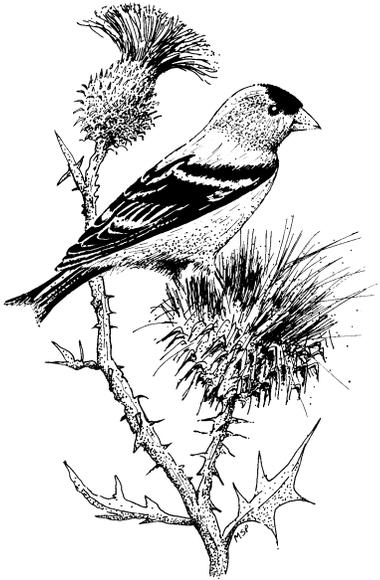


# The Goldfinch

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



## TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MIDWINTER COUNT

BY JOE BYRNES AND JO SOLEM

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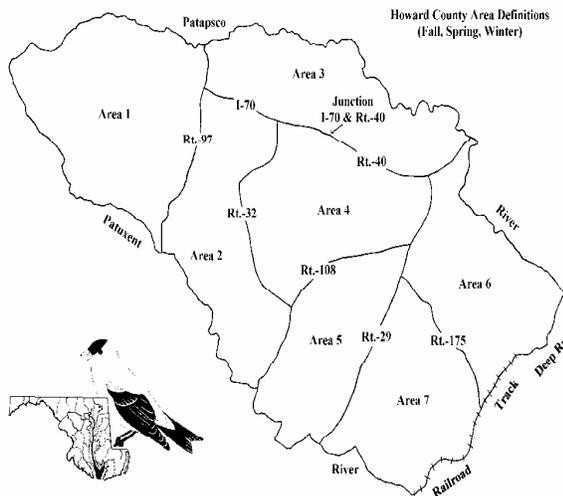
**The Goldfinch**, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. **Copy deadline for the March/April 2007 issue is January 25, 2007.**

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:  
 Amanda Witt  
 6134 Starburn Path  
 Columbia, MD 21045  
 amanda.witt@yahoo.com  
**Please visit the Club's website at [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org)**

**J**oin the Howard County Bird Club's Twenty-Second Annual Midwinter Count on Saturday, February 3, 2007. Joe Byrnes (410-730-5329 or joseph.byrnes@comcast.com) and Jo Solem (301-725-5037 or odenata@msn.com) are the count coordinators. You may volunteer to participate by signing up at a meeting, by calling Joe Byrnes, or by contacting one of the area coordinators.

If you have covered a particular location for many years, you may call the coordinator of the area and indicate your desire to cover it again. If you wish to be placed with a more experienced birder, be sure to let the coordinator know. Beginning birders are always welcome, as are individuals who wish to count only for part of the day. A checklist for the count is included with this newsletter. If you wish to count only at your feeder, call Joe or Jo and request a feeder form.



A fitting and much anticipated conclusion to the day is the evening potluck tally at Jeff and Karen Culler's (2672 Thornbrook Rd, Ellicott City, MD., (410-465-9006, e-mail: cullerfuls@hotmail.com). It is an opportunity to com-

(COUNT Continued on page 2)

Area 1	Mark Wallace	301-725-6370	
Area 2	Ward Ebert	301-490-5807	<a href="mailto:wardebort@comcast.net">wardebort@comcast.net</a>
Area 3	Maureen & Dave Harvey	410-795-3117	<a href="mailto:dahtangara@erols.com">dahtangara@erols.com</a>
Area 4	Mike McClure	410-531-2780	
Area 5	Kevin Heffernan	410-418-8731	<a href="mailto:kjheff@aol.com">kjheff@aol.com</a>
Area 6	Bonnie Ott	410-461-3361	<a href="mailto:bonnieott@verizon.net">bonnieott@verizon.net</a>
Area 7	Kurt Schwarz	410-461-1643	<a href="mailto:krschwa1@comcast.net">krschwa1@comcast.net</a>

(COUNT Continued from page 1)

pare your special birds with those other people sighted — or to commiserate about your misses.

The club furnishes the main dish. Please call the Cullers by Wednesday, January 31 to reserve space, to sign up for a vegetable, salad, or dessert, and to obtain directions. If you cannot make it to the meal, you are welcome to drop in about 7:30 p.m. for the tally. Joe Byrnes or your area coordinator can also give you directions to the tally dinner.

Unfortunately, a count during this season may coincide with a major snow or ice storm. Safety is more important than counting birds. If there is a question about the weather, we will try to make a decision the night before. Do not hesitate to call your area coordinator; Joe or Jo (between 5:00 & 6:00 a.m.) if you are unsure of the status of the count.

## HOW WE'RE HELPING NICARAGUAN BIRD-STUDY

BY PAUL BAICICH

As an outgrowth of our club's September showing of the film *Birdsong & Coffee: A Wake-up Call*, members of our bird club have collected some new and used supplies to send to our counterparts in Nicaraguan coffee-country.

Specifically, supplies have already gone and will be sent again to CECOCAFEN and Alianza para las Areas Silvestres (ALAS). The first, CECOCAFEN, is a coffee co-op in the Matagalpa region, specializing in shade-grown and fair-traded coffee. The co-op has been training young eco-guides about birds and biodiversity. The second organization, ALAS (wings), is an educational group in Nicaragua which concentrates on youth education and on operating a series of important banding stations in the country.

Remember, some of our very own Howard County birds - for example, Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Wood Thrushes, and Ovenbirds - may be spending the winter in and around shaded-coffee locales, and the birds will need increased local awareness and continued protection.

The next shipment of supplies to Nicaragua will go out in a few months, through the work of Paul Baicich, one of our members. Bring needed supplies (see list below) to a club meeting and give them to Paul or (if Paul's not there) to Maureen Harvey, or you can simply contact Paul about getting the goods directly to him (paul.baicich@verizon.net; 410-992-9736).

Needed supplies are the following:

- functioning quality binoculars
- spotting scopes and tripods
- backpacks
- fanny-packs
- hummingbird feeders
- Mexican or Central American field guides
- laptop computers (sorry, no desktops)
- banding equipment, including mist-nets (for ALAS banding stations, run by *qualified* banders).

## WHAT EMAIL ADDRESS?? WHAT SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE HOWARD BIRD CLUB??

BY BOB SOLEM

In the first week of January 2007, the Howard Bird Club will send a special email to all members who have provided an email address. This special message is to verify that we have your correct email address in our files. A separate email will go to members who are on the Rare Bird Alert to verify their email addresses. Periodically we send out a special email to verify the addresses you provide. If the email is returned be-

cause of delivery failure, we remove your email address from the system.

If you receive the email(s), you need to do nothing; the system works. But if you want to receive these emails and did not receive one, send an email to [odenata@msn.com](mailto:odenata@msn.com) and ask to have your email address added (or corrected). Remember, this service is only available to members.

## MOS SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES!

BY THOMAS STRIKWERDA

January 31 is the deadline for scholarship hopefuls to submit their application for 2007 Audubon summer workshops. Each year MOS makes about 10 awards to people who make nature education part of their careers – typically teachers, camp counselors, and park rangers. Scholarships, each valued at about \$1100, cover tuition and room and board at the weeklong camps, in several states. For the latest workshop information and application details, consult the MOS web site, and/or contact

Scholarship Chair Tom Strikwerda, at 301-942-2841, or [tom.strikwerda@verizon.net](mailto:tom.strikwerda@verizon.net).

Who in your circle of acquaintances might be good candidates for an MOS scholarship, or might know someone else to nominate? Flip through your mental Rolodexes and see if you can help identify a prime applicant. When in doubt about eligibility or other questions, contact the Scholarship Chair.

## THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR HUNTERS

BY KURT SCHWARZ

**W**ant to preserve habitat, while getting free access to national wildlife refuges (NWR) and purchasing a work of art? Then consider buying a federal duck stamp.

It is not just for hunters, in fact, it is called a “hunting AND CONSERVATION stamp.” The fee is \$15 per year, of which 98% goes to the purchase of habitat for national wildlife refuges.

What do you get in return? Free admission to those national wildlife refuges that charge admission. Nearby refuges charging admission fees in our area include Blackwater, Bombay Hook, Chincoteague, and Forsythe (Brigantine). In addition, Assateague National Seashore will accept a federal duck stamp in lieu of the usual user fee. Usual admission to the above-listed refuges is \$4, so a duck stamp will buy you three trips to these refuges.

They can be purchased at major post offices, most National Wildlife Refuges that are open to the public, and on-line at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

**T**here are several positions currently open at both the county and state levels. A list of the open positions is provided below. If you are inclined to volunteer for any of these positions or would like more information, please give me a call at 410-418-8731.

County level volunteer opportunities:

- \* Asst. Field Trip Coordinator: Our Field Trip Coordinator, Bonnie Ott, is now working full time and would like some help with organizing the field trips schedule and logistics including handling general field trip phone queries (2 to 3/month).

- \* Field trip co-leaders: Involves assisting on field trips to help you become comfortable leading a trip on your own.

State level volunteer opportunities:

- \* Research Committee Chair
- \* Publicity Coordinator
- \* Membership Committee Chair
- \* Development Committee Chair
- \* Computer savvy volunteers for MOS list serve
- \* Help out with the MD Birding Trail



## 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.

Thursday, January 11, 2007 **“How a Lady Bird-Watcher Changed the World,”** by Hank Kaestner. A look at the organic food movement started in 1962 by Rachel Carson with her book *Silent Spring*. The talk will honor Carson’s 100th birthday and her impact on pesticide use worldwide. In addition to examples of birds represented in Carson’s book, Hank will end with a trip he took last year to Yemen with his brother, Peter. Something for everyone!

Thursday, February 8, 2007 **“Field Ornithology Workshop,”** by Sherry Tomlinson. A recipient of the Doris Oakley Scholarship from MOS, Sherry attended a week-long workshop at the Audubon Camp on Hog Island in Maine last summer. Sherry volunteers in presenting nature programs to organizations such as the Girl Scouts. She is a bird club member who headed our seed sale. The presentation is a “Thank you” to the club for its sponsorship of her.

## HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WINTER 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 howard-birds.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; 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.

### START YOUR 2007 LIST

Jan. 1, Monday, (8:00-11:00 a.m.)

*Meet at Centennial Park boat ramp;  
South entrance on Md 108.*

Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year when every bird is new! Facilities available.

*Leader-Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361. Call for more info.*

### NEST SEARCH AT CENTENNIAL PARK

Jan. 6, Sat., (10:00 a.m. to noon)

*Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane.*

In a leisurely walk, accompany a knowledgeable observer in a search for last year’s nests. The leafless trees allow easy sighting and a chance to admire a variety of construction methods.

*Leader- Tim Ray 301-286-0581.*

### MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND - EASTERN SHORE

Jan. 13 – 15, Sat. - Mon. Limit 15.

*For more information or to sign up, contact Kate Tufts at ktufts@verizon.net.*

### MIDWINTER COUNT

February 3, Saturday (See p. 1 for details.)

### RARITY SEARCH

February 18, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

*Meet at Meadowbrook park-and-ride*  
See what is around; trip may go anywhere in MD. If no rarities have been reported, we’ll try to find our own. Be prepared for possible full day trip. If we do a full day we will plan to stop for lunch. *For information call Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731.*

*(FIELD TRIPS Continued on page 5)*

*(FIELD TRIPS Continued from page 4)*

**🦆 CENTENNIAL PARK**

March 4, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

*Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane.*

Easy walking around the lake on paved path.

*Leader- Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731.*

**WATERFOWL SEARCH**

March 10, Saturday 8:00 a.m.

*Meet at Broken Land Parkway park-and-ride*

We'll carpool to search the Howard County waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers and loons.

Chance of an early migrant.

*For information call Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731.*

**🦆 CENTENNIAL PARK**

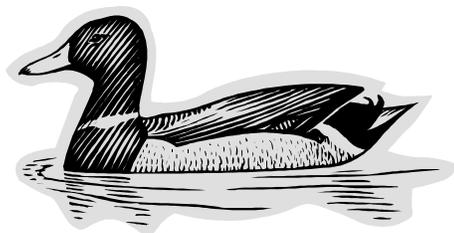
March 11, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

*Meet in West parking lot on Centennial Lane.*

Easy walking around the lake on paved path.

*Leader- Ward Ebert 301-490-5807.*

**🦆 = Great for beginning birders**



**POTLUCK DINNER**

BY SUE PROBST

**T**he annual potluck dinner will again be held at the Owen Brown Community Center on Saturday, March 24, 2007. The social hour starts at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner starts at 7:00 p.m. All club members and their guests are invited to share in the fun, the food and the program. The club furnishes beverages, social hour snacks, rolls and eating utensils. Those attending may bring a main dish, a salad, a vegetable or a dessert. Be sure to mark your dishes and any accompanying serving implements with your name so we can get them back to the right person. If you cannot cook, other arrangements can be made. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the "slide show," so bring your nature slides or digital photo presentations. The club will provide both a conventional slide projector and a multimedia projector. You must bring your own "notebook" computer. For more information contact Tom Miller (410-795-7005, or BirderIWM@verizon.net).

You **MUST** reserve in advance so we can arrange for sufficient beverages, etc. You may sign up at either the January or February club meeting, or contact Sue Probst by Friday, March 23, 2007 at 410-992-3489, or msprobst2@verizon.net. You will need to specify the number of attendees and what food you are bringing. Let Sue know if you would like to come early to help set up, help clean up afterwards, or help in any other way. If you are a new member, or if you have not attended our dinner before, we strongly encourage you to come and get to know others who share your passion for birds and birding. There will be many delicious dishes, great slide presentations, and other surprises. So mark your calendars and come join the fun!

Directions: The Owen Brown Community Center is located on the east side of Columbia at 6800 Cradlerock Way, off Broken Land Parkway from Route 29. There is ample parking.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

**B**oard 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.

**January 25, Thursday**

Bob and Jo Solem  
10617 Graeoch Road  
Laurel, Md 20723  
301-725-5037

**February 22, Thursday**

Kevin Heffernan  
9775 Diversified Lane  
Ellicott City, Md 21042  
410-418-8731



## HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

*Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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### January/February 2007—Inside This Issue:

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Volunteers Needed	They're Not for Hunters
Programs	Field Trips
Potluck Dinner	Seed Sale

## SEED SALE

BY SHERRY TOMLINSON

**T**he 2006 Howard County Bird Club's Annual Seed Sale was once again an outstanding success, due to the dedicated customers, members, and wonderful volunteers. The event raised \$1,500.00 dollars for Habitat Preservation.

Here are a few fun facts: the event consisted of 17 volunteers, 84 orders, 652 bags of seed and 67 pure suets, all for a total weight of 12,555 lbs., which is over 6 tons of seed. Whoever said, "Eat like a bird" obviously never fed them.

The Seed Sale pick-up site was at The Wildlife Authority store in Ellicott City on November 4, 2006. Cathy and Tom Franklin were gracious hosts. Not only did they

open the store to the club, they offered an additional special bonus coupon -- with which I hope people found treasures they couldn't live without. I know I did! It truly was a pleasure to work with Cathy and her staff. The Howard County Bird Club looks forward to working with The Wildlife Authority again in the future.

A big thank you goes to the volunteers for a job well done, for without them this sale would not have run as smoothly as it did. All 17 volunteers did a fantastic job, each working a two to four hour shift. It is said that more hands make light work. This is especially true when it comes to unloading the delivery truck and loading the vehicles. The

loaders were Bill Blum, Jeff Culler, Karen Culler, Karen Darcy, Shiras Guion, Kevin Heffernan, Kurt Schwarz, Bob Solem, Chuck Stirrat, Mark Wallace, Scott Witt and one Mystery Volunteer. The volunteers that worked the front desk were Karan Blum, Martha Chestem, Emmalyn Holdridge, and Jo Solem. Sherry Tomlinson chaired the sale.

The Howard County Bird Club would like to extend a thank you to all the customers and members that supported this sale through purchases and contributions. Over the years, more than \$58,000 has been raised for habitat preservation. Without your tremendous support, this would not have been possible.