



# News from the 'Hood

## Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



### Upcoming Meetings and Speaker Programs

**Tuesday, September 10, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm**  
**Everything Monarch**  
**Presented by Lisa Bierer-Garrett and Chris Garrett**

Naturalist Lisa Bierer-Garrett and Park Ranger Christopher Garrett will discuss their recent bucket-list trip to Michoacan, Mexico to visit the El Rosario Biosphere Reserve, the largest of the Monarch Butterfly overwintering roosts, with over 5 million butterflies this past winter. Gloomy reports of the monarch butterfly's survival are in the news, but Lisa and Chris will put a positive spin on the news by describing how local folks can do their part to help monarchs and all butterfly species in their own neighborhood garden patch. Discover how planting your garden with milkweeds and other nectar rich plants can help this colony survive. One person can make a difference! The presenters will have photos of birds and butterflies seen on the trip as well as some of the amazing archaeological sites they visited.



**About the presenters:** Lisa Bierer-Garrett is currently the Director of Eco-Tourism for the town of North Beach in Calvert County. Previously, she served as a Park Naturalist with MNCPPC, leading programs in the Prince George's County Parks. She earned certification as a Maryland Master Naturalist at the American Chestnut Land Trust site. Lisa is an active butterfly and monarch researcher, participating in Monarch Butterfly tagging, annual butterfly counts, as well as bird counts, including Project Feeder Watch. Lisa is a long-time member of PGAS and serves on the PGAS Board of Directors. Chris Garrett is a Park Ranger with the MNCPPC parks in Prince George's County. He is also a talented musician. Together, Chris and Lisa enjoy traveling and enjoying the wonders of the natural world.

*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, October 8, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm** **The United States Bird Banding Program** **Presented by Bruce Peterjohn**

The Bird Banding Laboratory was established in 1920 to coordinate bird banding activities across the United States and its Territories. The Bird Banding Laboratory is now located in our own backyard at the Patuxent Research Refuge – Central Tract. Bird banding has been widely practiced in the United States since the 1950s and has evolved into a program of approximately 1700 master banders and 5000 sub-permittees who band more than one million birds annually. While bird banding was originally a practice where birds were marked with numbered metal bands to gain knowledge about the movement patterns of recovered banded birds, in recent decades, technological advances have greatly expanded our ability to track bird movements. Satellite transmitters, geolocators, and other devices now allow for more detailed tracking of the movements of individual birds and

provide remarkable insights into migratory behaviors that we never could have imagined. Because birds are good indicators of the health of the environment, the status and trends of bird populations are critical for identifying and understanding many ecological issues and for developing effective science, management and conservation practices. This presentation provides a history of the bird banding program in the United States and its contributions towards advancing the scientific understanding of bird migration and other aspects of avian ecology.

**About the Presenter:** Bruce Peterjohn moved to Maryland in 1991 to become coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After serving in that position for nearly 8 years, he worked as a wildlife biologist on various bird population monitoring projects at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. In October 2008, he was appointed Chief of the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory, and has been responsible for the U.S. banding program for the past 11 years. When not in his office, Bruce is an active hummingbird bander with an interest in the winter hummingbirds of the Mid-Atlantic region. Bruce earned a B.A. degree in Biology from the College of Wooster and a M.S. in Zoology from Southern Illinois University (Carbondale).

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## Message from the President

Welcome to the start of another exciting birding year with the Patuxent Bird Club! We have planned a series of interesting and informative meeting presentations that are sure to pique your interest in a variety of subjects pertaining to birds and conservation. The meeting programs complement our schedule of field trips and bird walks, which is built around recurring monthly walks at Lake Artemesia, Governor Bridge Natural Area, and Fran Uhler Natural Area, offered in conjunction with Prince George's Audubon Society. The entire year's schedule of meetings and field trips is online at the Patuxent Bird Club website at <https://patuxentbirdclub.org/calendar-3/>, including a grid-style 12-month calendar that you can print and keep handy.



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*President's Message, continued*

I am happy to report on our successful efforts to prevent a forested tract in neighboring Charles County from being razed to develop a solar energy project. Patuxent Bird Club joined a coalition of environmental groups to oppose a large solar project that Georgetown University intended to build smack in the middle of the Nanjemoy Important Bird Area designated by National Audubon. The project would have required the clearing of 210 acres of forest on a 537-acre site off Shugart Valley Place near La Plata. The coalition of environmental groups expressed concern over the impact to water quality in Wards Run, a tributary of the Potomac River, which flows through the property, as well as the loss of breeding habitat for the forest interior-dwelling species that the tract currently supports. We pointed out that other appropriate land is available for such a project, including defunct shopping centers and industrial sites. The Piscataway Conoy Tribe of Native Americans also voiced opposition, in that the Shugart Valley land is culturally significant to them. On August 28, 2019, the Maryland Department of the Environment issued its decision to deny the permit for the solar project, agreeing with the concerns over water quality, habitat loss, and cultural significance. You can read about the issue in the *Bay Journal* at <https://www.bayjournal.com/article/maryland-denies-permits-for-solar-projects-that-sought-to-clear-forests>.

Our success in saving this forested area of Charles County is just the kind of accomplishment that **Bruce Beehler** writes about in an opinion piece for the Washington Post. His article, titled "Why gloom and doom won't help us fight climate change" appeared on August 16, 2019, and can be accessed at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-doom-and-gloom-wont-help-us-fight-climate-change/2019/08/16/0d0bf0fa-b880-11e9-a091-6a96e67d9cce\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-doom-and-gloom-wont-help-us-fight-climate-change/2019/08/16/0d0bf0fa-b880-11e9-a091-6a96e67d9cce_story.html). Bird club members will recall that Bruce, an author and scientist who serves as the Chair of the MOS Development Committee, spoke to our clubs last March, detailing the waves of spring songbird migration that are the subject of his book *North on the Wing*.

Meanwhile, back home, the Patuxent Bird Club extends a huge thank-you to **Lynn Kenny**, who for many years served as refreshment coordinator for the monthly bird club meetings. Lynn has also been a stalwart participant in the annual Bowie Christmas Bird Count and in other club activities. Lynn let us know last spring that she is retiring from bird club projects, since it is now time for her and husband Peter to move on other interests. We wish Lynn and Peter all the best and thank them for their dedication over the years.

Lynn's retirement leads us to call for a **new volunteer to fill the role of refreshment coordinator**. We also have a perennial need for **more field trip leaders**. Pick a place where you enjoy birding and share it with others by leading a field trip there. In addition, we have a vacant **chapter director position**; the duties of chapter directors are light, mainly involving annual brainstorming on field trips and speakers, and occasionally weighing in on club business matters. Please let me know if you are willing and able to take on either the refreshment coordinator position, serve as a field trip leader for destinations not already on our schedule, or serve as a chapter director.

Good Birding!



## Patuxent Bird Club Officers & Directors

President	Marcia Watson	<a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a>
Vice-President	Fred Fallon	<a href="mailto:fwfallon@ymail.com">fwfallon@ymail.com</a>
Treasurer/Memberships	Jane Fallon	<a href="mailto:jefallon90@yahoo.com">jefallon90@yahoo.com</a>
Second Year Directors (Term 2017-2019)	Ken Cohen	<a href="mailto:kvulture@aol.com">kvulture@aol.com</a>
	Ross Geredien	<a href="mailto:goodmigrations@yahoo.com">goodmigrations@yahoo.com</a>
	Ikumi Kayama	<a href="mailto:ikumikayama@gmail.com">ikumikayama@gmail.com</a>
First Year Directors (Term 2018-2020)	David Mozurkewich	<a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a>
	Wade Stephen	<a href="mailto:wadestephen@comcast.net">wadestephen@comcast.net</a>
Representatives to MOS State Board	Marcia Watson	<a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a>
	Fred Fallon	<a href="mailto:fwfallon@ymail.com">fwfallon@ymail.com</a>
Field Trip Coordinator	David Mozurkewich	<a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a>
Hospitality	VACANT	
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Marcia Watson	<a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a>
Fall Bird Count	Fred Fallon	<a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a>
Spring Bird Count	Fred Fallon	<a href="mailto:fwfallon@ymail.com">fwfallon@ymail.com</a>
Bowie Christmas Bird Count	David Mozurkewich	<a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a>
Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Watson	<a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a>

Visit us on the web at [www.patuxentbirdclub.org](http://www.patuxentbirdclub.org)

### Welcome New Members!

Michel Cavigelli  
Sam Droege  
Beth Olsen



### 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 [marshwren50@comcast.net](mailto:marshwren50@comcast.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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.





## Upcoming Field Trips & Bird Walks

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

### **Thursday, September 5, 3 pm (Note: start time is 3 pm September-March) - Lake Artemesia Natural Area**

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

### **Saturday, September 7, 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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com)) for more information.

*Photo of Fran Uhler NA courtesy of MNCPPC*



### **Thursday, September 19, 3 pm (Note: start time is 3 pm September-March) - Lake Artemesia Natural Area**

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

### **Saturday, September 21, 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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

### **Saturday, September 21 - PGAS Birding Festival at Lake Artemesia. 9 am to 12 noon pm for main events; bird walk starts at 7:30 am.**



The Prince George's Audubon Society in cooperation with MNCPPC will hold its 6th annual migration-themed birding festival on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at Lake Artemesia, from 9 am to 12 noon. There will be an early bird walk at 7:30 am for all skill levels; bilingual (Spanish & English) family nature walks at 10 am; live owls and a raptor talk at 11 am; children's crafts; coloring mural; and a Monarch butterfly life cycle display. Lake Artemesia is at 8200 55th Avenue in Berwyn Heights near College Park. The Migration Celebration theme continues with the Flight Festival, 1-4 pm at the College Park Airport. For more information, contact Lisa Garrett at [l Garrett@northbeachmd.org](mailto:l Garrett@northbeachmd.org) or see flier on p. 12 of this newsletter.

### **Sunday, September 22 – Fall Bird Count**

Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. This census is part of a state-wide effort to count fall birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact the county compiler Fred Fallon ([fwfallon@ymail.com](mailto:fwfallon@ymail.com)) to receive an assigned area and see article on page 7 of this newsletter for more information.

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**Upcoming Field Trips, *continued*****Wednesday, September 25, 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 migrating warblers, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows. Meet at 7:30 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](mailto:kvulture@aol.com).

**Thursday, October 3, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area**

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

**Saturday, October 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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com)) for more information.

**Tuesday, October 8, 7 am - Jug Bay Boat Trip – A few seats may still available – sign up soon!**

Pontoon boat birding trip on the Patuxent River at Jug Bay - Observe what migration has brought in and enjoy the beauty of blooming bur marigolds and other flowers throughout the marsh. Led by Park Naturalist Gregory Kearns. Greg will likely have Sora or Virginia Rails in hand for banding and up-close viewing. We will look for other specialties of this freshwater wild rice marsh, including teal and a variety of other ducks, with an eye out for raptors as well. Good light in the fall makes for great photography. Check in by 7 am in the parking lot, and take advantage of the bathroom facility. The boat will depart the dock promptly at 7:30 am from the boat launch area of Jackson's Landing at Patuxent River Park, Croom, MD, for at least a 3-hour trip. Boat fee: \$6/Prince George's and Montgomery County residents; \$8/all others.



Please have ready the exact amount in cash. Limited to 20 participants. For reservations (required), contact Maureen Blades at [mblades5@verizon.net](mailto:mblades5@verizon.net) or 301-262-5148. Open to members of the Prince George's County Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club only, except as space may be available. Reservations accepted in order received with contact information included, please.

**Thursday, October 17, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area**

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

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**Upcoming Field Trips, *continued*****Saturday, October 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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

**Saturday, November 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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com)) for more information.

**Thursday, November 7, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area**

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

**Saturday, November 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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

**Thursday, November 21, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area**

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



## Calling all Birders: Annual Fall Bird Count – September 22



***By Chuck Stirrat, Fall Count Statewide Coordinator  
& Fred Fallon, Prince George's County Compiler***

The annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Maryland/DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of day to local chapters and coordinators. In Prince George's County, the count will take place on Sunday, September 22, and the county coordinator is Fred Fallon ([fwfallon@ymail.com](mailto:fwfallon@ymail.com) or 410-286-8152).

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Each pair of eyes helps, plus it can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. The results of the count will appear in an article in the Spring 2020 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation of unusual sightings.

A new checklist compilation form is available on the MOS website at <https://mdbirds.org/go-birdwatching/count-birds/fall-count-fall-migration/>; it includes common species found in Maryland during the fall. [A copy of the checklist is also attached at the back of this newsletter, and you can print and use that.] Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks \*. (Note: all write-ins require full details.)

The deadline for submitting completed reports to your county coordinator is **October 1, 2019**. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.

Join the fun and have a great day birding! Chuck Stirrat, Statewide Fall Count Coordinator, 13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155; Home phone: 410-531-2417; E-mail: [stirrbird@outlook.com](mailto:stirrbird@outlook.com)

### How to take part:

- 1) Pick an area you would like to cover –your back yard, or 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 Monday September 16, contact the Prince George's County coordinator, Fred Fallon** ([fwfallon@ymail.com](mailto:fwfallon@ymail.com) or 410-286-8152) and specify your preferred area to count. If you don't have an area in mind, you can ask Fred for a suitable assignment. 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 one of those sites, but be aware that accommodation can't be guaranteed.
- 3) Go out and count the birds on Sunday September 22!
- 4) Print out the checklist provided on the last pages of this newsletter (or download the form from <https://mdbirds.org/go-birdwatching/count-birds/fall-count-fall-migration/>) and enter your day's totals for each species. Checklists may also be obtained from Fred Fallon. The checklist available online is in PDF format and is not an interactive file, and so must be printed and filled out by hand. Please enter actual numbers of each species seen, not a mere checkmark for birds seen or heard. Be sure to include the site names, the hours and miles you covered, information for others who counted with you, and weather information. Then scan the form and email it to Fred Fallon, or send it by US Mail to Fred at the street 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 resulted in the present diversity of species. 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 try to look it over in advance.

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



## A Potpourri of Upcoming Local Events



### Pollinator Festival

Saturday, September 18

Patuxent Research Refuge - North Tract  
230 Bald Eagle Drive, Laurel, MD 20724

Join the Friends of Patuxent as they celebrate the magnificent pollinators of North America. See biologist and volunteers tag monarch butterflies. Discover how domestic and native bees sustain your environment. Join in on a guided nature walk.

#### Details

- Saturday, September 21, 2019, 10:00am - 2:00pm
- at North Tract
- Sponsored by the Friends of Patuxent
- FREE - Registration Not Required.
- Activities for All Ages: Children and Family Fun Activities!
- See Patuxent Video on Monarch Conservation
- See Flyer on page 11 for the full list of activities



### Annual Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest and Activities

Friday, September 27-Saturday, September 28

National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent Research Refuge - South Tract 10901 Scarlet Tanager  
Loop, Laurel, MD

Doors open to the public at 9:00 AM each day



Free and open to the public. Please join artists, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts for the Nation's oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition: the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Art Contest! Judging begins at 10:00 AM; public family friendly activities are scheduled throughout each day.

View stunning original paintings of waterfowl submitted by artists around the country as they compete for their place in history. The winning artwork chosen at this year's contest will be featured on the 2020-2021 Duck Stamp. The cornerstone of one of the nation's most successful conservation programs, the proceeds from sales of Duck Stamps go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to support land

acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

On Saturday, watch the contest and the announcement of the winner; explore wildlife habitats at Patuxent Research Refuge via walking and guided tram tours; learn about several species of wildlife up close; view decoy carving demonstrations and historic artifacts; and visit with our conservation partners. "Ding" Darling, the revered conservationist who designed the first Duck Stamp in 1934, will make a special appearance on Saturday. For more information contact Patuxent Research Refuge at 301-497-5763 or view the calendar of events at <https://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=6442456057>.

Also see the flier on page 13 of this newsletter.

**Big Sit! Weekend****October 12-13****Wetlands Overlook Park in North Beach, Calvert County**

Celebrate the annual fall migration of birds with North Beach's first Big Sit! Birding Weekend. The kickoff for the Town's event will be an evening **Owl Prowl** on **Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 7 pm**. Meet at the parking lot of Wetlands Overlook Park, at 4020 11th Street in North Beach and dress for the weather; flashlights are allowed. For ages 6 & up. No strollers on woodland trail. Free.



The **Big Sit!** will be on **Sunday, October 13, 2019 from 7 am to 3 pm**. It's like a tailgating party that's for the birds! The Big Sitters group will set up their count circle in the parking lot by the North Beach visitor's center to bird all day, counting all the species seen flying, swimming or walking by! Bring chairs, binoculars, snacks and hats. All invited. The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club; it is held at many count circles throughout the USA annually during fall migration. See <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit.php>. You don't have to stay all day but do come out. Finish the weekend with a Tally Rally dinner locally @5pm.

For more information contact Lisa Garrett, North Beach Director of Eco-tourism at 443-646-2426 or [Lgarrett@northbeachmd.org](mailto:Lgarrett@northbeachmd.org). Also see the flier on page 14 of this newsletter.

**Songbird Viewing Area Dedication Ceremony****Saturday, October 19, 1:00 – 1:30 pm****National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent Research Refuge – South Tract  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD**

Join the staff and volunteers at our local National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate the completion of the new songbird viewing area. Constructed to aid school groups, photographers, and visitors of all ages in seeing songbirds up close, the observation area is a great addition to the refuge. All ages, no registration needed.


**Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar****Saturday, November 2, 2018, 9:00 am -3:00 pm****National Wildlife Visitor Center at South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD**

Shop for wild and not-so-wild, new and gently-used treasures. Find unique gifts from local crafters and at the same time support the Patuxent Research Refuge. Attractions include live animals, tram rides (weather permitting), door prizes, and much more. Free. Hosted by the Friends of Patuxent (<http://friendsofpatuxent.org/>). All proceeds go to support Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge. For more information call 301-497-5772.



## Annual Friends of Patuxent Pollinators Festival

 Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

 10:00AM – 2:00 PM

At the Wildlife Viewing Area  
Patuxent Research Refuge – North  
Tract

230 Bald Eagle Drive  
Laurel, Maryland 20724

Baltimore-Washington Parkway to  
Maryland Route 198 exit  
East on 198 for approximately one and  
one-half miles to the Refuge entrance on  
the right approximately one mile on  
entrance road to the Visitor Contact  
Station.

 For further information call (301) 497-5789,  
FAX (301) 497-5765 or visit us on the web at  
[www.friendsofpatuxent.org](http://www.friendsofpatuxent.org)



*Activities for All Ages:  
Children and Family Fun Activities!  
Educational:*

Learn about the wonder of the annual 3,000  
mile migration of the Monarch Butterfly.

The roles Native and Honeybees play in  
your environment from members of the  
Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring  
Lab and Bowie-Upper Marlboro  
Beekeepers Association

*- Nature walks -*

*- If Conditions Permit – See Live  
Caterpillars, Monarch Tagging Done –  
Learn to create a new and/or enhance established  
Monarch habitats. Milkweed, plants available and  
FREE seeds packets for our region.  
Learn how you can help at home.*

### Report Your Sightings! Special Weekend Event Sponsored by the Friends of Patuxent

- Wildlife Interpretive walks
- Monarch Story-time and Sing-Along
- Monarch migration game
- Monarch tag and release.
- Interpretive discussions with bee keepers, scientists, naturalists



Friends of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge, Inc. is a designated Section 501(c)(3) is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. We are a membership organization whose mission is to support the research of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the environmental education, outreach, and recreation missions at the Patuxent Research Refuge. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) designation number is 63960 in the National Capital & Chesapeake Bay Area Maryland campaigns. Maryland Charitable Organization Registration - 2348



# Birding in the Americas: Mi Casa es Su Casa *MIGRATION CELEBRATION*



**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2019  
9am - 12pm  
Lake Artemesia Park  
Berwyn Road & 55th Ave.,  
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740**



## Schedule of Events

- 7:30am Bird walk (for all skill levels)
- 9:00am Event OPENS
- 10:00am Family bilingual Nature walk introducing iNaturalist app
- 10:00am -12:00pm Live birds of prey from Watkins Nature Center
- 11:00am Birds of Prey talk with park naturalist
- Door prizes throughout event



**ONGOING: Celebrating Migration:**  
Oriole - 2019 Migratory Bird  
Monarch Butterfly life cycle display



## Fun Stuff for Kids!

- Bird coloring mural, games, & cool crafts
- Make a pair of recycled binoculars!
- Bilingual Activities
- Spanish/English Nature Bingo pages

For more information about this event, visit our webpage at <http://www.pgaudubon.org>.  
Meetup: [www.meetup.com/Prince-George's-Audubon-Society](http://www.meetup.com/Prince-George's-Audubon-Society)  
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/princegeorgesaudubonsociety>





## 2019 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest & Activities

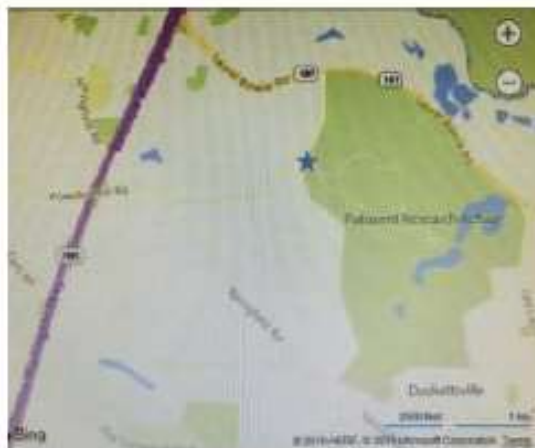


Please join us for the Nation's oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition -  
The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Art Contest!

**September 27 and 28, 2019**

*National Wildlife Visitor Center  
Patuxent Research Refuge  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
(entrance is off of Powder Mill Road)  
Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, MD*

*Doors open to the public at 9:00 AM each day  
Judging begins at 10:00 AM  
Public Family Friendly Activities  
Free and open to the public*



View stunning paintings of waterfowl submitted from artists around the country as they compete for their place in history. The winning artwork chosen at this year's contest will be featured on the 2020-2021 Duck Stamp. The cornerstone of one of the most successful conservation programs, sale of Duck Stamps support wetland conservation as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

On Saturday, watch the contest; explore wildlife habitats at Patuxent via walking and guided tram and nature tours; learn about several species of wildlife up close; view decoy carving demonstrations and historic artifacts; and visit with our conservation partners and artists from around the country.

J. N. "Ding" Darling will be visiting the crowds and will make a special appearance starting at 2:30 PM on Saturday.

For more information contact Patuxent at 301-497-5763 or visit the calendar of events at:  
<https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/duck-stamp-contest-and-event-information.php>



## Save the Date!

# North Beach Fall Birding Weekend

## October 12-13, 2019

KICK OFF WITH AN OWL FROWL  
NIGHT HIKE  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 @ 7PM



MEET AT WETLANDS  
OVERLOOK PARK ENTRANCE  
BRING BINOCULARS, WALKING  
SHOES, & DRESS FOR WEATHER

INFO: LGARRETT@NORTHBEACHMD.ORG  
PHONE (443) 646-2426  
[www.northbeachmd.org/community-conservation](http://www.northbeachmd.org/community-conservation)



### Big Sit Sunday

October 13, 2019 7am-3pm

Wetlands Overlook Park  
4030 11th St. North Beach, MD  
with "Tally Rally" dinner  
locally at 5pm

*Attention Birders:* come help our Bird Count Circle compete nationally! Bring a cooler, chairs and binoculars, scopes and snacks. We will provide the birds! Great habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds, rarities and wildlife sightings at NB's wetland park.

**What's the Big Sit?:**  
The Big Sit is an annual, international, birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club.

Subscribe to Town News  
at [www.northbeachmd.org](http://www.northbeachmd.org)



The Jewel of the Chesapeake Bay  
North Beach, Maryland



**Save the Date!**

**Next MOS Convention  
Ramada Inn  
Cumberland, MD  
May 15-17, 2020**





## Report from Michelle Adams, Hog Island Scholarship Winner

*This past year, the Patuxent Bird Club sponsored an application from Michelle Adams, a park ranger with MNCPPC - Prince George's County Parks and Recreation for an MOS Scholarship to the Audubon camp at Hog Island in Maine. Michelle received one of seven scholarships awarded this past year. She attended the Field Ornithology camp at Hog Island in June, and sent us this report on her adventures, complete with her photos.*

I just got back from a great week up at Hog Island Maine on Friday. Thank you Maryland Ornithological Society and the Patuxent Bird Club for this amazing experience! It was quite the week! I attended the Field Ornithology session of camp with around 50 other adult campers from around the United States and Canada. There was a Teen Ornithology camp happening on the island simultaneously. It was interesting chatting with the teens. The teens were just as knowledgeable as the instructors, were doing great research and had big plans for their careers. The future of Ornithology is safe in their hands.

The first full day of camp, Monday, started with an in shore boating bird trip. I saw a Black Guillemot for the first time. This bird turned out to be a camp favorite thanks to their beautiful coloration with the white wing patch and "vermillion" (red) feet. The other common sights on this trip were Common Loons, Laughing Gulls, Herring Gulls, Great Black-backed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Common Eiders (male and female), and Surf Scoters.



After in shore birding we took an "Ornithology 101" class. We took "Ornithology 102" on Thursday. The classes were taught by the very knowledgeable Sara Morris, a professor at Canisius College. She said it was a whole semester of an Ornithology class crammed into three hours. We learned about bird evolution, adaptation, classification, and anatomy.

Monday afternoon we got to observe my favorite thing, bird banding. I love seeing the birds up close and getting to focus on their key features and hearing the banders' stories of recaptures and band returns. We used mist nets and caught a Song Sparrow, two Black-throated Green Warblers, and two Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Monday night Sara Morris gave a great presentation entitled "Taking Sexism out of Birding." The focus of this talk was about taking the time to learn to identify female birds. We viewed several photos of female warblers that look significantly different than their male counterparts and learned how to identify the species based on breast color, wing patches, distinguishing facial markings, and contrasting colors on the tail.



If I had to choose a theme for Tuesday it would be "Nests." We did an all day mainland birding trip to Hidden Valley Nature Preserve and the Damariscotta Fish Ladder. We saw so many bird nests such as Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Baltimore Oriole, Red-eyed Vireo, and Eastern Kingbird. Other notable sightings that day were Winter Wrens, Bobolinks, a Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-crowned Night-Heron and a Snowshoe Hare.

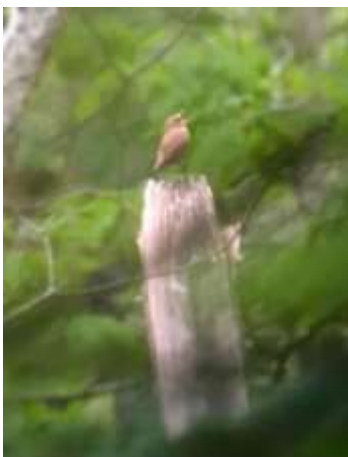
Tuesday evening we had a talk by Scott Weidensaul on "Project Snowstorm," the Snowy Owl population explosion in 2013. The presentation had incredible pictures of these birds. One of the main stories in the presentation was a local bird named "Baltimore." Baltimore was a Snowy Owl that was banded at BWI airport and tracked for several years through this project.



On Wednesday we took a birding hike around Hog Island and visited the artist in residence on the island. The artist is on a remote part of the island for two weeks painting the views and donates a piece at the end of his stay to the Friends of Hog Island for their annual Auction. Wednesday Afternoon we finally got to go out to Eastern Egg Rock to see the Puffins that were restored to the area through the famous "Project Puffin!" Along the way we also saw Harbor Porpoises, Harbor Seals, Roseate Terns, Common Terns, Arctic Terns, a Surf Scoter, and a Razorbill.

Our good weather luck ended on Thursday but we were able to get a morning birding trip in to Damariscotta River Association prior to the rain. There we saw lots of Bobolinks, as that was a common nesting field for them. We also heard Sora and Virginia Rails and saw Black Ducks, male and female Mallards, Canada Geese (and their gosling babies), and a female Hooded Merganser.

Thursday evening was really rainy and chilly but it did not stop us from celebrating a camp invented holiday "International Guillemot Day." We were told to wear black, white and red to celebrate. We sang a song dedicated to the Guillemot and ate traditional Maine chowder and of course lobster.



It was definitely a week to remember but unfortunately all good things must come to an end and Friday morning it was time to leave. I will get to carry the knowledge I gained throughout my life and share it with others in my work. I also met a teacher from an adjacent county in Maryland who was attending camp to brush up her skills to teach her students. We exchanged contact information and are working on setting up a few programs with her students this coming school year.

I highly recommend professionals in the environmental field and bird enthusiasts attend one of the Hog Island offered camps. It was a life changing experience seeing the beauty of Maine and the biodiversity that surrounds the island. The instructors are so knowledgeable that you will learn anything and everything you could ever imagine!

Again thank you so much for this incredible experience! Some pictures are included: a Song Sparrow and Black-throated Green Warbler we banded, a Winter Wren, Bobolink, and of course Puffins!

*Michelle Adams*

Park Ranger

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Department of Parks and Recreation



## PG Notable Bird Sightings



This report covers May, June, July, and August of 2019 (since our last newsletter).



**Black-billed Cuckoos** attracted attention during spring migration and then again heading southbound. Two were seen on May 2 on the Anacostia Tributary Trail System in College Park (Lance Benner & Timothy Spahr), and one or more were at Lake Artemesia between April 29th and May 17th (multiple observers). Others were along Laurel-Bowie Road on May 17th (Hans Holbrook) and at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) on May 12th (Mark Rositol). A Black-billed Cuckoo was at Jeff Shenot's house on the Patuxent River on Jul 6th and Debi Talbott found another at the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge on July 7th; these latter two are almost certainly "fall" migrants heading south. *Photo at left by Kevin Bennett, Lake Artemesia, May 4, 2019; Macaulay Library ML156099191.*

A juvenile **Tricolored Heron** that showed up at South Tract caused a great stir, staying for about a week and seen by many. The bird was first reported by David Kent on July 13 and was present at least until the 21st. Mark Rositol found a **Glossy Ibis** at Jackson Landing in Patuxent River Park on August 24th. *Tricolored Heron photo at right by Andy Connelly, National Wildlife Visitor Center, July 14, 2019; Macaulay Library ML168194361.*



A **Purple Gallinule** was a great find at the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge on May 24 (Christina Yuan).



Hans Holbrook had a kite two-fer: he saw a **Swallow-tailed Kite** over the Konterra Fields on May 15th and not one but two **Mississippi Kites** over his home in Forestgate near Bowie on May 20. *Swallow-tailed Kite photo at left by Hans Holbrook, Konterra Fields, May 15, 2019; Macaulay Library ML158734451.*

A **Northern Harrier** that lingered at the old airfield within BARC into June raised hopes that they could be breeding there (Gail Mackiernan). Michel Cavigelli reported one, possibly the same bird, from Research Road at BARC on August 1.

A **Mourning Warbler** was found by Hans Holbrook at BARC on May 2nd. Fred Shaffer found a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro on May 28th. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a nice find by Nathan Parmeter in the Paint Branch Valley Stream Park on August 24th.

A single male **Dickcissel** was singing from early June through early July along Beaverdam Road at BARC, originally found by Michel Cavigelli on June 4<sup>th</sup> and subsequently seen or heard by many. *Photo at right by Michel Cavigelli, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, June 29, 2019; Macaulay Library ML169139121.*





## MOS/Patuxent Bird Club Membership Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Members of the Patuxent Bird Club also become members of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). Full dues include Chapter and MOS State membership, and subscriptions to *Maryland Yellowthroat*, *Maryland Birdlife*, and the Patuxent Bird Club Newsletter. (The Patuxent Bird Club 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  
☐ Individual \$26  
☐ Junior (Age < 18) \$6

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

In addition, I have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution

☐ to Patuxent Bird Club in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ to Maryland Ornithological Society in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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.

"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."

web version August 2019

# MD Fall Count Checklist

Date: Sept. 22, 2019 County: Prince George's Compiler: Fred Fallon

\* Need some details

\*\* Need full details

\*\*\* All write-ins need full details

Provide party data on back

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

