



News from the 'Hood

Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



Upcoming Meetings and Speaker Programs

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

The Ordinary, Extraordinary Chimney Swift Presented by Joan Cwi

Although the hummingbird is the closest taxonomic relative to the swift, Chimney Swifts certainly did not inherit the hummingbird's "pretty" genes. But these plain little birds are extraordinary in so many ways. The Chimney Swift is the only swift that migrates to the Eastern US, so we will discuss this particular species in regard to anatomy, speed, dexterity, nesting and migration based on sixteen years of research and observation. During the Baltimore Bird Club's migration swift watches, we have counted as many as 7,000 Chimney Swifts entering a roosting chimney in less than an hour! To see the swifts in action, join one of the Baltimore Bird Club's Chimney Swift Watches (see <https://baltimorebirdclub.org/>).



About the presenter: The first decade and a half of Joan's adult life was devoted to studying and subsequently teaching medieval art history at the collegiate level. Naturally, she then spent the next three decades as a survey methodologist for health-related studies. And in the decade since retirement, she has dedicated herself to birding, travelling extensively throughout North and South America for this purpose. She has been an active Baltimore Bird Club member during this time, including a six-year tenure as President. For the past sixteen years, she and two other birding colleagues have sponsored spring and fall swift migration watches for Baltimore Bird Club. Joan is the past committee chair and editor of MOS's *Maryland/DC Birding Guide* (<https://www.mdbirdingguide.com>), and brought the Guide to life as a website.

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
Spring Bird Count	2
Upcoming Field Trips	3
MOS Convention	6
New members	6
Officers and Directors	6
Update: Oxon Cove Park	7
Legislative Scorecard	8
Eagle Deaths	8
Conservation Using eBird Data	9
News from around the Web	10
PG Bird Sightings	13
Submissions Invited	13
Membership Application	14
Spring Count Checklist	15-16

Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm

Members' Night

Join members of the Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS as they present a few of their favorite photos and give brief presentations about their birding adventures. Members who wish to present must contact Marcia Watson at <mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net> no later than June 4 so that she can organize the agenda.



Volunteers Need for Spring Bird Count Saturday, May 11



This year, the World Migratory Bird Day theme is the need to curtail plastic pollution, which has become a worldwide epidemic and a primary threat to birds across the globe. An estimated 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced since its introduction in the 1950s. Only 9% of plastic waste has been recycled, and an estimated 79% of plastic waste accumulates in landfills or the natural environment. Most of these plastics exist indefinitely, fragmenting into smaller and smaller pieces over time. As exposure to plastics increases, birds and their environments are facing increasingly detrimental consequences.

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. Spring count in Maryland is part of the larger World Migratory Bird Day (see sidebar), which has a conservation theme as an important part of the event.

In Maryland, Spring 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. 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.

The May Count (and its sister Fall Count), in conjunction with eBird, can help answer some important 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 can help us decide which areas to try to protect.

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 Thursday, 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 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 and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center have restricted access, so they have separate sub-coordinators operating in conjunction with site management. Fred 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 our 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 11!

4) Tear out the checklist provided on the last page of this newsletter (or download the official form from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qKuG-nwiEhyQYp_muPruNgFtCPWuauPP/view) 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 Fred at fwfallon@ymail.com or snail-mail your printed form to Fred at 6711 Venus Drive, Huntingtown, MD 20639. For safekeeping, please make and retain a copy of your completed form before putting it in the mail to Fred!

A word about the checklist. As you may know, taxonomists are always re-arranging the order of species listed on checklists or changing the names of species, much 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 the 2019 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 Spring Count sightings on eBird. However, Fred will still need to receive your total bird counts on the checklist provided.



Upcoming Field Trips & Bird Walks

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

Thursday, May 2, 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 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).

Saturday May 11 - Annual Spring Migration Bird Count

Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact the county compiler Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com to receive an assigned area and for more information. See article starting on page 2 of this newsletter for more details.

Thursday, May 16, 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 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.

Sunday, 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 19 to reserve your spot, and for more information. *(Photo of Bombay Hook courtesy of USFWS)*

**Friday May 31 to Sunday, June 2 - MOS Convention, Washington College, Chestertown, MD**

See item on page 6 of this newsletter for more information.

Saturday, June 1, 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, June 6, 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 15, 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 20, 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 29, 7:30 am – South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge

One of a series of walks to explore the seasonal variations in bird use of the habitats at South Tract. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include breeding warblers, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows. Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center off Powder Mill Rd.; 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, July 4, 6 pm – CANCELLED**

The regularly scheduled bird walk at Lake Artemesia Natural Area will not be held because of July 4th festivities at the site.

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

Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at the 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, July 18, 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, July 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.

Thursday, August 1, 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, August 3, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area

Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at the 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, August 15, 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, August 17, 9 am - Note new date! - Delaware Bayshore

The trip will visit Bombay Hook and other refuges along the shores of the Delaware Bay, with a focus on migrating shorebirds, waders, and passerines. Bring spotting scope, sunscreen, bug repellent, water & other drinks, lunch and snacks. Long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and closed-toes shoes recommended. Meet at 9:00 am at the Visitor Center at Bombay Hook. (directions available from leaders). Leaders will be Marcia Watson and Gene Scarpulla. Please RSVP to Marcia (marshwren50@comcast.net) no later than August 14 so that they have a headcount and know who to expect. (Photo courtesy USFWS)

Saturday, August 17, 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.

MOS Convention Registration Still Open New this Year: Register Online, Pick Field Trips Online

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) 2019 Convention will be held **May 31 - June 2, 2019 at Washington College in Chestertown, MD.** For this event, MOS has created a new website dedicated to the convention (<http://www.mosconvention.org>). The website houses all the information about the convention, lodging and field trips. Our convention now has sponsors, some of whom have donated binoculars for our raffle. You can find information about our seminars and workshops, sponsors and vendors, book signings, the photo contest, as well as field trip locations, descriptions and the convention schedule. You will be able to browse through the field trips and sign up for them in advance of the convention.

The convention website has links for convention registration, on-campus lodging selection and field trip sign-ups. Payment for convention registration, fees for 1 or 2 special field trips, and on-site lodging can be made via PayPal account or directly with a credit card and is integrated within the website.

Convention registration closes on May 17 and space is limited, so be sure to register ASAP.

Welcome New PBC Members!

Kristy Wright & Patty Pantzer



Patuxent Bird Club Officers & Directors

President	Marcia Watson	marshwren50@comcast.net
Vice-President	Fred Fallon	fwoffallon@ymail.com
Treasurer/Memberships	Jane Fallon	jefallon90@yahoo.com
Second Year Directors (Term 2017-2019)	Peter Hanan	peter.hanan@icloud.com
	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
	Pat Tate	jpt8@earthlink.net
First Year Directors (Term 2018-2020)	Ken Cohen	kvulture@aol.com
	Ross Geredien	goodmigrations@yahoo.com
	Ikumi Kayama	ikumikayama@gmail.com
Representatives to MOS State Board	Marcia Watson	marshwren50@comcast.net
	Fred Fallon	fwoffallon@ymail.com
Field Trip Coordinator	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
Hospitality	Lynn Kenny	pattylynn46@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Marcia Watson	marshwren50@comcast.net
Fall Bird Count	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
Spring Bird Count	Fred Fallon	fwoffallon@ymail.com
Bowie Christmas Bird Count	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Watson	marshwren50@comcast.net
Visit us on the web at www.patuxentbirdclub.org		

Conservation Updates

Update on Oxon Cove Park

Katie Morgan, Chesapeake Field Representative with the National Parks Conservation Association, contributed to this article.

Governor Larry Hogan appears to be continuing to pursue his plan to acquire Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm from the National Park Service in order to turn it into a mixed-use development called “Maryland Gateway” (see *News from the 'Hood*, January-February 2019 and March-April 2019 for background). Under the plan, the State of Maryland would swap extensive state-owned park properties in Western Maryland with the National Park Service to acquire ownership of Oxon Cove Park. The Governor’s office has not released any specific development plans, but a statement from his office indicates that the proposal is still on the table.



Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George’s Audubon Society have continued outreach to elected officials, and have become part of a coalition of environmental organizations opposing the acquisition and development. The National Parks Conservation Association has stepped up to provide leadership to the coalition. Some of the other members of the coalition include Maryland Ornithological Society; Audubon Maryland-DC; Southern Maryland Audubon Society; and Potomac Riverkeeper. Recently, the coalition drafted a joint statement of opposition and is inviting like-minded organizations to sign on to the statement. The statement is:

Groups stand in opposition to land swap proposal that would remove national park status of Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm.

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan seeks to acquire Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm, 512-acres of national park land in Prince George’s County, Maryland with the expressed goal of developing that land as a ‘Gateway to Maryland’. The following groups stand together in opposition to this proposal on the grounds of the historical, cultural, educational, recreational and environmental importance of the site, and more. We stand in agreement that Oxon Cove should remain a national park.

Recently, Katie Morgan, our liaison at the National Parks Conservation Association, had an opportunity to engage directly with Congressman Anthony Brown on the issue of the development proposal. Congressman Brown represents the district that includes Oxon Cove Park and the nearby residential communities. Katie attended Congressman Brown’s Town Hall in the Oxon Cove community on Saturday, May 4, 2019. The Town Hall was not convened to deal with the specific issue of the park, but was instead an opportunity for the Congressman to speak with his constituents on a range of topics. The Town Hall was run by writing down questions on note cards and staff picking out which questions the Congressman addressed. They then passed the microphone to the question asker to directly speak with the Congressman. Katie submitted a question about the proposal to develop Oxon Cove Park, and it was the first question chosen for the Congressman to address.

Katie reports that, in response to a call for a show of hands from Congressman Brown, only one person in the group of dozens indicated support for the proposal to swap the land and develop the park. Katie also reports that in dialogue, Congressman Brown expressed his concerns with the proposal, and that he does not support the land swap. He raised concerns that Oxon Cove is an environmentally sensitive area– citing bald eagles and the park’s position along the Potomac. He highlighted the need for investments in local transit and infrastructure before any such development could be considered.

Katie has indicated that she will stay in touch with the Congressman's office to determine how our coalition can be helpful, and to further engage with Congressman Brown about our concerns. Katie hopes that anyone who wants to become involved with the Oxon Cove Park issue will reach out to her. Katie Morgan can be reached by phone at 202-419-3713; mobile at 202-400-1193, or by email to kmorgan@npca.org.

Legislative Scorecard

Audubon Maryland-DC has provided a wrap-up of the fate of environmental legislation in this year's Maryland General Assembly (<http://audubon.stagecoachdigital.com/web-view/11889>). It was a year of mixed success, with a number of important bills passing and others not approved. Here is a brief summary; please read the full accounting at the Audubon Maryland-DC website.

Bills that passed:

- The Polystyrene ban, (SB0285/HB0109) addresses pollution by non-recyclable polystyrene containers.
- The State and Local Forest Conservation Funds bill (SB0234/HB0272) requires active restoration of forests.
- The Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy bill (SB0729/HB0735) addresses management of existing forests.
- The Clean Energy Jobs Act (SB0516/HB1158) establishes criteria for qualified offshore wind projects.

The following bills did **not** pass; some will be resubmitted in 2020:

- The Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act (SB0314/HB0136 - formerly Bird Safe Buildings Act) would have required establishment of standards to reduce the impacts of buildings (e.g., window glass, lighting) on birds.
- The Chlorpyrifos ban (SB0270/HB0275) would have banned the sale of this bird- and insect-killing chemical in Maryland.
- The No Net Loss of Forest bill (SB0203/HB0120) would have changed the state standard for achieving a no net loss of forest policy by altering the definition of "forest" to refer to actual forests rather than including street and ballpark trees.
- The Healthy Climate Initiative (HB1235/SB0702) would have made polluters pay a steadily rising fee for emitting carbon pollution, and would have provided incentives for clean energy.

Eastern Shore Eagle Deaths Caused by Illegal Pesticide

Once again, a number of Bald Eagles and one Barred Owl were found to have been killed or injured by an illegal pesticide, carbofuran, which was formerly commonly used on farms but was banned in the 1990s. The dead and sick birds were found near Chestertown in Kent County on the Eastern Shore, and some additional birds were found on a farm in Talbot County. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and MD DNR are investigating and have posted a \$10,000 reward for information. The theory is that a farmer is putting out carcasses baited with carbofuran in order to get rid of animals such as foxes and raccoons. A similar case near Federalsburg in 2016 remains unsolved.

For more details, see the following articles in the media:

- <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2019/05/01/police-seek-information-on-eagle-owl-poisonings/>
- <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/environment/bs-md-eagles-owl-poisoned-20190501-story.html>
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/poisonings-kill-seven-bald-eagles-great-horned-owl-on-marylands-eastern-shore/2019/05/02/c445e038-6ce9-11e9-be3a-33217240a539_story.html?utm_term=.3d66fa3f9c93&wpisrc=nl_buzz&wpmm=1
- https://www.bayjournal.com/article/10000_reward_offered_for_information_about_eagle_poisonings_on_marylands_ea

Innovative Hemisphere-wide Conservation Plan Based on eBird Data

The following was provided in the form of an April 15, 2019 press release from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (<https://mailchi.mp/cornell/release-crowd-sourced-data-produces-optimal-bird-conservation-plan?e=edbe545bd6>)

April 15, 2019, Ottawa, ON, and Ithaca, NY— A new paper published today in the journal *Nature Communications* shows a blueprint for conserving enough habitat to protect the populations of almost one-third of the warblers, orioles, tanagers, and other birds that migrate among the Americas throughout the year.

For the research, an international team of scientists used the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's global citizen science database, eBird, to calculate how to sufficiently conserve habitat across the Western Hemisphere for all the habitats these birds use throughout their annual cycle of breeding, migration, and overwintering. The study provides planners with guidance on the locations and amounts of land that must be conserved for 30 percent of the global populations for each of 117 Neotropical migratory bird species.

More than a third of Neotropical migratory birds are suffering population declines, yet a 2015 global assessment found that only 9 percent of migratory bird species have adequate habitat protection across their yearly ranges to protect their populations. Conservation of migratory birds has historically been difficult, partly because they require habitat across continents and conservation efforts have been challenged by limited knowledge of their abundance and distribution over their vast ranges and throughout the year.

"We are excited to be the first to use a data-driven approach that identifies the most critical places for bird conservation across breeding, overwintering, and migratory stopover areas throughout the Western Hemisphere. In doing so, we provide guidance on where, when, and what type of habitat should be conserved to sustain populations," said Richard Schuster, Liber Ero Postdoctoral Fellow at Carleton University, and lead author on the *Nature Communications* paper. "This is a vital step if conservationists are to make the best use of limited resources and address the most critical problems at a hemispheric scale."



Conservation approaches map

This map at left shows the most important locations for conserving 30 percent of the population of each species examined. The darker the blue, the more consistently important was the location. Graphic by Richard Schuster.

The team's analysis found that conservation strategies were most efficient when they incorporated working lands, such as agriculture or forestry, rather than exclusively focusing on areas with limited human impacts (i.e., intact or undisturbed landscapes). The importance of shared-use or working landscapes to migratory birds underscores how strategic conservation can accommodate both human livelihoods and biodiversity. The research also found that efficiency was greatest—requiring 56 percent less land area—when planning across the entire year in full, rather than separately by week.

"Efforts to conserve migratory species have traditionally focused on single species and emphasized breeding grounds. Our results show that planning for multiple species across the entire year represents a far more efficient approach to land use planning," said Scott Wilson, Environment and Climate Change Canada research scientist and co-author on the paper.

"This study illustrates how globally crowd-sourced data can facilitate strategic planning to achieve the best return on conservation investments. No other data source could have achieved anything close to this level of detail and efficiency in spatial planning over such a vast area," said Cornell Lab senior conservation science director and co-author Amanda Rodewald.

"Prioritizing sites in which to invest our conservation dollars will dramatically improve our returns on the roughly \$1 billion spent annually on the conservation of birds by government and nonprofit organizations, often in the absence of spatially explicit information on year-round abundance or geographical representation," said Peter Arcese, co-author and FRBC Chair in Applied Conservation Biology at University of British Columbia.

This international team was comprised of scientists from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Carleton University, University of British Columbia, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Reference:

Schuster Richard, Wilson, Scott, Rodewald, Amanda D., Arcese, Peter, Fink, Daniel, Auer, Tom, Bennett, Joseph. R. (2019) Optimizing the conservation of migratory species over their full annual cycle. Nature Communications. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-019-09723-8

News from Around the Web

New Citizen Science NestWatch Project and App

The following was provided in the form of an April 15, 2019 press release from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (<https://mailchi.mp/cornell/releasegot-bird-nests-report-to-nestwatch?e=edbe545bd6>)

April 11, 2019, Ithaca, NY—Around the world, birds are building nests and raising families—even near homes, offices, or in local parks. Anyone who finds a bird's nest can help scientists by reporting to the free NestWatch project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. NestWatch collects, analyzes, and distributes data, serving as a warehouse of nesting bird information. NestWatchers, in turn, get to witness the start of new life and help to preserve it with their valuable information.

"Every year, scientists use data collected by NestWatchers in published studies," says Robyn Bailey, NestWatch project leader. "For example, in 2018, two studies examined the effects of spring temperatures on the timing of nesting activities, and showed that birds nest earlier when spring temperatures are warmer. Such studies help add to our understanding of how climate change can affect the lives of birds."

Those who find a nest can report its location, the species using it, number of eggs laid, and other important milestones as the adult birds incubate, raise, and fledge their young. The NestWatch website and mobile app now accept reports submitted from anywhere in the world, enabling scientists to compare birds across their global breeding range.

"I love this app, and I'm really looking forward to using it this season," says Samuel Bressler, a NestWatch participant.



Great Horned Owl young in nest, photo by Patricia Leonard, February 22, 2017. Photo courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology press kit.

Whether it's a massive web of sticks like the Great Blue Heron's nest, the compact twiggy cup nest of a Blue Jay, or a pair of bluebirds in a nest box, the information NestWatchers gather is more important than ever in this changing world.

You can register for the project at [NestWatch.org](https://www.nestwatch.org) and learn more about how to monitor nests without disturbing the birds. Download the free NestWatch app in the Apple App Store or from Google Play.

New: Short Videos on Birding

A young birder named Jason Ward stars in a new series of short, professionally-produced videos that cover a wide range of topics in birding. The video series, titled *Birds of North America*, is produced by a media company called Topic, and is available to view for free on their website at <https://www.topic.com/birds-of-north-america>. Rob Meyer is the director of the series.

The series is being lauded as a showcase for what today's birders are really like and really interested in, as opposed to the somewhat skewed, traditional media portrayal of us as fashion-challenged nerds who are out of touch with the world. Jason, the personable young host, helps to show the real face of contemporary birding.

In the first season of the new series, the avian advocate and father of two travels around the Northeast, from Cape May, New Jersey, to Maine, with guests such as comedian Wyatt Cenac, Dr. Drew Lanham of Clemson University, "The Birdist" Nicholas Lund, the American Museum of Natural History's Paul Sweet, and the Feminist Bird Club. (Plus Jason's younger brother Jeffrey, a fellow birder and formidable opponent in the brothers' annual bird count competition.)



Photo courtesy of Jason Ward's Twitter Feed, @JasonWardNY

The nine episodes currently available are:

1. Warbler Migration in Central Park (6 minutes)
2. How to Use Binoculars (2 minutes)
3. The Ward Brothers & The Mourning Warbler (5 minutes)
4. The Birds of the American Museum of Natural History (6 minutes)
5. Peregrine Falcons at Cape May (7 minutes)
6. Yellow-Billed Cuckoos & The Internet of Wildlife (7 minutes)
7. Drew Lanham: Hope Is the Thing With Feathers (7 minutes)
8. John James Audubon & The Gang of Warblers (8 minutes)
9. Wyatt Cenac & The Bufflehead (7 minutes)

A new episode is released every Sunday. You can subscribe to Topic's YouTube channel to be notified of new episodes.

Jason Ward is originally from the Bronx and started birding when, as a youngster, he spotted a Peregrine Falcon eating a pigeon on a ledge outside his bedroom window. Jason currently lives in Georgia, where he is working as an apprentice with the Atlanta Audubon Society and Birmingham Audubon, with a specific focus on developing relationships with local HBCU colleges and universities.

Check out the videos! They are beautifully filmed and guaranteed to spur your interest.

Beach-Nesting Bald Eagles Discovered on Eastern Shore of Virginia

During the annual Christmas Bird Count on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, one of the count teams made the remarkable discovery of an active Bald Eagle nest placed directly on a sandy beach at the northern end of Smith Island. At most birders are aware, Bald Eagles usually choose tall trees for their nest sites.



Photo by Frank Renshaw, December 30, 2018; used with permission of the photographer. Pictured from left to right are members of the CBC Smith Island boat crew: Nick Newberry, Daniel Cristol, Ellison Orcutt, and Michal Male. Not shown is the photographer, also a member of the team.

Another beach nest, this one containing a young eaglet, was found on nearby Ship Shoal Island on March 1, 2019. For more details on these amazing discoveries and more photos, see <https://ccbbirds.org/2019/04/02/beach-nesting-eagles/>



PG Notable Bird Sightings

Early spring, of course, brings the always much-anticipated start of migration, with wintering birds leaving for their breeding territories, local breeding birds moving in from the south, and birds of passage traveling through our area. From March through April, Prince George's County had its share of migrant birds that were remarkably early for incoming migrants or remarkably late for outgoing migrants. But true rarities have been relatively sparse during the last two months.

The long-staying **Trumpeter Swan** at Alter Pond on Soil Conservation Road was present through March 19 (Hans Holbrook). Michel Cavigelli found a **Trumpeter Swan** at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (restricted access) on March 31; this may have been the same individual as the Alter Pond bird. Another was found at Jackson Landing on March 13 (Kyra Harvey), but the Jackson Landing bird was a one-day wonder. Yet another **Trumpeter Swan** was at the Konterra Fields ponds (private) near Laurel on April 22 (Jay Sheppard and Marcy Stutzman). (Trumpeter Swan at right, photo by Michel Cavigelli, BARC, March 31, 2019; Macaulay Library ML148430311)



A distant **Red-necked Grebe** was on the Potomac River at Fort Washington National Park on March 18, and another, or maybe the same bird, was found later that day off the Piscataway Park



Boardwalk (Mark Rositol, both sightings). A **Red-throated Loon** (at right) was also at the Boardwalk on March 18, and one was near the National Colonial Farm section of Piscataway Park on March 20 (also Mark Rositol). (Red-necked Grebe photo at left by Mark Rositol, Piscataway Park--Boardwalk March 18, 2019, Macaulay Library ML146103971; Red-throated Loon photo at right by Mark Rositol,



Piscataway Park—Boardwalk, March 18, 2019, Macaulay Library ML146105911.)

A **Long-tailed Duck**, normally a bird restricted to salt water, was at Lake Artemesia starting April 1, and was seen by many until about April 8. Another **Long-tailed Duck** was at the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge on April 2 (Christina Yuan). (Long-tailed Duck, photo at right by Scott Keyes, Lake Artemesia, April 7, 2019, Macaulay Library ML149666031.)



Tom Feild (this is the correct spelling of his name) found a female **Painted Bunting** at Fran Uhler Natural Area on April 30 (no photo). The Painted Bunting has not been reported by other birders.



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.

Dues are half-off if joining after February!



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."

Or, you can now pay your dues online using the new MOS website:

1. Go to <https://mdbirds.org/>
2. Choose "Join" from the menu on the top right
3. Scroll down and click on "Chapters"
4. Scroll down to the map and click on Prince George's County to reach the Patuxent Bird Club membership area
5. Scroll down and click the little + sign next to "Membership" for PBC
6. Scroll down and pick your membership level and then click the orange "Register" button
7. Fill out the information, including setting up a password that will allow you to access "Members Only" information on the MOS website
8. That's it! You can even pay dues using your smartphone - the website is optimized to work with the screen on your phone.

2019 AOU order checklist

Maryland May Count 2019

Date:

County:

Territory:

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

2019 AOU order checklist

Savannah Sparrow	Bay-breasted Warbler	ADDITIONAL SPECIES (please provide details of sighting on separate sheet)	Observers (name and contact info)
Grasshopper Sparrow	Blackburnian Warbler		
Henslow's Sparrow*	Yellow Warbler		
Seaside Sparrow*	Chestnut-sided Warbler		
Nelson's Sparrow	Blackpoll Warbler		
Saltmarsh Sparrow*	Black-throated Blue Warbler		
Fox Sparrow	Palm Warbler		
Song Sparrow	Pine Warbler		
Lincoln's Sparrow	Yellow-rumped Warbler		
Swamp Sparrow	Yellow-throated Warbler		
White-throated Sparrow	Prairie Warbler		
White-crowned Sparrow	Black-throated Green Warbler		
Dark-eyed Junco	Canada Warbler		
Bobolink	Wilson's Warbler		
Eastern Meadowlark	Summer Tanager		
Orchard Oriole	Scarlet Tanager		
Baltimore Oriole	Northern Cardinal		
Red-winged Blackbird	Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
Brown-headed Cowbird	Blue Grosbeak	Temp range Cloud cover Precipitation Wind speed and direction	
Rusty Blackbird	Indigo Bunting		
Common Grackle	Dickcissel		
Boat-tailed Grackle*			
Yellow-breasted Chat	Scaup sp.		
Ovenbird	Gull sp.		
Warm-eating Warbler	Tern sp.		
Louisiana Waterthrush	Crow sp.		
Northern Waterthrush	Blackbird sp.		
Golden-winged Warbler			EFFORT # of Parties # of observers
Blue-winged Warbler			
Black-and-white Warbler	* Must be accepted by MD/DC Records Committee		
Prothonotary Warbler	if this species is outside its accepted range		
Tennessee Warbler			
Orange-crowned Warbler	** MUST be accepted by MD/DC Records Committee		
Nashville Warbler	if this species is to be included in final count		
Mourning Warbler			
Kentucky Warbler			
Common Yellowthroat			
Hooded Warbler		Driving hours miles	
American Redstart			
Cape May Warbler			
Cerulean Warbler			
Northern Parula			
Magnolia Warbler			
		Walking hours miles	
			Other (specify) hours miles
		Owling hours miles	
			Stationary hours