



# News from the Hood

## Patuxent Bird Club

*A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

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

March-April 2023

### Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 pm

Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time  
before speaker at 7:30 pm

**20,000 Species and Counting: The Maryland Biodiversity Project**  
Presented by Jim Brighton



The Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) is a community science project that catalogs the living things of Maryland. The project was started in June 2012 by Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton. The incredible MBP community has catalogued over 20,000 species to date, including over 13,000 species documented with photographs, and features the work of more than 18,000 community naturalists and photographers. Having attained a solid foundation of records of animals and plants across the entire state, MBP is now moving more deliberately into targeted data collection to address gaps in the state's biodiversity data. For example, in 2021, MBP began to focus on nocturnal insect surveys in areas with limited available insect data. Also in 2021, MBP initiated a daily bird survey during fall migration at Turkey Point in Cecil County, and in 2022, expanded the fall morning flight survey to a second site, at Dan's Rock in Allegany County. These projects illustrate how MBP is dedicated to reducing loss of biodiversity and promoting healthy ecosystems. Co-founder Jim Brighton will discuss how MBP promotes conservation, science, and education by helping to build a vibrant nature study community, and how you can get involved. Visit MBP at <https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MarylandBiodiversity>.

**About the presenter:** MBP co-founder Jim Brighton is a native of the Eastern Shore, and grandson of boat builder Jim Richardson. Jim studied contemporary literature at Salisbury University, but decided to follow the family tradition of working on boats. He has spent the past 25 years working at Campbell's Boatyards in Oxford and in his spare time runs the non-profit Maryland Biodiversity Project. Jim himself is a formidable all-around naturalist who has personally contributed over 54,000 records to MBP. In 2018, MBP and its founders Jim Brighton and Bill Hubick were named "Conservationist of the Year" by the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission, which is appointed by the Governor to advise the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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:

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]; Passcode: [REDACTED]; One tap mobile [REDACTED] # US (Washington DC)  
Dial by your location + [REDACTED] US (Washington DC); see yellow box on next page for phone numbers if dialing in.

### In This Issue

Upcoming Zoom Meetings .....	1	President's Message .....	5	MOS Convention .....	13
Upcoming Bird Walks & Counts .....	3	Jug Bay CBC Report .....	5	Osprey Festival .....	14
New Members .....	4	Bowie CBC Report .....	8	Officers & Directors .....	15
		Chan Robbins Archives .....	8	Submissions Invited .....	15
		News from MOS .....	11	Membership Application .....	16

*Upcoming Virtual Meetings, continued***Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 pm****Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time****before speaker at 7:30 pm****Listening to Nature's Divas: What Female Songsters Tell Us  
Presented by Dr. Karan Odom**

Most bird enthusiasts are familiar with the intricate, beautiful songs of male songbirds. However, it is less well known that females of many bird species also sing. While male songbirds sing to attract mates or defend territories, the reasons that females sing can be much broader, including competing for year-round resources for herself and her young. However, there is still a lot to learn about the extent of differences between male and female songs, the reasons that female songbirds sing, and the evolutionary pressures that led female songbirds to sing in the first place. Dr. Karan Odom will provide a glimpse into the world's diversity of female bird songs and explain what these natural divas have to tell us.

*About the presenter:* Karan Odom is a behavioral ecologist interested in how animals evolved their often complex behaviors. She is especially interested in the evolution of elaborate bird songs in female as well as male songbirds. She combines phylogenetic comparative methods with field studies in order to tease apart the evolutionary processes responsible for the biogeographical patterns we see in female and male song today. Karan is a research associate at the University of Maryland, College Park, and recently completed postdoctoral training at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Karan received her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) studying male and female song in troupials, a tropical oriole in Puerto Rico, and her masters at the University of Windsor in Ontario, studying the function and geographic variation in Barred Owl duets. Karan also runs a citizen science project (the Female Bird Song Project – [www.femalebirdsongs.org](http://www.femalebirdsongs.org)), encouraging wildlife enthusiasts to help document the understudied singing behaviors of female songbirds.

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:

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]; Passcode: [REDACTED]; One tap mobile + [REDACTED] # US (Washington DC)

If joining by phone, dial in using one of the following depending on your location:

+1 301 715 8592 (MD & DC)

+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!**

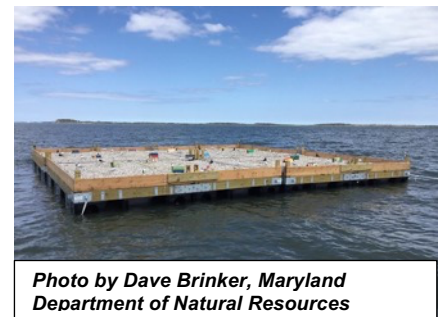
**Anne Arundel Bird Club, Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 pm—9:00 pm****Common Tern Nesting Raft, presented by Kim Abplanalp**

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

attend in person at Blue Heron Center, Quiet Waters Park, 600 Quiet Waters Road, Annapolis, MD 21403

Zoom link will be available later; watch email

In 2021, a floating island in the form of a raft was constructed to provide breeding habitat for Common Terns and was placed in Chincoteague Bay near Assateague Island. Originally 32' x 32', in 2022 the raft was expanded to 48' x 48', more than doubling its original size. In 2021, its pilot year, the raft had 23 nests and 22 fledglings. In 2022, there was more than a 7-fold increase with 155 nests and 153 fledglings, becoming the largest breeding colony in Maryland. The raft substituted for the lack of natural breeding habitat for Common Terns. While not an inexpensive or low effort solution, artificial islands can be an important stopgap conservation technique to provide critically needed breeding habitat while permanent natural habitat solutions are planned, permitted and implemented. Come learn the process from one of the lead researchers of the project, Kim Abplanalp from Maryland Coastal Bays near Assateague.



*Photo by Dave Brinker, Maryland  
Department of Natural Resources*

*AABC Speaker, Continued from previous page*

**About the Presenter:** Kim Abplanalp is one of the lead researchers on the Common Tern Raft project, a cooperative effort of Maryland Coastal Bays Program, The Department of Natural Resources and Audubon Mid-Atlantic. Her duties in part were to help monitor, maintain and respond to the growth of the raft and make adaptations, as well as banding both adults and chicks for tracking the colony. She is the project photographer for Audubon, recently published in Chesapeake Bay Magazine. Kim has a B.Sc. from the University of Delaware, and a background in the behavioral study of Horseshoe Crabs in Lewes, DE, for the University of Florida, which pivoted her focus to the growing needs of colonial waterbirds, bird migration, and the need to restore and maintain breeding habitats. An avid birder, she lives in West Ocean City, MD.

## Patuxent Bird Club/Prince George's Audubon Society and Anne Arundel Bird Club Meeting Dates for Remainder of the Club Year

Patuxent Bird Club / Prince George's Audubon Society	Anne Arundel Bird Club
Monthly meetings are on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Meetings are being held only online. Zoom meetings open at 7 pm.	Meetings are usually at 7 pm on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Meetings are hybrid; in-person meetings alternate between Kinder Farm Park and Quiet Waters Park.
May 9 – Hog Island Scholarship Winners Genny Davis and Ayla McDonough will discuss their experiences at camp; these winners were sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club.	April 19 – Gerald Winegrad: Expedition to the End of the Earth – The Wildlife of Antarctica, Tierra del Fuego, & South Georgia
June 13 – Annual Members' Photo Night	May 17 – TBA

## Upcoming Bird Walks and Field Trips and Other Events

*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: **March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5**. 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 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19**. 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 2, March 16, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17**. The walk of about 2 miles takes place on a handicapped-accessible paved trail. The walks are led by Terry Watson and Marc Manheimer. 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 and 6 pm from April through August.**
- **Saturday, April 1 & Sunday, April 2 – Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary Work Weekend.** Volunteers are needed for a work weekend at Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary in Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. The sanctuary includes a historic home and outbuildings as well as over 2,000 acres of saltmarsh and woods. There will be ample time for birding. See more on page 11 of this newsletter. Contact MOS Sanctuary Committee Chair Jeremy Castle ([REDACTED]) in advance to participate.

- **Saturday, April 1, 11 AM to 4 PM - Annual Maryland Osprey Nature Festival** – Drum Point Club in Lusby, MD (Calvert County). See flyer on page 14 of this newsletter or visit website at <https://marylandospreyfestival.org> for details.
- **Saturday, April 8 - Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.** A rare opportunity to bird the highly productive Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), which is not open to the public. Club member Michel Cavigelli, a BARC employee, will lead the group on a tour of some of the most productive birding areas at BARC. The trip is timed for the start of early migration. Meet at 7 AM at the Log Lodge at BARC, located at 302 Log Lodge Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705. Log Lodge Rd is the first turn off from Powder Mill Road east of Research Rd. Note that if the gate from Powder Mill Rd to Log Lodge Rd is closed, you can get to the Log Lodge parking area from Beaver Dam Rd, which runs south of Powder Mill and parallel to it. You can use this Google Map to navigate to the Log Lodge parking lot: <https://goo.gl/maps/ez3eTewfV3VL7p8A7>. We will likely bird near the lodge for about a half-hour, then will move to different locations, based on where birds have been seen recently, so be sure to arrive on time. We will bird until 10 AM but you will be able to leave anytime sooner. **Slots are limited and advance reservations are required**; please contact Michel Cavigelli (██████) **no later than Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** to reserve your spot.
- **Saturday, May 13 - MOS Spring Bird Count.** Annual state-wide census of resident and migrating birds. Pick your own start and stop times and bird anywhere in Prince George's County. Contact Prince George's County coordinator Matt Felperin at ██████ to confirm your assigned area and for more information. [This statewide count coincides with Global Big Day, sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and BirdLife International. See details at <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-2023>.]
- **Friday May 19 - Sunday May 21 - MOS Annual Convention, Wisp Resort, McHenry, MD (Garrett County).** Registration is now open for the Convention; register at <https://www.mosconvention.org/registration-info/>. Online field trip sign-ups will open March 13 and close May 16, 2023. See the preliminary field trip list at <https://www.mosconvention.org/field-trips-2023/>. See more details about the convention on page 13 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. We anticipate scheduling additional field trips and bird walks; watch your email for announcements

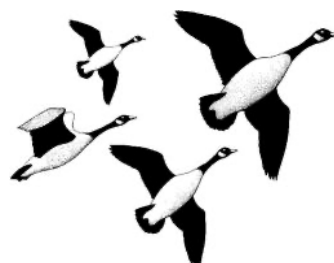
### Meetings, Speakers, and Field Trips Hosted by Other MOS Chapters

Many MOS chapters are continuing their monthly meetings in an online format, and would welcome your attendance for their guest speaker presentations. In-person attendance is also welcome where applicable. Most MOS chapters also open their field trips to members of other chapters, but some field trips may have capacity limits or require pre-registration. Check on requirements before showing up. To see upcoming meetings, speakers, and field trips around the state, go to the online MOS calendar at

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

### Welcome New Members!

Rick Borchelt  
Laine Henry  
Haninah Levine





## Message from the President

I have very much enjoyed serving as President of Patuxent Bird Club, an opportunity that has brought me new friends and allowed me to interact with other MOS chapter presidents from throughout the state. But all good things must come to an end. As I mentioned in a newsletter a few months ago, I'm ready to step down, and the chapter needs to recruit a new president to lead the club.

As you know if you read the email I sent a few days ago, the need to identify a new president has now developed new urgency. My husband Gene Scarpulla and I are buying a house in Baltimore County and are anticipating moving in April. We want to be close to Gene's family in the Towson area, and to shorten the drive to see my family in Delaware. We are sorry to leave our birding friends in Prince George's and we'll miss the many birding spots that we've grown to love, but Baltimore holds deep roots for us – we lived there before moving to Bowie in 2011.

I plan to complete my term in office, which ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for my departure, the board of Patuxent Bird Club is shifting some duties around among themselves for the next membership year. Fred Fallon will take over as newsletter editor; Dave Mozurkewich will assume the role of website editor; Ellen Davis will fill the dual role of Zoom account manager and YouTube channel manager. Matt Felperin will continue as the club's Facebook page manager. The bird club board is also hoping to identify a person to serve in a new role as Communications Chair – that person will be responsible for sending emails and other communications to the club members. If interested in this role, please let me know.

I hope that someone in our membership will feel inspired to step forward to take up the presidency. If interested in learning about what is involved, please send me an email and we can set up a time to discuss by phone or can meet in person. And please know that Baltimore is not at the ends of the earth – I'll still be available to provide guidance and answer questions for anyone who takes up the presidency.

*Marcia*

*Marcia & Gene on Hart-Miller  
Island, Baltimore County;  
photo by Ken Cohen*



## Results of the Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count December 18, 2022

*By Marcia Watson*

The annual Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count was held on December 18, 2022. This was the 42nd year for the count, which began in December of 1981 under the auspices of the Jug Bay Chapter of MOS, which is no longer in existence .

Our total for **Count Day** was **108 species** of birds, plus **another 5 species observed during Count Week**, for a **grand total of 113 species** observed. (Count Week is defined as the span of time from 3 days prior to 3 days after the official count day). Our **46 participants** spent a total of **153 people-hours** searching for birds, and drove or walked a total of **428 miles**.

Our 108 species on Count Day is a **little lower than the average of 108.7 species per count** over the 42 years of the count, and **lower than the average of 111.5 over the most recent 20 years**.

Over the life of the count, the **four highest total species counts have been**: 2001 - 122 species; 2002 - 121 species; 2008 - 120 species; 2021 - 119 species. (These highest totals are for Count Day only and do not include Count Week.)

The **lowest species count** was 89 species in 2009.

We did not add any new species this year, and the **total number of species seen over the life of the count remains at 183**.

*Continued next page*

*Jug Bay CBC, continued from previous page*

The **total number of individual birds observed was 32,550 individuals**. This total represents a **large downslide (-39%) from last year**, when we found 58,390 birds.

The **average number of individual birds observed each year over all the years of the count is 97,430**. The total number of individuals tends to fluctuate quite a bit from year to year and is dependent on weather, number of people and their effort (hours and mileage), on the presence of large blackbird flocks, and other factors.

The **lowest total ever was 24,489 individuals in 1990; highest ever was 1,413,515 in 2017**. Here's how 2022 compares with the four preceding years:

2018 - 72,065      2019 - 115,366      2020 - 111,795      2021 - 58,390      2022 - 32,550

This year's total of 32,550 was the eighth lowest count in the history of the Jug Bay CBC. The other low years are scattered from 1990 to the present and don't show any particular trend or cycle.

Almost every year, the **most numerous birds on our count have been Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles**; the flocks of these birds are usually so large that they drive our total numbers. But these **two species were present in relatively small numbers this year**. Here's how the red-wing and grackle numbers stack up over the last five years:

Species/Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Red-winged Blackbird	37,670	12,130	73,915	10,284	2,379
Common Grackle	5,920	7,2136	2,488	14,343	5,789

This downward trend in total individuals observed and in the numbers of red-wings and grackles is in keeping with other nationwide data documenting declining numbers of birds, including those that were once common and numerous.

Overall, counters reported **relatively low numbers of ducks this year**, both in terms of number of species and number of individuals.

One exception in the waterfowl department: **11 Cackling Geese** were reported, a **new high** for the Jug Bay CBC. Remarkably, 6 of the Cackling Geese were all in one spot, bunched together at one end of the small pond in the Goose Field on Friendship Road at Kim Lane in Anne Arundel County. The Cacklers were noticeably not fraternizing with the large flock of 879 Canada Geese that was present in the pond and field.

Other notable high numbers this year were **Purple Sandpipers** (12, equaling the high count in 2012) and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (54, equaling the high count in 2010).

The field checklist that we use on the Jug Bay count covers expected species, and this winter included 115 species. Of the species on the checklist, 100 species were observed on Count Day, or 87% of the expected species. This represents a great birding effort and thorough searching by our teams. Adding the one checklist species that was seen during Count Week (Greater Scaup) brings us to 101 species out of 115 expected, or 88%.

Only 15 checklist species were not found on Count Day, 7 of them being waterfowl:

- Mute Swan
- American Wigeon
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Greater Scaup (one bird seen in Count Week)
- White-winged Scoter
- Common Goldeneye
- American Coot
- Laughing Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Marsh Wren
- Common Yellowthroat
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Eastern Meadowlark

*Continued next page*

*Jug Bay CBC, continued from previous page*

Write-ins are the opposite of checklist species – they are birds seen but NOT expected on the count. We had a total of 12 write-in species – 8 on count day and another 4 during Count Week. Write-ins accounted for 11% of the total of 113 observed species.

- Trumpeter Swan (2 during Count Week)
- Red-throated Loon (1)
- Northern Gannet (1 during Count Week)
- Clapper Rail (2)
- Semipalmated Plover (3 during Count Week)
- Least Sandpiper (2 during Count Week)
- Bonaparte's Gull (2)
- Merlin (1)
- Peregrine Falcon (1)
- Common Raven (2)
- Palm Warbler (1)
- Pine Warbler (3)

Once again, a sincere **thank-you** to all of you for your loyalty and dedication to the Jug Bay CBC!  
**Please mark your calendars for the next Jug Bay CBC, to be held on Sunday, December 17, 2023.**

A complete list of birds observed, with numbers for each species, is below.

**Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count  
 December 18, 2022  
 Final Checklist**

Snow Goose	2	Black Vulture	237	Eastern Phoebe	4	Song Sparrow	369
Cackling Goose	11	Turkey Vulture	308	Blue Jay	285	Swamp Sparrow	92
Canada Goose	7883	Bald Eagle	82	American Crow	1103	Eastern Towhee	66
Mute Swan		Northern Harrier	20	Fish Crow	136	Northern Cardinal	423
Tundra Swan	59	Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	Horned Lark	6	Red-winged Blackbird	2379
Wood Duck	1	Cooper's Hawk	11	Carolina Chickadee	152	Eastern Meadowlark	
Gadwall	54	Red-shouldered Hawk	44	Tufted Titmouse	162	Rusty Blackbird	114
American Wigeon		Red-tailed Hawk	30	Red-breasted Nuthatch	54	Common Grackle	5789
American Black Duck	260	Virginia Rail	6	White-breasted Nuthatch	110	Brown-headed Cowbird	82
Mallard	864	American Coot		Brown Creeper	9	House Finch	116
Northern Shoveler	10	Killdeer	28	Winter Wren	35	Purple Finch	14
Northern Pintail	178	Purple Sandpiper	12	Marsh Wren		American Goldfinch	178
Green-winged Teal	84	Wilson's Snipe	1	Carolina Wren	258	House Sparrow	166
Canvasback		American Woodcock	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	28		
Redhead		Laughing Gull		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	53	<b>Write-ins:</b>	
Ring-necked Duck	98	Ring-billed Gull	2270	Eastern Bluebird	296	Trumpeter Swan	CW
Greater Scaup	CW	Herring Gull	1288	Hermit Thrush	72	Red-throated Loon	1
Lesser Scaup	52	Lesser Black-backed Gull		American Robin	755	Northern Gannet	CW
Surf Scoter	89	Great Black-backed Gull	43	Gray Catbird	7	Clapper Rail	2
White-winged Scoter		Rock Pigeon	35	Brown Thrasher	20	Semipalmated Plover	CW
Black Scoter	5	Mourning Dove	280	Northern Mockingbird	88	Least Sandpiper	CW
Long-tailed Duck	5	Barn Owl	6	European Starling	1063	Bonaparte's Gull	2
Bufflehead	449	Eastern Screech-Owl	1	American Pipit	3	Merlin	1
Common Goldeneye		Great Horned Owl	6	Cedar Waxwing	19	Peregrine Falcon	1
Hooded Merganser	14	Barred Owl	6	Common Yellowthroat		Common Raven	2
Common Merganser	33	Belted Kingfisher	21	Yellow-rumped Warbler	29	Palm Warbler	1
Red-breasted Merganser	7	Red-headed Woodpecker		American Tree Sparrow	3	Pine Warbler	3
Ruddy Duck	39	Red-bellied Woodpecker	157	Chipping Sparrow	5		
Wild Turkey	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	47	Field Sparrow	28	<b>Other taxa</b>	
Common Loon	7	Downy Woodpecker	121	Fox Sparrow	11	<i>Shorebird sp.</i>	6
Pied-billed Grebe	4	Hairy Woodpecker	29	Dark-eyed Junco	591	<i>Accipiter sp. (write-in)</i>	1
Horned Grebe	4	Northern Flicker	123	White-crowned Sparrow		<i>Gull sp.</i>	3
Double-crested Cormorant	55	Pileated Woodpecker	29	White-throated Sparrow	1626	<i>Falcon sp.</i>	1
Great Blue Heron	41	American Kestrel	4	Savannah Sparrow	19	<i>Crow sp.</i>	140

## Result of the Bowie Christmas Bird Count

January 2, 2023

By David Mozurkewich

The fifty-first Bowie Christmas Bird Count was held on Monday, January 2, 2023. It was a beautiful day, mostly calm with a good bit of sun and afternoon temperatures in the sixties. We had **77 field observers** counting, which is near average for the last decade.

We ended the count with an impressive **98 species**, the third highest in the last 20 years. We also added **one new species** to the cumulative list: **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

**Waterfowl were scarce**; presumably the Christmas cold weather drove them south. The **exception was Trumpeter Swans**, which set a **new high**. This large, aggressive swan is becoming an increasingly common year-round resident; only time will tell if it causes as much environmental damage as the formerly common Mute Swans. **Common Ravens continue to increase** and we had a **new high for White-breasted Nuthatch**.

The only **irruptive** species that put in a good showing is **Red-breasted Nuthatch** with 96 individuals, the highest showing since 1986.

Of course, the major use of CBC data is to monitor population trends and here we have a problem. **The number of individuals counted, 39,882, is the second lowest count in the last twenty years**. By itself, that doesn't say much about population trends because the number is dominated by large flocks. Most passerines were represented by near-average counts.

Here are the numbers of all reported species as well as the effort data (last column).

### Bowie Christmas Bird Count December 18, 2022 Final Checklist

Canada Goose	4299	Red-shouldered Hawk	80	Red-Breasted Nuthatch	96	Red-Winged Blackbird	1312
Trumpeter Swan	5	Red-tailed Hawk	33	White-Breasted Nuthatch	286	Eastern Meadowlark	24
Tundra Swan	20	Killdeer	38	Brown Creeper	28	Rusty Blackbird	13
Wood Duck	17	Snipe	19	House Wren	2	Common Grackle	3738
Gadwall	9	Woodcock	8	Winter Wren	50	Brown-headed Cowbird	107
American Wigeon	2	Ring-billed Gull	1897	Carolina Wren	724	House Finch	415
American Black Duck	23	Herring Gull	98	Golden-crowned Kinglet	78	Purple Finch	8
Mallard	431	<i>gull species</i>	13	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	41	Pine Siskin	1
Mallard x American Black Duck	1	Rock Pigeon	332	Eastern Bluebird	490	American Goldfinch	305
Blue-winged Teal	1	Mourning Dove	758	Hermit Thrush	102	House Sparrow	328
Northern Shoveler	37	Eastern Screech Owl	4	American Robin	870		
Green-winged Teal	8	Great-horned Owl	9	Gray Catbird	5	<b>Total # of Individuals</b>	<b>39882</b>
Redhead	1	Barred Owl	13	Brown Thrasher	16		
Ring-necked Duck	272	Belted Kingfisher	41	Northern Mockingbird	194	Number of forms	101
Lesser Scaup	1	Red-Bellied Woodpecker	286	European Starling	2167	Non-species	3
Bufflehead	10	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	41	Cedar Waxwing	55	Number of species	98
Hooded Merganser	211	Downy Woodpecker	194	Pine Warbler	3	Plus count week	2
Common Merganser	4	Hairy Woodpecker	49	Yellow-rumped Warbler	13		
Red-Breasted Merganser	0	Northern Flicker	245	Chipping Sparrow	17	Parties	42
Ruddy Duck	20	Pileated Woodpecker	76	Clay-colored Sparrow	1	Observers	77
Wild Turkey	26	American Kestrel	9	Field Sparrow	88	Number feeder watchers	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Merlin	2	Fox Sparrow	72		
Horned Grebe	1	Peregrine Falcon	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	Party hours by foot	198.15
Double-Crested Cormorant	0	Eastern Phoebe	4	Dark-eyed Junco	1752	Party hours by car	60.5
Great Blue Heron	26	Blue Jay	934	White-crowned Sparrow	9	Party miles by foot	160.45
Black Vulture	229	American Crow	2588	White-throated Sparrow	2961	Party miles by car	343.9
Turkey Vulture	245	Fish Crow	830	Savannah Sparrow	56	Party hours owling	13.05
Northern Harrier	1	<i>crow species</i>	5857	Song Sparrow	938	Party miles owling	22.3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	Common Raven	15	Swamp Sparrow	158	Feeder hours	19.5
Cooper's Hawk	7	Carolina Chickadee	542	Eastern Towhee	174		
Bald Eagle	50	Tufted Titmouse	429	Northern Cardinal	769		



## MOS Leaders Tour Chan Robbins Archives at Patuxent

By Marcia Watson

A small contingent of MOS leaders recently met with staff of the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center at Patuxent (EESC) to review the work of the late Dr. Chandler S. Robbins and to tour the archival holdings of his papers, as EESC prepares to transfer Chan's files to the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) of the US Fish and Wildlife Service at Shepherdstown in West Virginia. It is anticipated that some of Chan's papers may eventually be transferred to the National Archives in College Park. The objective of the meeting and tour was to give the MOS leadership an opportunity to fully appreciate the scope of Chan's archives, as well as their paramount importance in providing source documentation for ornithological research of global impact.



Chan in the field, Photo by Barbara Dowell

The meeting was arranged by two MOS members: Phil Davis, Secretary of MOS's MD/DC Records Committee and David Bridge, Chair of the MOS Nest Records Committee. Other MOS leaders who participated in the meeting were MOS President Bonnie Borsa; Past President John McKitterick; Executive Committee Advisor and Harford County Director Dennis Kirkwood; and Patuxent Bird Club President Marcia Watson. EESC staff included Shannon Beliew, Data Management Specialist, who facilitated arrangements for the meeting; Brian Richardson, EESC Assistant Director; John Sauer, Wildlife Research Biologist Emeritus; Deanna Dawson, Scientist Emerita; Dave Ziolkowski, Wildlife Biologist and lead ornithologist for the North American Breeding Bird Survey, also MOS Research Committee Chair; Mikey Lutmerding, Wildlife Biologist and ornithologist for the North American Breeding Bird Survey; and Mary Maxey, Biological Science Technician and Past President, MOS Howard County Chapter.

Most of you will be familiar with the name of Dr. Chandler S. Robbins (1918 – 2017), and many of us had the honor to know him personally. Chan was a famed ornithologist who spent his entire career at Patuxent Research Refuge and who was one of the leaders of MOS for most of the organization's 70+-year history. His roles were many, and his professional work overlapped liberally with his leadership of MOS. Among his many roles: lead author of the *Guide to Field Identification of the Birds of North America* (aka the "Golden Guide"); founder of the North American Breeding Bird Survey; founder of the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas; MOS President; Patuxent Bird Club President; MOS Board of Directors member; *Maryland Birdlife* Editor; author of the quarterly Seasons reports in *Maryland Birdlife*; founder of the annual MOS May Count; driving force behind the MOS Sanctuaries; and much more.

Chan passed away in 2017, after a lifetime pursuing ground-breaking research on birds. After Chan's passing, a team of people, including his family, staff from the former Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC, now known as the Eastern Ecological Science Center at Patuxent), and MOS volunteers began the not inconsiderable task of preparing his papers and memorabilia for archiving.



Photo of Gabrielson Lab at Patuxent by Arif Rifqi, Google Maps Gallery

The meeting centered on a review of material provided by Phil Davis and David Bridge, who have taken a leadership role in cataloguing Chan's papers. In his role as Records Committee Secretary, Phil often worked with Chan to track down documentation of bird sightings as well as actual specimens in museum collections. David worked with Chan on the Nest Records as well as on preparing the range maps for the *Golden Guide* authored by Chan. As part of the archives project, David Bridge personally took responsibility for digitizing more than 33,000 nest records cards in a collection that was previously under Chan's care. At the meeting, after a presentation by Phil and David, the group toured the actual archives of Chan's papers in the Gabrielson Building at Patuxent.

As Chan's biography on the PWRC website notes: "His office is packed with data from field studies: pesticide effects studies in the 1940s that influenced Rachel Carson, banding studies of albatross on Midway Island (Wisdom, a bird Chan banded in 1956 is still alive and laying eggs), decades of studies of birds in Mexico and Central America, influential studies of forest fragmentation in the eastern United States, and banding and distributional surveys of birds on the Patuxent Research Refuge and in his own backyard. And Chan was a "finisher" – he not only collected data, but he was a scientist who conducted analyses, tested hypotheses, and wrote papers based on the data. Quite a few of those papers are now viewed as essential reading for conservationists. Results from these

Continued next page

*Chan Robbins Archives, continued from previous page*

groundbreaking studies showed us why bird populations grew or declined and formed the basis for models that guided generations of additional studies on how birds respond to their environments on both breeding and wintering grounds.”

Phil Davis and David Bridge have spent six years systematically combing through hundreds of boxes and file drawers packed with Chan’s papers on these essential topics, and have produced finding aids to help future researchers wade through the massive volume of the papers. Charts provided by Phil show the volume of Chan’s papers as well as the many topics encompassed by Chan’s work:

Category	~Number of File Boxes	Category	~Number of File Drawers
Albatross	8	AFN Seasonal Reports	1
Atlantic Flyway Reports	1	Airports	1
Belt Woods	1	Banding	108
Breeding Bird Atlas	9	Bird Distribution Correspondence	4
Breeding Bird Census	5	Breeding Bird Studies	2
Breeding Bird Survey	3	Cooperative Migration	1
Christmas Bird Counts	4	Correspondence	13
Conservation	2	Field Trips [MD/DC]	1
Cooperative Migration	1	Food Habits	76
Correspondence	9	GFH	21
Diskettes	1	Hawk Migration	1
Distribution Maps	1	HCO Texas	1
Dowell, Barbara	5	Historical	17
Field Notebooks	2	Mathew Perry papers	2
Forest Fragmentation	1	MD/DC Observations	2
Hawk Mt; Nocturnal Counts	1	Mexican Records	3
Manuscripts	1	Miscellaneous	30
Maps	1	Nocturnal Migration	1
Miscellaneous	20	Operation Recovery	5

To read about the full extent of Chan’s work, visit the Chan Robbins Memorial Website at <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/robbins/index.cfm>. The dedication page for the MOS *Birder’s Guide to Maryland & DC* (<https://birdersguidemddc.org/about-us/dedication/>), written by Joanne Solem, covers some of Chan’s contributions to the leadership of MOS.



*Chan banding an albatross; photographer unknown.*



*Chan and Eleanor Robbins on Maryland Ornithological Society field trip in Ocean City, MD, 2001; photo by Tom Loomis*



*Celebrating 60 years of service, Dec. 7, 2005 with Jane Fallon and Barbara Dowell at Patuxent; photo by Lois Loges*



## News in Brief from the Maryland Ornithological Society

### YMOS Birdathon

YMOS is seeking pledges of donations in conjunction with its annual Birdathon fundraiser, which will take place March 18-19, 2023. YMOS is the youth program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS). In the two days of the Birdathon, the youngsters will seek to tally at least 100 species across the Eastern Shore.

The Birdathon is the principal source of funds to support YMOS participation in the World Series of Birding in May at Cape May, NJ. YMOS has been tremendously successful in their divisions at the World Series in recent years, often posting results that beat the adults!

This year YMOS will field 5 teams for the World Series, with 24 youngsters competing in elementary, middle, and high school divisions plus a carbon-free (no motorized vehicle) team, which will bird on foot and by bicycle.

YMOS is seeking pledges of \$.25, \$.50, or \$1.00 per species seen during the Birdathon. Email your pledge to YMOS leaders Wayne Bell (██████████) or George Radcliffe (██████████). Thanks for your support of this dedicated group of young birders.



*YMOS members at the World Series in 2013; photo courtesy of YMOS.*

### Irish Grove Work Weekend

Volunteers are needed for a work weekend at Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary on **Saturday and Sunday, April 1st and 2nd**. Irish Grove Sanctuary is located in Somerset County and includes a historic home and outbuildings as well as over 2,000 acres of saltmarsh and woods, with trails, boardwalks and bridges.

Irish Grove experienced a lot of flooding this winter and all the bridges and boardwalks are in pretty rough shape. So in addition to the usual trail maintenance and house clean up, we plan to focus on getting the bridges and boardwalks back in order. Volunteers will also be needed to help with shared meals at breakfasts, lunch, and dinner. There will be plenty of time for birding – Irish Grove's bird list stands at over 250 species.



If you plan to participate, please RSVP to ██████████ no later than **Wednesday, March 22nd**. If you want to stay overnight, there are a limited number of beds in the house, there will be camping (tent, RV, etc.) on the lawn, there are local motels, and cabins and tent-camping at nearby Janes Island State Park. More details will be provided to those who RSVP.

**Workday first-timers are particularly welcome.** Please join us and become part of the grand 50+ year-old tradition of the Irish Grove work weekend. The Sanctuary Committee hopes to see you there.

For information about Irish Grove, including maps and directions, see <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/irish-grove-mos-sanctuary/>.



## MOS Annual Convention - Convention Volunteers Still Needed

There are still opportunities to help make the MOS Convention successful. If you can help, please contact Meg Harris, the Convention Chair ([convention@mdbirds.org](mailto:convention@mdbirds.org)):

**CONVENTION FIELD TRIP LEADERS.** Are you knowledgeable about western Maryland birding sites and trails? Your expertise is needed! You aren't expected to find and identify every bird – that's a group activity – but you should be able to guide the group to a birding site and around the site.

**REGISTRATION DESK STAFF DURING CONVENTION:** Starting Friday morning, staff at the registration table will hand out registration packets and orient attendees. Volunteers would be asked to arrive Thursday afternoon to help stuff registration envelopes, and to help Friday morning with the sign-in process.

---

## Other MOS Volunteer Opportunities

**YELLOWTHROAT ARTICLE AUTHORS.** Our statewide MOS newsletter *The Maryland Yellowthroat* needs more contributions from MOS members. Editor Dave Wood has created a section called "Members' Perch" that provide an opportunity for MOS members to "sound off" about any bird-related or MOS issues that concern them. Members can contribute opinions about birding or can send in brief stories about an exciting or memorable or embarrassing birding moment. People can submit book reviews, site descriptions, detailed trip reports, conservation alerts, etc. As Editor Dave says: "We have a lot of collective experience, perspectives, and wisdom in our membership, and we would all greatly benefit if our members would share in the *Yellowthroat*!" If you have an article in mind, please contact Dave Wood ([REDACTED]) in advance for submission instructions.

**ANNUAL REPORT WRITER.** MOS would like to create an annual report that would go to the membership and would also be a public relations tool, useful in fund-raising and creating partnerships. MOS envisions that this would be a colorful illustrated brochure, not a list of tables and numbers to wade through. A volunteer is needed to lead the project. This is a chance to showcase your creative skills.

**INSURANCE LIAISON.** MOS has insurance coverage for MOS field trips, the convention, etc. MOS is seeking a knowledgeable volunteer to be the liaison with the insurance agency when we have questions or to seek additional coverage.

**YMOS VOLUNTEER.** George Radcliffe (Dorchester County) and Wayne Bell (Talbot County) shoulder the work of running YMOS, the Youth division of MOS, and they would greatly appreciate some help. George and Wayne are from the Eastern Shore, so somebody from central, southern, or western Maryland would be particularly helpful to help sponsor YMOS activities in these other areas of the state. The youth are excellent and energetic birders, so this is a good opportunity to get involved with some outstanding future MOS leaders.

**GRANT WRITER.** Do you have experience writing grants? Obtaining grant money to help fund expensive projects – such as the finished publications for the Breeding Bird Atlas, or for MOS Sanctuary capital expenses – would be a great help to our society.

Please contact MOS President Bonnie Borsa ([REDACTED]) for more details and to volunteer.



## MOS Chapters Newsletter Exchange

The MOS Board of Directors wants to make it easy for all MOS members to read the newsletters of other MOS chapters. At right are links to the most recent newsletters of other chapters. Some chapters send e-newsletters to their members and these are not posted online, so we can't provide links to those.

- [Baltimore Bird Club Chip Notes](#)
- [Harford County Bird Club Wrenderings](#)
- [Howard County Bird Club The Goldfinch](#)
- [Montgomery Bird Club The Chat](#)



## MOS Convention at Wisp Resort in Garrett County May 19-21, 2023



*Field Trip to Mt. Nebo WMA, MOS Convention at Wisp, May 2017, photo by Marcia Watson*

MOS will hold its 75th annual convention at the Wisp Resort in Garrett County, Maryland on May 19<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Wisp is a golf and ski resort perched in the mountains at the head of Deep Creek Lake. It provides outstanding accommodations, excellent food, and sweeping views of the mountains. There is sure to be good birding from the very moment you step out the door into the parking lot each morning.

The theme for the convention is “The Next 75” and will be a launching point for a short retrospective of MOS history and a look forward to the future direction of MOS.

Registration for the Convention is now open at <https://www.mosconvention.org/registration-info/>.

Online field trip sign-ups will begin March 13 and close May 16, 2023. MOS has recruited experienced leaders for the many field trips to outstanding birding locations, including site in Garrett and Allegany Counties as well as over the state line in West Virginia: Finzel Swamp, Swallow Falls State Park, Piney Run Mountain, Cranesville Swamp, Broadford Lake, and many more. See the preliminary field trip list at <https://www.mosconvention.org/field-trips-2023/>.

Indoor events will feature great speakers. Katie Fallon, director of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia and the author of several books, will give our Friday keynote address on Cerulean Warblers and their challenges. Our first Saturday seminar will be given by Cody Kent, professor at Frostburg State University, who will discuss wintering wood warblers. Our second Saturday seminar will feature Dave Curson, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon Mid-Atlantic, who will discuss the creation of man-made floating islands to create nesting sites for colonial nesting seabirds.

Other indoor activities will include a poster session, a raffle for birding items, vendor tables to browse, a photo contest, and a wine and cheese social on both Friday and Saturday nights. The Convention will conclude with the traditional Tally Rally, now held in memory of former Tally Rally leader Bob Ringler, who passed away in 2022.

The annual Pin Design Contest is accepting entries until March 1, 2023. The pin should depict a bird species that would be representative of the Convention’s location in Garrett County. The lapel pins are given to all attendees, and become a much-treasured memento of the Convention. For information on submissions, see <https://mdbirds.org/join/annual-convention/convention-pin-contest>.

Why should you go?

- Explore Western Maryland at the height of spring migration.
- Expect to see Western Maryland specialties such as Black-capped Chickadee, Blue-headed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, Alder Flycatcher, Blackburnian Warbler, and much more!
- Visit with old friends from across the state and make new ones.
- Find new places to bird and enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery.
- Learn about the latest research on birds of Maryland.
- Enjoy great food and camaraderie amid a comfortable mountain resort setting.
- And help celebrate MOS’s 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention! (There will be cake!)

Check the convention website <https://www.mosconvention.org> for more information as it becomes available.

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



## EDUCATION CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023  
 Time: 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
 Place: Drum Point Club: Lusby, MD  
 Parking: ALL PARKING  
 PATUXENT HIGH SCHOOL  
 (except handicap parking)  
 Courtesy Shuttle Provided  
 Admission: \$10 adult, \$15 Family

Free Rita's Italian Ice



*Join us at the beautiful Drum Point Club for fun and learning for the entire family. Live raptors, food truck, speaker series, live music, exhibits, and much more.*

*Proceeds go to non-profits who have a vested interest in protecting and conserving our wildlife areas in Maryland such as: Owl Moon Raptor Center, Phoenix Wildlife Center, and Calvert Nature Society. \$3,000 donated in 2022.*

*DRUM POINT RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO WALK, RIDE YOUR BIKE, ETC, TO AND FROM THE FESTIVAL.*

**PETS STRICTLY PROHIBITED - ONLY SERVICE ANIMALS**

**Vendor opportunities still available**

**Tax deductible DONATIONS may be made on website**

Please visit our website for details. You may also email  
marylandospreyfestival@gmail.com or call 443-624-5590

**[www.marylandospreyfestival.org](http://www.marylandospreyfestival.org)**

Patuxent Bird Club Officers and Directors		
President	Marcia Watson	
Acting Vice-President	Fred Fallon	
Treasurer/Memberships	Jane Fallon	
Second Year Directors (Term 2021-2023)	Ellen Davis	
	Kevin Bennett	
	David Mozurkewich	
First Year Directors (Term 2022-2024)	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 <a href="http://www.patuxentbirdclub.org">www.patuxentbirdclub.org</a>		

### Your Submissions Invited

Do you have an idea for an article you would like to see published in a future issue of *News from the 'Hood*? Send a note with your suggestion or, better yet, a draft article to the editor, Marcia Watson at [REDACTED] Concerned that you're not a good writer? No worries – Marcia will happily help with your article. Deadline for submission of completed articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> of even-numbered months (August, October, December, February, and April). If your article is just a rough idea, please allow more time to develop the text and to seek illustrations, if appropriate.





## MOS/Patuxent Bird Club Membership Application



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

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

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

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

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

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

Full dues include Chapter and MOS State membership, and subscriptions to *Maryland Yellowthroat*, *Maryland Birdlife*, and the Patuxent Bird Club Newsletter. (The Patuxent Bird Club newsletter will be sent by email unless US mail requested). Dues are tax-deductible; see note below.

### Choose Membership category:

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

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!**