



March 2026

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, Mar 10, 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.

Birding Svalbard: Exploring at 78° north!

Speaker: Alex Pellegrini

Svalbard (aka Spitzbergen) isn't on most people's bucket lists—but it should be. At 78° N, this remote arctic archipelago offers stunning glaciers, tundra, and endless summer daylight. Polar bears roam the pack ice, Arctic foxes prowl the tundra, and Svalbard reindeer graze among snowfields. For birders, it's a world of extremes—alive with Thick-billed Murres, Dovekies, Northern Fulmars, and Ivory Gulls patrolling the ice edge. In June, Alex Pellegrini led a small-group expedition there with *Caretta Inspired Nature Journeys*, a nonprofit helping wildlife “one trip at a time.” Join Alex for breathtaking photos, close encounters, and stories from the top of the world.

Alex is a naturalist working for the Maryland Bird Conservation Program and now working on the restoration of Barn Owls to their former numbers, among other bird conservation projects.

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

Wednesday, Mar 18

“Ducks of Maryland”

Speaker: Marcia Watson

(ZOOM” contact link will be forwarded before the meeting)

About the Presenter. Marcia Watson has enjoyed looking at ducks since she was a little girl learning them from her father. She is a long-time member of the Maryland Ornithological Society. As a member of the MOS Sanctuary Committee, Marcia works to foster awareness of the sanctuaries among MOS members and the public. Marcia also serves as editor of MOS’s online *Birder’s Guide to Maryland and DC*. She was a founding member of the Cecil Chapter of MOS, and after having moved to Prince George’s County, served as President of the Patuxent Chapter. Marcia is a former member of the MD-DC Bird Records Committee and is the compiler for the Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count. She is retired from her career as an academic administrator and biology professor at the University of Delaware and later at the University of Maryland Global Campus. Marcia and her husband Gene Scarpulla now live in a home adjacent to Loch Raven in northern Baltimore County and are members of the Baltimore Bird Club. They met while birding at Conowingo Dam.

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: Mar 5 and 12; Apr 2 and 16. The walk of about 2 miles takes place on a handicapped-accessible paved trail. The walks are led alternatively 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 in March, switches to 5pm to 7 pm in April.**
- [Fran Uhler Natural Area](#) – first Saturday of each month, Mar 7 and Apr 4 **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, Mar 20 and Apr 18 **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.

- [Work Day at Irish Grove Sanctuary](#) - Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29 .
MOS's 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 forest. For information about Irish Grove, including maps and directions, see

<https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/irish-grove-mos-sanctuary/>.

Projects will include trail maintenance, house cleaning, painting, clean out bluebird and owl boxes, gardening projects, trash clean up around the property, power washing siding, and I am sure other items will come up. Volunteers will also be needed to help with morning breakfasts, lunch, and dinner. Of course, there will also be plenty of time to bird!!! Also, I am always looking for individuals who want to lead projects, so if there is something you think should be done at Irish Grove, step up and help lead the charge.

If you wish to participate at Irish Grove, please RSVP to jeremy.castle@mdbirds.org no later than Tuesday, March 17th. If you want to stay overnight, there are a limited number of beds at the house, there will be camping (tent, RV, etc.) on the lawn, local motels, and Janes Island State Park.

Reports from Recent Field Trips

Field Trip: Feb 6, 2026 at PWRC South Tract. Leader: Bill Sefton

Miniature snow squalls - propelled by 40 mph wind gusts - swirled across the parking lot and disappeared into the frozen field beyond. I watched from my car with my fingers and toes still atingle from my brief excursion outside to watch a pair of Common Ravens soar over Cash Lake as the sun rose. I was quite confident that no experienced birder with even a modicum of intellectual acuity would choose to come out on such a day. My plan was simple. I'd hang out in the parking lot for a few more minutes and then make the short drive back home for a hot breakfast with my duties as assigned walk leader fulfilled. That's when I saw a car pull into the lot. I was right! No experienced birders would show up, but I hadn't counted on very inexperienced birders newly smitten with birding fever. They didn't even have binoculars, and I had neither my spotting scope nor my spare binoculars with me. Still, I couldn't deny them the promised outing, so I took them on the usual route around Cash Lake.

Highlights for the walk were Wild Turkeys, Common Raven, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Hermit Thrush. Really, almost every bird seen could be considered a highlight considering the conditions. Bird of the Day honors went to a cooperative Yellow-bellied Sapsucker which was a life bird for both of them.

The complete list of the 24 species identified follows: (usual birds in **boldface**)

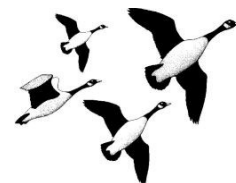
Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Am. Crow, **Common Raven**, Tufted Titmouse, White-br. Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Am. Robin, Field Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, E. Towhee, Red-w Blackbird, N. Cardinal. – Bill Sefton

Ed. Note: Bill is to be commended for sticking it out for the benefit of the eager beginners. I too was once the only show-up on a very cold day at Sandy Point, and I've been eternally grateful to the trip leader ever since. – Ed.

Welcome new Members:

Sharon Gillete
Camille Haylock

College Park
Upper Marlboro



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!

Bird Banding Lab at Risk

Most – possibly all - birders are aware of the Bird Banding Laboratory working out of the Patuxent Refuge. For most of its life part of Fish & Wildlife Service, it was transferred organizationally to the US Geologic Survey in 1995 along with other elements of PWRC, while remaining housed at the Refuge. Organizational restructuring made little difference to the Lab's work, the banding of birds and keeping track of where they were at banding and where they show up later (whenever they do – about a million bands are affixed each year, of which about 90,000 are recovered). Working steadily since 1920 a monumental data base of bird movement has been built up. Chan Robbins expanded the area of banding recovery to wintering/stop-over grounds in Mexico and Guatemala in cooperation with those countries.

Without a doubt the BBL's data base is a major scientific resource in mapping out the migration routes of the country's birds. Moreover, all permits to band or even handle birds for research are issued by the BBL. That puts all such projects at risk, including Greg Kearns' MOTUS tracking of rails!

In fairness, it is probably not the BBL that is the target, but the Ecosystems Mission Area (EMA) of USGS of which the BBL is a small part. EMA is responsible for high-profile problems such as toxic chemicals, wildlife disease outbreaks (think avian flu), and the effect of global warming on wildlife and vegetation – hot-button topics on which ride billions of dollars for interested parties. Also, part of the problem for BBL goes back to that ill-advised transfer of US Fish & Wildlife's XXXX to USGS. That being so, BBL might be better protected if it were transferred back to USGS. But so far USGS has refused to agree to such a return.

It must be admitted that some retrenchment in federal spending is necessary to avoid a default on the government's obligations, leading to economic and social chaos. But the BBL would be a high-value loss for such a small savings.

Contributions Welcome

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 fwfallon@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 25th 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	fwfallon@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
	Ikumi Kayama	ikumikayama@gmail.com
Representatives to MOS State Board	Ikumi Kayama	
	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 Bird Club Membership Application



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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone(s): _____

E-Mail Address(es): _____

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

Choose Membership category:

Chapter and State combined membership: ☐ Household \$33 ☐ Individual \$26 ☐ Junior (Age < 18) \$6	or	Chapter membership only: (must be a full-paying member of another MOS chapter - indicate primary MOS chapter: _____) ☐ Household \$8 ☐ Individual \$6 ☐ Junior \$1
--	-----------	--

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!