



News from the 'Hood

Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

www.patuxentbirdclub.org

March-April 2022

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 pm

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

The Global Big Day Experience in Colombia, South America

Presented by Ana Maria Castaño Rivas

Global Big Day is an event held every May and promoted by eBird as a day for birders everywhere to get out into the field and bird. The country of Colombia in South America consistently is near the top of the list in terms of the number of species tallied during Global Big Day. For example, during the Global Big Day on May 8, 2022, 7,334 species were observed worldwide, and Colombia reported 1,230 of those. Ana Maria Castaño, a lifelong birder in Colombia, will fill us in on the intense birding experiences of Global Big Day in Colombia.



About the presenter: Ana Castaño is a forestry engineer who has made birding her career. She developed a passion for migratory raptors in the late 90's and has since conducted bird surveys and promoted conservation across her home country of Colombia. She serves on the Board for the National Network of Birdwatchers in Colombia (RNOA) and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association in Kempton, PA. She is one of the five members of the national Committee of Global Big Day Colombia, and has been a member of Sociedad Antioqueña de Ornitología (Antioquia Society of Ornithology) for 28 years, serving as President for 3 terms. In addition to these roles, she has been involved in the formation of other regional and national ornithological organizations in Colombia

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, March 6. To register, go to the registration form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XrFNVTDugaVvr1n8KXdBp8zaPqfPR-CV16xhHBCuuEM/edit?usp=sharing>. Your Zoom link will be sent by email on Monday, March 7, but only if you register before then.

Meetings continued next page

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Presented by Dan Small

A small, brown and white speckled bird, possibly a quail or similar ground-dwelling species, is perched on a thin, dark branch. The bird has a white head with a dark stripe through its eye and a white breast with brown speckles. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural, grassy habitat.



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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.

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: **March 5; April 2; May 7; June 4; July 2; August 6**. Leader: Bill Sefton. Meet at the parking area off Lemons Bridge Road north of Bowie State University at **7:30 am**.
- [Governor Bridge Natural Area](#) – third Saturday of each month: **March 19; April 16; May 21; June 18; July 16; August 20**. 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: **March 3, March 17, April 7, April 21; May 5; May 19; June 2; June 16; July 7; July 21; August 4; August 18**. 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 but changes to 6 pm from April through August.**
- [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 (██████). 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.

Bird walks and field trips continue on next page

Bird walks and field trips, continued

- **Bird & Sketch Family Walk at [South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge](#) – Saturday, April 9, 8:30 am.** This walk is co-sponsored with the Refuge Programs Office. For parents and children ages 5 and older. Before the color camera, naturalists recorded observations of birds with sketches. Learn some of the time-honored techniques of bird illustration during this short walk near the visitor center. Free but advance registration required; register by calling the Refuge Program Office at 301-497-5887. Masks are required for attendees in accordance with State and Federal guidelines. Programs are subject to changes or cancellation due to weather or low participation. Please notify the refuge of any special needs so that you may be accommodated. Leader Ken Cohen ([REDACTED]).
- **Global Big Day – Saturday, May 7 14 (corrected date).** (Cornell Lab of Ornithology/BirdLife International event). See details at <https://globalbirding.org/global-big-day>.
- **Annual Spring Migration Count – Saturday, May 14.** Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact Prince George's County coordinator Matt Felperin at [REDACTED] to confirm your assigned area and for more information.
- **MOS Annual Convention, Friday May 20 - Sunday May 22.** [Solomons Island](#), Calvert County. Convention activities will include field trips in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. See details about the convention on page 11 of this newsletter.

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.

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	
Facebook Page	Matt Felperin	
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 www.patuxentbirdclub.org		

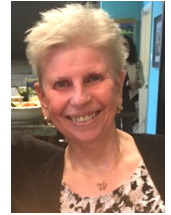
Welcome New Members!

Tessa Giannini
 Lorraine Aldridge
 Samantha Scheff
 Kathy Bartolomeo
 Frances Toler & Steve Lofgren

Message from the President

I'm going to keep this message very brief. Every time I finish an issue of the newsletter, I start gathering material for the next issue, keeping a running list as items come to my attention. My list for this issue became very long indeed, and the issue is chock-full of newsworthy items. So I'll just say: Enjoy, and good birding!

Marcia

**In Memoriam: Bob Ringler**

With deep sadness, we report the death of Bob Ringler on February 15, 2022. Bob was a giant of a man in the Maryland birding community. The importance of Bob's contributions to our knowledge of birds in Maryland and the influence of his leadership within the Maryland Ornithological Society cannot be overstated. His personal birding covered the entire state and his knowledge is reflected in birding activities in every corner of Maryland. Many of our favorite birding spots were pioneered by Bob.

Bob joined MOS in 1975 and quickly became a keystone of the organization. Initially Bob was a member of the Baltimore Bird Club, then later moved to Eldersburg and became a member of the Carroll County Bird Club. About a year ago, he moved to Queen Anne's County, where there is no local MOS chapter, but he continued his birding activities and created a bird club in the community where he lived.

Over the years Bob held many leadership positions within MOS. To name just a few:

- President of MOS, 1988-1989
- President of the Baltimore Bird Club, 1983-1986
- President of the Carroll County Bird Club, 1994-1995
- Assistant or Associate Editor of *Maryland Birdlife*, 1979-2013
- Considered to be one of the founders of the Breeding Bird Atlas project; served on the Steering Committee for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Atlases of the Breeding Birds of Maryland; also Worcester County Coordinator and Baltimore County Co-Coordinator for the 1st Atlas; Carroll County Coordinator for the 2nd Atlas; Somerset County Coordinator for the 3rd Atlas; wrote five species accounts for the 1st Atlas and one for the 2nd Atlas.
- Compiler and editor of "The Season" report in *Maryland Birdlife*, 1977-1991 and 1999-2005. "The Season" was a quarterly report on bird distribution and notable occurrences for each season of the year, and was a prominent recurring feature in every issue of the journal from 1946 until 2005.
- Member of numerous other committees and projects, including the Nest Records Committee and the Collections Committee.



Bob at the 2018 Maryland Wine Festival; note binoculars around neck. Photo by Debi Talbott.

Bob was a world traveler, and starting in the 1970s, organized and led birding tours to numerous destinations across the US and overseas. He is probably best remembered for his many tours to Costa Rica; we have no record of how many times he visited that country but it must have been dozens of times.

Bob happily gave slide presentations and led field trips all around the state. He was a fixture at the annual MOS Convention, where his tall form towered over all the other birders at the Convention's Wine & Cheese Social, and his laugh would ring out over the crowd while he hoisted a beverage and told one of his many dry-humor birding anecdotes. Bob traditionally led the Tally Rally at the end of every Convention, and as the bird reports were called out, Bob would give an interesting running commentary on historical changes in Maryland's birdlife.

Bob Ringler Tribute continues on next page

Bob Ringler, continued

Before we had eBird, we had Bob Ringler. Bob is best remembered for his encyclopedic knowledge of bird distribution and populations in Maryland and DC. He was equally known as a meticulous record-keeper, and took the trouble to enter every one of his sightings into eBird, going back through his historical records to do so. Over decades, he maintained his own database – a simple Excel spreadsheet – that held not only his own sightings but also those of other birders, as reported to the MD Osprey list-serve and its later incarnation, the MDBirding Google Group, as well as to the Voice of the Naturalist, other Rare Bird Reports, and reports that came to him personally by email, letter, text message or possibly by carrier pigeon. By 2020, Bob's database held over 88,000 observations. Bob was, quite simply, the data hub for day-to-day Maryland bird reports. But he held formidable knowledge even without accessing his computer. He apparently carried in his head mental maps of the distribution of Maryland birds, and working from memory, could provide detailed predictions on when to expect certain birds to show up in certain places, or could give a summary of changes in the distribution or population size of Maryland birds over time.

Bob's extensive knowledge of the birds of Maryland culminated in Bob serving as lead author for the Third Edition of the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland*, aka *The Yellowbook*, published by MOS in 1996. Bob was also the Technical Editor for the *Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia*, authored by Bruce Beehler and published in 2019. Bob also authored numerous articles on notable bird sightings in *Maryland Birdlife* and in other regional publications.

Bob's interests didn't stop at birds. He was also extremely knowledgeable about butterflies and native plants, and was an excellent all-around naturalist. He was among the top submitters of records to the Maryland Biodiversity Project, and his submissions spanned the entire state and numerous forms: birds, butterflies, bees and other insects, plants, amphibians, reptiles, and more.

Bob was well-liked because of his kindness and patience. For example, he made sure that all participants on a field trip had a chance to see every bird. No bird, and no birder, were unworthy of his attention. He would courteously answer inquiries about Maryland birds from anyone. And yet, Bob was a man of few words, especially concerning his own feats of birding prowess.

Bob was 76 years old when he passed away, having been hospitalized for a few weeks. Look for a full tribute to Bob in the spring issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*. Cards and sympathy notes may be sent to his family in care of Bob's cousin Faith Ringler-Stevenson, 106 Harmony Way, Centreville, MD 21617.

You may view Bob's obituary as well as a slideshow of photos at <https://www.fhnfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Robert-Ringler/#!/Obituary>.

Please send memorial gifts in Bob's memory to:

- The Maryland Biodiversity Project. Donations may be made online at <https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com> or checks may be sent to Maryland Biodiversity Project, c/o Jim Brighton, 117 Regulator Drive N, Cambridge, MD 21613.

OR

- The Maryland Ornithological Society, either donations to the Society in general or specifically to the MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Donations may be made online at <https://mdbirds.org> or checks may be sent to the Maryland Ornithological Society, c/o Carol Daugherty, Treasurer, 11925 Oden Ct., Rockville, MD 20852.

Results of the Bowie Christmas Bird Count

December 31, 2021

By Dave Mozurkewich

The fiftieth Bowie Christmas Bird Count was held on Friday, December 31, 2021. The day was warm, mostly in the fifties, and calm, but we had fog and mist in the morning keeping the bird activity to a minimum. Unfortunately, we don't have control of the weather since the day of the count is set way in advance. Despite some lingering COVID restrictions and the marginal weather, 74 birders were out in the field counting. This below average coverage was nearly identical to last year and will hopefully improve in the coming years as the pandemic fades into our memories.

No unexpected species were reported. The least often reported species were Greater White-fronted Geese, first reported on the count last winter, and two Peregrine Falcons reported for the eighth time. Common Ravens also made their eighth appearance, but it's difficult to call them unexpected since they have been present during all of the last eight years.

Bowie CBC continues on next page

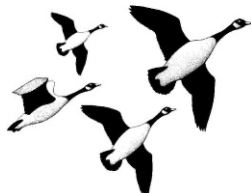
Bowie CBC, continued

That said, a few species were unusually common. New high counts were set for Barred Owl - 26 (previous high of 18); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 96 (94); Pileated Woodpecker - 125 (90); House Wren - 4 (3); and Carolina Wren - 754 (728). Merlins tied the previous high count of 5 and the 38 Belted Kingfishers were only one shy of the previous high.

Despite the lack of unusual species, our species total, 96, is average for the last decade. The most often reported species we missed were Rusty Blackbird, previously seen on 44 counts; Tundra Swan, previously seen on 30 counts; Horned Lark on 24, Pine Siskin on 23 and Pine Warbler on 20.

The number of individual birds counted, 79,144, is the second highest in the last decade but that doesn't say much about population trends because the total is dominated by large flocks. More than half the individuals reported were blackbirds, starlings, and crows, with 37% of the total being a single species (Common Grackle). Here are the results for all reported species.

Greater White-fronted Goose - 4	American Woodcock - 10	Golden-crowned Kinglet - 105
Snow Goose - 1	Ring-billed Gull - 319	Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 49
Canada Goose - 7,427	Herring Gull - 4	Eastern Bluebird - 431
Trumpeter Swan - 3	Gull Species - 40	Hermit Thrush - 162
Wood Duck - 43	Rock Pigeon - 94	American Robin - 4,761
Gadwall - 22	Mourning Dove - 960	Gray Catbird - 9
American Wigeon - 1	Eastern Screech-Owl - 1	Northern Mockingbird - 230
American Black Duck - 24	Great-horned Owl - 7	Brown Thrasher - 11
Mallard - 606	Barred Owl - 26	European Starling - 6,844
Mallard x American Black Duck - 4	Belted Kingfisher - 38	American Pipit - 5
Northern Pintail - 16	Red-headed Woodpecker - 14	Cedar Waxwing - 304
Northern Shoveler - 4	Red-bellied Woodpecker - 403	Yellow-rumped Warbler - 88
Green-winged Teal - 25	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 96	Eastern Towhee - 184
Ring-necked Duck - 529	Downy Woodpecker - 281	American Tree Sparrow - 1
Lesser Scaup - 1	Hairy Woodpecker - 74	Chipping Sparrow - 24
Bufflehead - 16	Northern Flicker - 341	Field Sparrow - 130
Hooded Merganser - 183	Pileated Woodpecker - 125	Savannah Sparrow - 79
Ruddy Duck - 2	Kestrel - 7	Fox Sparrow - 77
Wild Turkey - 41	Merlin - 5	Song Sparrow - 1,172
Pied-billed Grebe - 11	Peregrine - 2	Swamp Sparrow - 206
Double-Crested Cormorant - 1	Eastern Phoebe - 7	White-throated Sparrow - 4,213
Great Blue Heron - 33	Blue Jay - 1014	White-crowned Sparrow - 19
Black Vulture - 349	American Crow - 1,949	Dark-eyed Junco - 1625
Turkey Vulture - 124	Fish Crow - 609	Northern Cardinal - 956
Bald Eagle - 44	Crow sp. - 2390	Red-Winged Blackbird - 3,928
Northern Harrier - 7	Common Raven - 7	Eastern Meadowlark - 76
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 8	Carolina Chickadee - 543	Common Grackle - 29,771
Cooper's Hawk - 11	Tufted Titmouse - 391	Brown-headed Cowbird - 170
Accipiter Sp. - 2	Red-Breasted Nuthatch - 13	Blackbird species - 1,820
Red-shouldered Hawk - 68	White-Breasted Nuthatch - 219	Purple Finch - 20
Red-tailed Hawk - 39	Brown Creeper - 30	House Finch - 253
American Coot - 3	Carolina Wren - 754	American Goldfinch - 156
Killdeer - 12	House Wren - 4	House Sparrow - 735
Wilson's Snipe - 23	Winter Wren - 66	



Results of the Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count

December 19, 2021

By Marcia Watson

The 41st annual Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count on December 19, 2021 resulted in an outstanding number of species observed. Our total for count day was **119 species**, plus **another 8 species** were observed during Count Week (actually, all on the preceding day, December 18), giving us an astounding **grand total of 127 species**. Our 54 participants spent a total of 186 people-hours searching for birds, and drove or walked a total of 470 miles!

The previous high total for species on the Jug Bay CBC was 122 in 2001, with an average of 108.5 species over all the years of the count (first year of the count was 1981). These previous totals represent count day birds only and do NOT include Count Week (CW) birds. This year's total of 119 species on count day is the fourth highest ever. Over the life of the count, the highs have been: 2001 - 122 species; 2002 - 121 species; 2008 - 120 species; 2021 - 119 species.

Now for the bad news. The **total number of individual birds observed was down considerably: only 58,386 individuals**. Our average number of individuals observed over all the years of the count is 98,691. The total number of individuals tends to fluctuate quite a bit from year to year and is dependent on weather and effort and other factors. The lowest ever was 24,489 individuals in 1990; highest ever was 1,413,515 in 2017. Let's just look at how 2021 compares with the three preceding years:

2018 - 72,065 2019 - 115,366 2020 - 111,795 2021 - 58,386

Clearly not a good trend, and these numbers do bear out what people reported during our tally rally: birds were scarce, whether on water, in the air, or on land.

The field checklist that we use on the Jug Bay count represents expected species, and this winter included 117 species. Of the species on the checklist, 107 species were observed on count day, plus another 3 species during Count Week, for 110 total species observed of the 117 on the checklist. In other words, **our teams found 94% of the expected birds**. Only 7 checklist species were not found: Mute Swan, American Wigeon, Redhead, Great Egret, American Coot, Wilson's Snipe, and Pine Warbler. This represents a phenomenal birding effort by our teams. If it was out there, our counters found it.

Write-ins are the opposite of checklist species – they are birds seen but NOT expected on the count. We had a **total of 17 write-in species** – 12 on count day and another 5 during CW! To put it another way, write-ins accounted for 13% of the total of 127 observed species. Again, this is an extraordinarily high number. So, what were these special write-in birds?

- Trumpeter Swan (4)
- Red-throated Loon (4)
- Sora (1 - Count Week)
- Clapper Rail (2)
- Sandhill Crane (2) – photo at right by Frank Marengi, ML400795361
- Black-bellied Plover (1) this is a new species for the count, having never been reported during the count's previous 40 years
- Semipalmated Plover (1)
- Least Sandpiper (33)
- Lesser Yellowlegs (1)
- Greater Yellowlegs (1 - Count Week)
- Northern Gannet (2)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (2)
- Merlin (1)
- Blue-headed Vireo (1 Count Week); this is another new species never previously found on the Jug Bay CBC; photo at right by Eaton Ekarintaragun, ML378429161
- Common Raven (1)
- House Wren – (1)
- Palm Warbler (1 - Count Week)



See next page for the complete results.

A big THANK YOU to all of our Team Leaders and counters who make this exciting count possible.

Snow Goose	1
Cackling Goose	3
Canada Goose	7477
Trumpeter Swan	4
Tundra Swan	89
<i>Swan sp.</i>	3
Wood Duck	8
Gadwall	48
American Black Duck	501
Mallard	662
Mallard (domestic type)	3
Northern Shoveler	5
Northern Pintail	34
Green-winged Teal	137
Canvasback	1
Ring-necked Duck	175
Greater Scaup	9
Lesser Scaup	16
<i>Scaup sp.</i>	30
Surf Scoter	57
White-winged Scoter	CW
Black Scoter	1
Long-tailed Duck	15
Bufflehead	306
Common Goldeneye	3
Hooded Merganser	13
Common Merganser	22
Red-breasted Merganser	1
Ruddy Duck	2
Wild Turkey	2
Red-throated Loon	CW
Common Loon	3
Pied-billed Grebe	5
Horned Grebe	2
Double-crested Cormorant	56
Northern Gannet	2
Great Blue Heron	54
Black Vulture	593
Turkey Vulture	538
Bald Eagle	120
Northern Harrier	27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8
Cooper's Hawk	4
<i>Accipiter sp.</i>	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	28

Red-tailed Hawk	11
Sora	CW
Clapper Rail	2
Virginia Rail	9
Sandhill Crane	2
Black-bellied Plover	1
Semipalmated Plover	1
Killdeer	53
Least Sandpiper	33
Lesser Yellowlegs	1
Greater Yellowlegs	CW
Purple Sandpiper	7
American Woodcock	1
Laughing Gull	14
Ring-billed Gull	2344
Herring Gull	1129
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3
Great Black-backed Gull	80
<i>Gull sp.</i>	169
Rock Pigeon	109
Mourning Dove	284
Barn Owl	4
Eastern Screech-Owl	4
Great Horned Owl	2
Barred Owl	10
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2
Belted Kingfisher	18
Red-headed Woodpecker	25
Red-bellied Woodpecker	179
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	58
Downy Woodpecker	97
Hairy Woodpecker	23
Northern Flicker	113
Pileated Woodpecker	33
American Kestrel	4
Merlin	1
Eastern Phoebe	6
Blue-headed Vireo	CW
Blue Jay	183
American Crow	899
Fish Crow	101
<i>Crow sp.</i>	117
Common Raven	1
Horned Lark	14
Carolina Chickadee	161

Tufted Titmouse	160
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	86
Brown Creeper	19
Winter Wren	23
Marsh Wren	2
Common Raven	1
Carolina Wren	234
Golden-crowned Kinglet	23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	25
Eastern Bluebird	361
Hermit Thrush	80
American Robin	5049
Gray Catbird	19
Brown Thrasher	9
Northern Mockingbird	66
European Starling	2089
American Pipit	1
Cedar Waxwing	280
Common Yellowthroat	CW
Palm Warbler	CW
Yellow-rumped Warbler	204
American Tree Sparrow	3
Chipping Sparrow	92
Field Sparrow	22
Fox Sparrow	15
Dark-eyed Junco	958
White-crowned Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	1707
Savannah Sparrow	16
Song Sparrow	353
Swamp Sparrow	51
Eastern Towhee	69
Northern Cardinal	280
Red-winged Blackbird	10284
Eastern Meadowlark	6
Rusty Blackbird	41
Common Grackle	14343
Brown-headed Cowbird	3605
<i>Blackbird sp.</i>	225
House Finch	98
Purple Finch	CW
American Goldfinch	63
House Sparrow	48



News from the Maryland Ornithological Society

Congratulations to our Local Hog Island Scholarship Winners!

Once again in summer 2022, MOS is providing scholarships to send nature educators and teachers to week-long programs at the Hog Island Audubon Camp. This year, eight scholarships are being awarded, and **two of the recipients are local nature educators** whose applications were sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club!

- **Ayla McDonough**, a research assistant who works at **Patuxent River Park/Jug Bay Natural Area**, will be attending the Field Ornithology workshop.
- **Genny Davis**, a Chesapeake Conservation Corps member stationed at **Patuxent Research Refuge**, will be attending the Joy of Birding camp.



Photo courtesy
<https://hogisland.audubon.org>

Congratulations to Ayla and Genny! We'll look forward to hearing about their adventures after they return.

The MOS Scholarships for Hog Island are made possible by bequests from departed MOS members and by ongoing donations.

MOS Travel Opportunities

It's time! Time to start thinking of nicer weather and good birding. And it's also time to think about heading south in search of neo-tropical birds.

There are still a few slots open **for Panama: April 29 to May 9, 2022**. We will be staying at the famous Canopy Towers and Canopy Lodge, returning for most lunches and all dinners so there is always ample opportunity to opt out of a field trip and spend a few quiet hours bringing your list up-to-date, or simply strolling the grounds. Cost is \$2,764 per person with \$550 single occupancy. A non-refundable deposit of \$600 is required to hold a reservation. The price includes all meals including soft drinks/water and snacks while in the field, and local transportation. Excluded is airfare, liquor, personal items (laundry, etc.) and tips. Contact Maryanne Dolan ([REDACTED]) for a detailed itinerary and information on where to send the deposit. (*Mealy Parrot photo courtesy of Panama Canopy Family.*)



August 5-14, 2022 will see us in **Colombia** and birding the Central Andes. With over 1900 avian species, Colombia is a birder's paradise. Cost is \$2,725 with a single supplement of \$385. A deposit of \$200 is required to hold a slot and is not refundable after May 1. A detailed itinerary and lots of other information is available at Holbrook Travel and MOS.

And finally, still in the planning stage is a **November 9-18, 2022 trip to Ecuador** and the Choco Andes Region. Cost will be \$2,795 with a \$345 single supplement. A webpage with the detailed itinerary will be available soon, but in the meantime interested parties can contact Maryanne Dolan ([REDACTED]) and she'll start a waiting list.

As always, any suggestions, comments and/or recommendations are welcome. Just drop a note to [REDACTED].

MOS Convention

As previously announced, MOS is holding the next annual convention in-person (!) **May 20 - 22, 2022 at the Solomons Inn Resort and Marina in Calvert County. Convention registration opens March 1st.** Visit the [Convention website \(https://www.mosconvention.org\)](https://www.mosconvention.org) for details.

MOS will follow the CDC, state, and local COVID guidelines that are in effect during the convention. **All attendees are expected to be fully vaccinated against COVID.**



As always, the heart of the Convention will be its **field trips**, and the trips this year will spread across Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. Our planners are aiming for some special trips focused on native plants, fossils and geology, butterflies, and other topics. This is an opportunity to visit some new birding spots and to spruce up your overall naturalist skills. For a draft list of field trip site locations, please take a look at the [Map of 2022 MOS Convention Field Trip Sites for Solomons, MD](#). We do not plan to host field trips at all of the sites on the map – it's a planning tool, but will give you an idea of the areas to be visited. We will add trips to the roster as leaders are assigned. We are open to suggestions for additional birding spots and specialty trips, too!

We have some great **speakers** lined up. Our **Friday night Keynote Speaker** will be our own **Greg Kearns** from the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, who will talk about his work with **Soras at Jug Bay** using the Motus tracking system.

Our **Saturday afternoon seminar speakers** will be **Andy Wilson**, Associate Professor for Environmental Studies, Gettysburg College, who will talk about **nocturnal flight recordings** and **Melissa Boyle Acuti**, Citizen Science Program Volunteer from the Maryland Park Service, who will talk about **Northern Saw-whet Owl banding** as part of the Project OwlNet station at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. We also will have local graduate students and professors who are preparing scientific posters that you won't want to miss.

Finally, **on Saturday night** our **Keynote Speaker** will be **Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper**, who will talk about why, in spite of decades of citizen activism, the Patuxent River still struggles to thrive.

The annual **photo contest** will employ online submission of photos; the submission link will soon be live.

Field Trip Leaders are still needed and the planners are asking for your help in recruiting field trip leaders.

- Jim Rapp is coordinating field trips for the convention. For field trip questions pr to volunteer or suggest a leader, please email Jim at jmrpp2@gmail.com or call 443-614-0261.
- Although knowledge of field trip sites in Southern Maryland is a plus, we can pair field trip leaders with local leaders who know the sites.
- Field trips will be scheduled over the following shifts: Friday afternoon, May 20; Saturday morning, May 21; Saturday all-day, May 21; Saturday afternoon, May 21; and Sunday morning, May 22.
- For the morning and afternoon trips, we try to keep the sites within a 30-40 minute drive of the Solomons Inn.
- If field trip leaders are planning to attend any part of the convention, they are expected to register for the Convention. Field trip leaders who do not plan to stay at the Solomons Inn or attend seminars, keynotes, and meals are not required to register.

MOS hopes you will come to Solomons, MD in May to **see great birds, discover some new favorite birding spots, and make new friends!**

<https://www.mosconvention.org>

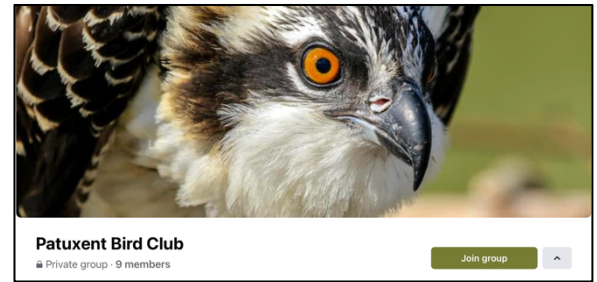
Local News of Interest

Patuxent Bird Club is on Facebook!

Matt Felperin, who serves on the Patuxent Bird Club's Board of Directors, has set up a Facebook page for Patuxent Bird Club! You can find the page at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/228557249461552/>

The site is private, which means you have to request permission to join, but just click the "Join Group" link and a message will go to Matt, who will add you to the page. Matt advises that the private setting helps cut down on spam postings.



Matt is looking for a person to co-administer the site with him, so if interested, please drop Matt a line at [REDACTED]. Many thanks to Matt for his efforts in setting up the Facebook page.

Matt Felperin Featured in Washington Post

Speaking of Matt Felperin, did you see the Washington Post article featuring Matt's beautiful photos of the Snowy Owl that visited Union Station in DC in January? Matt was interviewed for the article. If you missed the article, you can catch it here: <https://wapo.st/3HnJDG9> (this link will work even if you don't have a paid subscription to the Post). Enjoy! (Photo by Matt Felperin, 1/6/22, Macaulay Library ML403273461)

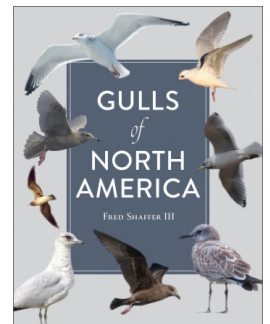


Fred Shaffer Writes Gull Book

Our own Fred Shaffer, former president of Patuxent Bird Club, has authored a book, *Gulls of North America*, published by Schiffer Books. Fred traveled all across North America taking photos of gulls for the book, and most of the included photos are his own, a remarkable feat in itself.



The publisher says: "Although they are familiar and amusing characters, gulls are frequently dismissed as common "parking lot" birds or because their diverse species can be hard to identify. Both assumptions disregard the beauty and grace of gulls, which are among the most approachable of North America's birds. This photographic field guide provides a user-friendly introduction to the plumages of 27 North American gull species in different stages of maturity. Ranging in size from the dove-like Little Gull to the eagle-like Great Black-backed Gull, their behavior and habitats are equally varied. With more than 500 color photos, detailed captions, and fold-out comparison guides, this book allows readers to better appreciate these charismatic birds by learning shortcuts for easy identification in the field."

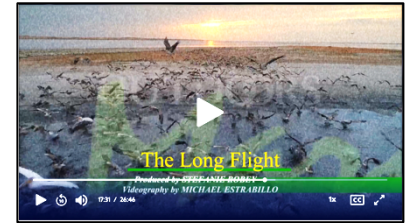


If you'd like to learn more about the book and how Fred came to write it, you can catch a recorded video from the February Anne Arundel Bird Club meeting, when Fred was the guest speaker. See it on YouTube: https://youtu.be/YxhSV1R_wCs

The book is currently available for pre-order from the [publisher](#) or from [Amazon](#), and is expected to ship later this month.

Greg Kearns and Dave Brinker Featured in New Episode of Outdoors Maryland

The popular PBS show Outdoors Maryland has aired a new episode called "The Long Flight" that features the migration tracking research being conducted by Greg Kearns, biologist for PG County Parks at the Jug Bay Natural Area, and Dave Brinker, DNR Biologist who works at several sites in Maryland. The story is the third segment of the Outdoors Maryland show, Season 33, Episode 6. If you missed it on TV, you can catch it online at <https://video.mpt.tv/video/episode-3306-qeecwx/>.



Bird Flu in our Area

According to various media sources, the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in wild birds in Maryland, bringing the total number of states to have positive detections of the virus in 2022 to five. Wild waterfowl hunted near Rock Hall were tested for HPAI and found to be positive. The MD Department of Agriculture is concerned that the virus may spread from wild birds to commercial or private domestic flocks of chickens, turkeys, and ducks.

People in our area are being asked to be on the lookout for sick or dying wild or domestic birds. Birders should be aware that the flu can cause symptoms like swollen eyes, nose and eye discharge, sneezing and coughing; head or neck positioned abnormally and uncoordinated movement such as swimming in circles; swollen legs and feet and patchy, discolored skin; and increased deaths.

According to City Wildlife, a non-profit organization in DC, HPAI is considered low risk for humans, but it is dangerous to birds and is carried in respiratory secretions, saliva, and fecal material. Birds that are infected may not appear sick but the virus is highly contagious. City Wildlife urges people to avoid handling birds that are sick and dead, but if it's necessary, people should wear a face mask and gloves.

This is what the United States Geological Survey (USGS) considers to be an "unusual number of dead wild birds:"

- For waterbirds -- 5 or more in the same area;
- For raptors and scavengers (for instance, owls, crows, gulls and hawks) -- any number;
- For other bird species such as songbirds -- 500 or more in the area.

Report sick or dead birds:

- **In Maryland:** See [MD DNR's HPAI information page](#) or call USDA Wildlife Services at 877-463-6497.
- **In D.C.:** Email the [Department of Energy and Environment](#); call City Wildlife at 202-882-1000; or call the District's Animal Care and Control at 202-723-5730.
- **In Virginia:** [Click here](#) for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources or call the [Wildlife Conflict Helpline](#) at 855-571-9003.

For more information about the overall situation, there was an excellent article in the Washington Post on February 23, 2022; you can read it at <https://wapo.st/3BR9vJi> (no subscription required). Or see the MD Department of Agriculture's Bird Flu blog site at <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/bird-flu-blog/>.

BWD Has Ceased Operations

The highly popular magazine *Bird Watcher's Digest* announced in December that it has closed its doors. The magazine was founded by the Thompson family in Marietta, Ohio in 1978. It catered to birders with a level of writing that was scientifically accurate while approachable for the novice. Although based in Ohio, the magazine had several regular contributors from our area, including the late Rick Blom, Howard Youth, Paul Baicich, and others. You can read the farewell message from the BWD staff at <https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/>.

Upcoming Festivals

Eagle Festival at Blackwater NWR

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is hosting the **2022 Eagle Festival at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the weekends of March 5-6, and March 12-13, 2022**. With the continuing need for social distancing, this year's festival will be a special hybrid event with a unique mix of virtual and limited in-person activities.

The Wildlife Drive will be free-of-charge both weekends. On-site activities will require pre-registration, while virtual programs will be offered on the Blackwater NWR Facebook page and via Zoom. Pre-register for programs at <https://bit.ly/blackwatereaglefestival>.

A guided bird walk will kick off each morning, in search of ducks, geese, swans, songbirds, and of course, Bald Eagles! Kids ages 8 and up can sign up for youth archery, where they will become familiar with the safe use of equipment before learning to shoot targets. Kids of all ages can dissect an owl pellet and discover what owls eat by examining skeletal remains. If you're a late sleeper, consider registering for a guided 5-mile bicycle tour of the Wildlife Drive with refuge staff.

Refuge volunteer and Talbot Bird Club Ron Ketter will present a virtual program "Waterfowl and Marsh Birds along the Wildlife Drive" on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 7 p.m. Register at Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/blackwatereaglefestival> to receive the Zoom link for this program hosted by the Friends of Blackwater.

Looking to get some fresh air? Bring the young ones out to the Refuge to hike the Woods Trail and read the picture book "The Busy Tree" by Jennifer Ward. This StoryWalk® will be installed along the Woods Trail beginning March 5 through the end of the month. Learn about the importance of a tree and the animals that can be found there, while getting physical activity outdoors with the family!

Stop by the Blackwater NWR Visitor Center to view the winning artwork from the 2022 Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest, as well as the winners of the Friends of Blackwater's Refuge Photo Contest. Visitors will also be able to make a wildlife button to take home. Visitor Center hours are 10 am to 4 pm Tuesday through Sunday. Pets are not permitted outside of vehicles on the Refuge, so please leave pets at home.

To protect the health of those who live, work, and visit U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service public lands and facilities, **face masks are currently required inside all federal buildings**. They are also required outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

More information is available at the Refuge's website at www.fws.gov/refuge/blackwater, or by calling 410-228-2677. You can also follow the Refuge on Facebook for eagle identification tips and a roundup of some of the best hotspots to see eagles on the Refuge.



Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

A brand-new event, the **Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival, will be held on Saturday April 2, 2022, 11 am – 4 pm, at the Drum Point Club in Lusby, MD**. The club is located near Solomons Island in Calvert County. The admission fee is \$10 per family, \$5 for individuals.



Take a story walk, see a live raptor up close, move through the nature activity stations and partake in lectures with wildlife experts from all over the State. It will be an event for the entire family and people of all ages who love birds and nature. You can also shop amazing vendors for photography, souvenirs, auction items, and much more. Deanna Dove with Island Girl Records will perform live and keep us entertained throughout the day. Grizzly Mountain Grill will be serving up some Southern Maryland favorite dishes.

The Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival is a grassroots movement initiated by the citizens of Calvert County and citizens from throughout the State. The Festival is being organized with the support of local government, state-wide conservation and wildlife rehabilitation agencies, local businesses, and the military community. The Festival will make a donation to groups who help conserve and rehabilitate wildlife. This year, the festival will support Owl Moon Raptor Center. For more information, see <https://marylandospreyfestival.org>.

Volunteer Opportunities

County Bluebird Coordinator. The Maryland Bluebird Society is looking for a volunteer to serve as a coordinator for Prince George's County. This position was previously held by Jacalyn Thomas and by Marcia Van Horn and is now vacant. While experience with monitoring bluebird nestboxes would be helpful, the Maryland Bluebird Society can train anyone interested. Duties would include serving as a contact and support person for bluebird nest box landlords and trail monitors. The County Coordinator program offers "boots on the ground" assistance on issues such as where and how to set up a nestbox, what to do about predators, or how to figure out if a nesting has been abandoned. Coordinators in other Maryland counties would offer advice and support as needed. Both the Maryland Bluebird Society and the North American Bluebird Society strive to educate bluebirders in using best practices for maintaining bluebird nest boxes within the guidelines of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. See the [Maryland Bluebird Society website](#) for more information. To volunteer, please contact Katherine Kremnitzer at [REDACTED].

Sanctuary Coordinator for Piscataway MOS Sanctuary. 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 coordinator is needed to organize 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. If interested, please send an email to Marcia Watson, Sanctuary Committee Secretary ([REDACTED]).

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 [REDACTED] if interested.

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 in May. 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 ([REDACTED]).

Volunteers Wanted for Plant/Bumble Bee Survey

By the Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab
Eastern Ecological Science Center at Patuxent Research Refuge

The Native Bee Lab at Patuxent Research Refuge has developed a simple Plant/Bumble Bee Survey that permits anyone to survey what plants Bumble Bees use anywhere there are Bumble Bees (literally). We call it "Ask a Bumble Bee."

We are recruiting individuals and networks such as Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, State and Federal biologists and similar entities to encourage and redistribute this call for volunteers to their members.

Our goal is to quantify which plants native bumble bees use, rank the plants by that use, and also identify which plants they don't use. (You would think we would already know this, but we mostly have anecdotal and scattered studies that largely don't quantify the plants they don't use). See below for plant data from a pilot study in 2021.

- You don't need to identify specific bumble bee species (though our goal is to get you there).
- Everything is non-lethal.
- You only need a cellphone (for taking pictures of plants), pencil, paper.
- You can survey any location where bumble bees occur.



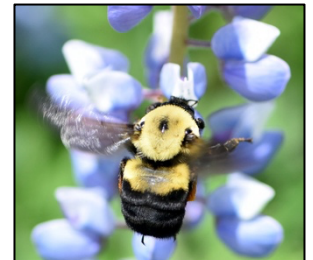
Black and Gold Bumble Bee
(*Bombus auricomus*), © sankax,
[Creative Commons BY-NC, some rights reserved](#)

- Your garden, arboretums, parks, plantings, natural areas, refuges, urban, suburban, farm, wilderness, roadsides, and weedy patches are all places that the Bee Lab would like you to survey. The richer the plant diversity, the more plants are competing for bumble bees and clearer the preferences will be.
- You can survey a site repeatedly throughout the year.

The target region consists of Maryland and these other states: ME, NH, VT, CT, MA, RI, NY, NJ, PA, DE, VA, DC, WV. What if you are not in those states or are in Canada, can you participate? Yes! And we will process data from the primary states first and those outside later.

Basic instructions (see links below for more details).

- Half-hour walk.
- You can take whatever path you like, anywhere you like.
- Take notes about all the blooming plants to 10 feet on either side of that path (yes, including invasives and garden flowering plants that are not native).
- Count all the bumble bees (and carpenter bees!) along this route and note what flowers they are on.
- Take pictures of all the flowering species (so that we can check ids).
- Take pictures of your field sheets and upload all the pictures using your phone (no apps to download!).
- Done! (but we really want you do more than one survey!)



Brown-belted Bumble Bee (*Bombus griseocollis*), © Martin R. Lucas, [Creative Commons BY-NC, some rights reserved](#)

How will this help anything?

- It allows us to quantify what flowers Bumble Bees use (by species) and don't use.
- Plant use information can be plugged into planting guides.
- We can look at differences among regions and plant combinations.
- We can identify overlooked bumble bee plants.
- We can look at non-native and native plants.
- We can downvote currently favored bumble bee plants (if they get a low score).
- We can compare use across states, urban/non-urban, parks, etc.
- We can look at bumble bee counts and their relationship to location and the plants at that location.
- You can get copies of all the data and use it however you like (for example, you might want to compare bumble bees' use of an area that you have begun planting to one that you have not).
- Researchers can play with these data in any way they like.
- We can assign your area (for example a park or a group of people like MD Master Gardeners) a project code and generate separate reports of results just for you.

How can you get involved? Just email Jenan El-Hifnawi at bumblebeecount@gmail.com, our fabulous coordinator, and she will sign you up and can answer detailed questions.

When do things start? Once you see the first bumble bee, of course. We are particularly interested in what flowers are used by emerging queens. The poor things have been sitting underground all winter and are vulnerable to starvation if there are no plants to feed on. No queens, no bumble bees. So, we want to figure out what good queen food is.

Instructions and resources to help you do the survey, please download these documents:

1. [Ask a Bumble Bee! Bumble Bee Floral Survey Instructions](#) (PDF)
2. [Maya's Bumble Bee Survey: A Short Story, Diagram, and Field Sheet](#) (PDF)
3. [Field Sheet – Use this form if you cannot identify bumble bees to species](#) (PDF)
4. [Field Sheet – Use this form if you can identify bumble bees to species](#) (PDF)
5. [Bumble Bee vs. Carpenter Bee vs. Honey Bee Identification Guide](#). This PDF is intended for people who cannot identify bumble bees and carpenter bees. It contains pictures of bumble bees, carpenter bees, and honey bees and a brief description of how to differentiate between them.
6. [Bumble Bees of the Eastern United States](#). This PDF booklet is a guide to the bumble bees of the Eastern US. Beginning on page 14, there are sections on 21 common *Bombus* species within the Eastern US. The guide includes information on ID characteristics, range, phenology (seasonal timing), and more.
7. [Bumble Bee Watch Species Profiles](#) (website). The Bumble Bee Watch collaborative provides species profiles with identifying characters, lookalikes, seasonal patterns, ranges, and more for most *Bombus* species. The link provided goes to *Bombus affinis* (Rusty-patched Bumble Bee); you can select other species using the drop-down menu at the top right.
8. [iNaturalist Bombus Species](#) (website). The link goes directly to the *Bombus* genus; you can use the search bar to look up other species.

*Bumble Bee Survey, continued***Some Preliminary Results:**

We completed about 100 surveys during a preliminary project in 2021 (thanks participants!); mostly these came from the end of the bumble bee season. We extracted data for each plant that occurred on at least 10 of those surveys and created an index of use (we can send you details about that index if you wish). Remember this only includes a subset of the region's plants...so just compare the use from among this list. If a plant is not included that is your fav, it might score high, but we did not get enough surveys (Hint: You could change that this year).

The bigger the index number, the "better" the plant is for bumble bees (yes, we know that we are lumping all sorts of bumble bees together here).

Plants that Had Bumble Bees (in order of use)		
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup Plant	26.4
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	Short-toothed Mountain Mint	25.2
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergemont	24.9
<i>Solidago species</i>	Goldenrod Sp.	23.9
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	23.1
<i>Convolvulus species</i>	Morning Glory Sp.	11.5
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Late Boneset	8.5
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	Wingstem	8.3
<i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i>	Porcelain Berry	7.1
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	6.5
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	4.3
<i>Symphotrichum species</i>	Frost Asters	3.9
<i>Lantana species</i>	Lantana sp.	3.7
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	3.5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Narrowleaf Plantain	2.0
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan	1.6
<i>Solanum carolinense</i>	Carolina Horsenettle	1.5
<i>Rudbeckia species</i>	Rudbeckia sp	0.5
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle	0.3
<i>Calystegia species</i>	Bindweed Sp.	0.3
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	White Vervain	0.2
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Fall Phlox	0.1
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion	0.1
Comment: Cup plant is only vaguely native to the region (occurs naturally only in Virginia, but look at its use by bees!). Interesting to see how low the "Susans" (<i>Rudbeckia</i>) score as well as Dandelions.		

Plants that No Bumble Bees Visited		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	American Yarrow	0.0
<i>Begonia cucullata</i>	Begonia	0.0
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace	0.0
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford Pink	0.0
<i>Erechtites hieraciifolius</i>	American Burnweed	0.0
<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	Annual Fleabane	0.0
<i>Erigeron species</i>	Fleabane sp.	0.0
<i>Eutrochium species</i>	Joe-Pye Weed sp.	0.0
<i>Galium species</i>	Bedstraw sp.	0.0
<i>Oxalis species</i>	Woodsorrel sp.	0.0
<i>Persicaria longiseta</i>	Oriental Smartweed	0.0
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American Pokeberry	0.0
<i>Rosa species</i>	Rose sp.	0.0
Comment: Interesting to see that Yarrow, Fleabane, and Queen Anne's Lace had no use.		

Please participate in the Plant/Bumble Bee Survey and help update these lists and make them more complete!



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 20th of even-numbered months (August, October, December, February, and April). If your article is just a rough idea, please allow more time to develop the text and to seek illustrations, if appropriate.

Notable Bird Sightings in Prince George's County

January and February, 2022

Based on eBird Rare Bird Alerts

It's been a quiet couple of months for rare birds in our county.

Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center](#) (restricted access), found by Michel Cavigelli on January 13th and by Marisa Rositol on January 20th. These are likely the same birds that were seen in December and they lingered at least into late February (Andy Connelly, Elaine Hendricks, Coetzee Pretorius).

As reported in almost every issue for the last couple of years, there are several **Trumpeter Swans** that are now occupying our area. Two were at the big stormwater pond in the Melford Business Park on January 19th (Fred Shaffer) and five were at [South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge](#) also on January 19th (Debi Talbott, Christina Yuan).

A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen on the Potomac in Maryland waters, through viewed from the Virginia side, by Marisa Rositol on January 10th.

A **Red-throated Loon** was seen from the [Piscataway \(National\) Park Boardwalk](#) on January 30th (Marisa Rositol).

Short-eared Owl sightings from Konterra Fields (private, entry by pre-arranged tour only) have been few and far between this winter. One bird was viewed from the outskirts of the area by Tim Houghton on January 12th, by Marisa Rositol on January 13th, and by Jay Sheppard on January 18th.

An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at [Bladensburg Waterfront Park](#) on January 8th (Jon Janghorst, Cathering Creese) and one was nearby along the [Anacostia River Trail](#) (maybe the same bird) on January 25th (Marisa Rositol) and January 27th (Christina Yuan). Another Orange-crowned was at [Lake Artemesia](#) on January 30th (Hartmut Doebel).

Four **Purple Finches** were at a feeder in Accokeek February 18th – 21st (Alix Evans). Others showed up in Cheverly (Christine Phillips, Matt Salo), in Greenbelt (Elaine Hendricks), in Beltsville (Cavan Allen, Michel Cavigelli), [South Tract](#) (Cavan Allen), and just outside Patuxent's Central Tract (Christina Yuan), and in Bowie (Fred Shaffer).

Michel Cavigelli saw a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center](#) (restricted access) on January 16th.

A small number (three or five) of **White-crowned Sparrows** were at [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center](#) on February 14th (Cavan Allen) and February 16th and 22nd (Michel Cavigelli).

Public Service Announcement

County COVID Information

As of February 25, 2022

Prince George's **County Council Member Dannielle M. Glaros** (County Council District 3) provided a succinct update on the COVID situation in our county in her February 25, 2022 newsletter:

As you may have heard, Prince George's County will be lifting our indoor mask mandate starting Monday, February 28th. PGCPs [public schools] will be continuing to mask per current state guidelines and masking will remain on public transportation per CDC guidelines.

COVID Update continues on next page

COVID Update from Dannielle M. Glaros, continued

Over the past two years as a community you have rallied to protect and care for your neighbors and larger community. This has not been an easy two years as our lives faced dramatic changes and we collectively worked to protect ourselves. Our county has seen 104,000 positive cases and we have lost 1,700 lives. Each of those is a life cut short.

YOUR actions and the policy decisions made have helped to save lives. THANK YOU!

As government, we have scaled up resources at unprecedented levels to save lives and keep our community moving forward. This has not been easy as information evolves. I am forever thankful for all of our public servants who have met these demands head on.

The pandemic is not over. Like any virus, COVID-19 will continue to mutate and create new variants. As a population, protecting ourselves by being vaccinated, boosted, testing, and masking as needed are critical tools to ensuring that the next variant does not harm us.

As we move into this next stage, let's continue to lift each other up; to cherish the moments we have together; and to always strive to lean in and lead even in the toughest of times.

Masks Still Required in PGCPs Schools, Offices

- Masks will continue to be required for now inside Prince George's County Public Schools schools and office buildings.
- Students may remove masks outdoors while at recess and participating in spring sports.

Prince George's County Will Lift Its Indoor Mask Mandate

Monday, February 28, 2022

- Prince George's County has one of the lowest transmission rates in the State of Maryland, thanks to the hard work of Prince Georgians.
- We have followed the data since the beginning of the pandemic, and the data now tell us it is safe to lift the mandate.
- Masks are still required while taking public transportation, including on buses, trains and planes, per a CDC Order.
- We know some residents will want to continue wearing masks. Please continue to be respectful of each other.
- Residents that have not been vaccinated or boosted still have plenty of opportunities to do so.

Find a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at:
mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County





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:

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