish bird for most of us. Some birders happened to notice that when a cultivator sweeps across a rice field, rails were flushed up and could be identified before they settled down again. Asking permission to watch from the sidelines, the grower was agreeable and thus was born the Yellow Rail/Rice Festival which takes place every late October, centered in Jennings LA. Your editor attended this year and found the growers, birders, and townspeople as friendly as could be. Field trips are held every day, some to flooded fields, others to fields lying fallow and harboring wintering sparrows such as LeConte's and Nelson's. But the main event is in the fields of mature rice, where giant combines cut the rice stalks and strip off the grains. Everyone gets to see Soras, Virginia Rails, sparrows, and lots of Yellow Rails. The birds are not harmed by the disturbance since they are not nesting; they merely relocate to nearby weedy fields. Some are caught in mist nests by LSU researchers and banded, allowing close up views.

In return the growers would like us to support them by purchasing their rice in preference to cheaper imports, much the way traditional coffee growers need us to promote shade-grown coffee. These are relatively small operators, mostly descendants of the early French "Cajuns", trying not to be bought out by agri-business. Look for the word "Louisiana" at the bottom of the box or bag of rice if you want to help preserve this wonderful habitat.

## Annual Conference Pin Contest

Each MOS conference has its unique conference pin, given to all registrants. These pins reflect the particular avifauna characteristic of the conference site, and each is selected from drawings submitted by MOS members. All MOS members are invited to submit an entry.

The deadline for the 2015 Pin Contest is January 17, 2015, and --

- ◇ The bird must be appropriate for the conference site
- ◇ It must contain the phrases "MOS" and "2015"
- ◇ The artist must be a member of MOS
- ◇ Entries must be in HARD COPY.

The [contest rules](#) are on the MOS website:

[http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/pin\\_rules\\_2014.pdf](http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/pin_rules_2014.pdf)

Helpful hints for pin design are also on the MOS website:

[http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/pintips\\_new.pdf](http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/pintips_new.pdf)

**TEACHER/NATURALISTS SUMMER WORKSHOPS IN  
ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY**  
SPONSORED BY THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**\*\*\*\*\* SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE! \*\*\*\***

MOS Scholarships to Hog Island, Maine are now available to teachers, naturalists and other youth leaders in Maryland. All applications and referrals are due no later than **November 30th**. Below is a copy of the scholarship flyer. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Tufts, Scholarship Chair Maryland Ornithological Society.

MOS also runs a local, 6-day workshop on the Eastern Shore for both educators and young birders at Washington College in June. See the flyer on p.7-8 for information and application instructions. The Maryland program application deadline is **March 1, 2015**.

**Audubon Society Hog Island, Maine Camp**

**ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is accepting applications from Maryland teachers, youth leaders, park rangers, and nature center staff for scholarships to attend weeklong summer ecology and ornithology workshops at Audubon camps in Maine. Each award covers tuition, room, and board for an intensive multi-day course of field study and instruction in ornithology, ecology, conservation, or natural history.

**SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

The value of each scholarship is approximately \$1000. MOS will award multiple scholarships each year. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient. For more information and updates, check the MOS website:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/education/scholarships/ScholarshipPage2015.pdf>, or contact the Scholarship Chair (below). Workshop selections and dates are listed on the flyer, *Scholarship Choices*, also available on the MOS website.

**APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS**

1. Scholarship recipients must work with young people in Maryland. The program is open to teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, environmental education coordinators at nature centers, community volunteers and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers.
2. There is no application form. Simply provide a written statement (maximum of two pages) in the form of a letter to MOS describing how the workshop experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of wildlife and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment. In your letter please indicate which workshop you wish to attend; we will try to accommodate your choice (refer to *Scholarship Choices* sheet).
3. Applicants must submit a current resume (preferably no more than two pages).
4. Applicants need not be members of MOS but *must* be endorsed by a member or chapter (*see next item*).
5. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who know of the candidate's interests, activities, abilities, and potential are required. One of the letters should be from a supervisor or someone in a similar position relative to the applicant. *One letter must be from either a member of MOS or a chapter of MOS*. Contact your local chapter president. That person will contact the applicant to discuss their interests and background and then write a recommendation. It is very helpful if the letters of recommendation cite specific, relevant activities, accomplishments, or projects in which the applicant was involved, in addition to personal qualifications.
6. Applicants must be 21 years or older.
7. Applications from previous recipients will not be considered unless five years have passed since the individual last attended a workshop. The new application must be for a different workshop.
8. Applications must be submitted by **30 November 2014**. Submissions via electronic mail are highly recommended. Letters of recommendation must be sent by the author *directly* to the scholarship committee chair, preferably via email.
9. Candidate ranking occurs in December and recipients are notified by January.

# **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!**

## **TEACHER/NATURALIST WORKSHOPS IN**

### **ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY**

Sponsored by Maryland Ornithological Society

Many of Maryland's finest teachers and naturalists have expanded their ecology and birding knowledge. Join educators from around the country for a hands-on wildlife or ornithology workshop.

#### **Ecology and Ornithology Workshops**

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is accepting applications from Maryland teachers, youth leaders, park rangers and nature center staff for scholarships to attend weeklong ecology and ornithology workshops on Audubon's beautiful Hog Island in Maine or on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Each award covers the cost of tuition, room and board for an intensive course of field study and instruction covering ornithology, ecology, conservation and natural history.



#### **Scholarship Information**

MOS will award multiple scholarships each summer. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient. For additional information check the MOS website links (below) or contact the Scholarship Chairs.

Five Maine and one Maryland workshops are offered for 2014:

June 1-6 Maine Seabird & Biology & Conservation, ME  
June 8-13 Joy of Birding, ME  
June 15-20 Field Ornithology, ME  
June 22-27 Arts of Birding, ME  
July 21-26 Sharing Nature: An Educators' Week, ME  
June 22-27 Maryland Birds & Habitats, Washington College, MD



#### **Application Process and Requirements**

Maine applicants need not be members of MOS, but must be endorsed by a member or chapter. Applications for Maine workshops must be submitted via electronic mail by **November 30, 2013**. Recipients will be notified in January, 2014. Please refer to the MOS website for the complete application process. Maryland workshop applicants should go to the YMOS website listed below for application instructions. The Maryland program application deadline is March 1, 2014.

For more information and application process, please refer to:

<http://mdbirds.org/education/scholarships/scholarship.html>

For more information about the Audubon workshops, please refer to:

<http://projectpuffin.org/ornithcamps.html>

For more information about the Maryland residential workshops, please refer to:

<http://www.ymos.org/educator-resources/>


Maine Scholarship Chair: [mosscholarships@verizon.net](mailto:mosscholarships@verizon.net)

Maryland Scholarship Chair: [radcliff@gmail.com](mailto:radcliff@gmail.com)



# MARYLAND BIRDS AND BIRD HABITATS

## Using Authentic Data to Assess Environmental Trends

<div>EDUCATOR PROGRAM</div> <div>June 21- 26, 2015 Washington College Chestertown, MD</div>		<div>A Joint Program of The Maryland Ornithological Society and The Washington College Center for Environment and Society</div>
<div>Field Work with Trained Ornithologists    GIS Mapping    Habitat Management</div>		
<div>Program Overview</div> <p>Birds, aside from being a fascinating part of the natural world, provide a critical insight into the quality of different habitats in the environment. They are easily accessed by anyone in any area of the State, and there exists a significant amount of authentic and area-specific data that can be used in the classroom and other learning venues.</p> <p>Too often programs focus exclusively on identification, a skill requiring years of experience. Fear of misidentification and lack of optics prevent many from venturing into the field. However, bird behavior and song are much easier to observe and involve little need for expensive equipment. The workshop will show participants how birds can be easily incorporated into a wide variety of curricula and experiences.</p> <p>During the week, participants will both work in the field and classroom. They will both collect and learn to access numerous available on-line data sources. In the field they will get involved with several data collecting projects and research activities that can be done with children. All participants will have the opportunity to plan a local bird monitoring program.</p> <p>The program is being offered to both adults and students going into Grades 7 – 12. Both groups will work together in the field, but will be offered different experiences in the classroom.</p>		
<div>Trips    Nest Box Monitoring    Bird Research</div>		
<div>Program Sponsors:</div> <div>Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) Washington College Center for Environment and Society</div> <div>Dates: Sunday, June 21 – Friday, June 26, 2015</div> <div>Instructors:</div> <div>Dr. Wayne Bell, Washington College George Radcliffe, Coordinator of YMOS, Youth Division of MOS</div> <div>Location: Washington College, Chestertown, MD</div>	<div>Lodging and Meals:</div> <div>Participants will be housed in Washington College dorm rooms and will take all meals in the college cafeteria. Staying onsite is strongly encouraged because of evening sessions and early morning starts.</div> <div>Transportation to and from Workshop</div> <div>is the responsibility of each participant.</div> <div>Transportation during the Workshop</div> <div>is provided.</div> <div>Program Costs and Scholarships:</div> <div>\$350 Full scholarships are available from the Maryland Ornithological Society.</div>	
<div>Program Development    Accessing Local Data    Night Birding</div>		

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tentative Program Schedule</b></p> <p><u>Sunday, June 21</u>  3:00 PM – Check in and Orientation  4:00 PM –Introduction to Field Observations  Evening Session - Introduction to eBird</p> <p><u>Monday, June 22</u>  AM Field Session - Birding by Habitat  PM Session – Introduction to the Nature Journal  Evening Session – Night Bird Hunt</p> <p><u>Tuesday, June 23</u>  All Day Field Session – Aquatic and Marsh Birds  Evening Sessions – Accessing Data from eBird  - Breeding Atlas Protocols</p> <p><u>Wednesday, June 24</u>  AM Field Session – eBird Monitoring  PM Session/Nestbox Monitoring and Mapping  Evening Session – Setting Up a Monitoring Program</p> <p><u>Thursday, June 25</u>  AM Field Session – Elk Neck/Susquehanna St Parks  PM Session – Data Entry/Computer Work  Evening Session – Initiating Research</p> <p><u>Friday, June 26</u>  AM Field Session – Bird Banding- Chino Farms  12:00 PM- Program Wrap-up and Evaluation  1:00 PM – Participants Depart  For a more detailed look at the program activities, check out the <a href="http://ymos.org">ymos.org</a> website.</p> <p><b>No previous birding experience is required for this program. The program will be adapted for the level of experience of each participant. Binoculars will be available for loan to participants.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Program Outcomes</b></p> <p>Participating teachers/program leaders will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get field experience identifying and monitoring birds.</li> <li>• Learn to access and analyze local data sources.</li> <li>• Develop a simple bird monitoring program</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="971 583 1356 982" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Program Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Birding by Habitat – Learn local habitats and birds found within each.</li> <li>2. Birding by Ear – Learn to identify birds by call and song.</li> <li>3. Nestbox Monitoring – Monitoring bluebird boxes, mapping, and accessing data</li> <li>4. Breeding Determination – Use behavioral clues to determine bird breeding status</li> <li>5. Accessing Local Environmental Data – MD/DC Bird Breeding Atlas, NA Bird Breeding Survey</li> <li>6. eBird Monitoring</li> <li>7. Developing a local bird monitoring program</li> </ol>
<p><b>To apply</b>, on a separate sheet of paper, please send in the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Name</b></li> <li>• <b>Organization/School</b></li> <li>• <b>Home Address</b></li> <li>• <b>eMail and Phone</b></li> <li>• An explanation of how you might incorporate birds and/or authentic data into your program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Application Deadline:</b> March 31, 2015</p>	<p><b>Applications which pair a student and adult from the same school or county are especially encouraged.</b></p> <p><b>To Submit Application:</b>  Email to George Radcliffe at  <a href="mailto:radclifg@gmail.com">radclifg@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Or mail to:  YMOS c/o George M. Radcliffe  1663 Hudson Rd  Cambridge, MD 21613</p>





Tufted Titmouse

Drawing by Ikumi Kayama

**Yellow Rail, Rice/Rail Festival, Jennings LA**



Photo by F. Fallon