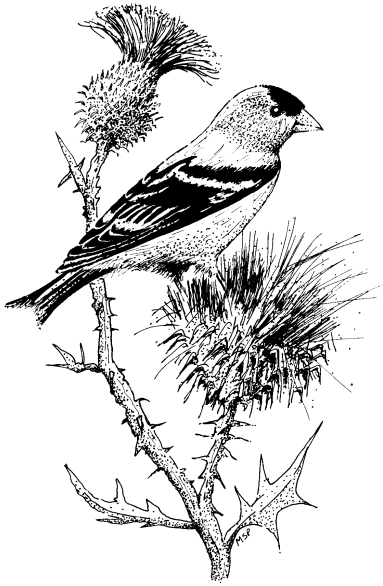


The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club • A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



Inside This Issue

President's Welcome.....	1
Spring Bird Records	1
Programs	4
Field Trips	6
Fall Count	8
Board of Directors Meetings ..	8
Dragonfly Count Results.....	9
May Count Summary.....	10
Hawk Watch.....	10
Water	12
Membership Application	
Fall Count Checklist	

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year.

Copy deadline for the November/December 2006 issue is September 25, 2006.

Amanda Witt, *Editor*
Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders.

Copy may be sent to:

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Please visit the Club's website at www.howardbirds.org

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

Welcome to the 34th year of the Howard County Bird Club. As I start in this position, I've thought a lot about what I can contribute to the club over the next couple of years. What comes to mind the most is getting more people, particularly more young people, involved. I believe that the great appeal of birding is that people of all ages and experience levels can enjoy it. All you need is a pair of binoculars and a field guide to get started. When I first started 25 years ago everything was new and exciting. The more experienced members of the club were willing to share their knowledge and passion with me. They not only taught me how to distinguish birds

by sight but about what time of year to expect each species, what habitats to look for them in, their calls, behaviors, flight patterns, silhouettes, etc. Their enthusiasm was and is contagious. They not only get excited when they see a rare bird (e.g. 2nd county record of a Common Raven this year) but also birds that they have seen dozens of times before (e.g. Pileated Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Brown Creeper, the first warbler of the spring or the first junco of the fall and each and every Song Sparrow). They seem to get most excited however when they see the look on a new birder's face when he or she sees a new bird for the first time.

(Welcome continues on page 4.)

SPRING BIRD RECORDS MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 2006

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Complaints of few birds and a dismal migration dominated reports. Despite that perception, Howard birders came up with some excellent sightings. Highlights were Long-tailed Duck, Northern Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Bittern, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Sora, Common Moorhen,

Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Common Raven, Brewster's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.

Tundra Swan migration was detected mostly between 3/3 Hammond Village (MW) and 3/17

(Records continues on page 2.)

RECORDS (Continued from page 1.)

Manahan Dr (**BO**). A flock of 106 flew over River Hill 3/12 (**W&SE**), and one frequented a barley field on Md 99 west of Morgan Station Rd 3/22 to 4/28 (**WE**).

Duck numbers were low, but there were some fine sightings. A male **Blue-winged Teal** 3/12 at Lake Elkhorn set an early arrival record (**BO,JS**). Two **Northern Pintails** were at Centennial 3/9 (**RR**) to 5/3 (**JTv**). The three **Redheads** (one m.) at Centennial 5/2 to 5/5 (**SWH**) had dropped to one female last seen 5/18 which was the second latest departure date ever (**SLg**). A **Long-tailed Duck** was spotted 3/26 at Alpha Ridge landfill (**PN**); it stayed until 3/31 (**RC**). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported from 3/12 at Brighton Dam (**EH**-two) to 3/17 at Centennial (**BO**-one m.).

Two **Ring-necked Pheasant** hens were seen near the intersection of Howard Rd and Triadelphia Rd 3/31 (**MMx**). **Wild Turkeys** were widespread. The Branch Woods Ct hen reappeared this spring from 3/7 until 4/28 (**SB**); a pair was present at Alpha Ridge Park 3/31 (**RC**); one was heard on the adjoining landfill 4/28 (**RC,EH,JS**); a hen was spotted at the north end of Triadelphia Reservoir 4/11 (**JS**) and 4/26 (**BHi**); and a hen was present at Rockburn Branch Park 5/13 (**BO,EH**). Three **Northern Bobwhite** reports were welcome: 4/5 Yellowstone Ct (**DKn**), 5/13 near Schooley Mill Park (**GW**), and 5/25 at West Friendship (**JCu**).

An **American Bittern** rose out of the marsh along Hanover Rd 4/29

(**RC,EH,JS**). On 4/23 a **Cattle Egret** joined a herd of Holsteins in a Fulton pasture (**KM; JW+**). Two **Little Blue Herons** were reported: an adult 5/3 at Centennial (**SWH**) and a molting immature 5/14 at Race Rd (**EH,JS**). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery at Vantage Point had 16 occupied nests 3/26 (**HZ**). In early May, there were at least four occupied nests along the Middle Patuxent River at Carroll Mill Rd (**M&GMcC**). The earliest **Great Egret** was spotted in E. Columbia along Md 32 on 3/29 (**HH**). The first **Green Heron** appeared on 4/12 at Centennial (**RSu**). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was noted 4/9 at Wilde Lake (**HZ**) with a high of three (two ad.) 5/20 (**EH**). Others were at Lake Elkhorn 5/3 (**MWg**) and Meadowbrook Park 5/21 (**KLz**). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** showed up at Elkhorn 5/20 (**MSt,BMi**) and was seen intermittently for several weeks. A **Glossy Ibis** made an appearance at the landfill 5/13 (**RC**).

Bald Eagles were widely seen. The majority of reports were one or two birds frequenting the Columbia lakes and Centennial. The last **Northern Harrier** was noted 5/13 at Bushy Park Rd and Carrs Mill Rd (**KT,LC**). Spring **Broad-winged Hawk** flights rarely approach autumn concentrations. Six hours of watching on 4/16 over Burleigh Manor produced a substantial 142, third highest for spring (**MKw**). The **Merlin** at Rockburn 3/5 was a new early date (**E&JMe**). One at Centennial 3/9 (**RR**) was also seen on 3/10 (**BO**) and 3/11 (**EH**). One was at Wynfield Dr 3/12

(**RC**) and another at UMDCF 3/19 (**BO,EH,JS**). The final migrant was spotted over Manahan Dr 5/13 (**BO,EH**).

The lone **Sora** report was 5/3 at UMDCF (**BO**). A **Common Moorhen** appeared in an unusual location—a quiet section of the Patapsco River west of Woodstock 5/27 (**RC**). It was found again 5/28 (**JMr**) and 5/29 (**EH,JS**). The **American Coot** on 5/26 at Warfield's Pond Park was the second latest record (**B&GHi**).

A **Black-bellied Plover** in breeding plumage is an infrequent treat in the county. One was present 5/20 at UMDCF (**EH,JS; RC**). The only spring **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Western Regional Park 5/11 (**B&GHi**) to 5/13 (**KT,LC**). The **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Big Branch 5/20 established a new departure date (**S&EAr,BHi**). We are fortunate when one Dunlin is detected in a season. This spring brought three: 4/25 Triadelphia M.S. pond (**CSt**), 5/6 UMDCF (**BO,DOI,JS+**), and 5/11 Western Regional (**B&GHi**). More than sixty **Wilson's Snipe** were present 3/30 at UMDCF (**BO,JS**). Courting **American Woodcock** were scarce at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) this spring. Habitat enhancement is taking place there which should pay dividends in the future (**CF**). Other woodcock locations were near a W. Friendship yard 3/6 to 3/13 (**LC**); three or four at Warfield's Pond Park on 3/11 (**SMu,HMz**), one at Belmont 3/19 (**S&EAr**), and one at Annapolis Rock Rd 5/6 (**BO,DOI,JS+**).

RECORDS (Continued from page 2.)

Any significant **Bonaparte's Gull** migration escaped detection despite frequent checks of the Columbia lakes. A lone bird appeared briefly 4/12 at Wilde Lake (**JS**). That same location hosted an adult **Great Black-backed Gull** 4/7 (**JS**) to 4/12 (**JS; JMa**). The earliest **Caspian Tern** was spotted at Centennial 4/8 (**JTv**), with a high of five there 4/23 (**GA**). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Schooley 5/6 (**RB**).

Thanks to atlas efforts owls were widely reported. A sampling follows. A nest of **Great Horned Owls** with two young was watched from mid-March through April east of Cedar Lane (**CF**). A pair was present in Columbia Hills 3/11 (**MBt**). One was heard on Deer Valley Rd 4/23, and a pair of **Barred Owls** was seen in the same woodlot (**ASe**). A Barred Owl hooted the morning of 4/13 at Centennial, an infrequent location (**BO,GK,JS**). As part of the atlas project, some individuals erected **Eastern Screech-Owl** boxes under the direction of **Jay Sheppard**. In this final year of the atlas, a box on Hallmark Dr fledged two young 5/31 (**WEb**). Three fledglings and two adults appeared in a Kings Contrivance backyard which was a fine confirmation (**KCs**). A screech-owl was also present near the entrance to Bon Secours 5/2 and 5/13 (**RC**).

Migrating **Common Nighthawks** were detected from 5/13 (**WEb,R&SPo**) to 5/28 (**RC**) with a modest seasonal high of eight at Centennial 5/22 (**BHb**). On 5/27, seven were noted over Sand Chain (**J&TDC**) and four over Wynfield

(**RC**); on 5/25 four were spotted over Allview (**ES**). A **Pileated Woodpecker** frequented a feeder west of Ellicott City 5/11 to 6/1 (**KH,KD**). **Willow Flycatchers** were not detected until 5/13 when three were tallied on May Count. A **Least Flycatcher** 5/24 at W. Friendship was the second latest departure date (**LC**). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** spent part of 5/13-14 in dead treetops west of Ellicott City (**KH,KD**); one also appeared at W. Friendship 5/24 (**LC**). A **White-eyed Vireo** at Centennial on 4/11 established a new arrival date (**GA**). The latest **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen 5/27 along Carrs Mill Rd (**RB**). **Warbling Vireos** flew in on 4/24 with reports from two sites: six at UMDCF (**BO,EH,JS**) and one at Lake Kittamaqundi (**EH**).

A **Bank Swallow** swooped over the entrance pond at Western Regional 5/6 (**BO,DOI,JS+**). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at Brighton Dam 4/11 (**JS**); on 4/19 more than 25 were counted at the Md 32/Patapsco River colony (**DH**). One or two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen at 10 locations, mostly mid-March to mid-April. The last was in a Swansfield yard 4/29 (**JTv**).

If it were necessary to choose one species to represent the season, it would have to be the **Common Raven**. County bird records begin mostly in the mid-1950's. In that half century, only one Howard County raven record was accepted by the Maryland/DC Records Committee. (Because the species has been expanding eastward from the mountains, sightings are no longer reviewed by the state committee.) In 2006, a pair nested

in Frederick County about five miles from the Howard County line, while another pair attempted to nest near Marriottsville in Baltimore County. Suddenly, the chance of observing a raven in this county became a realistic possibility. On 5/2 one was reported over I-70, one-half mile east of the Carroll Co line (**HH**). Little did we know that this was just the beginning. While standing in the Marriottsville parking lot at the Patapsco River on 5/6, Big Day participants watched cautiously, then exuberantly as a raven approached from the south, engaged in aerial acrobatics, and flew north across the railroad tracks escorted by a crow (**BO,DOI,JS,RC,EH,KH,KD**). On 5/27 at 9:30 a.m. at Alpha Ridge landfill, **Ralph Cullison** heard what sounded like a raven, but he could not locate it. About 10:45 a.m. he heard the same call. This time he spotted six to eight crows harassing a raven. After a couple of minutes, the crows broke into two groups--only then did he realize a second raven was present! A few minutes later the crows lost interest and the ravens headed west. Two in one day was a new high, but the day was not over. Seven or eight miles to the east, between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m., **Bonnie Ott** watched a raven fly over her house on Manahan Dr. Because of the time and distance, it could not have been one of the landfill birds. Three ravens in one day! Can we top this?

The sole **Marsh Wren** was noted 5/20 at UMDCF (**EH,JS**). It is unlikely the **Veery** at the MARC station near Dorsey on 5/26 was nesting (**ES**). **Gray-cheeked**

(Records continues on page 4.)

CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Club meetings are held at:
Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

If schools are closed for the day or close early due to snow and/or ice, all indoor facilities are closed for the day. You can check on the status of programs and facilities by calling the recorded program status line at 410-313-4451.

Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731.

RECORDS (Continued from page 3.)

Thrush reports were one on 5/10 at MPEA (**BHb**) and three on 5/13 in the Kindler Rd section of the Middle Patuxent (**JMcK**). The last **Swainson's Thrush** was seen 5/25 at Centennial (**SPe**). More than two hundred **American Robins** were present 3/19 at Rockburn (**R & JG**) and 100+ on 4/13 at MPEA (**BHb**).

A leucistic **American Crow** with large oval white wing patches was an arresting sight in Oakland Mills 3/8 (**SDw,CRg**). Eighty **American Pipits** was the seasonal high on 4/9 at UMDCF (**BO+**). The last two were at Ten Oaks Rd and Brighton Dam Rd 5/4 (**WE**). At least 17 **Cedar Waxwings** sipped River Birch sap from trees on Trotter Rd 3/25 (**WE**).

The **Yellow Warbler** on 4/15 at Lake Elkhorn set a county arrival record (**MSt**). The **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 5/27 at Hallmark was the second latest date (**WEb**). **Cape May Warblers** are scarce migrants; three were reported: 5/1 Johns Hopkins APL (**PZ**) and 5/13 Rockburn (**BO,EH**) and the Triadelphia area (**WEb,R&SPo**). The **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Woodstock 5/29 tied the second latest date (**EH,JS**). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were noted on 4/6 at both Henryton and Hugg-Thomas WMA (**SBg**). The **Palm Warbler** on 5/13 in southern Howard Co was a new late date (**JMcK**). The western subspecies was detected 4/27 at Centennial (**SCI**) and 5/6 at MPEA (**BO,DOI,JS+**). Spring **Bay-breasted Warblers** are much sought but usually scarce. This year

(Records continues on page 5.)

Thursday, September 14, 2006

"Birdsong and Coffee: A Wake up Call," by Patty Reed and Paul Baicich. This documentary film and discussion to follow will detail the natural connection that exists among coffee communities, coffee drinkers, biodiversity and birds. Our speakers live locally and work with Fair Trade local coffee outlets. They may be able to bring some coffee for our purchase for those who are interested.

Thursday, October 12, 2006

"Maryland's Next Species," by Phil Davis. The MD/DC Records Committee has compiled predictions from a number of Maryland birders as to what new species might be showing up in our state next. Tips on key field marks and where and when to look for these unexpected species will be presented. Phil has been a member of the Anne Arundel club for more than 20 years and used to be a regular at our meetings. He has served as secretary of the Records Committee for at least ten years. He currently leads tours for High Lonesome Tours, primarily in the Alaska/Bering Sea areas.

WELCOME (Continued from page 1.)

Come join us. We have monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Building on Oakland Mills Rd. Nature books are sold, snacks are provided, and a new and interesting program is presented each month. We have bird walks or trips on many weekends and three bird counts a year with an evening tally rally after each one. There is a Potluck dinner in March where the club photographers show their photos, a seed sale in October, a Rare Bird Alert, and much, much more. Come share the passion, but beware, it can be addictive.

2006-2007 Bird Club Officers

President: Kevin Heffernan
Vice-president: Tom Miller
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts
Chapter Directors: Jeff Culler
Ward Ebert

RECORDS (Continued from page 4.)

there were four records from 5/6 at Schooley (**RB**) to 5/25 at Rockburn (**BO,JS**). A singing **Cerulean Warbler** was present 4/26 along the Savage Mill Trail (**ES,JS+**) and three were recorded on May Count. The **Black-and-white Warbler** 4/8 at Centennial tied the second earliest date (**JTv**). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed (**RC**) 4/29 at Race Rd (**EH,JS**) and recorded again at the same location 5/13 (**S&EAr**). The first **Wilson's Warbler** appeared at Fore Bay Pond 5/6 (**JW**); the last two at Meadowbrook 5/16 (**JS**). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in such a hurry to get to W. Friendship that its 4/17 arrival set a new record (**LC**). **Mourning Warbler** dates were all within less than a week: 5/13 Schooley (**GW,AC**) and Belmont (**S&EAr**), and 5/18 High Ridge Park (**CR**). Hybrids of Blue-winged Warblers and Golden-winged Warblers are few and variable. The Savage Mill Trail trip on 4/26 turned up a Brewster's-type singing a Golden-winged song (**SBg,B&GHi**).

Summer Tanagers are always notable. This spring two were spotted: 5/6 at Schooley (**RB**) and 5/20 along Duvall Rd (**CR**).

Thirty **Eastern Towhees** were counted 4/13 at MPEA (**BHb**). The last **American Tree Sparrow** of the spring was seen 3/31 at the landfill (**RC**). **Vesper Sparrows** appeared at two locations: two at the landfill 3/31 (**RC**) to 4/14 (**RC,EH,JS**) and one at UMDCF 4/9-10 (**BO+**). **Savannah Sparrows** peaked at 100+ on 4/9-10 at UMDCF (**BO+**). The last **Fox Sparrow** was recorded 3/31 at the landfill (**RC**) with a peak of

15+ on 3/23 at MPEA (**BO,EH,JS**).

Lincoln's Sparrows were reported on 5/13 at Mt. Pleasant (**RT**) and 5/25 at Rockburn (**BO,JS**). There are few spring **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** records. One was seen at the landfill 5/13 (**RC**). Two **Indigo Buntings** on 4/13 represented the second earliest ever: one at MPEA (**KS**) and one at Longfellow (**FDw**).

Flocks of **Bobolinks** were counted in three locations: 5/3 at UMDCF 45 to 60 (**BO,EH,JS**), 5/13 at Mt. Pleasant 60+ (**RT**) and, on the same date, 40 at Underwood Rd (**D&MH**). **Rusty Blackbird** numbers were low with a seasonal high of five on 3/17 at the landfill (**RC**).

Purple Finches were reported from 10 locations, almost all in April. The last were noted 4/30 at MPEA (**KS**-two) and Hunt Ridge (**CSt**-one). A **Pine Siskin** frequented the multiple thistle feeders on Manahan Dr 4/22 to 5/13 (**BO**). An estimated 200 **American Goldfinches** were present 4/30 at MPEA (**BHb**).

Observers: **EAr**-Elaine Arnold, **SAr**-Stan Arnold, **GA**-Glenn Austin, **SBg**-Scott Berglund, **MBt**-Monika Botsai, **RB**-Rod Burley, **SB**-Sue Buswell, **LC**-Lisa Colangelo, **SCI**-Steve Collins, **KCs**-Kathy Colston, **AC**-Ann Coren, **JC**-Jane Coskren, **TDC**-T. Dennis Coskren, **JCu**-Jeff Culler, **RC**-Ralph Cullison III, **KD**-Karen Darcy, **SDk**-Suzanne Dawkins, **FDw**-Frances Dawson, **SE**-Susan Earp, **WE**-Wes Earp, **WEb**-Ward Ebert, **CF**-Cheryl Farfaras, **JG**-Jane Geuber, **RG**-Ralph Geuder,

DH-Dave Harvey, **MH**-Maureen Harvey, **KH**-Kevin Heffernan, **BHi**-Bill Hill, **GHi**-Gayle Hill, **HH**-Hans Holbrook, **EH**-Emy Holdridge, **BHb**-Bill Hubick, **DKn**-David Keane, **MKw**-Mike Kerwin, **GK**-Geraldine King, **SLg**-Shashi Lengade, **KLz**-Kathy Litzinger, **JMa**-John Maloney, **KM**-Kathy Mariano, **JMr**-Joel Martin, **GMcC**-Grazina McClure, **MMcC**-Mike McClure, **JMcK**-John McKitterick, **EMe**-Elayne Metter, **JMe**-Jeff Metter, **HMz**-Helen Metzman, **BMi**-Barry Miller, **SMu**-Sue Muller, **MMx**-Mark Mullinix, **PN**-Phil Norman, **DOI**-Daryl Olson, **BO**-Bonnie Ott, **SPe**-Sherry Peruzzi, **RPo**-Ron Polniaszek, **SPo**-Susan Polniaszek, **CRg**-Carl Raglund, **RR**-Robert Ringler, **CR**-Chandler Robbins, **KS**-Kurt Schwarz, **ASe**-Angela Secrest, **JS**-Jo Solem, **MSt**-Michelle Stewart, **CSt**-Chuck Stirrat, **ES**-Eva Sunell, **RSu**-Rick Sussman, **RT**-Robin Todd, **KT**-Kate Tufts, **JTv**-June Tveekrem, **GW**-Ginny Walker, **MWg**-Martha Waugh, **SWh**-Steve Whitcomb, **JW**-Jim Wilkinson, **HZ**-Helen Zeichner, **PZ**-Paul Zucker.

UMDCF – *University of Maryland Central Farm*
May Count – *May 13, 2006*


HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB FALL TRIPS

BY BONNIE OTT

FIELD TRIPS are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Plan to arrive at the meeting area with enough time to be prepared to begin birding at the designated time. Carpooling is encouraged. Come prepared with appropriate footwear and gear (the trip description will offer advice). The leader has the option to cancel due to inclement weather. Directions for trips not on ADC maps may be found on the howardbirds.org website. If you have questions, call or e-mail the trip leader at the number/ address listed in the trip description, or field trip coordinator, **Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361** or bonnieott@verizon.net

To help make trips successful please stay behind the leader, keep talking to a minimum and stay with the group. Don't hesitate to ask questions or alert the leader to something you've spotted. Howard Bird Club members will be given priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

BUTTERFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS

 Sept. 2, Sat., 9:30 a.m. (2-3 hrs)

Meet at Centennial Park West parking lot on Centennial Lane.

Expert butterfly identification and instruction. Learn about both host and nectar plants for different species. Very easy walking along lake-side paved path at the wildlife end. Some butterflies will be studied briefly in net and jars. Close-focus binoculars helpful. Facilities available. Great trip for beginners.

Leader-Dick Smith 410-997-7439.

HUGG-THOMAS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Sept. 9, Sat., 8:00 a.m. (half day)


Meet at gravel lot on north side of Forsythe Rd, 1/2 mile west of Md 32.

This extensive area of fields and woods provides habitat for many species of migrants.

Blue Grosbeaks nest along the edges and family groups should be present. Turkeys and owls have been seen here. Plan for moderate walking with possible muddy trail sections. No facilities.

Leader-Tom Miller 410-795-7005.

BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK AT THE HOWARD CONSERVANCY


 Sept. 10, Sun., 8:00 a.m. (2 hrs)

Meet at the main parking lot. The entrance to the Conservancy property is 1/2 mile east of Woodstock Rd on Md 99.

Easy walking through the fields and meadows of this historic farm. Learn bird identification tips, along with advice about binoculars and the selection and use of field guides. Streams, woods, and fields should provide a wide variety of species. Facilities available.

Leader-Robin Todd 410-313-8154 (eve) 410-747-4500 (day).

WEEKDAY WALK AT LAKE ELKHORN

 Sept. 12, Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hrs)

Meet at Broken Land Parkway lot.

Easy walking on paved path along the lake and to Fore Bay Pond. Migrants will be moving through. Warblers could be abundant, and hawks are possible as flyovers. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. No facilities. Great trip for beginners.

Leader-Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329.

FALL COUNT

Sept. 16, Sat. (See p. 8 for details.)

MEADOWBROOK PARK HAWK WATCH

Sept. 23, Sat., 9:30 a.m. (all day)

This recently dedicated park is at the southeast corner of US 29 and Md 100. Park either in the park-and-ride lot adjacent to the tot lot, or continue west on Meadowbrook Lane to lots inside the park entrance which are closer. On the paved path walk west toward Md 29 to the high knoll behind the baseball diamond. The site is marked by several large rocks. Visit the new Howard County Hawk Watch site. Bring a chair and sustenance for however long you plan to stay. Drop by for an hour or stay for the entire day (until mid to late afternoon). There are nearby ponds and field edges that might turn up some non-hawk species. Learn tips and techniques to separate hawks in flight. Facilities available.


Leader-Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.

WEEKDAY WALK AT DAVID FORCE PARK

 Sept. 27, Wed., 8:00 a.m. (2 hrs)

Meet at the sign on Pebble Beach Drive.

Easy walking through the wooded trails and fields. Streams and pond

 = Great for beginning birders

FIELD TRIPS (Continued from page 6.)

provide habitat for numerous bird species. No facilities.
Leader-Michele Wright 410-465-6057.

THE DICKEY FARM

Sept. 30, Sat., 7:30 a.m. (half day)
Joint trip with Carroll County Bird Club
Meet at Md 32/I-70 park-and-ride.
Moderate walking through the woods and field edges of this large private farm. Several ponds and the Patapsco River provide chances for water birds. Great habitat for warblers, sparrows, and vireos during this peak migration time. No facilities.
Leaders-Dave and Maureen Harvey 410-795-3117.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW SEARCH (SPARROWS 101)

Oct. 7, Sat., 7:45 a.m. (half day)
Joint trip with the Anne Arundel Bird Club
Meet at Meadowbrook park-and-ride US 29/Md 100.
Moderate walking along field edges and mown grass paths. Learn the basics of sparrow identification with emphasis on Lincoln's Sparrow. Sparrow behavior, habitats, and vocalizations will be covered in depth. Facilities available.
Leader-Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.

WEST FRIENDSHIP PARK

Oct. 8, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (half day)
Meet at shopping center west of intersection of Md 32/144 (Frederick Rd.)
Moderate walking through the fields of this old dairy farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Wetland area can be soggy. Small pond may have ducks. Prime time for sparrows. Great view for flyovers. No facilities.
Leader-Lisa Colangelo 410-489-4287.

BON SECOURS SPIRITUAL CENTER

Oct. 11, Wed., 8:30 a.m. (2 hrs)
Meet at visitors parking lot on left at top of the hill.
Easy walking through the grounds of this spiritual retreat. Woods, fields, and hedgerows provide opportunities for a variety of birds. Facilities available.
Leader-Michele Wright 410-465-6057.


WESTERN REGIONAL PARK

Oct. 15, Sun., 7:30 a.m. (half day)
Meet at lot on left just beyond pond at Carr's Mill Rd. entrance.
Explore this newly developed county park. Some paved roads will provide moderate walking, but be prepared to head onto grassy paths or trail blaze into field edges in search of sparrows! Woodlands may have some warblers. Open view of sky will make hawk watching a bonus. Facilities available.
Leader-Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.

SPARROW BIG DAY

Oct. 21, Sat., (all day - bring lunch)
Limit: 12 people
This intensive excursion will cover all the county sparrow hot spots. The goal is to find as many sparrow species as possible. Can we hit 12? Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some locations.
Leader-Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.
Call to sign up.

MEADOWBROOK PARK

 Oct. 24, Tues., 8:00 a.m. (2 hrs)
Meet at US 29/Md 100 park-and-ride adjacent to tot lot.
Walk the paved path along the ponds and scrubby marsh edges of this newly developed park. Migrants and some wintering species. Hawks may fly over. Facilities

available.
Leader-Jo Solem 301-725-5037.


ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK

Oct. 29, Sun., 8:00 a.m. (half day)
From the Montgomery Rd. entrance, meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse.
Moderate but lengthy walking through woods and fields of our largest county park in search of late migrants. Great for hawks. Some paths may be muddy. Facilities available.
Leaders-Karen Darcy 410-552-9342 and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731.


ALPHA RIDGE PARK AND LANDFILL

Nov. 4, Sat., 8:00 a.m. (half day)
Meet at Alpha Ridge Park, 1/2 mile west of Marriottsville Rd. on Md 99.
Moderate to difficult walking through the fields to check ponds and edges looking for lingering sparrows and early winter arrivals. Rarities are always a possibility at the landfill. Facilities at the park.
Leader-Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181.

CENTENNIAL PARK

 Nov. 5, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hrs). Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane.
Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and lake host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers; early waterfowl and lingering migrants likely. Facilities available.
Leader-Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.

CENTENNIAL PARK

 Nov 12, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hrs) Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane. **See Nov. 5 trip description.** Leader-TBD

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

BY MIKE MCCLURE

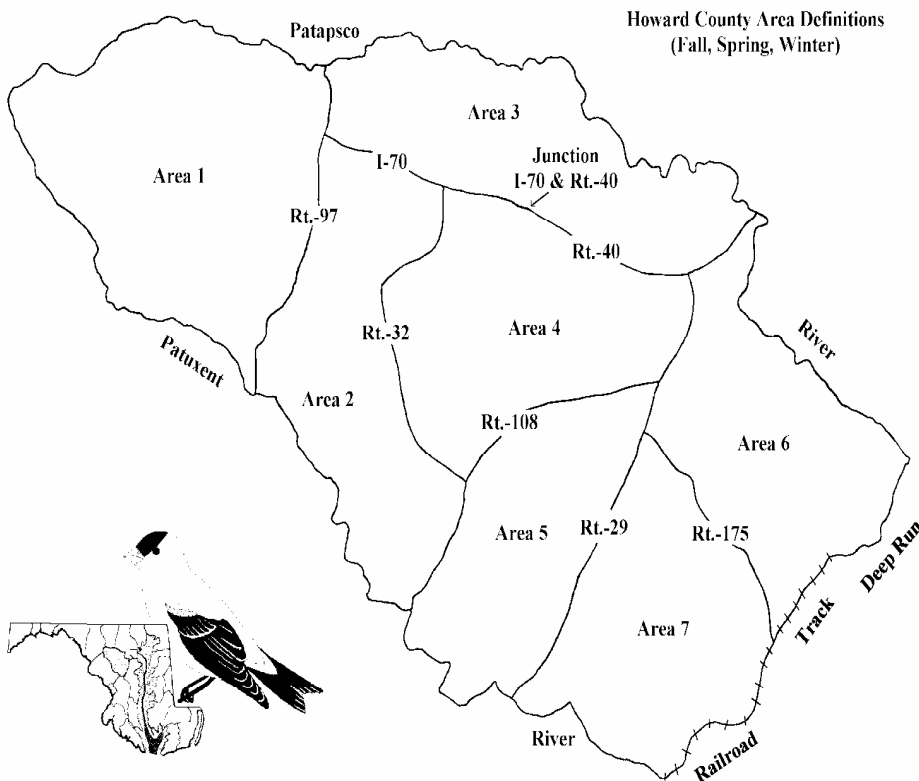
The Howard County Bird Club's Annual Fall Count, scheduled to be held each year on the third Saturday of September, will be on September 16th. **Mike McClure** 410-531-2780 and **Chuck Stirrat** 410-531-2417 are the county co-coordinators. Prior years have set an average of 124 species of birds identified on the count. Spend the day birding with us and help raise the average! Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. Ask to be put with an experienced individual if you do not wish to have your own territory. The county is divided into seven areas (shown below) which are used for all annual counts. A fall season field sheet for Howard County is

included in this newsletter. Species that require a write-up include those identified with a double asterisk (**), as well as any write-ins. Others that may require a write-up or oral amplification (*), as well as those that are early or late dates (@), are indicated.

You may call an area or county coordinator to volunteer, or check at the September meeting. **Martha and Don Waugh** will host the tally rally at 9522 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD, 410-381-8841. The potluck dinner will be served at approximately 7:00 pm, call them by Sept. 15th, to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

The following area coordinators have been named:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Area 1 | Mark Wallace | 301-725-6370 |
| Area 2 | Jeff Culler | 410-465-9006 |
| Area 3 | Karen Darcy & Kevin Heffernan | 410-418-8731 |
| Area 4 | Bill & Karan Blum | 410-489-9197 |
| Area 5 | Kurt Schwarz | 410-461-1643 |
| Area 6 | Bonnie Ott | 410-461-3361 |
| Area 7 | Eva Sunell | 410-995-0029 |



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

September 28, Thursday
 Bonnie Ott, 8664 Manahan Dr.
 Ellicott City, MD 21043
 (410) 461-3361

October 26, Thursday
 Jeff Culler, 2672 Thornbrook Rd
 Ellicott City, MD 21042
 (410) 465-9006

RESULTS OF FIRST ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

BY JUNE TVEEKREM

The first Howard County Dragonfly Count, co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, was a great success!

Twenty-eight intrepid people came out to try their hand at counting odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) on July 29, 2006. Thirteen were members of the Howard County Bird Club. Participants came from Howard, Carroll, Montgomery, Prince George's, Baltimore, and Frederick counties. A few were experienced with odonates; most were beginners.

The weather was perfect for odonates – sunny, 90 degrees, and humid. Despite those conditions being non-ideal for humans, participants repeatedly commented about how enjoyable and interesting the count was.

Six groups of observers covered the entire county, which was divided into five territories or areas: 1-west county, 2-north, 3-central, 4-south, 5-east.

A potluck dinner and tally rally at June Tveekrem's house provided a festive end to the day. Thirty-six species of odonates were seen, comprising 2110 individuals. The list of species and numbers is shown in the accompanying table. The complete results and a map of the areas can be found on the internet at www.toad.net/~junetvee.

Thank you to our group leaders: **Richard Orr** (area 1), **Jerry Persall** (area 1), **June Tveekrem** (area 2), **Sue Muller & Ken Clayton** (co-leaders, area 3), **Bob Solem** (area 4), **Jo Solem** (area 5).

In addition to the group leaders, participants were: Donna Bateman, Sheldon Bateman, Pat Caro, Pam Franks, Denise Gibbs, Rob Gibbs, Beth Johnson, Paul Koehler, ZoAnn Lapinsky, Jim Lubitz, Rosa Lubitz, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure, Sue Neri, Steve Noyes, Mary Persall, Bob Ringler, Justine Schaeffer, Barbara Wassell, and Esther Woodworth.

We plan to make this an annual event. Because different species of odonates emerge at different times, the count date will vary from early June to late August. This allows for tracking the population of as wide a variety of odonates over the years as possible. We invite you to join us next summer!

Odonate Species	Total #
Ebony Jewelwing	174
Southern Spreadwing	1
Blue-fronted Dancer	17
Blue-tipped Dancer	35
Dusky Dancer	23
Powdered Dancer	56
Violet Dancer	6
Azure Bluet	6
Familiar Bluet	41
Skimming Bluet	27
Citrine Forktail	2
Eastern Forktail	7
Fragile Forktail	28
Lilypad Forktail	6
Comet Darner	13
Common Green Darner	52
Dragonhunter	8
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	5
Common Sanddragon	6
Prince Baskettail	1
Blue Dasher	415
Calico Pennant	2
Halloween Pennant	80
Common Pondhawk	173
Common Whitetail	244
Eastern Amberwing	380
Great Blue Skimmer	1
Slaty Skimmer	91
Spangled Skimmer	1
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	11
Widow Skimmer	63
Band-winged Meadowhawk	2
Black Saddlebags	71
Carolina Saddlebags	39
Spot-winged Glider	12
Wandering Glider	11



HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT, MAY 13, 2006

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

Fifty-nine bird club members participated in this year's May Count which was held on May 13, 2006. Both the total number of species (150) and the total number of birds (18,064) were the second highest recorded in the last 10 years.

One new species was added to the list; a Nelson's Sharp-Tailed Sparrow was found at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. Merlin and Glossy Ibis were found for the first time in the last 10 years and for only the 2nd and 3rd times respectively since 1974. Ten year high records were recorded for Green Heron, Bald Eagle (T), Lesser Yellowlegs, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Pine Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak (T), Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Ten year low records were recorded for American Kestrel, Chimney Swift, White-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, and Hooded Warbler. Five species, Veery, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow had their lowest count in the last 10 years last year and their 2nd lowest count this year. Blue-headed Vireo, Common Loon, and Yellow-throated Warbler were missed altogether for the first time in 10 years and for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th times respectively since 1974. American Crow and Tufted Titmouse had their three lowest 10-year counts in the last 3 years (West Nile Virus?). Eastern Wood-Pewee numbers were high. They vary dramatically with the date of the May

Count, being higher the later the count.

All in all it was a good day. The temperatures were in the 60s and 70s and it rained a little in the early afternoon. Many thanks to our compiler, **Chuck Stirrat** and to **Jan Randle** whose generous hospitality resulted in a wonderful tally rally for a bunch of very tired and grateful birders at the end of the day.

And to the following participants, a big thank you; you make it happen: Elaine Arnold, Stan Arnold, Randy Beaton, Karan Blum, Jim Brinkley, Marilyn Brinkley, Lisa Colangelo, Ann Coren, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Jeff Culler, Ralph Cullison, **Karen Darcy (Area 5 coordinator)**, Ward Ebert, Erin Eve, Tracy Eve, Jeff Friedhoffer, Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, **Kevin Heffernan (Area 2 coordinator)**, Jane Heim, Bill Hill, Gail Hill, Emy Holdridge, Mike Leumas, Felicia Lovelett, Bridgette Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina McClure, **Mike McClure (Area 4 coordinator)**, John McKitterick, Barry Miller, Tom Miller, Sue Neri, Peter Osenton, **Bonnie Ott (Area 6 coordinator)**, Sherry Peruzzi, Anita Picco, Ron Polniaszek, Susan Polniaszek, Sue Probst, Chan Robbins, Kurt Schwarz, Romayne Smith, Bob Solem, **Jo Solem (Area 7 coordinator)**, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat (Area 3 coordinator, Compiler)**, Tom Strikwerda, Eva Sunell, Robin Todd, **Kate Tufts (Area 1 coordinator)**, June Tveekrem, Marilyn Veek, Ginny Walker, Mark Wallace, Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright, and Paul Zucker

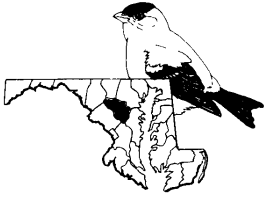
HAWK WATCH SITE AT MEADOWBROOK PARK

BY RALPH GEUDER

The Bird Club will be staffing a new local hawk watch site at Meadowbrook Park, beginning in the early fall. We are not sure what to expect in the way of raptors, but the location and view are super. From any of the parking lots, take the paved path west toward US 29 (behind a baseball diamond) to the top of a knoll marked by several large rocks. Eventually, an area adjacent to the path will be delineated for the site. Most flight activity is mid morning to mid afternoon. Bring a chair and binoculars and join the fun. Check the fall field trip list for Saturday, September 23 when **Kurt Schwarz** will be scanning the sky. This date could bring significant numbers of Broad-winged Hawks. Come on out and see what's flying--the more eyes the better. Contact me at Oldhawk@aol.com if you would like to help staff the site or need more information.

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS—MAY 13, 2006

Canada Goose	690	Pileated Woodpecker	36	Blackburnian Warbler	4
Mute Swan	1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Pine Warbler	18
Wood Duck	45	Eastern Wood-Pewee	126	Prairie Warbler	25
American Wigeon	1	Acadian Flycatcher	140	Palm Warbler	1
Mallard	187	Willow Flycatcher	3	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Ruddy Duck	2	Eastern Phoebe	90	Blackpoll Warbler	23
Wild Turkey	1	Great Crested Flycatcher	69	Cerulean Warbler	3
Northern Bobwhite	1	Eastern Kingbird	137	Black & White Warbler	15
Pied-billed Grebe	1	White-eyed Vireo	59	American Redstart	61
Double-crested Cormorant	6	Yellow-throated Vireo	25	Prothonotary Warbler	1
Great Blue Heron	48	Warbling Vireo	14	Worm-eating Warbler	28
Great Egret	4	Red-eyed Vireo	456	Ovenbird	203
Green Heron	37	Blue Jay	340	Northern Waterthrush	3
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	American Crow	227	Louisiana Waterthrush	46
Glossy Ibis	1	Fish Crow	35	Kentucky Warbler	21
Black Vulture	62	<i>crow species</i>	144	Mourning Warbler	2
Turkey Vulture	178	Horned Lark	7	Common Yellowthroat	234
Osprey	7	Purple Martin	29	Hooded Warbler	8
Bald Eagle	4	Tree Swallow	142	Wilson's Warbler	4
Northern Harrier	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	59	Canada Warbler	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Cliff Swallow	103	Yellow-breasted Chat	22
Cooper's Hawk	11	Barn Swallow	287	Scarlet Tanager	134
Red-shouldered Hawk	48	Carolina Chickadee	245	Eastern Towhee	228
Broad-winged Hawk	3	Tufted Titmouse	291	Chipping Sparrow	271
Red-tailed Hawk	35	White-breasted Nuthatch	84	Field Sparrow	80
American Kestrel	2	Carolina Wren	361	Savannah Sparrow	15
Merlin	1	House Wren	100	Grasshopper Sparrow	17
Semipalmated Plover	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1
Killdeer	35	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	242	Song Sparrow	341
Greater Yellowlegs	4	Eastern Bluebird	196	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	14	Veery	19	Swamp Sparrow	1
Solitary Sandpiper	88	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	White-throated Sparrow	13
Spotted Sandpiper	49	Swainson's Thrush	16	White-crowned Sparrow	1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	Wood Thrush	579	Dark-eyed Junco	1
Least Sandpiper	28	American Robin	1032	Northern Cardinal	1183
Wilson's Snipe	1	Gray Catbird	610	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	10
Ring-billed Gull	11	Northern Mockingbird	266	Blue Grosbeak	14
Rock Pigeon	212	Brown Thrasher	58	Indigo Bunting	327
Mourning Dove	496	European Starling	798	Bobolink	127
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	Cedar Waxwing	369	Red-winged Blackbird	881
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Blue-winged Warbler	3	Eastern Meadowlark	8
Great Horned Owl	3	Tennessee Warbler	2	Common Grackle	653
Barred Owl	13	Nashville Warbler	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	333
Common NightHawk	1	Northern Parula Warbler	141	Orchard Oriole	69
Chimney Swift	79	Yellow Warbler	118	Baltimore Oriole	230
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	30	Chestnut-sided Warbler	12	House Finch	206
Belted Kingfisher	29	Magnolia Warbler	19	Pine Siskin	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	325	Cape May Warbler	2	American Goldfinch	545
Downy Woodpecker	125	Blk.-thrted. Blue Warbler	37	House Sparrow	399
Hairy Woodpecker	33	Yel.-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	76	Total # of birds	18064
Northern Flicker	57	Blk.-thrted. Green Warbler	10	Total # of species	150



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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September/October 2006—Inside This Issue:

President's Welcome

Spring Bird Records

Programs

Field Trips

Fall Count

Board of Directors Meetings

Dragonfly Count Results

May Count Summary

Hawk Watch

Water

Membership Application

Fall Tally Sheet

WATER

BY KURT SCHWARZ

As you may be aware, Howard County is currently under water use restrictions. For once, it is not a result of low rainfall, and depleted reservoirs. You may not be aware, but most of Howard County gets its water from the city of Baltimore, and its reservoirs. One of the big pipes that supplies Howard County is undergoing repair, so the supply that can be sent to us is restricted for the time being. But maybe this will help to convince some of us to conserve this precious resource.

Indeed, insufficient water supply has impeded growth in some Maryland localities that depend on ground water supplies. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) restricts growth in

areas that draw their water from underground aquifers, allowing only so much to be withdrawn as can be replenished. It typically requires about one acre of undeveloped land be preserved for every new household.

This has led some jurisdictions in Maryland to request to tap water from under Maryland state lands and the surface waters of state parks. According to a recent article in the BALTIMORE SUN, the MDE is formulating a policy to guide the granting or rejection of such requests. Currently, there are only two such operations. Carroll County has drilled a well in Patapsco State Park, and draws water for free to serve a state police training facility and other tenants of a for-

mer state hospital. The Wisp Resort pays a small fee for water drawn from Deep Creek Lake.

The provision of water from state lands could be contrary to the state's smart growth policies, as it would allow development in new areas, adjacent to parks and other open spaces. It would be hoped that the MDE would act responsibly when it draws up a policy on provision of water supplies from state land, and will only grant permission for projects not contrary to the smart growth policy, and those that would not impinge on the open space we all enjoy. Full market rates should be charged for whatever water is allowed to be withdrawn.