



News from the 'Hood
Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

November 2025

Live Meetings Resume!**Same College Park Airport, different ("Hap Arnold") Building**

Directions: from Campus Dr turn N. onto Cpl Frank Scott Dr as usual. Cross College Ave and continue one more block to the runway, turn left, and continue (still named Cpl Scott Dr) all the way to the end near the metro tracks. The first, small white, building is Hap Arnold. Enter front or left.

Tuesday, Nov 9, 7:30 pm – Doors open at 7:00 pm for informal social time; re-acquaint with old friends and trade birding stories. Formal presentation begins at 7:30.

Winter WondOWLand- Birding at Sax-Zim Bog, Minnesota

Presentation by Matt Felperin, Roving Naturalist, NOVA Parks

Why would anyone want to plan a vacation to northern Minnesota in February? Well, for some hard-to-see-elsewhere owls of course! See fantastic photos of our stealthy feathered friends (among other northern species) and learn more about wildlife secrets the north woods and bogs hold. Maybe you too will be motivated to bundle up and endure sub-zero temperatures this winter!

Matt is an area local, raised in Takoma Park. He is the "Roving Naturalist" for N. Virginia Parks, the regional park system for Northern Virginia. He credits working under naturalist Greg Kearns of Jug Bay Park for sparking his love of birds. As Roving Naturalist Matt leads public environmental education programs such as bird walks and kayak trips for adults and kids. He views his wildlife photography as a useful tool to connect people with nature. Matt also serves as May Count coordinator for PG County.

In This Issue

Upcoming <u>Live</u> Meeting.....1	Announcements.....6	Officers and Directors.....9
Upcoming Bird Walks & Counts2	From recent journals.....X	Membership Application10
Trip Reports..... 3	Members' Photo page.....7	

Patuxent Bird Club members invited to share "Zoom" meetings with Anne Arundel chapter

Former PBC president Fred Shaffer presenting "Birds of Schoolhouse Pond", based on his observations over a working lifetime at the County Office Building. Meeting on Nov 19 at the Blue Heron Room, Quiet Waters Park. See announcement next page; zoom address TBA.

Upcoming Bird Walks, 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.*

- [Lake Artemesia Natural Area](#) – first and third Thursdays of each month: Nov 6 and 13. 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. **Start time is 3 pm, till 5 pm.**
- [Fran Uhler Natural Area](#) – first Saturday of each month, Nov 8 **at 7:30 am.** Leader: Bill Sefton, seftowi6482@gmail.com (Note: new e-dress). Note: We've been meeting at National Wildlife Visitor Center on the first Saturday of each month instead of the usual Fran Uhler Natural Area location until the Horse-pen Branch Trail re-opens. Still no firm date on the opening of the Horse-pen Branch Trail.
- [Governor Bridge Park](#) - third Saturday each month, Nov 22 at **7:30 am.** Leader: Bill Sefton. Governor Bridge Park is on Gov Br Rd, between US 301 and the eponymous bridge, about 1 mile e of Rt 301; meet just inside gate.

“Winter Finch” Forecast

Each autumn the “Finch Research Network” forecasts the prospect of winter “irruptives” for the coming season, based on the availability of food sources on their usual feeding grounds. A scarcity of a species' usual food supply sometimes leads to movement further south than their usual winter range, in extreme cases to an “irruption” (sic) of major proportions. Birders in our area then have a rare opportunity to encounter northern species seldom seen in our area. Recent examples are the invasion of both Red and White-winged Crossbills in 2009, and Evening Grosbeaks in 2020/21. Based, then, on surveys of production of fruit and seed-bearing trees, the following predictions have been made.

- Redpolls: should come as far south as NY and s. New England, with the chance of some venturing further. Prefer Nyger thistle and sunflower whole or hulled; also weedy fields with seed-bearing shrubs and grasses, often occur in flocks.
- Evening Grosbeaks: most probably moving westward instead of south, but possible locally. Prefer black-oiled sunflowers at feeders, also maples in seed.
- Red Crossbills: may not come to feeders but to stands of cone-bearing pines. Also tend to occur in groups.
- Pine Siskins: already arrived at Cape May and Turkey Point (head of Bay). Prefer thistle.
- Red-breasted Nuthatches (no, not a finch): already nearby; prefer suet but will take sunflower and safflower seeds. Sometimes pass through w/o stopping, then bounce back northward later in winter.
- Purple Finches: Have already been spotted in our area. Prefer black-oiled sunflower. Check House Finches with care!

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

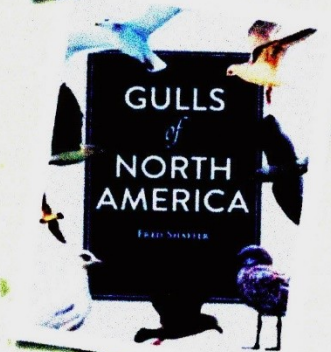
November Meeting



JOIN US!

NOVEMBER PRESENTATION: THE BIRDS OF SCHOOLHOUSE POND SPEAKER: FRED SHAFFER

Fred Shaffer is a life-long Maryland birder with a passion for gulls. He worked for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for over thirty years and developed his love for birds and gulls at Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro. He has studied gulls in Maryland and across North America with a goal of photographing all ages and plumages of North American gulls. He has published articles on the gulls of Schoolhouse Pond in Maryland Birdlife, compiled the Checklist of Birds for Schoolhouse Pond, and served on the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee. His book Gulls of North America was released by Schiffer Publishing in March 2022 and he is currently working on a book about the Birds of Schoolhouse Pond.



Wednesday, November 19, 7:00pm
Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park.

Meeting Zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.
Questions? Please send an email to Debbie Chamberlain at dkc@dchamberlain.com

Reports from Recent Field Trips

Governor's Bridge Natural Area (GBNA) October 18. Leader: Anne Looker

While it was a nice fall day, only five dedicated birders showed up on Oct 18 for the monthly walk at Gov. Bridge Natural Area. But they were rewarded some pre-Halloween bird treats: the return of some favorite winter resident species, some nice migrant species still passing through, and another sighting of the Merlin seen last month at the “Good Spot” (boat launch area).

Winter residents observed included several Hermit thrushes and Ruby-crowned kinglets that were very cooperative in letting us get good views, two Winter wrens, and a Yellow-rumped warbler.

Migrant species included a pair of Rusty blackbirds, and a Palm Warbler pair. The Palm Warblers were quickly identified, but we really missed having Bill's scope when we saw 2 badly back-lit black birds perched on some bare branches, making this a high-level silhouette birding ID challenge. Two birders using their Merlin apps reported that the app was repeatedly flashing the Rusty blackbird icon, so we kept observing them until one of us caught a brief glimpse of a golden-brown tinge on the head and back of one of the birds when it moved. After double-checking that the date was in expected range for seeing Rusty blackbirds in the fall, we decided to include these now very scarce birds on the bird list.

In addition to enjoying birds, we were also treated to some nice fall foliage color. Bill will be happy to hear that Cynthia Bravo has identified yet another positive feature of the “Good Spot”: it has both a Paw-paw tree and a Persimmon tree! Bonus points to those who can identify which of those 2 tree species is shown in this photo taken by Cynthia:

(Hint #1: it produces round, orangish-to-red/purple fruit in the fall. Hint #2—The scientific name is *Diospyros virginiana*). See p 5.

Here is the full bird list (n=32) for GBNA for Oct 18 2025, in order seen:

Canada Goose, Car. Chickadee, N. Flicker, Car. Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, N. Cardinal, Am. Robin, Gr. Blue Heron, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Blue Jay, Rusty Blackbird, Song Sparrow, Merlin, Red-w. Blackbird, Mallard, Downy Woodpecker, House Finch, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Palm Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Am. Crow, Winter Wren, E. Towhee, E. Phoebe, E. Bluebird, White-br Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture

Wildlife Visitors Center, Oct 4. Leader: Bill Sefton

Bright, clear day for this walk with 17 birders in attendance. We identified 44 species - okay 43 species with that one pesky empid flycatcher that defied a proper ID. The sky was filled with Chimney Swifts and for the first 45 minutes of the walk, the trees were decorated with Yellow-rumped Warblers. We had 4 species of shorebirds and 6 warbler species. We didn't get any raptors or sparrows - that sort of surprised me. We had several contenders for the Bird of the Day honors including a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Great Egret doing a spectacular flyover, and a pair of Wilson's Snipe probing the mudflats at the very end of the walk, but the judges deemed the Black-throated Green Warbler as the winner. It teased us for several minutes before finally popping out and giving everyone a good look at it. Nice!

The complete list of the 44 birds identified is shown below.

Species List:

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Yellowlegs, Gr. Yellowlegs, Double-cr. Cormorant, Gr. Egret, Turkey Vulture, Belted Kingfisher,
Y-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker,
Empid Flycatcher sp, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, Am. Crow, Car. Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Golden-cr. Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Red-br. Nuthatch, White-br. Nuthatch, Car. Wren, Gray Catbird, N. Mockingbird, E. Bluebird, Am. Robin, Am. Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbird, Black-and-white Warbler, C. Yellowthroat, Black-thr. Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-thr. Green Warbler, N. Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak.

Governors Bridge Wildlife Mgmt Area, Sep 20 Leader: Bill Sefton

Now back to your regularly scheduled report: We had 14 birders, 38 species (really 37 and 1 empid flycatcher), and another great weather day for this walk. We nearly swept the woodpeckers - missing only a sapsucker - and had some nice migrant warblers as well. Bird of the day honors would normally go to the Red-headed Woodpecker, or the Black-throated Blue Warbler, or maybe the Tennessee Warbler, but not every birder got to see them. Instead, the honors went to a perched Merlin giving us plenty of time to make sure of the ID.

The complete list of the 38 birds identified is shown below. Hope to see you all there!

Bill

Species: Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, Gr. Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker,
Merlin, Empid Flycatcher sp, E. Phoebe, Blue Jay, Car. Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse

Cedar Waxwing, White-br..Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Car. Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, E. Bluebird, Am. Robin, Am. Goldfinch, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Am. Redstart, Black-thr. Blue Warbler, Summer Tanager, N. Cardinal, Indigo Bunting.

Chan Robbins mural dedicated in Laurel

Friends and working associates of Dr Chandler (“Chan”) Robbins, renowned long-time ornithologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and a founder of our MOS chapter, gathered in Laurel Oct 25 to dedicate a wall mural honoring Chan. (Announcement of the ceremony had reached “The ‘Hood” too late for inclusion in a prior issue). The event and the mural itself were sponsored by the “Friends of Patuxent” and the city of Laurel. Musicians, refreshments, and games for kids rounded out the proceedings.

The mural is spectacular! Previews circulated beforehand in black and white do not do it justice. Painted on a wall about 10’ high the sheer size is impressive. At one side is Chan with binoculars, looking towards various birds in vibrant colors -Prothonotary Warbler, Yellowthroat, Towhee, Carolina Wren; about a half-dozen in all. The artist, Jeff “Jahru” Huntington, described the techniques he used. Other speakers followed representing the city, Friends of Patuxent, colleagues, and family. Photos at successive stages of creation can be seen at <laurelforthepatuxent.org>.

To see the mural yourself, from Rt 1 turn W. onto Main Street, go 2 blocks (as counted on the left) to 5th Ave and turn left

mural
your
on-
in the



(south). The will be on right. There is street parking area.

The Chan Robbins memorial Mural

MOS Chapters Newsletter Exchange Cntrl+click on underline

- Anne Arundel Bird Club [Home Page](#)
- Baltimore Bird Club [Chip Notes](#)
- Harford Bird Club [Wrenderings](#)
- Howard County Bird Club [Home Page](#)
- Montgomery Bird Club [Home Page](#)
- Anne Arundel Bird Club [Home Page](#)

Note – some chapters have incorporated their newsletters into their websites; others email theirs to members only.

Welcome new Members:

Jennifer Melot
Yiteng Liu

Washington
College Park



Members' (past & present) Photo Pages

Please submit photos, in jpeg format, to the editor at fwfallon@ymail.com. Photos from new contributors welcome. Without contributions there can't be any photos on the Photo Page!

From Oct 18 trip report, p 4.



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, Fred Fallon at fwallon@ymail.com. Concerned that you're not a good writer? No worries – editor will happily help with your article. Deadline for submission of completed articles is the 15th of Oct and 26th of Nov. If your article is just a rough idea, please allow more time to develop the text and to seek illustrations, if appropriate.

Patuxent Bird Club Officers and Directors

Acting President	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
Acting Vice-President	Fred Fallon	fwallon@ymail.com
Treasurer/Memberships	Jane Fallon	jefallon90@yahoo.com
First Year Directors (Term 2023-2025)		
Second Year Directors (Term 2022-2024)	Kevin Bennett	kevinfbennett@gmail.com
	Matt Felperin	mfelperin@nvrpa.org
	Ikumi Kayama	ikumikayama@gmail.com
	Ikumi Kayama	

Representatives to MOS State Board	Fred Fallon (designee of PBC President)	fwfallon@ymail.com
	Ikumi Kayama	ikumikayama@gmail.com
Field Trip Coordinators	Matt Felperin, Ken Cohen	mattyfelp@gmail.com kvulture@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Fred Fallon	fwfallon@ymail.com
Facebook Page	Matt Felperin	mfelperin@nvrpa.org
Website & YouTube Channel	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
Fall Bird Count	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
Spring Migration Count	Matt Felperin	mfelperin@nvrpa.org
Bowie Christmas Bird Count	David Mozurkewich	mozurk@bellatlantic.net
Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Watson	marshwren50@comcast.net
Visit us on the web at www.patuxentbirdclub.org		



MOS/Patuxent Membership

REQUEST TO ALL CURRENT AND NEW MEMBERS: If at all possible, please visit the MOS website (<https://mdbirds.org/>), even if you haven't completed your maintenance and bookkeeping procedures, and make things easier for yourself. You will be able to choose the Patuxent Bird Club as your local club and also make charitable donations to the Patuxent Bird Club. Please pay your membership dues by check, please print and complete this form. Thank you for your assistance!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone(s): _____

E-Mail Address(es): _____

Full dues include Chapter and MOS State membership, *Maryland Birdlife*, and the Patuxent Bird Club Newsletter (sent by email unless US mail requested). Dues are tax-deductible.

Choose Membership category:

Chapter and State combined membership: ☐ Household \$33 ☐ Individual \$26 ☐ Junior (Age < 18) \$6	or	Chapter membership (must be a full-time primary MOS club member) ☐ Household \$15 ☐ Individual \$10 ☐ Junior \$1
--	-----------	--

In addition, I have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution of _____

- ☐ to Patuxent Bird Club in the amount of _____
☐ to Maryland Ornithological Society in the amount of _____

Please make check payable to **Maryland Ornithological Society**

Carol S. Daughert
11925 Old
Rockville,

"The benefits received from Maryland Ornithological Society membership are determined by criteria in IRS Publication 526. Therefore, membership dues are tax-deductible."

THANK YOU AND