



May-June 2023

Upcoming Zoom Meetings	1	Community Events	4	Fire at MOS Sanctuary	8
Upcoming Bird Walks & Counts	3	President's Message	6	Officers & Directors	9
Spring Count	4	New Members	6	Submissions Invited	9
		News from MOS	7	Membership Application	10

*Upcoming Virtual Meetings, continued***Tuesday, June 13, 7:00 pm****Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time****before program at 7:30 pm****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 Marcia Watson (marshwren50@comcast.net) no later than Monday, June 5th, so that she 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:

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]; Passcode: [REDACTED]; One tap mobile + [REDACTED] (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, May 17, 7:00 pm—8:30 pm**We Count! HMANA and Raptor Migration Monitoring in the Americas,
presented by Julie Brown**

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

Who is HMANA and why count raptors? Julie Brown, Raptor Migration and Programs Director at the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), will speak about the continental network of hawkwatching sites, why collecting spring and fall migration data is important and how these data help us to better understand raptor movements and populations. Read about HMANA at <https://www.hmana.org>.



About the Presenter: Julie Brown has been the Raptor Migration and Programs Director at HMANA since 2008. Prior to that, she migrated throughout the US and tropics working as a field biologist, primarily with raptors, focusing on human impact studies, migration research, and behavioral studies. Julie received her BS in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Maine and received her MS in Conservation Biology from Antioch University - New England where she studied Peregrine Falcon migration in Costa Rica. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, whom she met hawkwatching, and her two bird-loving children. Photo courtesy HMANA.

**Reminder: Patuxent Bird Club/Prince George's Audubon Society Monthly Meetings
will resume in September.**

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: **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: **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: **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, 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 [REDACTED] to confirm your assigned area and for more information, see details on page 4.
- **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/>.
- **Sunday, May 28 – 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.
- **Thursday, June 1 – [Patuxent Research Refuge – South Tract](#), 8 – 10 AM.** Patuxent Bird Club is co-sponsoring this special bird walk in celebration of **Black Birders Week**. Leaders will be Maria Montero from Patuxent Bird Club and Dara M. Wilson, co-chair of the National Organizing Committee for Black Birders Week. More details will be provided later. For now, please save the date and plan to meet near the covered solar panel parking area; bear to the left as you enter the National Wildlife Visitor Center parking area.

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/>

Call for Volunteers: Spring Migration Count Saturday, May 13th

The Annual Spring Migration Count (aka May Count) will be held this year on **Saturday, May 13th**. 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, Matt Felperin (██████), no later than Saturday, May 6th**. Matt 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/>.

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>.

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 Matt, please send a note to Michel (██████) and don't wait too late to do so.

BioBlitz at UMD Golf Course, Saturday, May 6

Volunteers are wanted for a BioBlitz at the University of Maryland Golf Course on Saturday, May 6th, 6:00 am to 10:00 am. This will be a fun event identifying and recording the flora and fauna on the property. Scanning the QR code on the image at right will take you to the registration page where you will find more information. Please register no later than May 1st.

This event is being organized by students in the UMD Department of Environmental Science and Technology in collaboration with the UMD Golf Course. Sponsors include the Committee on Environment and Community Relations for the Maryland Golf Course Coalition (MGCC), which seeks to promote the environmental attributes of the course and protect the 300 acres of green space in College Park, and Audubon International, which certifies golf courses that use environmentally friendly practices.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Russell, Special Projects Manager at the Golf Course (lrussel5@umd.edu).



Be a part of Audubon International's 2023 BioBlitz
at the University of Maryland Golf Course.

Join students from Environmental Science and Technology, golfers, and other wildlife enthusiasts in this fun, free species-counting competition designed to showcase the environmental value of our golf course.

Register here by May 1st for our May 6th BioBlitz



<https://bit.ly/BioBlitz2023>



Former Bowie Race Track - Open House Public Comment Session, May 13

On Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 9 am to 12 noon, the Bowie Race Track Property Task Force will hold a workshop at the Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive in Bowie, to gather public comments on preliminary concepts and ideas for recreational development of the Bowie Race Track Property.

Please plan to attend the open-house-style workshop at any time between 9 am and noon to review the results of the community survey and the public workshop held in December 2022. You can also learn about recreational opportunity needs identified by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the recreational use concepts created by the Task Force.

Under current State law, ownership of the property will eventually transfer to the City, and both the City and Bowie State University have pledged cooperation in creating a recreational use plan for the property that includes public recreation areas and some University-sponsored recreational and open space activities. This will be an important opportunity to provide your input and ideas before the Task Force makes recommendations to the City Council at a public meeting, tentatively scheduled for July 10th.

The property is located on both sides of Race Track Road, south of Bowie State University and adjacent to the terminus of the WB&A Trail (owned by the county/MNCPPC). The Race Track property runs along the west bank of the Patuxent River. To the south, it abuts Saddlebrook East Community Park, a mostly undeveloped park with lots of natural habitat.

Since closing for horse racing in the 80s, the property has been in use as a horse training center owned by the Jockey Club of MD. Through a complicated deal negotiated by the state legislature a couple years ago, ownership is being turned over to the City of Bowie for use as a recreation (sports) facility, with a stipulation that Bowie State University will also have use of the property for student recreation and sports. Thus much of it is destined to end up as fields for baseball, soccer, football, etc. A narrow strip along the river has been reserved for natural habitat and passive recreation (hiking trails).

Even though the sports fields are a done deal, it would still be possible to lobby for landscaping with native plants in pockets between the fields, and to use pervious paving for parking areas. This facility could be a model for best practices in environmentally sustainable recreational land. Also there will be an indoor facility, and that could be planned as an energy-efficient, environmentally friendly facility. But someone has to speak up for such features.

Currently the property contains the original racing oval, with an infield of grass, plus extensive grassy fields, scrub-shrub, and deciduous bottomland woods, along with a stable area and other outbuildings. There are informal trails winding through the property on the east side of Race Track Road, where the diverse habitat supports a good assortment of birds and other wildlife, and is especially known for its dragonflies and butterflies.

More information can be found at <https://www.cityofbowie.org/2724/Bowie-Race-Track-Property> Also see the flier on the following page. If you have questions, please contact Joseph Meinert, Bowie's Director of Planning and Sustainability, during business hours (meinert@cityofbowie.org, phone 301-809-3045).



The flier is a vertical poster with a dark blue background and yellow accents. At the top left is the City of Bowie logo, and at the top right is the Bowie State University logo. The main title "BOWIE RACE TRACK RECREATIONAL CONCEPTS WORKSHOP" is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the title, a paragraph in white text describes the workshop's purpose: "The Bowie Race Track Property Task Force will hold a workshop to gather public comments on preliminary concepts for recreational development of the Race Track Property. Stop by anytime between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. to see the proposed concepts and offer comments." To the right of this text is a photograph of a large green field with a dirt path. Below the photo, the date and time "May 13 9 a.m. - 12 p.m." are listed in white. Further down, the location "Kenhill Center 2614 Kenhill Dr" is shown in white. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the website "www.cityofbowie.org/racetrack" in black text.

Message from the President

Well, this is it – my last message as President of Patuxent Bird Club, and my last newsletter as editor. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to lead this venerable club.

Gene and I moved to Bowie in 2011 from Baltimore County. We settled in Bowie because I needed a reasonable commute to my job at UMUC (now UMGC) in College Park. Now that I'm retired, it's time to move back to be closer to our family.

Several things stand out as benefits of our time in Bowie.

I had no idea that Bowie was so conveniently located – from here, it's simple to get to any other part of Maryland in reasonable time and with good routes. That has made it possible for me to easily bird all through the state. I have especially appreciated being just 30 minutes from the Bay Bridge, allowing for speedy trips to bird on the Eastern Shore. And good birding spots in Frederick and Carroll Counties are just an hour away, allowing me to get know some previously unexplored territory. And of course, Prince George's County itself hosts innumerable great birding spots – some of the best in the state.

I didn't fully understand how different the local bird habitats would be from Baltimore County or Cecil County, where I previously lived. But as I started birding throughout Prince George's County, I began to appreciate the truly southern aspects of the local biome. The rivers, the plant life, the birds, and the herps (love those treefrogs!) let you know that you are in the south. I think, for example, of the swamps at the Black Walnut Study Area in Jug Bay at Patuxent River Park, filled with Bald Cypress and ferns and dripping with mosses and ringing with the calls of Protonotary Warblers. You don't find those habitats in the Piedmont.

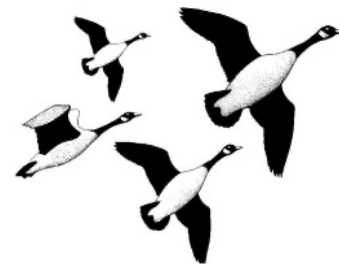
I have greatly enjoyed living in such a diverse community of people. I have loved that my neighborhood in Bowie is filled with people of all backgrounds and with accents and languages from around the world. It makes every trip into the community – whether visiting a park, seeing a play, attending a concert, going to yoga, or even just going grocery shopping – a chance to talk with interesting and talented people. And most of all, I can say that my neighbors in Bowie are kind. Their kindness stands out in every interaction.

So it's with quite a bit of sadness that I bid farewell to Bowie, to Prince George's County, and to the members of the Patuxent Bird Club. I hope to stay in touch through statewide MOS activities. I wish all of my neighbors and friends the best of everything in the future, and I thank you for your support and friendship over the years.



Welcome New Members!

- Julie Pearson
- Alexander Maricich, Lucia Maricich,
& Milo Maricich





News in Brief from the Maryland Ornithological Society

MOS Annual Convention – May 19th – 21st

Online Silent Auction Is Open NOW

The MOS Annual Convention will be held at the Wisp Resort in Garrett County. Registration for the convention is now closed, but even if you are not attending, you may wish to participate in an online silent auction in support of the event.

The silent auction opened on May 1st and features bird and landscape artwork by a variety of artists, donated for this event. You can see all the items on the [Silent Auction – MOS Convention](#) page which also has instructions on how bidding works.

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 (██████) 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 (bonnie.borsa@mdbirds.org) for more details and to volunteer.



Brush Fire at MOS Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County

A brush fire occurred at Mandares Creek MOS Sanctuary on April 12th. The fire wiped out the trees and marsh vegetation in most of the sanctuary.

Mandares Creek is a little 8-acre sanctuary on a bay off the Severn River in Anne Arundel County; it's reached via River Road south of the Herald Harbor community.

We do not know how the fire started but at the time, the entire state had been under a high alert for fire because of dry conditions. The fire was brought under control within hours. Thankfully, it did not spread to adjacent private homes and there were no injuries.

Ironically, we learned of the fire from former Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora, who is a county firefighter and who worked the blaze.

In the aftermath of the fire, a small team of Anne Arundel Bird Club members will be monitoring the property to document re-growth of vegetation at the sanctuary and perhaps to undertake some re-planting. The team is finding that birds are already returning, with 30 species observed on the morning of May 3rd.

Much of the sanctuary has been dominated in recent decades by the invasive exotic Common Reed, *Phragmites australis*, and it has been suggested that this may be an opportunity to control the *Phragmites* at the sanctuary by overplanting with native species. However, *Phragmites* is extremely aggressive and grows back from its rootstock; in fact, just nine days after the fire, the volunteer monitors observed that re-growth of the *Phragmites* had already begun.

Control of *Phragmites* usually requires successive rounds of burning and herbicide, and, where possible, controlled flooding. Mandares Creek Sanctuary is in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, and the downsides of any control plan for *Phragmites* would have to be carefully considered. For a discussion of some of the issues, see <https://dnr.maryland.gov/criticalarea/Documents/Phragmites-Fact-Sheet-Final.pdf>. The MOS Sanctuary Committee will be carefully weighing the pros and cons of attempting to control the *Phragmites*, as well as putting in some native plants, perhaps in the area that was formerly wooded.

For more information about Mandares Creek MOS Sanctuary, see <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/mandares-creek-mos-sanctuary/>.



Photo courtesy Capital Gazette.



Photo above by Dominic Nucifora, April 12, 2023. Photo was taken shortly after the fire was brought under control.



Photo above by Jeremy Castle, April 13, 2023. The water of the Severn River in the background is not usually visible at the Sanctuary because of the vegetation that is normally present.



Photo above by Pat Brenner, April 21, 2023. Re-growth of vegetation, mostly *Phragmites*, is already apparent just nine days after the fire.



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*](#)

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 www.patuxentbirdclub.org		

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:

<p>Chapter and State combined membership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Household \$33</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$26</p> <p><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</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!