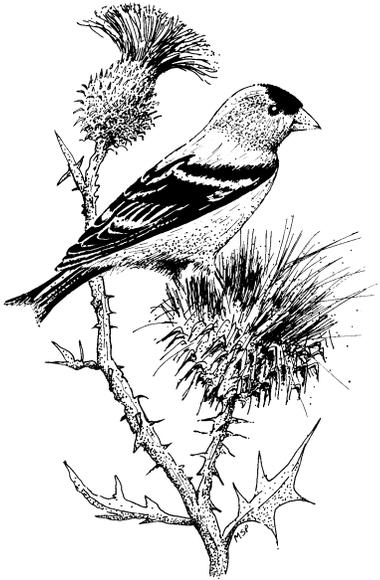


The Goldfinch

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



CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, January 10, 2008

“Exotic Asian Birding,” by Hank Kaestner. Brothers, Peter and Hank, search for “lifers” in Yemen and Kazakhstan. On two recent adventures, Hank and Peter visit out-of-the-way places to “pad” their Asia lists. Does this teamwork signal cooperation rather than competition? Let’s ask him.

Thursday, February 14, 2008

“Goshawk: Driven by Its Prey,” by David Brinker, Maryland DNR. His talk will summarize the natural history and conservation of this important, elusive forest predator. Dave began working with Northern Goshawks in Wisconsin in 1977 and since 1994 has conducted research on this species in WV, MD, and PA. Many outdoorsmen consider it the meanest bird in the forest. What makes these birds tick?

Meetings are held at Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046. In inclement weather, check 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 with program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

There was a question about youth birding in the newsletter survey on this year’s membership application. We received several good ideas. They will be published in an upcoming newsletter along with other survey results. Since then, we have heard about several members who are currently working with young people. The board is interested in learning

about other members who are engaged in youth-related birding activities (Scouts, schools, camps, etc). If you are involved in such an activity (or have been within the last year), please email me at (kjheff@aol.com) or call me (410) 418-8731 and tell me about it. It could help determine how to get the club more involved with youth in the future.

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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 2008 issue is January 25, 2008.

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

23RD ANNUAL MIDWINTER COUNT

BY JOE BYRNES AND JO SOLEM

Join the Howard County Bird Club's Twenty-Third Annual Midwinter Count on Saturday, February 2, 2008. Joe Byrnes (410-730-5329 / LBRoller@verizon.net) and Jo Solem (301-725-5037 / 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.

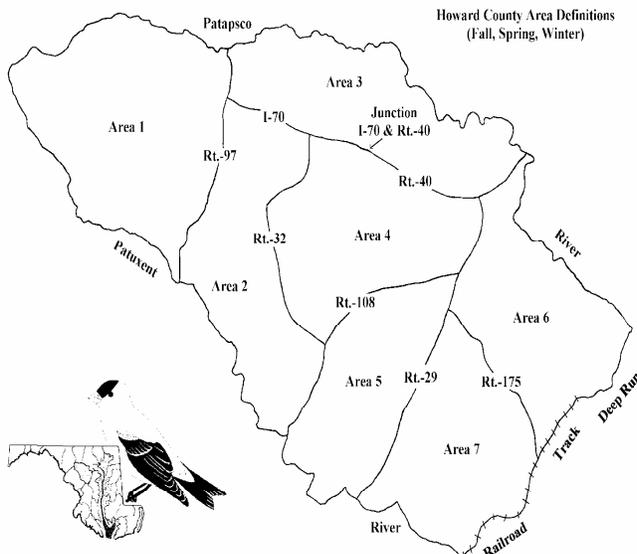
Beginning birders are always welcome, as are individuals who wish to count only for part of the day. A checklist for the count is included with this newsletter. If you wish to count only at your feeder, contact Joe and request a feeder form.

The evening potluck tally will be at Jeff and Karen Culler's at 2672 Thornbrook Rd, Ellicott City, MD.

Please contact the Cullers at cullerfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006 by Wednesday, January 30 to sign up for a vegetable, salad, or dessert, and to obtain directions. If you cannot make the meal, you are welcome to drop in about 7:30 p.m. for the tally.

If there is a question about the weather, we will try to make a decision the night before. Call your area coordinator; Joe or Jo (between 5:00 & 6:00 a.m.) if you are unsure of the status of the count.

Area 1	Mark Wallace & Wes Earp	301-725-6370 410-531-3197	none the_earps@verizon.net
Area 2	Ward Ebert	301-490-5807	wardebert@comcast.net
Area 3	Maureen & Dave Harvey	410-795-3117	dahtangara@erols.com
Area 4	Mike McClure	410-531-2780	none
Area 5	Kevin Heffernan	410-418-8731	kjheff@aol.com
Area 6	Bonnie Ott	410-461-3361	bonnieott@verizon.net
Area 7	Kurt Schwarz	410-461-1643	krschwa1@comcast.net



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

BY AMANDA WITT

Did you miss the Midwinter Count or do you want to do more bird counting? If so, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is for you. The GBBC is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and will be held February 15-18, 2008. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Then they enter their tallies on the GBBC website, www.birdcount.org.

This count has been a huge success. In 2007, participants sent in 81,203 checklists tallying 11,082,387 birds of 613 species. You can explore the results of prior years by visiting www.birdcount.org.

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.

January 24, Thursday
Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 418-8731

February 28, Thursday
Amanda Witt
6134 Starburn Path
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 290-0460

HABITAT STEWARDS™ TRAINING

To help communities create and enhance wildlife habitat, Howard County Recreation & Parks, in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation, will be offering Habitat Stewards™ training in March 2008. A Habitat Stewards™ Volunteer is someone who is interested in wildlife, ecology, gardening, and habitat conservation, and believes in hands-on, experiential learning. A Habitat Steward is also someone who is available to assist members of their community to create an environment that is beneficial for humans and for wildlife by helping others develop and restore wildlife habitat

in backyards, schoolyards, and other private and public areas. As a part of the training, Habitat Stewards are asked to contribute 30 volunteer hours toward the National Wildlife Federation and assist with the certification of at least three backyards or one schoolyard within a year of completing the training to retain their certification. Applicants must be 18 years or older.

The training series will be offered at Recreation & Parks Headquarters in March, 2008. Participants must be able to attend all work-

shops to qualify. The program fee is \$45.00 and includes all workshop training materials. **Application deadline is March 7, 2008.**

Application Information:

Please contact Brenda Belensky, Natural Resource Manager for Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks and she will mail or email an application to you. Howard Cty Recreation & Parks
Attn: Brenda Belensky
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046
(410) 313-4724 or e-mail bbelensky@howardcountymd.gov

HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY PROGRAMS

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The Howard County Conservancy, in cooperation with the Howard County Bird Club, is presenting a program on January 18 and 19, 2008. The program is part of the American Conservation Film Festival on the road. This year's films focus on the conservation of natural landscapes and resources from Costa Rica to Alaska to the Chesapeake Bay. Film titles include "Bird Song and Coffee" and "Gates of the Arctic." Friday night is family night with films appropriate for children. The program will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Conservancy located at 10520 Old Frederick Road. The cost is \$10 per adults and \$25 for families. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call 410-465-8877.

SEED SALE BY SHERRY TOMLINSON

Webster's New World Dictionary defines teamwork as "joint action by a group of people." That is exactly the spirit of the Howard County Bird Club. It gives me great pleasure to announce the 2007 Annual Seed Sale was held on October 20, 2007 and raised \$1,758.00 dollars for Habitat Preservation. As birders know, habitat preservation is a key factor in bird conservation. The Howard County Bird Club has raised nearly \$62,000.00 to date. This is an accomplishment of which the chapter can be proud.

The annual event owes its success to the many dedicated supporters, that year after year make it happen. First, I would like to thank Cathy and Tom Franklin, owners of The Wildlife Authority, for all their hard work ordering the seed, hosting and providing the friendly atmosphere of the Seed Sale. Second, I would like to thank each and every customer that made a

purchase or a tax-deductible contribution. You are the wind beneath the wings that makes this seed sale take flight.

Third, I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make the entire process run smoothly. They were Bill and Karan Blum, Martha Chestem, Jeff Culler, Karen Darcy, Shiras Guion, Kevin Heffernan, Felicia Lovelett, Susan Sanborn, Bob and Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, Sherry Tomlinson (Seed Sale Chairperson) June Tveekrem and Mark Wallace.

Humanity needs birds and in many ways birds need humanity. It would be a sad day if there were no beautiful birds to see and no bird songs to hear. When we all work together, we all win together. If I may have the liberty, I would redefine teamwork as "The Howard County Bird Club." We are already looking forward to the 2008 Seed Sale.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WINTER TRIPS

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; 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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND - CHINCOTEAGUE/NORTHERN EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA January 19-21. Saturday-Monday. Overnights in Chincoteague. Bird some of Maryland's Eastern Shore on the way down. Chincoteague, Wachapreague and Saxis Wildlife Mgt. Areas are possibilities. Sites are subject to change depending on birding conditions. Details to participants. *Ques-*

tions or to sign up, contact Kate Tufts - 410-489-7052 or ktufts@verizon.net.

MIDWINTER COUNT Feb.2, Saturday (See page 2 for details.)

MIDWINTER SAW-WHET OWL TRIP Feb.9, Saturday. 1:00 p.m. (half day) *Meet at Patuxent River State Park at Annapolis Rock Road horse trailer parking lot (halfway between Hipsley Mill Rd. and Rt. 94, on south side of road). Parking can be*

muddy; if so, park along north side of Annapolis Rock Rd. across from the gate to the parking area. If heavy snow the day before or that night closes local roads for a day or two, trip will have to be canceled, as there is no other parking available within a mile or three. No special clothing required beyond winter clothing. Expect to walk a mile or two on relatively level terrain but likely muddy/slick trails. *Leader – Jay Sheppard jmsheppard@aol.com.*

REVISED *BIRDING HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND* ON CLUB'S WEBSITE

The Howard County Bird Club announces that the revised edition of *Birding Howard County, Maryland* by Joanne K. Solem will be available soon on the club's website: www.howardbirds.org. Watch for it in January 2008.

The first edition of the book, published in 1995, is out of print. There will be no printed version of the revision. Posting the book online will allow for maximum flexibility in making changes and additions; the use of color will enhance its appeal; and photographs will be an integral part of the

whole.

The completely rewritten online edition will contain the same four major divisions as the original book. The Birding Year in Howard County, the Species Accounts, and the Checklist of Howard County Birds will appear online first. The fourth major section containing individual site guides will appear aperiodically over the next few years beginning during the first quarter of 2008. Several dozen people will compile or contribute information to these guides. Most site descriptions will contain not

only bird lists but also lists of butterflies, odonates, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. A few site guides in abbreviated form will appear in *The Goldfinch* from time to time.

There will be ample opportunity for visitors to county sites to improve the accuracy of the posted material by contributing sightings or photographs. This material will be an excellent aid to the enjoyment of Howard County's natural history!

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY KURT SCHWARZ

By now you know that the Howard Bird Club holds a bird seed sale every year to raise funds for habitat preservation. For the first 25 years Eileen Clegg ably operated the sale. Now Sherry Tomlinson has operated the sale for the past two years, in cooperation with The Wildlife Authority in Ellicott City. I don't yet know what we raised in the 2007 sale, but I believe it will put us over the \$60,000 raised over the course of 27 years.

This, however, is not the only effort we have contributed to in funds, and in-kind. You may recall a notice published in both *The Goldfinch* and *The Maryland Yellowthroat* about the DelMarVa Ornithological Society's (DOS) May Birdathon to raise funds to buy Delaware Bay shoreline to benefit Red Knots and other shorebirds. Their goal was \$15,000. They, in fact, raised \$28,018. Bill Stewart, the DOS' Conservation Chair, in-

formed me that a number of donations were received from Maryland, and I know Howard Bird Club members donated. Land to be purchased was already under contract in July. Thank you, all who contributed. See <http://www.dosbirds.org/bird-a-thon/>

More recently, Beth Zang of the Frederick Chapter addressed our meeting on a Holistic Approach to Bird Conservation in Peru. She collected funds and equipment from us, at the time, for Peru. I have since received a letter from the President of Asociacion Phalay del Peru, Gardenia Jimenez Villavicencio, and the President of the Wildlife Brigade of Cusco, Wilbert V. Ataco Zuniga, thanking us for our financial and material support (those binoculars!). The financial support would be used for conservation and research in the Cusco region. They promised to stay in contact through Ms. Zang. Thanks again, to our generous members.

2008 MOS CONFERENCE

BY MARY-JO BETTS

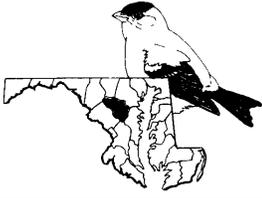
The 2008 MOS conference will be held May 30 through June 1 in Harford County, a new, exciting location for us. It will take place at the Ramada Conference Center in Edgewood. Dave Webb and the Harford members are already working on field trips. Ross Kovach has arranged for Bill Thompson, editor of *Birdwatcher's Digest*, to be the keynote speaker. Mike Bowen has arranged for Michael O'Brien to give a Birding by Ear Workshop on Friday and a field trip on Saturday. Anyone interested in leading a field trip should contact Dave Webb (porzana@comcast.net). Locations include Susquehanna State Park, Swan Harbor Farms, and Harford Glen, with possible forays into Baltimore County and Pennsylvania. Help is always welcome in many areas; please contact Janet Shields, Conference Chair at janetbill@prodigy.net if you would like to volunteer.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

BY BOB SOLEM

During the first week of January 2008, the Howard County 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/Lister Alert. We use the email system for special notices that cannot be sent in a timely manner in any other way. If the email is returned because of delivery failure, **we remove your email address from the system.**

If you receive the email(s), you need do nothing; the system works. **But if you want to receive these emails and did not receive one**, send an email to webmaster@howardbirds.org and ask to have your email address added (or corrected). Remember, this service is only available to members.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

BY SUE PROBST

The annual potluck dinner will be held at the Owen Brown Community Center on Saturday, March 8, 2008. 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 a conventional slide projector, a multimedia projector, and a computer. For more information contact Tom Miller (410-795-7005, or BirderTWM@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 me by Friday, March 7, 2008 at 410-992-3489, or msprobst2@verizon.net. You will need to specify the number of attendees and what food you are bringing. Also, please let me know if you would like to come early to

help set up, or help clean up afterwards. 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.