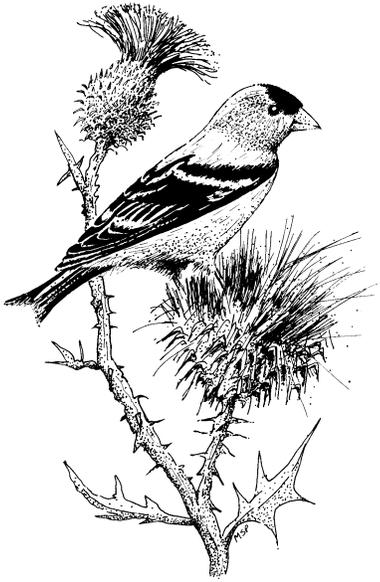


# The Goldfinch

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



## Inside This Issue

Club Meetings .....	1
President's Welcome .....	1
Spring Bird Records .....	2
Search for Red Knots .....	5
Dragonfly Count Results .....	6
Nicaraguan Donation .....	7
Field Trips .....	8
Fall Count .....	10
Board of Directors Meetings ...	10
Fog, Lights, & Birds .....	11
May Count Results .....	12
Fish Thief .....	12
Seed Sale .....	14
Membership Application	

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

**Copy deadline for the November/December 2007 issue is September 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)**

## CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, September 13, 2007

"A Holistic Approach to Bird Conservation in Peru," by Beth Zang. Beth will recount her amazing journey to Peru and how some unique partnerships are making a difference for the birds. Beth is a member of the Frederick County chapter of the MOS.

**H**oward County Bird 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, October 11, 2007

"Gardening for Backyard Biodiversity," by Craig Tufts, Chief Naturalist for the National Wildlife Federation. Craig has traveled extensively and done field work in many countries in Central and South America and Africa to learn more about the ecology of the tropics. He will show how garden habitats can accommodate birds during migration.

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

**W**elcome to the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the Howard County Bird Club. Rather than discuss all of the interesting activities that the club has (and it has many), I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your help. The membership application is included in this newsletter and on the application is a list of activities that you may be interested in participating in or assisting with. Last year for the first time we tallied the responses in a spreadsheet and passed the results

out to the people in charge of each area in an attempt to better match people to their interests. In preparing that spreadsheet we realized that more than half of the applications did not have that part of the form filled in. Please take the time to fill that in as it will help us do a better job of matching you to your interests.

This year, the back of the application contains a survey that asks for

*(Welcome continued on page 2)*

*(Welcome continued from page 1)*

feedback on what types of articles you would find interesting in the newsletter. Please take the time to complete the survey. A single entry may result in a change to the newsletter that will make it more interesting for everyone.

In preparing this welcome, I reviewed the Presidents' Welcomes for the last 20 years. In 1998, then president Mike Kerwin had three objectives for the year: continue the activities that we are currently involved with, increase membership, and foster an environment in which young people are welcome at all of our activities. I have the same objectives. If you have any ideas of ways in which the club can better serve your interests or ideas for more youth involvement, please let us know. You can either fill out the survey, email me ([kjheff@aol.com](mailto:kjheff@aol.com)) or call me at (410) 418-8731 with your ideas. I'm very interested in hearing from you.

Finally, if you haven't been on the Howard County Bird Club website lately, it is worth a look. It has a wealth of interesting information including Howard County bird, butterfly, and odonate lists, field trip calendar and trip results, copies of old newsletters, breeding bird atlas results including maps, a photo page with hundreds of photos of the birds of Howard County, directions to birding hotspots in the county, and links to other birding-related websites. Bob Solem has put a lot of time and effort into the website and it shows.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and in the field.

## SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 2007

BY JOANNE SOLEM

**A**s usual, the season brought surprises. Notable species included Northern Shoveler, Northern Bobwhite, Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, White-rumped Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Short-eared Owl, Common Raven, Brewster's Warbler, and Summer Tanager. A state early breeding Canada Goose was a dubious highlight.

Eighty **Snow Geese** over Kings Contrivance on 3/10 was an unusual number for this county (**TEv**). A pair of **Canada Geese** took advantage of mild winter weather to nest. The week to 10-day-old brood of nine observed at a pond in Jessup on the astonishingly early date of 3/22 established a state early breeding record (**SN-ph**). The Fifteen **Gadwall** at Race Rd on 3/6 were the second highest number ever. (**SSw**). Infrequently seen **Blue-winged Teal** were detected in five locations with a high of 13 at Fulton on 4/19 (**BHi**). One male stayed at Forebay Pond with an equally unusual male **Northern Shoveler** 4/14-4/22 (**JW+**). A pair of shovelers showed up at the Lake Elkhorn dock on 4/16 (**TFe**). A late **Green-winged Teal** appeared at Centennial 5/12 (**MKw,TRy,GSu**). Normally scarce **Redheads** were spotted twice with a pair at Walt-Ann Pond 3/7 (**M&GMcC**) and 15 at Brighton Dam 3/24 (**BHi,MW**). **Ring-necked Duck** flocks did not set any highs, but the species was hard to miss the first half of March. A county waterfowl trip on 3/10 found "scores everywhere" (**SAr**). Six **Greater Scaup** were present

on Triadelphia Reservoir 3/26 (**JW**), with one male there 4/17 (**EH,BHi,JS**); one female was at Centennial Park 4/17-18 (**BO+**). Two female **Hooded Mergansers** hung around till 5/29—one on the Patapsco east of Morgan Station Rd (**DH**) and another at Forebay (**JW**). No breeding was detected. A female **Red-breasted Merganser** stayed on Triadelphia until 5/13 for the second latest departure date (**JW**).

**Wild Turkeys** at four locations were reported from mid-March to mid-April (**SBw; FLv; PNm**). A male **Northern Bobwhite** was seen and heard west of Fulton 5/28 (**KMr**). Nine **Pied-billed Grebes** at Centennial 4/2 were a treat (**SLg**). Although **Red-necked Grebes** made a good showing in the state, the only one detected locally was at Triadelphia 4/14 (**HH,DPw,JHb,JBg**), last seen 4/19 (**EH**). The **American Bittern** at West Friendship Park on 3/25 was the second earliest record (**JCu**). One at the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDCF) 4/22 was more typical (**BO+**). **Great Blue Herons** again nested at Vantage Point with 20 of the 24 nests occupied on 3/23 (**EH,JS**). The colony along Carroll Mill Rd appeared to use three of four nests (**BO,EH,JS**). **Cattle Egrets** no longer appear annually, so two sightings were a bonus: UMDCF 4/26 (1-**BO+**) and Fulton 5/29 (2-**JBl**). A pair of **Green Herons** led a keen-eyed observer to a nest on the north side of Centennial Lake 4/24 (**BL**). An im.

*(Records continued on page 3)*

*(Records continued from page 2)*

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** flushed from the cattail wetland at Schooley Mill Park 5/12 (NM); an adult appeared at Elkhorn 5/28 (MSt,BMi). A **Glossy Ibis** was sighted at UMDCF 5/10 (BO,JCu,JS). Probably the same bird was noted twice on 5/12, several hours and two miles apart: Gateway Commerce Center (ES) and Corridor Industrial Park (POs).

**Turkey Vulture** young were present in a favorite tree cavity at Glenelg Country School in late May (LL). An active **Bald Eagle** nest on private property in north-central Howard County (*vide* WE; PNm) was probably the source of numerous eagle sightings over the central lakes. Eagles were reported from 3/7 over Florence Rd (RLg) to 5/17 at Stone Hill (KLz).

**Northern Harriers** were spotted from 3/8 at W. Friendship Pk (JCu) to 5/1 at both the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) (SBg) and Wilde Lake (CN). Two hatching-year **Cooper's Hawks** cooperated in taking a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** from a deck at Talbots Landing 4/28 (R&JG). Reports of **Broad-winged Hawks** were few with a high of nine at Wilde Lake 4/22 (HZ). April brought news that **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested again at Elkhorn (SN,MSt+) and at Dunloggin (KS). A **Red-tailed Hawk** was on an early nest at Western Regional Park 3/14 (BHi). **Merlins** were noted from 3/13 at Annapolis Rock (BO+) to 4/19 along I-95 between MD 32 & 175 (JW). The two **Peregrine Falcon** sightings were both on 4/1: Triadelphia (B&GHi) and Font Hill Wetland Park (J&CW; JSch). One or two **Virginia Rails** were

present at UMDCF from 5/5 (BO+) to 5/27 (BO,NM,JS). A **Sora** was at the same location 4/26 (BO,JS+) and 5/5 (BO+). An early **American Coot** showed up at Elkhorn 3/2 (MSt).

Shorebird migration was mediocre with a few major exceptions. A gorgeous **Black-bellied Plover** at the pond on MD 99 east of Woodstock Rd 5/16 was just the fourth spring record (RT+). Forty **Killdeer** were counted along Old Frederick Rd west of MD 32 on 3/24 (JW). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** and two **Least Sandpipers** on 5/27 at Western RP were the second latest records (NM,JS, B&GHi). Least hit a high there of 32 on 5/13 (BHi). The shorebird highlight was the first documented spring record of **White-rumped Sandpiper**. Two birds were present at Western RP from 5/27 (NM,JS,JTv-ph) to 5/30 (B&GHi; RR; KT). Good **Wilson's Snipe** numbers were 36 on Old Frederick Rd 3/24 (JW) and 45 at UMDCF 4/11 (BO+). **American Woodcock** were widely reported from 3/1 at Jennings Chapel/Daisy Rd (JSh) to 5/19 at Schooley MP (NM,JS). Other locations were River Rd (as many as eight in early March-FLv), Annapolis Rock (JSh+), Kindler Rd (KS), Oakland Mills Rd (SMu), Alpha Ridge Landfill (PNm), Worthington (PNm), and Centennial (*vide* SMu). One or two were present 3/9-3/20 adjacent to a W. Friendship yard (LC).

What a difference a year makes! In 2006, just two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed during the entire year. This spring alone there were two dozen reports from eight locations. They ranged from 33 at Wilde Lake 3/24 (HZ) to one at

Western RP 5/1 (BHi). Good-sized flocks were 45 at Fulton 4/18 (JBl), 34+ at Centennial 4/6 (JTv), and 33 & 40 at Triadelphia 4/7 (RHt). **Caspian Terns** set a new early date of 3/26 with single birds at both Lake Kittamaquundi (B&GHi) and Centennial (BO) (same bird?). The high was 28 at Fulton 4/17 (JS). A **Forster's Tern** was present at Centennial 4/12 (BO) and a distant medium-sized tern was seen from Brighton Dam 5/13 (JW).

The first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported from the MPEA 4/28 (RC); others were at Clarksville 4/29 (BO), Brush Run (JW) and Hallmark (WEb) 5/5, and five on 5/12 May Count (MAYCT). There were numerous owl reports with fledgling **Barred Owls** at Elkhorn 5/16 (BMi-ph.) and a nest at Eden Brook 4/21 (JMCK). In early spring, a **Great Horned Owl** utilized last year's Red-tailed Hawk nest at W. Friendship Pk (JCu). The owl highlight was a **Short-eared Owl** during an Alpha Ridge Landfill field trip 4/7, the county's seventh record (RC+,SE-ph). Sadly, the one or two **Whip-poor-wills** heard at Annapolis Rock 5/2 were the only ones reported (B&GHi). A **Belted Kingfisher** nest at UMDCF on 4/11 was welcome, but frustrating, since confirmation had eluded atlasers in that block for five years (BO,EH,JS). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 4/23 and a **Red-headed Woodpecker** 5/3 appeared in a Timberleigh yard (DN). A **Pileated Woodpecker** nest was found at Western RP 4/29 (B&GHi).

A **Least Flycatcher** stopped at  
*(Records continued on page 4)*

*(Records continued from page 3)*

Rockburn Branch Park 5/12 (**BO**). On the same date **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported from MPEA (**KHf**) and Pigtail (**P&SZ,TSt**). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted at Western RP 5/12 (**TFe**) and MPEA 5/22 (**TFe**).

Vireo arrival dates were unremarkable with one significant exception. A **Blue-headed Vireo** appeared on Rumsey Rd 3/23, 10 days before the previous early date (**PWb**). **Common Raven** sightings continued with one between I-70 and MD 144 near Daisy Rd 3/10 (**DPw**) and one at Font Hill WP 5/17 (**BO,JS**). **Horned Larks** were feeding young at UMDCF 4/22 (**BO,JS**). Three swallow species set new arrival records: **Purple Martin** 3/14 at Centennial (**BO**), **Tree Swallow** 3/3 at both Mt. Pleasant (2-**KS**) and Elkhorn (1-**MSt,BMi**), and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 3/12 at Centennial (**BO**). Few **Bank Swallows** were picked out of the large swallow flocks; oddly, all sightings were between 4/15 and 4/20.

A **Tufted Titmouse** pulling soft fur from a raccoon on a deck railing in Kings Contrivance 5/4 was entertaining (**J&CMd**). The only **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at a winter location at Worthington 3/7 and 4/26 (**EMe**). The **Brown Creeper**, which had roosted in Hammond Village since mid-January, was last seen the first week of March, probably because **Carolina Chickadees** disrupted the roost site by removing loose bark (**GC**). A **Carolina Wren** was nest building in Clary's Forest on 3/20 (**FP**). The only **Marsh Wren** was spotted at Font Hill WP in a

large cattail-dominated wetland 3/25 where it may have wintered (**JTv**). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** frequented a peanut suet feeder in Longfellow 3/4-3/10 (**SPr**).

Good numbers of thrushes were a treat. Sections of the Middle Patuxent River Valley are known stopovers for migrating thrushes. On May 12, the two mile section between Kindler and Murray Hill roads produced at least two **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, 26 **Veeries**, 32 **Swainson's Thrushes**, and 53 **Wood Thrushes** (**JMcK**). Nine Gray-cheeks were reported on MAYCT; others were at Henryton 5/17 (**JBy,JCu+**), Western RP 5/18 (**BHi**), and MPEA 5/22 (4-**TFe**). About 20 **Hermit Thrushes** east of Kindler Rd 4/28 constituted a new high (**JMcK**).

Birders are used to fallouts of warblers and thrushes, but **American Pipits**? March 18<sup>th</sup> was their local peak: Old Frederick Rd (10-**JW**), MD 32 south of MD 144 (2-**JW**), Centennial (6-**RC+**), Elkhorn (12+-**KS**), and, astonishingly, ~50 on a lawn on S. Trotter Rd (**WE**). One at Western RP 5/21 tied the late departure date (**BHi**). **Cedar Waxwings**, scarce during early spring, continued to flock well into May. Twenty were seen north of Elkhorn on 5/28 (**J&CW**).

A lack of warblers had been a routine complaint at recent May Count tallies; fortunately, this year was different. Birders in all parts of the county were treated to a nice variety. Migration seemed to peak on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>; then activity dropped rapidly. Even notoriously late **Blackpoll Warblers** were not reported after 5/27 (**JS**). On 5/1, 21 **Northern Parulas** were

counted in the Sykesville section of Patapsco Valley State Park (PVSP). Three **Cape May Warbler** reports were nice (**RC; B&GHi; JS**). The male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Clemens Crossing on 4/3 was about three weeks ahead of the previous early date (**DHo**)! **Yellow-throated Warblers** were slow showing up at Marriottsville, PVSP. A silent one on 4/10 rewarded repeated trips (**JCu**). A new high of at least 30 **Prairie Warblers** was at Schooley MP 4/29 (**R&MEI**). The first **Palm Warbler** was seen at Lake Kittamaquundi 3/30 (**MJm**), with a modest high of 20 easterns at Centennial 4/8 (**KS**). Western Palms were noted just twice: Meadowbrook 4/28 (2-**JW**) and Western RP 5/3 (1-**JW**). **Bay-breasted Warblers** are always scarce so three reports were nice (**DOI; ECh; SCI**). A **Prothonotary Warbler** in an All-view yard 4/18 was the second earliest (**ES**). The only other location was Sykesville, PVSP 5/2 and 5/12 (**FLv, TMr**). Three **Mourning Warblers** were reported: Patuxent Branch Trail 5/12 (**MSt,BMi**), MPEA 5/19 (**KS**) & 20 (**MSz**), and Marriottsville, PVSP 5/20 (**BHb,FJc**). A male **Brewster's Warbler** at Western RP 5/3 was the county's fourteenth (**JW**).

A male **Summer Tanager** was spotted at Schooley MP 5/28 (**RB**). Thirteen **Eastern Towhees** were counted at Sykesville, PVSP 3/31 (**FLv**). The last two **American Tree Sparrows** were both seen on 4/1: Sykesville (**FLv**) and David Force Park (**KHf**). **Chipping Sparrows** peaked at 12 at Dunloggin 4/24 (**KS**). **Vesper Sparrows** were reported from three locations: Alpha Ridge Land-  
*(Records continued on page 5)*

fill 3/31 (2-**RC**), Orange Grove, PVSP 4/2 (1-**BHb**), and UMDCF 4/18 (1-**BO,JS**) with one singing there 4/29 (**JW**). Fifteen **Savannah Sparrows** at Meadowbrook on 4/14 was a nice number for that park (**JW**). The **Fox Sparrow** high was 25 at Sykesville 3/24 (**FLv**). Four **Lincoln's Sparrows** were tallied: Meadowbrook 4/23 (**EMe**), UMDCF 4/26 (**BO+**), 5/12 at both Schooley MP (**NM**) and Rockburn BP (**BO**). Although not a record, the last **Dark-eyed Junco** of the season on 5/22 at MPEA was later than usual (**TFe**).

An early **Blue Grosbeak** appeared at Rockburn BP 4/28 (**BO**). MAYCT tallied 178 **Bobolinks** countywide, with a high of 125 at UMDCF 5/3 (**BO,JS**). Although **Rusty Blackbirds** are a declining species, that was not obvious this spring. They were reported from nine locations from 3/17 at S. Trotter Rd (15-**W&SE**) to 4/24 at W. Friendship Pk (3-**JCu, BO+**). Two wintering **Baltimore Orioles** stayed into spring: a male at Timberleigh 1/7-3/2 (**DN-ph.**) and a female at Longfellow 2/13-3/4 (**SPr-ph.**). Sixteen were counted at Sykesville 5/15 (**FLv**).

Winter produced few northern invasives, so spring reports were sparse. Single **Purple Finches** appeared in late March and early April: 3/25 Allview (**JMcK**), 4/3 Duvall (**KT**), and 4/4 Hammond Village (**JS**). A flock of about twenty **Pine Siskins** at MPEA on 4/26 was a real anomaly (**FF**).

**Observers:** **SAr** – Stan Arnold, **JBg** – Jim Beagles, **SBg** – Scott Berglund, **JBl** – John Blaisdell, **RB** – Rod Burley, **SBw** – Sue Buswell, **JBy** – Joseph Byrnes, **GC** – George Chase, **ECh** – Ed Cohen, **LC** – Lisa Colangelo, **SCl** – Steve Collins, **RC** – Ralph Cullison III, **JCu** – Jeff Culler,

**SE** – Susan Earp, **WE** – Wes Earp, **Web** – Ward Ebert, **MEI** – Melinda Elvander, **REI** – Robert Elvander, **TEv** – Tracy Eve, **FF** – Fred Fallon, **TFe** – Tom Feild, **JG** – Jane Geuder, **RG** – Ralph Geuder, **DH** – Dave Harvey, **KHf** – Kevin Hefernan, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **GHi** – Gayle Hill, **RHt** – Rob Hilton, **HH** – Hans Holbrook, **EH** – Emy Holdridge, **DHo** – David Holmes, **JHb** – John Hubbell, **BHb** – Bill Hubick, **Fjc** – Froede Jacobsen, **MJm** – Marcus James, **Mkw** – Mike Kerwin, **LL** – Lauri Lee, **SLg** – Shashi Lengade, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **RLg** – Rob Long, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **BL** – Brigitte Lund, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **KM** – Kathy Mariano, **GMcC** – Grazina McClure, **MMcC** – Mike McClure, **JMcK** – John McKitterick, **CMd** – Claudia Medwin, **JMd** – Jim Medwin, **EMe** – Elayne Metter, **BMI** – Barry Miller, **TMr** – Tom Miller, **SMu** – Sue Muller, **DN** – Diane Nagengast, **SN** – Sue Neri, **CN** – Carol Newman, **PNm** – Phil Norman, **DOI** – Daryl Olson, **POs** – Peter Osenton, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **FP** – Fred Pierce, **DPw** – Dave Powell, **SPr** – Suzanne Probst, **TRy** – Tim Ray, **RR** – Robert Ringler, **JSch** – Justine Schaeffer, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **SSw** – Steve Schwemmer, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **JS** – Jo Solem, **MSt** – Michelle Stewart, **TSt** – Tom Strikwerda, **MSz** – Marcy Stutzman, **GSu** – Grace Su, **ES** – Eva Sunell, **RT** – Robin Todd, **KT** – Kate Tufts, **JTv** – June Tveekrem, **MW** – Mark Wallace, **PWb** – Pete Webb, **CW** – Carol Wilkinson, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson, **HZ** – Helen Zeichner, **PZ** – Paul Zucker, **SZ** – Sherry Zucker.

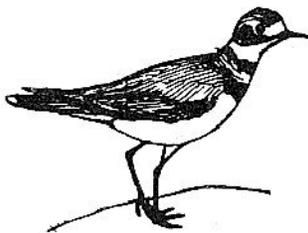
MAYCT – *May Count, May 12*

MPEA – *Middle Patuxent Environmental Area*

PVSP – *Patapsco Valley State Park*

UMDCF – *University of Maryland Central Farm*

ph. - *photograph*



Credit: *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

## SEARCH FOR RED KNOTS TRIP REPORT BY KURT SCHWARZ

A bright day dawned as members of the Howard County Bird Club gathered at the Broken Land park-and-ride May 26 for the annual joint trip with the Montgomery County Bird Club known as Hot Spots for Red Knots. While waiting for the group to gather, we were entertained by Eastern Kingbirds, Orchard Orioles, and a Blue Grosbeak.

Shortly before 9:00 a.m. we arrived at our rendezvous point with our friends from Montgomery County at the Visitor Center for Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). We were surprised to see a male Wild Turkey in full display, spotted by the Montgomery County co-leader, Cyndie Loeper. Most folks got a good look at this bird.

The first stop was Broadkill Marsh, which offered a wide variety of herons, shorebirds, and waterfowl. The highlights were good looks at White-rumped Sandpipers, and a nice surprise of a calling Northern Bobwhite. Since Broadkill Beach was already full of beach-goers, we opted to head north to Fowler Beach, foregoing the opportunity to get what are reputed to be the best milk shakes around.

Fowler Beach produced excellent looks at shorebirds, including Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling (in breeding/alternate plumage), Ruddy Turnstones, and the

(*Red Knots continued on page 7*)

# RESULTS OF SECOND ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

BY JUNE TVEEKREM

A beautiful day dawned for the Howard County Dragonfly Count on June 16, 2007. It was mostly sunny with temperatures in the low 80s and moderate humidity. The event, co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, attracted twenty-one participants. Participants came from Howard, Carroll, Montgomery, Prince George's, Baltimore, and Frederick counties.

Five 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.

Although most of the participants were beginners at identifying odonates, their field skills honed by observing birds and butterflies were invaluable. So were their cameras; in one area, five species of damselflies were added to the list after examining photos taken during the count!

A late afternoon tally rally at June Tveekrem's house provided a festive end to the day.

Forty-four species of odonates were seen, comprising 1,246 individuals. The list of species and numbers is shown in the accompanying table. The complete results are posted online at <http://odes.southernspreadwing.com/count2007/>. The Lilypad Forktail sighting set a new early date by over a month. The Double-striped Bluet, Rapids Clubtail, Swift River Cruiser, and Banded Pennant were all nice finds.

Thank you to our group leaders: **Bob Ringler** (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 Pat Caro, Sue Earp, Wes Earp, Tom Feild, Denise Gibbs, Beth Johnson, Paul Koehler, Alice Kong and daughter, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure, Steve Noyes, Justine Schaeffer, Jim Wilkinson, and Bill Yeaman.

Next year's dragonfly count will be in mid-to-late August. We invite you to join us next summer!

Odonate Species	Number
Ebony Jewelwing	85
Slender Spreadwing	5
Blue-fronted Dancer	19
Violet Dancer	8
Powdered Dancer	97
Blue-tipped Dancer	17
Dusky Dancer	20
Azure Bluet	36
Double-striped Bluet	1
Familiar Bluet	30
Skimming Bluet	4
Orange Bluet	5
Citrine Forktail	2
Lilypad Forktail	4
Fragile Forktail	11
Eastern Forktail	19
Common Green Darner	18
Comet Darner	7
Swamp Darner	1
Dragonhunter	18
Ashy Clubtail	4
Rapids Clubtail	1
Unicorn Clubtail	6
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	2
Common Sanddragon	5
Swift River Cruiser	1
Prince Baskettail	11
Common Baskettail	4
Blue Dasher	281
Calico Pennant	4
Halloween Pennant	2
Banded Pennant	5
Common Pondhawk	88
Eastern Amberwing	190
Common Whitetail	98
Spangled Skimmer	11
Slaty Skimmer	15
Widow Skimmer	59
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	14
Painted Skimmer	1
Great Blue Skimmer	1
Carolina Saddlebags	11
Black Saddlebags	64
Glider Sp.	1

## NICARAGUAN DONATION - BY PAUL BAICICH

I wanted to let you know that on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, I drove to Plainfield, New Jersey, to deliver those boxes of supplies collected for Nicaragua. These most recent supplies (binoculars, field guides, backpacks, fanny-packs, hummingbird feeders, etc) included those items collected by local members of the Howard County Bird Club. The boxes are going to the coffee cooperatives, especially for their teenagers training to be eco-guides.

It was a 380-mile round-trip adventure (thank goodness for cruise-control), and it felt great, actually doing some good for those wonderful people in the Matagalpa region of Nicaragua.

Here is a photo of the folks in New Jersey loading the goods. As you can see, the seagoing container is impressive, and the collected supplies are mostly going to women's organizations, health collectives, and youth after-school programs. Another local Nicaraguan or-



ganization - involved in reforestation and watershed protection - also got some of the supplies. Our relatively few boxes were minor in the whole context, but they were still significant!

*(Red Knots continued from page 5)*

target bird, maybe a dozen or so Red Knots. A subsequent stop at Slaughter Beach, however, did not yield much more than Black-bellied Plovers.

The next stop was the magnificent, and newly opened Dupont Nature Center at Mispillion. This site reliably has produced Red Knots and other shorebirds over the past three years, with the added attraction of American Oystercatchers. We were not disappointed, as the immediate area held easily thousands of Red Knots, and not a few other species of shorebirds, including two showoff oystercatchers. As for the new Nature Center itself, it is beautiful, and provides an excellent vantage point for viewing the shorebirds. And it provided a useful set of facilities to an area previously lacking such amenities. See [www.dupontnaturecenter.org](http://www.dupontnaturecenter.org)

We then visited Big Stone Beach,

which was, perhaps not as exciting as previous sites, but we did enjoy watching several hundred Red Knots flying up the coast, with a few Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones mixed in.

A short detour to seek fuel took us out of way of our next planned stop, so we did not visit Ted Harvey Wildlife Area (WA). We pressed on to Bombay Hook NWR. Afternoon is not a prime time to visit Bombay Hook, as the light can be bad, especially at Raymond Pool. We missed a Wilson's Phalarope that had been reported earlier that day, but did have good looks at American Avocets in full breeding/alternate plumage. A lively debate sprang up between the co-leaders over an immature night-heron at Bear Swamp, but it was ultimately decided to be a Yellow-crowned. The incredible eyes of member Gayle Hill spotted an adult Yellow-crowned, well-obscured by tree branches.

The last stop was at Woodland Beach WA, where a Red-necked Phalarope had been seen the previous day. We did not find the phalarope, but were surprised to see two sub-adult Bonaparte's Gulls fly by Taylor's Gut in Woodland Beach WA. Also memorable, though not in a positive way, was the stench from a few fish and crabs left behind by some thoughtful fishermen.

The group adjourned for a nice dinner at an Irish Pub in Smyrna, where we also got the last species of the day, Chimney Swift. There we tallied up the results, and realized we'd encountered 95 species that day, including 17 species of shorebirds. And we saw Red Knots in numbers that well exceeded those in previous trips. All pronounced the day to be a satisfying one.

# 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 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](mailto: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. 1, Sat. 9:30 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Meet at Meadowbrook Park parking lot.* Enjoy expert instruction on butterfly identification. Dick will provide information on host and nectar plants for different species. Easy walking on paved path near the fields and marshes. We will be exercising a careful net and release of many of the butterfly species encountered. They will be transferred to a jar for brief close up examination. We will study some butterflies in the hand. Close focus binoculars helpful. Facilities available. *Leader- Dick Smith 410-997-7439.*

 **BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK AT LAKE ELKHORN**  
Sept. 8, Sat. 8:30 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Meet at Broken Land Parkway lot.* Easy walking on paved path around the lake to learn bird identification tips. Learn which species of birds are common to our area. Advice on binocular and field guide selection and use. Combination of water, woodland and fields should provide a wide variety of species. No facilities.  
*Leaders- Mike and Grazina McClure 410-531-2780.*

 **WEEKDAY WALK AT CENTENNIAL PARK**  
Sept. 20, Thu. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Migrants of many species will be moving through. Great trip for beginners. Facilities available. *Leader- Joe Byrnes- 410-730-5329.*

**FALL COUNT**  
Sept. 15, Saturday (See page 10 for details.)

**HENRYTON ROAD, PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK**  
Sept. 22, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (half day)  
*Meet at bottom of Henryton Road at the deadend.* Join Ralph to walk along the Patapsco River looking for fall migrants. Mature woodlands provide excellent habitat for migrant thrushes. This is prime migration time and many species of forest birds expected. Plan for moderate walking and possible muddy trails. No facilities. *Leader- Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181.*

**WESTERN REGIONAL PARK**  
Sept. 23, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (half day)  
*Meet at Carr's Mill Road lot.* Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes

and flyovers. Small pond may host shorebirds. Facilities available.  
*Leader- Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.*

**WOODLAND WALK AT THE MPEA**  
Sept. 29, Sat. 7:30 a.m. (half day)  
*Meet at the Trotter Road lot.* Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. Prepare for wet grass on the trails. No facilities.  
*Leader- Stan Arnold 410-428-7567 (cell).*

**THE DICKEY FARM**  
Sept. 30, Sun. 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 woodlands and field edges of this private farm. A couple of ponds provide chances for some water birds. Great habitat for warblers, sparrows and vireos during this peak migration time. Expect wet grass and primitive paths. No facilities. *Leaders- Dave and Maureen Harvey 410-795-3117*

**WEST FRIENDSHIP PARK**  
Oct. 6, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (half day)  
*Meet at shopping center just west of Md*  
*(Field Trips continued on page 9)*

*(Field Trips continued from page 8)*

32/Md 144. We will carpool to nearby park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. No facilities. *Leaders- Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329 and Jeff Culler 410-465-9006.*

### **SPARROWS BY SIGHT AND SOUND**

Oct. 7, Sun. 7:30 a.m. (half day)  
Joint with the Anne Arundel County Bird Club. *Meet at Meadowbrook park-and-ride lot.* We will start at Meadowbrook to search for sparrows. Then on to Mount Pleasant Farm to round out the morning. Walking will be moderate on paved paths and mown grass areas. Trip will emphasize the fine points of sparrow ID on the wing and by sound. Facilities available. *Leader- Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.*

### **SPARROW BIG DAY**

Oct. 14, Sunday (all day)  
Limit: 12 people  
Search wetlands and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Going for 12 species! Previous years have turned up non-sparrow rarities! Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. *Call Bonnie to sign up and get info. 410-461-3361.*

### **WEEKDAY WALK AT DAVID FORCE PARK**

Oct. 17, Wed. 8:00 a.m. (2 hours)  
*Meet at the sign on Pebble Beach Drive.* Easy walking through the wooded trails and fields of Howard County Open Space. Streams and pond provide habitat for numerous bird species. Probable Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks and Fox Sparrows. *Leader- Michele Wright 410-465-6057.*

### **HAWK WATCH AT MEADOWBROOK PARK**

Oct. 20, Sat. 9:30 a.m. (all day)  
*Meet at hawk watch site on hilltop.* Join raptor enthusiast Kurt Schwarz to sit and watch the hawks fly. Bring a chair and sustenance for however long you plan to stay. Kurt will provide tips on separating species in flight. The park provides paved path for walking. Ponds and great sparrow habitat should provide other birding opportunities. Facilities available. *Leader- Kurt Schwarz- 410-461-1643.*

### **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FARM**

Oct. 21, Sunday (half day)  
Limit: 12 people  
Moderate to difficult walking though the fields and wetlands of this private property. Sparrows are the target species but wetland birds are likely. No facilities. *Call Bonnie to sign up- 410-461-3361.*

### **ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK**

Oct. 27, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (half day)  
*From the Montgomery Rd. entrance, meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse.* Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. *Leaders- Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731.*

### **MOUNT PLEASANT FARM**

Oct. 28, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Meet at parking lot.* Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Prime time for sparrows. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. *Leader- Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.*

### **ALPHA RIDGE PARK AND LANDFILL**

Nov. 3, 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 looking for lingering sparrows and early winter arrivals. The landfill has the best possibility of hosting rarities. Possibility of walking through tall wet grasses. Boots recommended. Facilities at the park. *Leader- Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181.*

### **CENTENNIAL PARK**

Nov. 4, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* (Don't forget daylight savings time ends.) Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. *Leader- Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329.*

 = Great for beginning birders

## **2007-2008 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:	Felicia Lovelett
	Ward Ebert

# THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT ANNOUNCEMENT

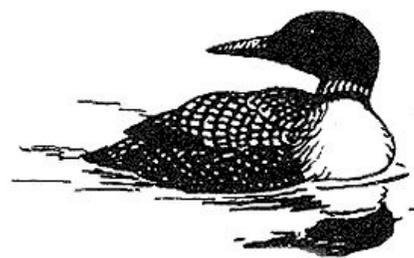
BY MICHAEL MCCLURE

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 15<sup>th</sup>. **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 writeup include those identified with a double asterisk (\*\*), as well as any writeins. Others that may require a writeup or oral amplification (\*), as well as those that are early or late dates (@), are indicated.

The following area coordinators have been named:

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

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 p.m., call them by Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.



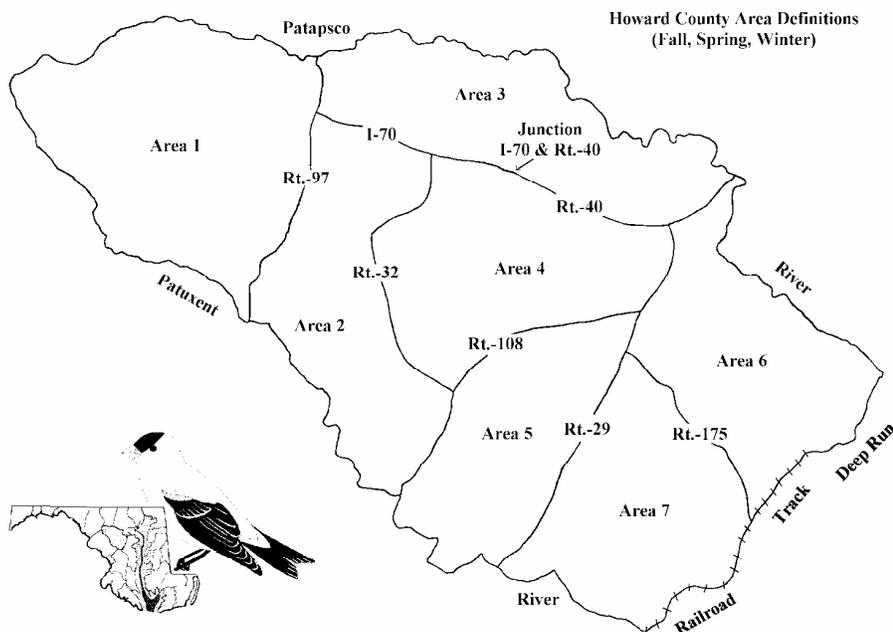
Credit: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## 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 27, Thursday  
 Bonnie Ott  
 8664 Manahan Drive  
 Ellicott City, MD 21043  
 (410) 461-3361

October 25, Thursday  
 Karen Darcy  
 9775 Diversified Lane  
 Ellicott City, MD 21042  
 (410) 418-8731



# FOG, LIGHTS, AND BIRDS

BY KURT SCHWARZ

The phenomenon of migrating birds being attracted during foggy or low-cloud conditions to bright artificial light attached to tall structures has been well documented for well over a century. Lighthouses, with their steady-burning bright lights, were noted for drawing vast numbers of birds in fog. They would often crash into the structure, one another, or just fall to the ground in exhaustion after incessant circling of the light.<sup>1</sup> While the narrower beams of lighthouses today cause less harm, the phenomenon continues, as communications towers, skyscrapers, oil drilling platforms, windmills, and so on, proliferate.

Incredibly, until recently, no one had ever conducted a study of what sort of light attracted birds. An article by William R. Evans and others in *NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS* details the first such study, conducted in New York in 2005. The researchers shone a bright, red, blue, green, or white light for 10-minute periods, both steady-burning and blinking, under foggy conditions, and assessed the relative attractiveness to migrating birds. They found the steady white, blue, and green lights caused birds to swarm around the light, which in a tower setting with constantly burning lights over a long period of time could result in mortality. While red lighting has often been blamed for bird kills at towers, this study found that constant red light was not attractive. Flashing lights, regardless of the color, did not attract birds.<sup>2</sup>

This is a timely study, since com-

munications towers continue to proliferate, with windmills probably not far behind. The Federal Communications Commission proposed new rules last year to hopefully mitigate the effects of hazard lighting of communications towers on migrating birds. Fortunately, they call for blinking red or white lights, so this should help alleviate the problem, if adopted.

But what applies to communications towers, lighthouses, and similar structures, may not apply to skyscrapers. A study led by Dr. Robert DeCandido was conducted at the Empire State Building 2004-2005. Dr. DeCandido and associates counted spring and fall, in good and bad weather. They noted more than 30,000 birds passing the building, but never saw one strike. They learned of the deaths of only seven birds at the Empire State, which were found one October morning after heavy rain over night. He did, however, find historical accounts of mass bird kills at the Empire State. Most notable was a night in September, 1948, when about 750 birds of 30 species were found dead or injured at the base of the building. It had been a foggy night and the birds had probably been attracted to the building's lighting. However, since 1980 there had been no reports of bird deaths exceeding 100.<sup>3</sup>

My own experiences also present some puzzling issues. Since 1991, I have been keeping track of birds that strike the high-rise where I work in Anne Arundel County during the spring and fall seasons. In 1996, I tried crunching some

numbers, and noted a total of 199 strikes, consisting of 50 species. In contrast with the above examples, clear weather was the most deadly. Sixty-four percent of the strikes happened during clear weather, twenty-nine percent during cloudy weather, and only seven percent in rain. While I have not run the numbers since then, my subjective impression is that this trend continues.

But just when you think you have it all figured out: the morning of May 9, 2003 was the busiest I ever experienced. I found, dazed at the base of the building, three Common Yellowthroats, one Blackpoll Warbler, one American Redstart, and one Ovenbird. It had been a foggy night. Luckily, all survived.

In short, it would appear that the mechanisms governing bird strikes are different for tall buildings and towers. But two things do appear clear: steady-burning lights under foggy conditions on tall structures present a hazard to migrating birds, and much more study is needed.

---

Brinkley, Edward S., "Editor's Notebook," *NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*, 60(4).

<sup>2</sup> Evans, William R., et al, "Response of night-migrating songbirds in cloud to colored and flashing light," *NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*, 60(4).

<sup>3</sup> DeCandido, Robert, "Dancing in the Moonlight: Nocturnal Bird Migration from the Top of the Empire State Building," *WINGING IT*, 19(3).

## HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT, MAY 12, 2007

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

**S**ixty-seven birders participated in this year's May Count which was held on May 12, 2007. Although the total number of species seen (144) was not spectacular, the results were interesting due to the number of species that had all-time or 10 year high counts. In addition, the total number of birds (20,550) seen was the third highest ever recorded. This count will also be remembered because it was the first time in the last 24 years that the tally rally was not held at Jan Randle's house. Before getting into the statistics, I want to give Jan a big thank you for graciously putting up with us for so many years.

The following 22 species had the highest numbers seen since 1974: Great Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed hawks, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied and Great Crested flycatchers and Eastern Phoebe, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, and Canada warblers, Chipping Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, both orioles, and House Sparrow. The 10 Great Egrets seen far exceeded the next highest count of four (seen last year). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen for the first time since 1977 and only the second time ever. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen for only the third time ever (including two of the last three years). Green-winged Teal and Glossy Ibis were seen for only the fifth time ever. In addition, ten year high counts were recorded for the following 13 species: Spotted Sandpiper, Glossy Ibis, Lesser Yel-

lowlegs, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, House Wren, Wood Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark.

The biggest miss was Yellow-throated Warbler which was not seen for the second year in a row and only the 6<sup>th</sup> time ever. The only ten year low count recorded was for Cerulean Warbler. Whip-poor-will was missed for the third year in a row, Ring-necked Pheasant for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and Vesper Sparrow for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in the last 14 years.

All in all it was a good year for thrushes, flycatchers, hawks, orioles, and several of the warblers and field birds. The weather was partly cloudy with temperatures in the 60s and 70s.

Many thanks as usual to our compiler, Chuck Stirrat. His tireless efforts make this task much easier than it would otherwise be. I also especially want to thank **June Tveekrem** for generously volunteering to host the tally rally. Her hospitality was very much appreciated by a large group of very tired birders.

And to the following participants, a big thank you; you make it happen: Randy Beaton, Bill Blum, Karan Blum, Monika Botsai, Jim Brinkley, Marilyn Brinkley, Joe Byrnes, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Jeff Culler, Ralph Cullison, **Karen Darcy (Area 5 coordinator)**, Sue Earp, Wes Earp, Jane Ebert, Ward Ebert, Tracy Eve,

Tom Feild, Jeff Friedhoffer, **Kevin Heffernan (Area 2 coordinator)**, Jane Heim, Bill Hill, Gayle Hill, Chris Kelly, Joyce Kelly, Mike Kerwin, Mike Leumas, Felicia Lovelett, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina McClure, **Mike McClure (Area 4 coordinator)**, John McKitterick, Elayne Metter, Jeff Metter, Tom Miller, Diane Nagen-gast, Sue Neri, Carol Newman, Daryl Olson, Peter Osenton, **Bonnie Ott (Area 6 coordinator)**, Karla Pearce, Anita Picco, Ron Polniaszek, Susan Polniaszek, Sue Probst, Tim Ray, Clyde Robinette, Romayne Smith, Bob Solem, **Jo Solem (Area 7 coordinator)**, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat (Area 3 coordinator, compiler)**, Tom Strikwerda, Grace Su, Eva Sunell, Robin Todd, Dick Tufts, **Kate Tufts (Area 1 coordinator)**, Ginny Walker, Mark Wallace, Carol Wilkinson, Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright, Paul Zucker and Sherry Zucker.

### FISH THIEF

BY JUNE TVEEKREM

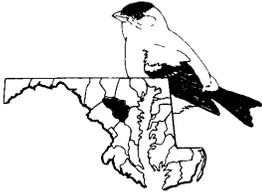
**I** was at Centennial Lake around 6:00 p.m. on Memorial Day, and saw a fisherman fishing from the rocks by the dam. He was reeling in a medium-sized fish. Along came a Great Blue Heron flying low over the water. The bird put on the brakes, half landed with its feet dangling in the water, took the fish off the hook, and flew away with the fish! A few minutes later I saw the heron flying back to the same spot, probably looking for another easy meal.

# HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 12, 2007

Canada Goose	735
Mute Swan	1
Wood Duck	35
Mallard	157
Green-winged Teal	1
Common Loon	1
Double-crested Cormorant	11
Great Blue Heron	51
Great Egret	10
Green Heron	30
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1
Glossy Ibis	1
Black Vulture	69
Turkey Vulture	180
Osprey	4
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
Cooper's Hawk	13
<i>accipiter species</i>	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	72
Broad-winged Hawk	10
Red-tailed Hawk	56
American Kestrel	4
Semipalmated Plover	2
Killdeer	47
Greater Yellowlegs	5
Lesser Yellowlegs	16
Solitary Sandpiper	80
Spotted Sandpiper	70
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6
Least Sandpiper	49
Ring-billed Gull	5
Rock Pigeon	100
Mourning Dove	538
Black-billed Cuckoo	5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	38
Eastern Screech-Owl	2
Great Horned Owl	2
Barred Owl	10
Common Nighthawk	3
Chimney Swift	146
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	31
Belted Kingfisher	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	337
Downy Woodpecker	136
Hairy Woodpecker	19
Northern(Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	64
Pileated Woodpecker	45
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2

Eastern Wood-Pewee	183
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1
Acadian Flycatcher	146
Willow Flycatcher	13
Least Flycatcher	1
Eastern Phoebe	111
Great Crested Flycatcher	93
Eastern Kingbird	162
White-eyed Vireo	111
Yellow-throated Vireo	24
Blue-headed Vireo	4
Warbling Vireo	32
Red-eyed Vireo	624
Blue Jay	581
American Crow	283
Fish Crow	34
<i>crow species</i>	120
Horned Lark	6
Purple Martin	38
Tree Swallow	179
N. Rough-winged Swallow	56
Cliff Swallow	48
Barn Swallow	353
Carolina Chickadee	309
Tufted Titmouse	390
White-breasted Nuthatch	91
Carolina Wren	238
House Wren	159
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	300
Eastern Bluebird	168
Veery	75
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9
Swainson's Thrush	114
Hermit Thrush	1
Wood Thrush	597
American Robin	843
Gray Catbird	761
Northern Mockingbird	229
Brown Thrasher	45
European Starling	853
Cedar Waxwing	390
Blue-winged Warbler	17
Tennessee Warbler	1
Nashville Warbler	2
Northern Parula	283
Yellow Warbler	151
Chestnut-sided Warbler	36
Magnolia Warbler	93

Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	190
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	129
Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	82
Blackburnian Warbler	14
Pine Warbler	10
Prairie Warbler	41
Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Blackpoll Warbler	207
Cerulean Warbler	2
Black-&-white Warbler	78
American Redstart	155
Prothonotary Warbler	1
Worm-eating Warbler	23
Ovenbird	299
Northern Waterthrush	8
Louisiana Waterthrush	60
Kentucky Warbler	16
Mourning Warbler	1
Common Yellowthroat	431
Hooded Warbler	17
Wilson's Warbler	4
Canada Warbler	42
Yellow-breasted Chat	25
Scarlet Tanager	218
Eastern Towhee	232
Chipping Sparrow	285
Field Sparrow	117
Savannah Sparrow	44
Grasshopper Sparrow	20
Song Sparrow	266
Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Swamp Sparrow	11
White-throated Sparrow	96
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Northern Cardinal	1072
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	20
Blue Grosbeak	20
Indigo Bunting	321
Bobolink	178
Red-winged Blackbird	824
Eastern Meadowlark	16
Common Grackle	462
Brown-headed Cowbird	292
Orchard Oriole	86
Baltimore Oriole	300
House Finch	227
American Goldfinch	529
House Sparrow	469
<b>Total # of birds</b>	<b>20,550</b>



## HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

*Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

ADDRESS SERVICE SUGGESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

COLUMBIA, MD

PERMIT NO. 452

### September/October 2007 - Inside This Issue:

Club Meetings	President's Welcome
Spring Bird Records	Search for Red Knots
Dragonfly Count Results	Nicaraguan Donation
Field Trips	Fall Count
Board of Directors Meetings	Fog, Lights, & Birds
May Count Results	Fish Thief
Seed Sale	

## 2007 SEED SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

BY SHERRY TOMLINSON

**I**t's that time of year again when we start thinking about BIRDS. Cooler weather. BIRDS. Upcoming holidays. BIRDS. Let's face it. We birders think about our feathered friends all the time. And now is the time to start preparing our bird feeders for the fall and winter seasons. This year's Howard County Bird Club's Annual Seed Sale is on Saturday, October 20, 2007. Once again the sale will take place at The Wildlife Authority, located at 10281 Baltimore National Pike (Route 40) in Ellicott City, Maryland 21042. The hours of the sale are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Seed Sale order form will be mailed in early September. You will also be able to download an order form from the club's web site at [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org). All orders need to be in by October 13, 2007. Extra order forms will be at meetings if needed. So, feel free to spread the word. The money raised will go to habitat preservation and conservation. Supporters can also make a tax-deductible contribution. If you would like to volunteer, please check the order form and you will be contacted. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

The Wildlife Authority again is offering a 15% coupon off any one item (except binoculars) that you purchase in the store on the day of the seed sale only. Any additional items purchased by a bird club member will receive the 10 % discount that is always extended to the club members. This is a wonderful opportunity to complete some holiday shopping. The Wildlife Authority is "at home with nature" and it shows. The product selection is incredible -- books, feeders, wildlife supplies, shade-grown coffee and so much more. Let's join together and make this the best seed sale to date.