



News from the Hood

Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

www.patuxentbirdclub.org

May-June 2022

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Tuesday, May 10, 8, 7:30 pm

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

Access Matters

Presented by Paul Baich

Is access to birding locations important? Well, only if you want to see birds! Increasingly, we birders are finding ourselves shut out of locations or restricted from locations where we once had open access. Many of these are semi-public or private places where we once could bird without interruption - wastewater treatment plants, landfills/dumps, dams, power plants, sod farms, golf courses, and cemeteries, for starters. Much of this is understandable, but much of this can also be counteracted. In this talk, Paul Baich will review some access we birders have had, some accommodation, when it comes to private property and what we might call semi-public property when we pursue birds. This also covers some access issues on public property such as National Wildlife Refuges, BLM land, and Bureau of Reclamation property. Multiple experiences - positive and negative - from coast to coast will serve as lessons on how to address our growing problem and how to try to make birding more accessible for everyone.



About the presenter: Paul J. Baich (pronounced base-itch) has been an active birder since his early teens in New York City. A former employee of the American Birding Association, he edited 14 of their "ABA Birdfinding Guides," edited *Birding*, ABA's bi-monthly magazine, and served as ABA's Director of Conservation and Public Policy. His concerns include bird conservation and the breeding biology of North American birds. Paul has co-led a number of birding tours and workshops to Alaska and Cuba. Among his many other activities, he has worked for the National Wildlife Refuge System on a consultant basis on issues of popular birding and parallel refuge receptiveness. In addition, Paul co-edits (with Wayne Petersen) the popular monthly *Birding Community E-bulletin*. For many years, Paul wrote a regular column, "Quick Takes," for *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Paul is the co-author of *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation* (with Margaret Barker and Carrol Henderson); *A Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds* (with the late Colin Harrison); and *The Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl* (with lead author Richard Crossley and Jessie Barry). In 2014, Paul received the Ducks Unlimited "Wetland Conservation Achievement Award" in the category of Communications.

This program, sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS, will be presented via Zoom and is free and open to the public. **There is no need to pre-register for this meeting.** Simply sign in to Zoom using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82745584651?pwd=SmV1K2hCZkZk2Y0JJSXMOQUhTRjNpdz09>

If joining by phone, dial +1 301 715 8592 (Maryland & Washington DC area), meeting ID 827 4558 4651. See yellow box on next page for phone numbers from other locations.

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*Upcoming Virtual Meetings, continued***Tuesday, June 14, 7:30 pm****Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time before program
Members' Night**

Join the Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George's Audubon Society for our traditional Members' Night, as our members share their best bird and birding photos.

Members who wish to share their photos must personally participate in the meeting and show their photos themselves. Plan to share up to ten photos, saying a few words about each photo. If you wish to share your photos, please send an email to Ken Cohen ([REDACTED]) no later than Monday, June 8th so that he can arrange the agenda.



This program, sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS, will be presented via Zoom and is free and open to the public. **There is no need to pre-register for this meeting.** Simply sign in to Zoom using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85849968649?pwd=eTEreFQvM25oTkJUcTlFVWsySHdTdz09>

If joining by phone, dial +1 301 715 8592 (Maryland & Washington DC area), meeting ID 858 4996 8649.

Or use one of the following depending on your location:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

**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, May 18, 2022

Meeting starts at 7 pm; sign in to Zoom starting at 6:30 pm

Speaker: Jacob Marlin, Executive Director, Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE)

The Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education (BFREE) strives to successfully integrate scientific research, environmental education, conservation, and create sustainable development opportunities for alternative livelihoods for Belizeans.

The BFREE Privately Protected Area adjoins what is now considered the largest tract of rainforest north of the Amazon. It's an incredible hotspot for biodiversity where tapirs, howler monkeys, jaguars, and Harpy Eagles are often spotted, and is the last stronghold for many endangered species. Their work focuses on birds and tropical forest restoration activities, including a cacao agroforestry initiative and creating bird habitat. Photo courtesy BFREE.



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=TXJyaHRWNFdUbFMYS2F6eGhPRtK5Zz09>

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.

Everyone is welcome on all trips and walks. No experience necessary.

- [Fran Uhler Natural Area](#) – first Saturday of each month: **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: **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: **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 Balley Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. **The start time is 6 pm from April through August.**
- **Saturday, April 30 – [Fort Smallwood Park](#) for spring migrants, half-day, start time 5:30 am or any time up until noon.** Dave Mozurkewich will lead this field trip to Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel County for hawks and other spring migrants. The park is a great place to watch spring migration on days with winds from the southwest. The fun begins around sunrise. For the first few hours, thousands of songbirds can be seen flying north along the east side of the park. By about 9 AM, hawks begin to replace the songbirds and can continue throughout the day. We will take time off from the flight to search the park for warblers and flycatchers that decided to rest in the park before heading north across the Patapsco River. Meet Dave anytime after the park opens at 5:30 AM, up until noon. Be prepared to pay the \$6 admission fee. Bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. For park map and directions, see <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/fort-smallwood-park/>. **Reservations required**; email Dave at [REDACTED]
- **Wednesday, May 4 – A Morning on the Patuxent: Pontoon Boat Trip with Bird Walk and Driving Tour.** Matt Felperin has made arrangements with PG County Parks/Patuxent River Park for a morning outing on the Patuxent River, just when the migrants will be moving through and breeding birds settling in. There will be three components to this outing, and it's possible to do all three or only one or two. **1) Pontoon Boat Trip:** A roughly two-hour trip on the Patuxent River, starting at dawn, when birds are at peak singing time. The trip will include the Jug Bay section of the river as well as Western Branch and the mouth of Railroad Creek. Target birds include Least Bittern, Marsh Wren, Prothonotary Warbler. Meet at Jackson Landing at 5:30 am. **2) Bird Walk in the Black Walnut Nature Study Area:** Matt will lead us on a short walk along the trails and boardwalks of the Black Walnut Study Area adjacent to the boat dock at Jackson Landing. Prothonotary Warbler breeds here and it's a good spot for migrant warblers. Meet at parking lot for the Jackson Landing Boat Dock at 8 am. **3) Critical Area Driving Tour:** Either by carpool or by park bus, we will take the Critical Area Driving Tour from Selby's Landing to the Mattaponi Creek bridge, and then continue into Merkle Natural Resources Management Area. The Driving Tour provides good habitat for both orioles, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Wood Thrush, Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, maybe Bobolink, and assorted warblers. We'll try for rails along the way. Meet at Jackson Landing at 9 am to join for this portion, which will conclude about 11:30 am.
 - **Reservations are required.** [Click here for the online reservation form](#). **Deadline for reservations: Saturday, April 30.** Seats are limited; preference will be given to Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George's Audubon Society members on a first come, first served basis.
 - **Participant fee: \$6 per person;** the fee covers the whole morning or any part of it. The fee is payable in **cash** at the meeting location; give your cash to the leader, Matt Felperin. **Please bring the exact amount** as Matt will not be able to make change.
 - **Bring** a hat, sunscreen, a water bottle, and snacks. Also a camera if so inclined; Matt, who is an expert photographer, will be happy to give photography tips on request. Bring cash in the exact amount of \$6 per person as we will not be able to make change. Masks may be needed depending on county regulations at the time.

Continued next page

Field Trips, Continued

- Jackson Landing is located in the Jug Bay Natural Area of Patuxent River Park, on the Prince George's County side of the river, at 16000 Croom Airport Road. For directions and maps to Jackson Landing, see <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/patuxent-river-park-jug-bay-natural-area/>. Also see the description for Merkle NRMA at <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/merkle-nrma/>. Questions? Please contact Matt Felperin ([REDACTED]).
- **Saturday, May 14 – Annual Spring Migration Count.** Our aim for the Annual Spring Bird Count (aka May Count) is to census birds throughout Prince George's County. We hope you'll volunteer to participate. You can choose your own start and stop times, as well as the location where you count. You can stay home and do a backyard or feeder count, or you can select your favorite park or wildlife area. Some folks like to stay out all day, moving from spot to spot to see how many bird species they can tally within the day. Contact Prince George's County coordinator Kevin Bennett at [REDACTED] **no later than Saturday, May 7** to confirm your assigned area and for more information. Exception: If you wish to count at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, please contact Michel Cavigelli ([REDACTED]), but be aware that BARC is a popular counting location and slots at BARC are limited.
- **Saturday, May 14 – Global Big Day.** Cornell Lab of Ornithology/BirdLife International event. See details at <https://globalbirding.org/global-big-day>.
- **Friday May 20 - Sunday May 22 – MOS Annual Convention, Solomons Island, Calvert County.** We are excited to be able to gather again with our birding friends from across the state. This will be the first in-person convention since 2019, since the event has been on hiatus because of COVID. Convention activities will include field trips in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. Keynote speakers will be two of Prince George's own: Greg Kearns, biologist with Patuxent River Park, who is known for his research on Sora and his conservation efforts in the wild rice marshes at Jug Bay; and Fred Tutman, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, who has long been a voice for environmental justice along the river. Attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination (including boosters). Read more about the Convention on page 8 of this newsletter.
- **Sunday, May 29 – Delaware Bay Shorebirds, full day, start time 9 AM at Bombay Hook.** By popular demand, Fred and Jane Fallon have agreed to reprise their renowned field trip to view Red Knots and other migrating shorebirds of Delaware Bay. Fred and Jane will lead us to several areas along the Bay to see migrating shorebirds that mass to feed on Horseshoe Crab eggs. Be prepared for an all-day outing. Bring scope, lunch, snacks, water, insect repellent, and appropriate weather-related gear. (There is no place to purchase food once we start birding.) **Reservations required;** email Fred at [REDACTED]. The group will meet at the Bombay Hook Visitor Center; plan to arrive there no later than 9 AM. (Note that the driving time from Bowie is 1 ½ – 2 hrs. and can be longer if the Bay Bridge is backed up.) When Fred responds to your email RSVP, he will provide opportunities for people who need a ride to arrange for car-pooling. Further information will be supplied before trip day. For directions to Bombay Hook, see <https://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/visitorinfo.html>. Be aware of the toll at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; the bridge no longer has cash toll lanes and all tolls are collected through EZPass or Video Tolling.
- **Saturday, June 11 – North Tract, Patuxent Research Refuge, half-day, start time 8 am.** Sue and Alan Young will lead this trip to the North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge for breeding birds such as Prairie Warbler, Northern Parula, Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Red-headed Woodpecker. Meet Sue and Alan at the entry gate at 7:55 am to be ready to roll when the gates open at 8 am. Bring hat, sunscreen, water bottle, and a snack. Reservations required; email Alan at [REDACTED]. See <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/patuxent-research-refuge-north-tract/> for maps and directions.

*Continued next page**Field Trips, Continued*

- **Saturday, June 25 – [South Tract, Patuxent Research Refuge](#), half-day, start time 7:30 AM.** Easy walk on trails around Cash Lake for breeding season songbirds. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles; wear sturdy shoes. Meet 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. Reservations not needed. [Click here](#) for directions and maps.
- **Saturday August 6 – Bombay Hook and other nearby locations, full day, start time 9 AM.** Gene Scarpulla and Marcia Watson will lead a trip to Bombay Hook and nearby sites at the height of the fall shorebird migration; this is also a good time to pick up interesting rare waders such as Tricolored Heron or White Ibis. This will mostly be a drive-and-park type trip with very little walking, but will require standing. Feel free to bring a small folding stool or lawn chair if you prefer to sit instead of stand. In addition to binoculars, bring spotting scope, sunscreen, hat, long-sleeved shirt & pants, as well as lunch, drinks, and snacks (there is no place to stop for food once we start birding). Also bring cash for Bombay Hook entrance fee (\$4/vehicle), or use a current Duck Stamp or Federal permit. Meet at Bombay Hook Visitor Center parking area at 9 AM. Full day. **Reservations required**; please RSVP to Marcia Watson (██████████) no later than Monday August 1. May be cancelled or postponed in the event of heavy rain but will proceed as scheduled if there is light rain. For directions, see <https://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/visitorinfo.html>. Be aware of the toll at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; the bridge no longer has cash toll lanes and all tolls are collected through EZPass or Video Tolling.

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	Ken Cohen	
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Marcia Watson	
Facebook Page	Matt Felperin	
Fall Bird Count	Matt Felperin	
Spring Migration Count	Kevin Bennett	
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!

Melanie Baldwin
Karen Bell
Stephen Lofgren
Angela Shuman & Dan Gottlieb

Message from the President

This may be the shortest newsletter I've ever prepared for the club. For the last issue, I had collected a lot of items to share, but not that much has come in for this issue. Feast or famine.

I'm sending this newsletter about a week early because I'm getting ready to travel to Panama with MOS for a birding trip to the famous Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge. This trip was originally planned for spring of 2020, but of course was postponed because of COVID. Now we're ready to try again. A few MOS birders went last spring for a preview and they reported that Panama felt safer than the US in terms of the pandemic – Panama took COVID seriously and people there followed the rules on masking and vaccinations. So we feel comfortable that the risks will not be unduly high.



Here at home, spring has finally arrived and warblers and vireos and flycatchers have started pouring in. This is also the time to look for spring ephemerals, native wildflowers that have only a short spring bloom time before they disappear, existing only as roots until blooming again next spring. Some local ephemerals to watch for include Spring Beauties, Virginia Bluebells, Dutchman's Breeches, Trout Lily, Bloodroot, and various trilliums. These plants can be found in moist woods and bloom before the trees fully leaf out; good places to look are the various parks along the Patuxent or Little Patuxent, e.g., Patuxent Research Refuge (both North and South Tract), Fran Uhler Natural Area, Governor Bridge Natural Area, Jug Bay Natural Area at Patuxent River Park. I took this photo of

Virginia Bluebells at Patuxent North Tract. For a short primer on spring ephemerals, check out the [Guide to Spring Wildflowers](#) from Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore.

I'll see you all when I get back from Panama! Meanwhile, good birding!

Marcia



Call for Volunteers: Spring Migration Count **Saturday, May 14th**

The Annual Spring Migration Count (aka May Count) will be held this year on **Saturday, May 14th**. The Spring Migration Count is a long-standing tradition within MOS. Our aim for the day is to census birds throughout Prince George's County. We hope you'll volunteer to participate. You can choose your own start and stop times, as well as the location where you count. You can stay home and do a backyard or feeder count, or you can select your favorite park or wildlife area. Some folks like to stay out all day, moving from spot to spot to see how many bird species they can tally within the day.

Some coordination is necessary to make sure we reduce overlap and spread birders out across the county. If you wish to participate, **please contact our county Spring Count coordinator, Kevin Bennett (██████████), no later than Saturday, May 7th**. Kevin will provide you with a checklist for the count as well as instructions for submitting your numbers. Or you can download the checklist from the MOS website at <https://mdbirds.org/go-birdwatching/count-birds/may-count-spring-migration/>.

Note: The Spring Count offers a rare opportunity to bird in the restricted areas of Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), although slots there are limited. The count at BARC will be coordinated by Michel Cavigelli; if you'd like to try for a slot at BARC, instead of contacting Kevin, please send a note to Michel (██████████) and don't wait too late to do so.

Call for Volunteers: Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3)



The third MD-DC [Breeding Bird Atlas](#) (BBA3) is now in its third year (of five years total) and Prince George's County needs volunteers to do some atlasing in blocks that haven't gotten much attention so far, mostly in central and southern Prince George's County.

The [BBA3 Atlas Effort Map](#) shows which blocks still need work – the lighter colors show that fewer hours of birding have been spent. All those yellow blocks have received less than 5 hours of efforts over the last two years! For guidance on choosing a block or for general atlasing questions, contact PG County Atlas Coordinator Dave Mozurkewich at Princegeorges@mdbirds.org.

And a reminder: now that many of our local birds are entering [Safe Dates](#), it's time to switch your eBird settings from "regular eBird" to the MD-DC Atlas portal, so that any breeding bird observations that you make during your daily birding can go straight into the Atlas database. You can find instructions about changing to the Atlas portal in Appendix C of the [Atlas Handbook](#).

There are 22 breeding codes in total; some of these you will use on a daily basis (like code S, singing), while others you might never use (like code PE, physiological evidence).

A list of the 'Top Five' breeding codes could include just about any combination, but we picked these because if you spend much time atlasing, you'll almost certainly use each of these.

- Code H (habitat) and code S are used frequently, but aren't strong evidence of breeding. Try to upgrade these.
- Code P (pair) can be a bit subjective, so only use this code when you are confident you have a male-female pair that is intending to breed.
- Code FL (fledged young) is a great code for young birds, and one of the best ways to Confirm cowbirds.
- And finally, look for birds carrying food (code CF). There are a few exceptions, but most birds carrying food are taking it to their chicks.

Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3

TOP 5 BREEDING BIRD BEHAVIOR CODES

While other codes exist, these are some of the most frequent you will use.

H - In Suitable Habitat
Adult bird in suitable nesting habitat during its breeding season.

S - Singing Male
Singing male bird present in suitable nesting habitat during its breeding season.

P - A Male-Female Pair in Suitable Habitat
Male-female pair observed in suitable nesting habitat during their breeding season.

FL - Recently Fledged Young
Recently fledged or downy young birds observed while still dependent on adults.

CF - Carrying Food
Adult carrying food for young. For most birds, the only time they will transport food is to young at a nest. Otherwise they will consume it on the spot.
Does not apply to corvids, raptors, terns and other species that may move many miles from nest site.

For more information
www.mdcbbas.org

And follow along
on social media:
#MDCCBBAS
#MDCCBBAS3

BBA3

News in Brief from MOS



MOS Travel Opportunities

It's time! Time to start thinking of traveling to exotic locations in search of neo-tropical birds. Going with friends from MOS makes for more fun.

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](#).

November 9-18, 2022 will take us to **Ecuador** and the Choco Andes Region. Cost will be \$2,795 with a \$345 single supplement. See the detailed itinerary and more details on the [Holbrook Travel website](#). If interested, contact Maryanne Dolan ([REDACTED]) to sign up.

As always, any suggestions, comments and/or recommendations for future trips 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 is now open but closes on May 3rd.** Visit the [Convention website](https://www.mosconvention.org) (<https://www.mosconvention.org>) for details.

All attendees are expected to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID and must show vaccination cards at registration.



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. This is an opportunity to visit some new birding spots and to spruce up your overall naturalist skills. For field trip locations, see <https://www.mosconvention.org/field-trips-2/>.

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**, Chief of Interpretation for 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.

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>

Volunteer Opportunities

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 john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org 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 (john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org).

Patuxent River Featured in New Video

As we all know, the Patuxent River forms the eastern boundary of Prince George's County, separating PG from Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties. And the banks of the Patuxent host some of our best birding locations. A new video about the Patuxent River debuted on Maryland Public Television during Chesapeake Bay Week (April 17-23). The film was produced by American University Center for Environmental Filmmaking. If you missed the show on TV, it is available to watch for free on Vimeo. Just go to <https://vimeo.com/689471183>.

Troubled Tributary: Maryland's Patuxent River

The Patuxent River is the longest river in Maryland and is a crucial tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. Despite the central role the river has played in the history of the Bay's environmental movement and abundant conservation resources funneled to it over the years, the Patuxent remains a polluted river. Its riverkeeper, Fred Tutman, says that minority communities are disproportionately affected by poor water quality, and believes that environmental injustice exists along its banks.



Image courtesy Maryland Public Television
(<https://www.mpt.org/bayweek/schedule/>).

In the 1970's the Patuxent River's poor water quality spawned a Chesapeake Bay-wide conservation movement, but after decades of costly cleanup efforts the river still earns a near failing D- grade. Untreated outflows from wastewater treatment plants and runoff from farms and urban development weaken the river's ecosystem; they then flow into Chesapeake Bay, harming that fragile estuary. Along the way, environmental burdens fall disproportionately on minority communities.

Follow Fred Tutman, the nation's only African American riverkeeper, as he advocates for clean water, empowers local communities to devise grassroots solutions and fight injustice, and holds the Chesapeake Bay-wide environmental organizations accountable for their cleanup efforts.

Journalism Class Bird Walk By Ken Cohen

On March 1, 2022, Debi Talbot and Ken Cohen led a bird walk around Lake Artemesia for Professor Rona Kobell of the University of Maryland College Park and seven of her journalism students. Professor Kobell used this walk as an opportunity to introduce her students in Environmental Justice Journalism to the habitat Lake Artemesia provides for a variety of birds. The leaders furnished the students with loaner binoculars and gave instructions on how to focus and use them. The students questioned the history of the binoculars and were fascinated to learn most of the binoculars were older than they were! None of the students had ever participated in a bird walk and none of them had any familiarity with anything beyond robins, Mallards, Canada Geese, and House Sparrows. The variety of water birds present included Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, American Coots, and a Pied-billed Grebe; these fascinated the students. They were most intrigued by the antics of a Double-crested Cormorant which landed near them. The leaders explained that this bird was not a heron. A good look at a low flying Bald Eagle provided a memorable ending to the walk. All of the students were amazed at the variety of birds in the neighborhood of their university. Photo by Ken Cohen.



Notable Bird Sightings in Prince George's County

March and April, 2022

Based on eBird Rare Bird Alerts

Once again, it's been a quiet couple of months for rare birds in our county.

A **Long-tailed Duck** was in Prince George's waters as viewed from the GW Parkway on the other side of the Potomac on March 9th (Marisa Rositol). These sea ducks rarely show up in our area.



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are again taking up residence and building nests in trees in the University Park area just outside College Park. Sightings began here in late March (multiple observers). For location information, see the eBird hotspot for the University Park Town Park at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L11404487>. The birds can be seen in the park as well as in trees on surrounding neighborhood streets such as Van Buren Street, Clagett Road, and 44th Street. Another cluster of Yellow-crowns can be seen in Laurel at Laurel Lake/Granville Gude Park; see the eBird hotspot at <https://ebird.org/atlasmdc/hotspot/L526001>. Photo at left by Michael Fuhrer, April 14, 2022 at the Clagett Road location, Macaulay Library ML435719691.

A **Lark Sparrow** was reported at a private farm near Upper Marlboro on March 19th (Dan Rauch); the bird presumably over-wintered here. Photo at right by Dan Rauch, March 19, 2022, Macaulay Library ML427175201.



There has been a smattering of Vesper Sparrows around the county, including at South Tract on April 6th (Allen Burke, Michel Cavigelli) and on April 7th (Cavan Allen); at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on April 9th (Eric R); at a private residence near Mt. Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park on April 11th (Jeff Shenot); at Merkle NRMA on April 13th (David Livengood, Ann Hobbs) and again on April 20th (Marisa Rositol). Photo at left by Ann Hobbs, April 13, 2022 at Merkle NRMA, Macaulay Library ML435598211.



A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Governor Bridge Natural Area on April 16th (Charisma Burrows, Mary Malzan, Robert DeKeyser).

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.



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:

Chapter and State combined membership: <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$33 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$26 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Age < 18) \$6	or	Chapter membership only: (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!