



# News from the 'Hood

## Patuxent Bird Club

*A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

[www.patuxentbirdclub.org](http://www.patuxentbirdclub.org)

January-February 2022

### Upcoming Virtual Meetings

**Tuesday, January 11, 7:30 pm**

**Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time before speaker**

**Big mountains, small birds, and thin air: How birds live at high elevations**

***Presented by Dr. Sahas Barve***



Blending field-based and museum-based research, Dr. Sahas Barve will talk about how Himalayan birds have adapted to a life of low oxygen availability and cold temperatures. Then taking a community science approach, Sahas will discuss how data from your fellow eBirders in India is helping unlock the secrets of Himalayan bird elevational migration.

*About the presenter:* Dr. Sahas Barve is a Peter Buck Fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. He is interested in the repeated evolution of a montane life history in the world's birds. Amongst other degrees, Dr. Barve holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University. Sahas is an avid birder and hopes to see six thousand species by the time he is sixty.

This program, sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS, will be presented via Zoom and is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required and seats are limited. Please register no later than midnight of Sunday, January 9. To register, go to the registration form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/122CmQ1xfwZBuGRZzFJ-ETlg2HevWUraThFHcYMpegY0/edit?usp=sharing>. Your Zoom link will be sent by email on Monday, January 10, but only if you register before then.

*Meetings continued next page*

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*Upcoming Virtual Meetings, continued***Tuesday, February 8, 7:30 pm****Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time before speaker****Dragonflies and Damselflies of Maryland*****Presented by James McCann***

According to recent records, Maryland is home to 128 species of dragonflies and 57 species of damselflies. Collectively known as odonates, dragonflies and damselflies have attracted the attention of many birders because of their beautiful forms and identification challenges. Associated in general with water environments, many odonate species have extremely particular microhabitat requirements. James McCann, State Zoologist with the Wildlife and Heritage Service in the MD Department of Natural Resources, will take us on an armchair tour of some of Maryland's fascinating odonates and their habitats. Jim is an expert on Maryland's rare, threatened and endangered species and on the habitats that support them.



Gray Petaltail (*Tachopteryx thoreyi*);  
photographs by James McCann;  
photos courtesy MD DNR.

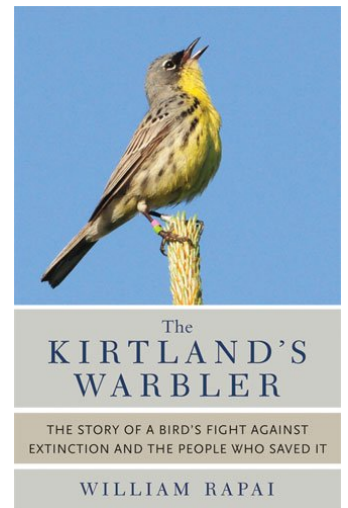
This program, sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS, will be presented via Zoom and is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required and seats are limited. Please register no later than midnight of Sunday, February 6. To register, go to the registration form at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1az7EaDUUpUtd1c8EK94rxN4GWzYdloUzg8yM\\_f1Vle7s/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1az7EaDUUpUtd1c8EK94rxN4GWzYdloUzg8yM_f1Vle7s/edit?usp=sharing). Your Zoom link will be sent by email on Monday, February 7, but only if you register before then.

**Bonus:** Those interested in doing some pre-exploration of the topic can take a look at the [dragonfly and damselfly resources](#) provided by Richard Orr, state Odonota records compiler.

**Patuxent Bird Club members are cordially invited to attend Anne Arundel Bird Club meetings, held online on the third Wednesday of each month.**

**Meeting: Anne Arundel Bird Club****Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm****The Kirtland's Warbler: From the brink of extinction to a new model for endangered species conservation".****Presented by William Rapai**

The Kirtland's Warbler is an iconic species in Michigan, nesting primarily in the jack pine forests of the northern Lower Peninsula. As recently as 1987 there were fewer 400 birds in the entire population. Today, there are more than 4,000 birds, and the population continues to grow to a point where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined its population is now at a level to be considered "recovered." In October 2019, the Kirtland's Warbler was removed from the Endangered Species List. That's a reason to celebrate, but it doesn't mean we can wash our hands and walk away because conservation of the Kirtland's Warbler has special challenges. Unlike every other animal that has been removed from the Endangered Species List, the Kirtland's Warbler will require continued human intervention to ensure its survival.



William Rapai is author of *The Kirtland's Warbler: The Story of a Bird's Fight for Survival and the People Who Saved It*, and executive director of the Kirtland's Warbler Alliance, a nonprofit created to support Kirtland's Warbler conservation.

This program, sponsored by the Anne Arundel Bird Club, will be presented via Zoom and is free and open to the public. Advance registration is NOT required but seats are limited, so plan to sign in promptly at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84514315215?pwd=TXJyaHRWNfUUbFMYS2F6eGhPRtK5Zz09>

**Bonus:** To learn about conservation efforts to support Kirtland's Warblers, you may wish to watch this excellent video from Michigan: [https://youtu.be/MBSjtRXnR\\_g](https://youtu.be/MBSjtRXnR_g)

## Patuxent Bird Club & Anne Arundel Bird Clubs Meeting Schedule for Remainder of the Club Year

We do not yet know when we will be able to return to in-person meetings.

The leadership of our clubs is continuing to monitor the situation.

An announcement will be made by email when we're ready to go back to in-person meetings.

February 16	Anne Arundel Bird Club	TBA	TBA
March 8	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Ana Maria Castaño Rivas, Deputy Director of Conservation, Parque de la Conservación, Colombia; also, one of the coordinators of Global Big Day in Colombia	The Global Big Day Experience in Colombia
March 16	Anne Arundel Bird Club	TBA	TBA
April 12	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Dan Small, Natural Lands Project Coordinator at Washington College in Chestertown, MD	Natural Lands Project at Washington College's River and Fields Campus (formerly Chino Farms)
April 20	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Gene Scarpulla, Editor of <i>Maryland Birdlife</i> and an expert on shorebirds and gulls	Shorebirds 101: An Introductory Overview
May 10	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Paul Baicich, nationally known birder, prolific author, consultant for the NWR System, and editor of the Birding Community E-bulletin	Access Matters: Why Birders Should Care
May 18	Anne Arundel Bird Club	TBA	TBA
June 14	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Members' Night	Members share their photos of birds and birding
June 15	Anne Arundel Bird Club	TBA	TBA

### Meetings and Speakers Hosted by Other MOS Chapters

Most MOS chapters are continuing their monthly meetings in an online format, and would welcome your attendance for their guest speaker presentations. To see upcoming meetings and speakers around the state, go to the online MOS calendar at

<https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>

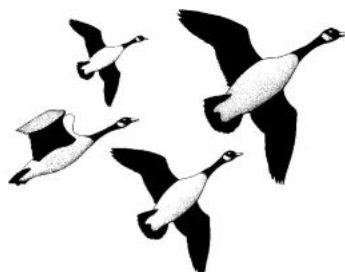


## Upcoming Bird Walks and Field Trips

*Click on blue underlined titles to go to a description of each place.*

- [Fran Uhler Natural Area](#) – first Saturday of each month: **February 5, March 5, April 2**. Leader: Bill Sefton. Meet at the parking area off Lemons Bridge Road north of Bowie State University at **7:30 am**. **Note that the January 1 Fran Uhler walk is cancelled.**
- [Governor Bridge Natural Area](#) – third Saturday of each month: **January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16**. Leader: Bill Sefton. Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange at **7:30 am**.
- [Lake Artemesia Natural Area](#) – first and third Thursdays of each month: **January 6, January 20, February 3, February 17, March 3, March 17, April 7, April 21**. Leader: rotates as schedules permit. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. The start time is **3 pm** from September through March.
- [South Tract, Patuxent Research Refuge](#) – **Saturday, January 8, 8 am**. Easy walk on trails around Cash Lake for winter songbirds and waterfowl. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles; wear sturdy shoes. Meet at 8 am in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center off Powder Mill Road; 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. Leader Ken Cohen ([REDACTED]). Reservations not needed. [Click for directions](#) and other information.
- [Timberdoodle Search at Governor Bridge Natural Area](#) – **Saturday, February 26, 5:30 pm**. Dave Mozurkewich will lead a search at dusk in an attempt to see and hear the enchanting courtship display of [American Woodcocks](#) (aka Timberdoodles). Though woodcocks have declined in our region, Dave knows a few spots where they still give their aerial wing-whistling display. Dave will scout likely locations ahead of time and will lead us to the best place(s). Remember that this will be a late afternoon-evening trip (dusk). Meet at 5:30 pm at the Governor Bridge Natural Area parking lot. Don't be late – timing is important for the best opportunity of viewing the display.
- [Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge](#) – **Saturday, March 12, 9 am**. This is an ideal time to visit Blackwater for the annual mass staging of waterfowl before they depart for spring migration. Target species include Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, a wide variety of ducks, and maybe some bonus American White Pelicans. Bring scope if you have one and also food & drinks in case the group decides not to stop at a restaurant for lunch. Leaders Ken & Diane Cohen ([REDACTED]). Meet at 9 am at Bay Country Bakery, located on the south side of Cambridge on Route 50, on the right (west) side of the highway as you head south. Street address: U.S. 50, 2951 Ocean Gateway, Cambridge, MD 21613. Arrive early to allow time to stock up on sweet treats for the day.

**Note** that on bird walks and field trips, the leader has the discretion to ask participants to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, and also to ask for social distancing. And we may have to cancel if the COVID situation worsens. On the other hand, if the virus situation stabilizes or improves, we anticipate scheduling additional field trips and bird walks.





## Poplar Island Bird Tours

Free birding tours of [Poplar Island](#) will again be available in 2022 courtesy of the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) and the Maryland Port Authority, which manage the Poplar Island project. Poplar Island, in the Chesapeake Bay in Talbot County, is one of the best places to see shorebirds in Maryland. The island is an active dredged material containment site: the dredged material is being used to restore the island and provide habitat for birds.



*Common Tern on nest at Poplar Island, photo by Marcia Watson*

MES provides a boat to take birders over to the island, and then birders are taken around the island by bus, with stops at key spots where everyone can get out to look at birds. The boat departs for the island from the mainland dock in Tilghman, MD promptly at 9 am and returns to the mainland at 1:30 pm. The boat ride takes about 30 minutes. Generally, there is a lunch break in the administration building at about noon. Bring your own lunch and drinks.



*Birding at Poplar Island, photo by Marcia Watson*

The Poplar Island trips are not sponsored by the Patuxent Bird Club, but we are providing this information so that you may register on your own if you would like to go. This year's tour dates are:

Friday, April 15  
Wednesday, June 22  
Wednesday, July 6

Monday, August 1  
Wednesday, August 17  
Friday, September 2

Friday, September 16  
Friday, October 7

MES will **start taking reservations for this year's tours on the morning of Monday, January 10**. Seats fill fast, so don't delay. To make reservations, send an email to [poplartours@menv.com](mailto:poplartours@menv.com) or call Tour Coordinator Kristina Motley at 410-770-6503. As space is limited and in order to avoid issues with participants who reserve spots but do not attend, each person is allowed to reserve a maximum of 2 seats on each trip and must supply a name, email, and/or phone number for both people. Only people with reservations are allowed to board the boat. Please notify the tour coordinator of any cancellations as soon as you can. This will allow time to offer the spot to someone on the waiting list. MES asks that you only plan to attend a two or three of these special tours each year, so that others can share in the experience.

Once registered you will receive a confirmation letter that will provide directions to the boat dock and details on the tour itself, as well as site regulations and expectations. Email [poplartours@menv.com](mailto:poplartours@menv.com) or call Kristina Motley at 410-770-6503 with any questions, concerns, or if you'd like to learn more about the other tour offerings at Poplar Island.

### Welcome New Members!

Kate Barfield  
Kevin, Amy, & Finnley Carpenter-Driscoll  
Stephanie Dalke  
Tonya Johnson  
Joan Johnston  
Marc Mannheimer  
Sean Sharp and Tyler Sanville  
Daniel Sloan  
Andrea Zachary

## Message from the President

I'm more than ready to welcome in the New Year with a resolution to do more birding. When the pandemic started, Gene and I strictly followed the governor's stay-at-home orders. Unfortunately, the staying at home became a habit and I have found that I no longer get out regularly each week for some local birding, either by myself or with Gene or with a group. I plan to do better in 2022. Although I'll still take COVID precautions when around others, being outdoors is safe and is also beneficial to emotional and physical health. I can really use the exercise!

I'm particularly looking forward to attending the Maryland Ornithological Society Convention, which will be held at Solomons Island, May 20-22. As most of you know, the 2020 convention was cancelled entirely, and the 2021 convention was held online. MOS is determined to have this one in person if at all possible. I've been attending the annual conventions since the mid-1990s, and I have really missed seeing my birding friends from across the state over the last two years. Keeping fingers crossed for this year.

I hope to see some of you at the convention or even before then, out and about at our local birding spots. Here's to a good year in 2022 for the Patuxent Bird Club!



*Marcia*

Patuxent Bird Club Officers and Directors		
President	Marcia Watson	
Vice-President	Fred Fallon	
Treasurer/Memberships	Jane Fallon	
First Year Directors (Term 2019-2021)	David Mozurkewich	
	Kevin Bennett	
	Vacant	
Second Year Directors (Term 2020-2022)	Ken Cohen	
	Matt Felperin	
	Ikumi Kayama	
Representatives to MOS State Board	Marcia Watson	
	Ross Geredien	
Field Trip Coordinator	Vacant	
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Marcia Watson	
Fall & Spring Bird Counts	Matt Felperin	
Bowie Christmas Bird Count	David Mozurkewich	
Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Watson	
Visit us on the web at <a href="http://www.patuxentbirdclub.org">www.patuxentbirdclub.org</a>		



## News from the Maryland Ornithological Society

**MOS Convention.** Mark your calendar! MOS is planning on having the next annual convention in-person (!) at **Solomons Island, MD, May 20 - 22, 2022**. It will be great to get folks back together again. But help is needed. Volunteers are needed for registration check-in, the pin design contest, photo contest, raffle, and field trips, and more. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to [conference@mdbirds.org](mailto:conference@mdbirds.org), giving your name, email address, phone number, and area of interest. We look forward to seeing folks from across the state in-person at Solomons!

**MOS Vacancies.** MOS is seeking volunteers to fill vacant positions within the organization:

1. **Candidate for MOS Vice President.** The critical position of MOS vice-president for the coming term (2022-2024) is open, and MOS is looking for qualified candidates to stand for election at the convention. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for the office, or would like to volunteer yourself, please email John McKitterick, MOS President ([john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org](mailto:john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org)).
2. **MOS Sanctuary Committee Chair.** MOS owns ten sanctuaries across the state, managed by a statewide committee of dedicated individuals. The position of chair became vacant when the former chair had to step aside because of illness. Duties of the chair include leading the Sanctuary Committee; setting the annual budget for the Sanctuaries; organizing work days at Irish Grove and Carey Run Sanctuaries; making sure that maintenance of the sanctuaries is performed as needed; and communicating with the MOS Board of Directors and executive officers about sanctuary matters. Contact MOS President John McKitterick at [john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org](mailto:john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org) if interested.
3. **Conservation Committee Chair.** Duties include leading the Conservation Committee; monitoring legislation, regulation, and policies that affect birds and their habitat; overseeing the writing of advocacy letters to county, state, and federal officials; advocating in person for bird conservation; maintaining close ties with coalition partners such as the American Bird Conservancy and Audubon Mid-Atlantic; and keeping the MOS membership up-to-date on conservation issues and alerting them to opportunities for advocating for conservation as individuals. Contact MOS President John McKitterick at [john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org](mailto:john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org) if interested.
4. **LOCAL OPPORTUNITY: Sanctuary Manager for Piscataway MOS Sanctuary in Prince George's County.** MOS owns an 82-acre sanctuary near Accokeek in the southern part of our county. Piscataway Sanctuary was acquired in 2008 as a gift from a developer. The sanctuary is mostly wooded and contains a stream valley formed by a tributary of Piscataway Creek. A local manager is needed to recruit volunteers for annual chores such as trimming brush, clearing trails, and general cleanup, and to advise the Sanctuary Committee on needs such as signage and trails. The manager will also be part of a team to arrange for a major professional stream restoration project. If interested, please send an email to Marcia Watson, Sanctuary Committee Secretary ([REDACTED]).

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## Local Items of Interest

**Death of a Champion for the Patuxent River.** Former State Senator Bernie Fowler of Calvert County passed away on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the age of 97. Senator Fowler was much beloved for leading his annual wade-in on the Patuxent River in order to conduct his "sneaker test" – how deep he could go into the river and still see his white sneakers. This simple test of the water's cleanliness was an indicator of the river's health and served to forecast the work still to be done to improve water quality. You can read more about Bernie in a [Bay Journal tribute](#) or in his [obituary in Southern Maryland Online](#). A memorial service planned for December 29<sup>th</sup> has been postponed because of COVID and is being re-scheduled for a date in spring.

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*Local items, continued next page*

*Local items, continued*

**Painted Bunting and MD Breeding Bird Atlas on TV.** The popular TV show *Outdoors Maryland* recently aired a new episode that includes coverage of the Painted Bunting that appeared on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County last January, lingering through part of February. The episode also features an on-site interview with MD Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator Gabriel Foley, speaking about the Atlas and why it is an important project. You can watch the episode for free by going to the Maryland Public Television website at <https://video.mpt.tv/video/episode-3303-fvanke/>. The story is called “A Fledgling Enterprise” and is the second segment of the episode, starting at about 9 min 20 sec into the video.

Episodes of *Outdoors Maryland* are broadcast on Maryland Public Television on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm, and episodes may be streamed for free from the MPT website at any time.

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**PG County Native in Leadership Position at National Aquarium.** Curtis Bennett is a Prince George’s County native who grew up in Mitchellville. He earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental science with a focus on wildlife ecology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a master’s degree in wildlife conservation from the University of Delaware. Curtis is now the Director of Equity and Community Engagement at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. An [article on the National Aquarium’s website](#) follows Curtis on a visit to his old haunts at Jug Bay, where he was mentored by none other than Greg Kearns, Senior Naturalist with PG County Parks. Take a look!

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**Audubon Naturalist Society to Drop “Audubon” from Name.** In mid-November, the Audubon Naturalist Society, based at Woodend in Chevy Chase, announced that they intend to change their name. Although the organization has not yet settled on a new name, the intention is to remove the name “Audubon.” According to an [article in the Bay Journal](#), the desire to change the name came about because the organization is troubled by John James Audubon’s association with slavery. “The deliberate and thoughtful decision to change our name is part of our ongoing commitment to creating a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it,” said Lisa Alexander, executive director of ANS. “It has become clear that this will never be fully possible with the current name.” You can read more about ANS’s [decision and the process to adopt a new name on their website](#).

Founded in 1897, the Audubon Naturalist Society is one of the oldest environmental organizations in our area. It is an independent organization and is not affiliated with National Audubon or any of its chapters.

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## Another Possible New Bird Species for Maryland

In the last newsletter, we reported on an apparent first state record of Kirtland’s Warbler for Maryland. Now we have another potential first for our state.

On December 26, Clive Harris found a bird that is believed to be a male **Mottled Duck**. Clive spotted the bird with mallards near Bear Island on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County. By the next day, birders were flocking to see and [photograph the duck](#). As of this writing (December 29<sup>th</sup>), the bird is still present, although it moves around a bit.

This bird, if the identification is accepted and the origin is not questioned, will be a first record for the State of Maryland (see “About Reports and Records in box on next page). But the identification of Mottled Duck is tricky. These birds are very similar to American Black Duck in appearance, and they are known to hybridize with Mallards. Some scientists think that Mottled Duck, American Black Duck, and Mallard should be lumped as one species. Mottled Ducks normally occur in Florida and along the Gulf Coast to Texas and Mexico, but seem to be spreading northward to the Carolinas.



*Photo by Fred Shaffer, Macaulay Library ML399583191. Note the wide pale feather edges and unstreaked head and neck that distinguish Mottled from Black Duck.*



To make the matter more interesting, on December 28<sup>th</sup>, Francesca Grifo observed the male Mottled Duck mating with a female Mallard (Grifo, 12/29/21, post to MDBirding@googlegroups.com). Also, Clive Harris has found photographic evidence in eBird that the Mottled Duck may have been present in the area dating back to March of 2021 or even to November of 2020, but had been identified at the time as a Black Duck. Taken together, this means that there may already be hybrid Mottled-Mallard offspring in the area (Harris, 12/29/21, post to MDBirding@googlegroups.com).

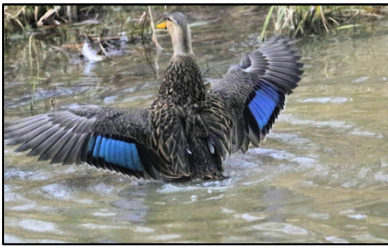
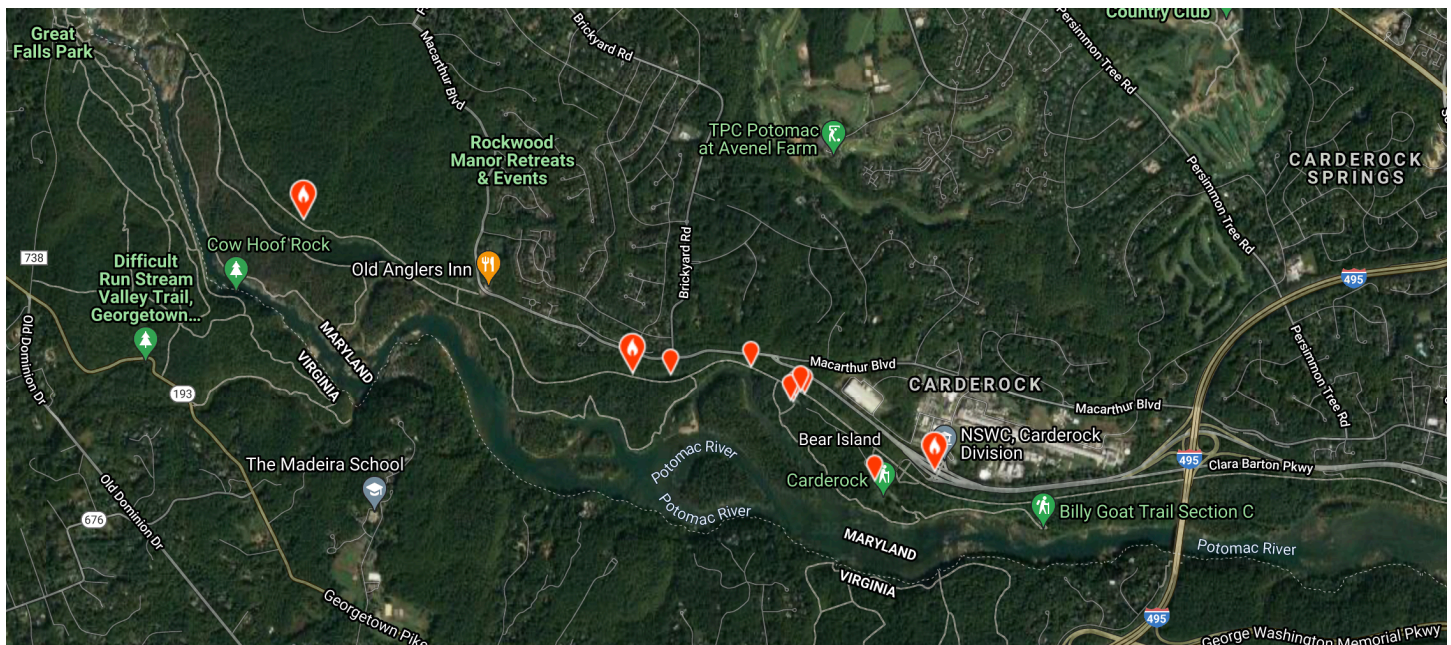


Photo by Douglas White, Macaulay Library ML399768171, showing the diagnostic blue wing bars (specula) of Mottled Duck.

Phil Davis, Secretary of the MD-DC Bird Records Committee, noted that there have been two previous reports of Mottled Duck submitted to the Committee. A report from 2004 concerned two birds that had been taken into captivity because of a botulism outbreak on Poplar Island. This report was not accepted by the Records Committee because of questionable identification – the birds could have been American Black Ducks or Mallard hybrids. A report from Dorchester County in 2018 was based on an image of a duck taken by a hunter, but was deemed unreviewable because of lack of supporting details (Davis, 12/29/21, post to MDBirding@googlegroups.com).

We will have to wait and see if the MD-DC Records Committee accepts the Mottled Duck identification (the many photos on eBird are very convincing) and also is sure that the individual got to Maryland by natural means, and is not an escape from a collection or waterfowl farm. Meanwhile, every Mallard and American Black Duck deserves a closer look!

If you wish to go see the Mottled Duck, we recommend using eBird to find the most recent reported locations ([click here for search string](#)). See map snippet below for a general idea of the locations of recent sightings along the C&O Canal.



Mottled Duck locations (red pins) along the C&O Canal in Montgomery County from Dec 26<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>; map from eBird.

### About “Reports” and “Records”

What’s the difference between a *report* of a bird species and an *accepted record*? The word “report” can be used to refer to any observation of a bird. But the words *accepted record* indicate that a report has been reviewed and approved by the [MD-DC Bird Records Committee](#). The committee may decide against approving a report if the identification is in question or if the bird’s origin is questionable – that is, if it might have escaped from captivity or been intentionally released. Species for which there are accepted records are added to the [Official List of the Birds of Maryland](#), published by the MD-DC Bird Records Committee. Note that eBird reviewers also review reports of rarities that are posted to eBird, but the role of the eBird reviewers is in deciding whether to CONFIRM (not “approve”) the identification of the species for the purpose of inclusion in the eBird database. The eBird reviewers do not play a role in making a decision to add species to the *Official List of the Birds of Maryland*.

## Notable Bird Sightings in Prince George's County November and December, 2021 *Based on eBird Rare Bird Alerts*



Ash-throated Flycatcher, photo by  
Marisa Rositol, 12/13/21,  
Macaulay Library ML395823151

The star of the show in our county for the last few weeks has been an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** found by Marisa Rositol at [National Colonial Farm in Piscataway Park](#). Marisa originally found and photographed the bird on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and as of this writing, it is still present. Ash-throated Flycatcher is a bird of the southwest; its breeding range extends to west Texas and Oklahoma, and in winter it can be found along the Gulf Coast as far east as Louisiana. However, birds are known to wander in winter all up and down the East Coast as far as Maine. Prince George's has four previous reports accepted by the Records Committee, all of one bird each: at Beltsville in November 1911 (!); at Colmar Manor/Anacostia Trail in November- December 2017; at Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro in

November 2019; and at Bladensburg/Anacostia River Trail in December 2020 through early February 2021. The current bird has been viewed by hundreds of birders from near and far. If you go to see the bird at the [National Colonial Farm](#), look for the flycatcher in the area between the Visitor Center, the caretaker's house, and the barn with the green roof, as well as near the fishing pier on the Potomac behind the Visitor Center.



Ash-throated Flycatcher, photo by  
Emily Larkin, 12/31/21, Macaulay  
Library ML400919861

A **Trumpeter Swan** was photographed at [Bladensburg Waterfront Park](#) on November 21<sup>st</sup> (Kevin Bennett). Although Trumpeters are apparently becoming established in our area, Bladensburg has not been one of their usual haunts.

A group of four **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at the [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center \(BARC\)](#) on December 21<sup>st</sup> (Michel Cavigelli). At least one of these geese was still present on December 25<sup>th</sup> (Marisa Rositol) and stayed for the Bowie Christmas Bird Count on December 31<sup>st</sup> (Gail Mackiernan). BARC is not open to the public, but there are some limited viewing opportunities along public roads.

Sea Ducks off [Piscataway Park Boardwalk](#) included **Surf Scoters** on December 11<sup>th</sup> (J.B. Churchill) and a **White-winged Scoter** on December 11<sup>th</sup> (J.B. Churchill), relocated by others on following days. At least one **Long-tailed Duck** was also in the [Piscataway Park](#) vicinity on December 12<sup>th</sup> (Marisa Rositol, Kevin Bennett). **Two Long-taileds** were seen from [Fort Washington National Park](#) on December 19<sup>th</sup> (Marisa Rositol).

An **American Bittern** was an excellent find by Gabi Zabel at Hard Bargain Farm (not open to the public) on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Orange-crowned Warblers** popped up at several locations in the county. One was at [Lake Artemesia](#) on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Derek Richardson) and still present on November 16<sup>th</sup> (Anshuman Swain) and into December (Matt Cohen). Three **Orange-crowneds** were seen along the [Anacostia River Trail](#) on December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> (Marisa Rositol). Another was at [Oxon Hill Farm](#) on December 6<sup>th</sup> (Ben Jesup).

Dan Rauch found a **Lark Sparrow** at his farm near Upper Marlboro on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The bird was still present on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

A trio of **Vesper Sparrows** were at [Oxon Hill Farm](#) on November 4<sup>th</sup>, seen by Ben Jesup and Marisa Rositol.

*A selection of photos is on the following page.*



**Photos of Notable Birds**  
**November and December, 2021**  
*As Submitted to eBird/Macaulay Library*



Trumpeter Swan, photo by Kevin Bennett,  
 Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 11/21/21,  
 Macaulay Library ML389768101



Greater White-fronted Geese, photo by  
 Michel Cavigelli, Beltsville Agricultural  
 Research Center, 12/21/21,  
 Macaulay Library ML398084581



White-winged Scoter, photo by Tim Carney,  
 Piscataway Park Boardwalk, 12/14/21,  
 Macaulay Library ML396102061



Orange-crowned Warbler, photo by Matt  
 Cohen, Lake Artemesia, 12/16/21,  
 Macaulay Library ML396615341



Lark Sparrow, photo by Dan Rauch,  
 Personal residence, 11/14/21,  
 Macaulay Library ML388421691



Vesper Sparrows, photo by Marisa Rositol,  
 Oxon Hill Farm, 11/4/21,  
 Macaulay Library ML385519741

**Public Service Announcement**  
**County COVID Information**

**Update as of December 28, 2021**



The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County announced on December 28th that it **will close most facilities, reduce park maintenance operations and cancel public events and programs from December 29, 2021 through January 18, 2022**. All parks and trails will remain open. The special election voting center will also remain open and previously scheduled rentals will be honored. The Department will reassess the status prior to reopening.

*County COVID Update, continued next page*

*County COVID Update, continued*

County-owned

## FACILITIES AND PROGRAM STATUS

EFFECTIVE  
DECEMBER 29, 2021  
THROUGH  
JANUARY 18, 2022



TRAILS



PLAYGROUNDS

PERMITTED  
ATHLETIC FIELDSPORTABLE TOILETS  
& COMFORT STATIONS

CAMP GROUNDS

OUTDOOR TENNIS  
COURTS

\*All confirmed rentals will be honored during this time.

\*Festival of Lights will remain open through January 2, 2022.

\*Special election voting will still take place at designated location.



FACILITIES

COMMUNITY  
CENTERSSENIOR ACTIVITY  
CENTERS

FITNESS CENTER

OLD MARYLAND  
FARM

INDOOR POOLS



ICE RINK

INDOOR TENNIS  
BUBBLES

TRAP AND SKEET



BOATING



GOLF COURSES

Many of the towns and cities within Prince George's County are following suit and are closing their facilities. Check with individual towns for the operating status of their facilities.

On November 29, 2021, [Prince George's County extended the indoor mask mandate at least until January 23, 2022](#). See details on the mask mandate in the graphic at right.

[Washington, DC and Montgomery County, MD, are instituting requirements to show proof of vaccination](#) to enter certain public spaces, and Prince George's County is said to be considering proof of vaccination requirements as well, so please stay alert for updates from the county on any such requirements.

Publication of official county-level coronavirus infection data has been impaired by a cybersecurity breach of the Maryland Health Department's records systems in early December. State-level data are being published and we know that, at this time, coronavirus cases within the State of Maryland are rapidly increasing because of the omicron variant.

The Washington Post [reported](#) that "D.C., Maryland and Virginia all set records Monday [December 27, 2021], reporting the highest seven-day averages in new cases of any point during the pandemic." The [Post article](#) further states that "Maryland reported 5,376 new cases Monday [December 27], on top of more than 15,000 during the weekend . . ." Many of the new cases are in fully vaccinated people.

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MASK MANDATE EXPANSION

**Effective immediately,**  
Prince George's County has  
expanded its indoor mask mandate  
to include children ages  
2 to 5 years.

- All residents and visitors over the age of 2 are required to wear masks in all indoor public venues and businesses in Prince George's County, even if they are fully vaccinated.
- This includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, gyms, retail stores, entertainment venues, conference centers, and office settings.
- Requiring children ages 2-5 to wear a mask for extended periods of time may be challenging. In these circumstances, wearing a mask can be prioritized for times where social distancing of six feet or more is difficult.
- Similar to past mandates, some exceptions apply, such as:
  - When an individual is actively eating and drinking
  - Individuals with a bona fide disability that prevents them from wearing a mask

**COVID-19**  
(Coronavirus)

Prince Georges Proud  
Angela D. Westbrook  
County Executive

HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Prince George's County

*If you have not been vaccinated, please do so as soon as possible to protect yourself and those around you. Find a vaccine site at [mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine](https://mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine).*



*County COVID Update, continued***Testing**

Free COVID-19 testing is available to County residents, regardless of insurance coverage, at various locations throughout the County. Sites are walk-in, unless otherwise noted; however, you must present identification.

- **City of Praise Family Ministries** | 8501 Jericho City Dr, Landover | Mon from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Wed from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Sat from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville** | 6201 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville \ Mon & Thurs from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Sat from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Roseu Medical Center** | 7350 Van Dusen Rd, Laurel. [Book testing appointments online](#) or call 301-604-8000 | Monday – Friday [CLOSED Monday, January 3, 2022]
- **Bunker Hill Fire Station** | 3716 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood | Mon-Fri from 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Additional testing sites (for a fee) are at medical centers and pharmacies. Prince George's County has a [COVID- 19 testing site locator](#) which can help you find a testing site if needed.

**At-home Test Kits** - The Prince George's County Memorial Library System has been offering **free COVID-19 at- home test kits** at select library branches over the past several weeks. Due to high demand, those test kits are currently out of stock. Libraries are expected to have a new supply of tests to distribute by January 5. Updates on library supplies are being posted to their "Ask a Librarian" line (240-455-5451) and their social media accounts.

The County says another county test kit distribution site will be announced in early January. For more information about COVID-19 testing or to use the testing site locator to find a testing site near you, visit the [County Health Department website](#).

**Vaccinations**

The County Health Department's COVID-19 vaccination clinic has relocated to Prince George's Community College at the Largo Student Center. Appointments are strongly encouraged. Walk-ins are now only accepted between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Free COVID-19 vaccines are also available at retail and grocery store pharmacies, urgent care facilities, and other health care providers in the County. For more information about COVID-19 vaccinations and to find your nearest vaccination site, visit the [County Health Department website](#).

**Sources of information:** [Prince George's County Health Department website](#); [City of Bowie January 2022 Newsletter](#); [Washington Post Coronavirus information center](#) (subscription not needed) Note that, as a public service, the Washington Post is making **all of its online articles about coronavirus available free of charge, no subscription required**.

**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 [REDACTED]. Concerned 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.



## MOS/Patuxent Bird Club Membership Application



**REQUEST TO ALL CURRENT AND NEW MEMBERS:** If at all possible, please join or renew your membership online at the MOS website (<https://mdbirds.org/>), even if you haven't done so in the past. This will streamline our database maintenance and bookkeeping procedures, and make things easier for our volunteer workforce. At the website, you will be able to choose the Patuxent Bird Club as your local chapter for membership registration and dues payment - and also make charitable donations to the Patuxent Bird Club or to MOS. If, however, you prefer to remit your membership dues by check, please print and complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below. Thank you for your assistance!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

E-Mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

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:

<b>Chapter and State combined membership:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$33 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$26 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Age < 18) \$6	or	<b>Chapter membership only:</b> (must be a full-paying member of another MOS chapter - indicate primary MOS chapter: _____)  <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$8 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$6 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior \$1
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Maryland Ornithological Society** and mail with this completed application to:

**Carol S. Daugherty, MOS Treasurer**  
**11925 Oden Court**  
**Rockville, MD 20852**

"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."

**THANK YOU AND HAPPY BIRDING!**