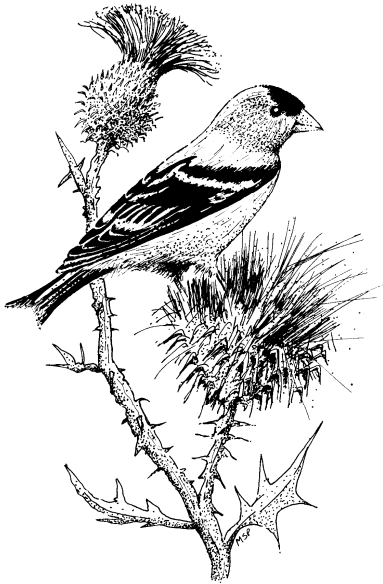


The Goldfinch

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
Congratulations Erin Eve	5
Don't Be Fooled	5
Fall Field Trips	6
Seed Sale Announcement	7
Board of Directors Meetings	7
May Count Results	8
Site Guide Update	8
Fall Count Announcement	10
Membership Application	

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

Copy deadline for the November/December issue is September 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

CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, September 11, 2008 "Area Hawk Watching: the Sites and Sights," by Ralph Geuder. Learn more about several major Eastern raptor migration sites and the people and organizations behind the counts. Ralph, a former club president, devotes much time spring and fall to watching raptor migration. Learn about what makes each of several sites unique and what else there is to do at the site when the hawks aren't flying.

Thursday, October 9, 2008 "The Songs of Insects---A Celebration of These Amazing Musicians," by Wil Hershberger. Stunning images of insects and their accompanying sounds will prepare you to enjoy autumn evenings. In six years of field research, Wil's unique combination of talents, nature photography, and natural sounds recordings led to a book and audio CD publication.

Meetings are held at Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046. Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Tom Miller, 410-795-7005.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

BY THOMAS MILLER

Welcome to the 36th year of the Howard County Bird Club. As I reflect back on the years that I have been birding and all the help I have received from club members, I see the benefits that the club provides many people. It especially assists those who are new to the hobby.

Club members should encourage youth to become interested in birds, as those young people will be the ones to carry on future avian conservation efforts. Because most youth are internet savvy, our premier website (thanks to Bob Solem and the many people

who have helped him) is a great way to reach them. The website provides club information and serves as an educational reference. The best way to reach this younger age group is for an experienced birder to take a personal interest in some youngster. Members can encourage an interest in birds as well as many other aspects of the natural world. Share the joy of discovery with each new bird learned. Not only will this fuel a young person's enthusiasm, but it will reward us as we see his face light up with each new bird. So let's get the binoculars and field guide out, and

(Welcome continued on page 7)

SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 – MAY 31, 2008

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Chilly, unusually wet spring weather was punctuated by a few warm, dry periods. Some early records were set, but generally migration was late. Notable species included Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, Red-necked Grebe, Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Northern Goshawk, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, Dunlin, Laughing Gull, Long-eared Owl, Common Raven, Mourning Warbler, and Summer Tanager.

The only **Snow Geese** reported were two along A.E. Mullinix Rd 3/1 (JC). The peak **Canada Goose** movement occurred the morning of 3/4 when 4,300 flew over Centennial Park (BO). A free-flying **Mute Swan** was a surprise on 5/10 at the Emmaus Rd pond where it stayed a few weeks (B&GHi). **Tundra Swan** highs were 180 at Centennial 3/6 (BO) and several hundred over Timberleigh 3/18 (DN).

Duck numbers were low. Fifteen **Gadwall** at Race Rd 3/6 - 3/26 were a good number (NM). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDCF) 4/10 (BO,EH). Five **Greater Scaup** were on Triadelphia Reservoir 3/15 (EH,JS). A **Common Goldeneye** at River Rd, Ellicott City 3/12 (KLz) and one at Brighton Dam 3/28 (NM,JS) were nice. **Common Mergansers** left early except for one record-late female at Marriottsville, Patapsco Valley State Park (PVSP) 5/26 (JCu). Thirteen **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Triadelphia 3/27 (EH,JS).

A hen **Ring-necked Pheasant** along Lime Kiln Rd 3/19 and 4/10 was a pleasant surprise (GW). **Wild Turkeys** were reported from four locations between 3/15 (FLv) and 5/10 (NM), most consistently near River Rd. A **Northern Bobwhite** appeared near Rogers Ave/No. Ridge Rd 5/22-23 (SBg).

The **Pied-billed Grebe** high was 10 at Lake Elkhorn 3/29 (JW). Two flocks of **Horned Grebes** rested at Triadelphia: 22 on 3/28 (NM) and 23 on 4/12 (NM). The Wilde Lake **Red-necked Grebe** with the deformed upper mandible was last reported 3/11 (SBg). A **Double-crested Cormorant** at the same lake 3/4 was the second earliest record (SN). Peak numbers on 3/28 were 25 at Triadelphia (NM) and 12 at Wilde Lake (EH; JS).

An **American Bittern** was detected at UMDCF 4/13 (BO+) and 5/3 (NM); a **Least Bittern** was a rare treat there 5/17 (BO+). **Great Blue Herons** were slow to return to Vantage Point. On 3/2, just one was at a nest (EH); by 3/24, at least 15 birds were on or at 12 nests (JS). The four-nest Carroll Mill Rd rookery disappeared. The continued presence of herons in the area may have indicated a change in location (MMcC). The **Great Blue Heron** at a Timberleigh goldfish pond 4/16 polished off half the 30 fish within a few days (DN). The first **Great Egret** was a skittish bird at Meadowbrook Park 3/31 (MO'S). A first spring **Little Blue Heron** appeared 5/2 at Forebay Pond (EH). A record early **Black-crowned**

Night-Heron showed up at Wilde Lake 3/22 (JHf); the high was three at Junction Industrial Pk, Savage 4/17 (TMr). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was present at Elkhorn 5/1 (TDC) to 5/3 (SN).

A **Turkey Vulture** nest with one egg was found in an abandoned culvert pipe 4/23 at Junc. Ind. Pk, Savage (TMr). Sixteen **Bald Eagle** sightings at 10 locations (half from the central lakes) indicate the health of the species. **Northern Harriers** were reported from at least seven locations—a good showing. An im. **Northern Goshawk** at Manahan Dr 3/24 was the second latest (BO). **Merlins** were spotted at River Rd 3/15 (FLv) and 5/1 UMDCF (BO). A **Peregrine Falcon** 5/15 at UMDCF was late (BO,JS).

Above average precipitation produced excellent conditions for rails at the UMDCF. **Soras** were heard and seen from 4/13 (BO+-1) to at least early June with a high of five on 5/3 (NM). Two **Virginia Rails** were present there 5/1 (BO,JS). The high for **American Coots** was four at Elkhorn 3/24 (SN). A **Sandhill Crane** wandered in the west during May. It was seen at UMDCF 5/3 (NM), in a field at a farm on Jennings Chapel Rd 5/10 (*fide* MW), and at two farms on Roxbury Rd 5/28 (MW).

Despite high water levels county-wide, Fulton Pond produced notable shorebirds: a new high of 46 **Least Sandpipers** 5/13 (JS), a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on the late

(Records continued on page 3)

(*Records continued from page 2*) date of 5/23 (**BHi,JS**), and six **Dunlin** in breeding plumage 5/17 (**JW-a.m.**) plus one in basic (**NM+-p.m.**). The total of seven tied the county high set in 1951! They were last seen 5/19 (**DGe**). One Dunlin was also spotted at UMDCF 5/21 (**TFe**). **Wilson's Snipe** numbers reached 75 at UMDCF 3/29 (**BO,NM,JS**). **American Woodcock** were noted during March with a high of eight along River Rd 3/6 (**FLv**). Other locations included Warfields Pond Pk (**HMz**), Centennial (**SMu**), Rockburn Branch Pk (**JCl,DKn**), Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) (**CFr+**), and Annapolis Rock Rd, Patuxent River State Park (PRSP) (**JSh+**).

A **Laughing Gull** flew over Centennial 5/5 (**BO**). **Bonaparte's Gulls** moved early. The last sighting on 4/4 of 210 at Triadelphia constituted the second highest total ever (**BHi**). Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** alternated between Lake Kittamaquundi (LK) 3/2 (**EH-ad.**) and Wilde Lake (WL) 3/24 (**JMr-1st w**). They were both at LK 3/25 (**SPr**). The last sighting was at LK 4/9 (**SPz-ad.**). The **Caspian Tern** on 3/26 at LK tied the early arrival date (**JHf-1**); spring totals were low with 15 the high at LK 4/15 (**SPr**).

Both cuckoo species were scarce with 5/26 producing two of the three **Black-billed** reports: Timberleigh (**DN-2**) and west of Ellicott City (**KHf,KD-1**). Owls were well reported with nests of all the local breeders: **Eastern Screech-Owl** in a box at Hallmark during April/May (one of the boxes Jay Sheppard erected during the atlas) (**Web**); **Great Horned Owl** along Snowden River Pkwy 3/9 (**KS**);

and **Barred Owl** fledglings at Elkhorn (**MSt; SN**) and Allview (**ES**). **Long-eared Owls** (**JSh+-2**) and **Northern Saw-whet Owls** (**JSh+**) wintered in the pines at Annapolis Rock Rd. Both species were last seen 4/16 establishing new departure dates for each (**BHi**).

An early **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** cleverly headed for flowers inside a Clarksville garden center 4/1 (*vide* **JTv**). An ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a treat at Kindler Rd in the Gorman Natural Resource Area 4/17 (**JMcK**); another was seen briefly at River Rd (**FLv**). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted in prime habitat at the Race Rd Wetlands 5/26 (**TFe**). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen and heard east of Kindler Rd the late afternoon of 5/22 tying the latest spring record (**NM**). **Least Flycatchers** were detected twice: MPEA 5/14 (**SBg-2**) and Daniels, PVSP 5/15 (**SBg-1**). An early **Great Crested Flycatcher** showed up at Marriottsville, PVSP 4/22 (**SBg**). An early **White-eyed Vireo** appeared early at Schooley Mill Pk 4/13 (**NM**). A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Sykesville, PVSP 4/3 tied the second earliest arrival date (**FLv**). The **Red-eyed Vireo** at Centennial 4/18 was also the second earliest date (**SPz**). **Common Ravens** continued to be seen sporadically with sightings at Western Regional Pk 4/11 (**JTv**) and at MPEA 5/10 (**KD,KHf**). The injured raven picked up on 3/8 east of I-95 and Vollmerhausen Rd was taken to a rehabber. Its origin is suspect because it was relatively tame (**SN**).

A **Tree Swallow** at Meadowbrook 3/10 was the second earliest record (**JW**); in contrast, **Bank Swal-**

lows didn't begin to arrive until 4/24 UMDCF (**BO,JCu**) and were not seen after 5/10 Alpha Ridge Landfill (**RC**). Red-breasted Nuthatches continued almost through April. Reports on 4/25 from River Rd (**FLv**) and Talbots Landing (**R&JG**) were the last.

An early **Carolina Wren** nest in W. Columbia held four eggs on 3/16; adults were feeding young 4/1 (**FP**). The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Font Hill Wetland Pk 3/29 was the second earliest record (**JHf**). The season's first **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at Wilde Lake 4/25 (**CN,DDS**), with a high of 25 at Kindler Rd 5/25 (**NM,JS**). The **Gray Catbird** at MPEA 3/23 may have wintered (**RGb**). The next one reported was more than a month later (4/24) west of Ellicott City (**KHf,KD**). The situation was similar for **Brown Thrasher**—one was seen at Jackson Pond on the exceedingly early date of 3/6 (**JS,EH**); the next one reported was on a more expected 3/23 at MPEA (**JHf**). **American Pipits** were almost nonexistent. On 4/5 one was seen at Meadowbrook (**JW**) as well as one at Alpha Ridge Landfill (**TDC,RC**). May Count on 5/10 produced a high of three in w. Howard Co. (**JSh,MSz**). **Cedar Waxwings** were scarce until the end of the first week in May; after that, they were hard to ignore with hundreds at Henryton 5/25 (**NM,JS**).

While some of the swallows and vireos arrived earlier than usual, many warblers tended to be late; numbers for most were low. Who would have predicted that an excellent day for warbler migration would be May 25th! The late date

(*Records continued on page 4*)

(Records continued from page 3)
 for two migratory warbler species was 5/24, for eight species 5/25, and for three 5/28—an infrequent congruence. A **Blue-winged Warbler** at Centennial appeared on 4/18, the second earliest record (BO). A **Golden-winged Warbler** at Schooley 4/26 was the only report of this increasingly scarce species (NM). A **Nashville's** departure on 5/25 at Henryton was the second latest (NM,JS). **Cape May Warblers** were sighted four times from 5/5 (CSt) to 5/20 (ES). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** managed a modest peak of 67 at Daniels 5/5 (NM). Single **Blackburnians** drifted through from 4/29 at Hallmark (WEb) to 5/25 at Henryton (NM,JS). **Yellow-throateds**, normally one of the earliest-arriving warblers, were scarce during April. Not until mid-May could they be found reliably at Marriottsville. The **Pine Warbler** that wintered in Allview last visited the feeder 3/17 (JMCK). **Palm Warblers** were sighted between 4/5 (JW) and 5/4 (NM). Of the 25 reports listing subspecies, 20 specified Easterns (yellow) and five Westerns (white). The high of 14 (all Easterns) was 4/12 at Henryton (NM). **Bay-breasted Warblers** are always hard to find. This spring they were detected between 5/15 Allview (ES) and 5/25 Henryton (NM,JS). **Blackpolls** lived up to their reputation as late migrants. The first was noted in Ellicott City 5/8 (Hwd) and the last spring bird was at Schooley 5/31 (NM). Peak days were 5/24 with 12 at Forebay (JW) and eight at Dunloggin (KS), and 5/25 with 29 at Henryton (NM,JS). The lone **Cerulean** was east of Henryton 5/10 (FLv,TMr). A new high of 17 **Black-and-white Warblers** was counted at Daniels 5/5 (NM). **Prothonotary**

Warblers were spotted twice at Race Rd: 4/26 (KS) and 5/27 (TFe); one was also present at Lake Elkhorn 5/2 (JHf). **Mourning Warblers** made a nice showing with four reports: 5/10 PRSP (JSh,MSz) and 5/24 Forebay (JW), and on 5/28 one at Sandchain, E. Columbia (J&TDC) and one at Kindler Rd (JSh; JS). A **Common Yellowthroat** set a new arrival record of 4/11 at Forebay (JW); by 5/3, 15 were present at Sykesville, PVSP (FLv). Late May produced **Canada Warblers** in good numbers. The Middle Patuxent River was a hot spot on 5/21 with six at MPEA (TFe) and six at Kindler Rd (JS). Five were at Henryton 5/25 (NM,JS).

A late **Summer Tanager** was calling at MPEA 5/27 (CFr). Two male **Scarlet Tanagers** were flycatching in association with Cedar Waxwings at Forebay 5/18 (JW).

Ten **Eastern Towhees** were present at Rockburn 4/9 (BO,EH,JS). The last two **American Tree Sparrows** were seen at Font Hill Pk 3/24 (JHf). Sharp-eyed observers spotted **Vesper Sparrows** twice: 3/31 Jennings Chapel Rd (JSh-2) and 4/10 UMDCF (BO,EH-1). **Savannah Sparrows** peaked at 70 at UMDCF 4/17 (BO,EH,JS); the last two were seen there 5/24 (BO,NM,JS). The **Fox Sparrow** high was a modest five at Mt. Pleasant 3/23 (JHf). The **Song Sparrow** high reached 65 at Schooley 3/23 (NM). Spring **Lincoln's Sparrows** are scarce. One was spotted at Kindler 5/3 (JMCK), two were noticed at Schooley 5/10 (NM), and one was seen at Forebay 5/24 (JW). As usual, a few **White-throated Sparrows** hung on until late May with

two at Forebay 5/24 (JW) and three at Henryton 5/25 (NM,JS). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at Dayton 5/23 marked the second latest departure date (MW). One that had been present at a W. Friendship feeder since early Dec. was last seen 4/16 (LC). A **Dark-eyed Junco** that remained in a Sewell's Orchard yard until 5/25 tied the late departure date (JMCK).

Two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at a feeder on Sandchain 4/12 tied the second earliest arrival date (J&TDC). **Bobolinks** were present most of May with a high of 100+ at Fulton 5/17 (JW). **Rusty Blackbirds** made a nice showing from 28 at Poplar Springs Pk 3/15 (EH,JS) to 14 at Gwynn Acres 4/18 (BO); the high was 36 at Rockburn 4/9 (BO,EH,JS). The first **Orchard Oriole** was spotted at Font Hill Pk 4/22 (JHf), with the earliest **Baltimore Oriole** at Forebay 4/19 (JW). Nine Orchards and 13 Baltimores at Sykesville, PVSP 5/3 were high counts (FLv). The male Baltimore Oriole that wintered at a Burleigh Manor feeder eating hulled sunflower was last seen 3/17 (JHp).

Purple Finches were reported from at least 15 locations with the overwhelming majority between 4/12 and 4/26. Highs were 45 at Duvall Rd 4/12 (KTf) and 30 at Hunt Ridge Rd 4/30 (CSt). **Pine Siskins** were noted on 4/15 in W. Columbia (JHf), 5/5 E. Columbia (JW), and the second latest record was set 5/16-17 Manahan Dr (BO).

A hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** (15th record) was reported at Kindler 5/3 (JMCK).

(Records continued on page 5)

(Records continued from page 4)

CONGRATULATIONS ERIN EVE!

Observers: **SBg** – Scott Berglund, **JCf** – Jeff Claffy, **LC** – Lisa Colangelo, **JC** – Jane Coskren, **TDC** – T. Dennis Coskren, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **RC** – Ralph Cullison III, **KD** – Karen Darcy, **DDS** – Deborah DeSalvo, **WEb** – Ward Ebert, **CFr** – Cheryl Farfaras, **TFe** – Tom Feild, **DGe** – David Gersten, **JGr** – Jane Geuder, **RGr** – Ralph Geuder, **RGb** – Ronald Gutberlet, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **JHp** – Jim Happel, **KHf** – Kevin Heffernan, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **GHi** – Gayle Hill, **EH** – Emmalyn Holdridge, **DKn** – Dave Keene, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **JMr** – Joel Martin, **JMcC** – Jenny McClintock, **MMcC** – Mike McClure, **JMcK** – John McKitterick, **HMz** – Helen Metzman, **TMr** – Tom Miller, **SMu** – Sue Muller, **DN** – Diane Nagengast, **SN** – Sue Neri, **CN** – Carol Newman, **MO'S** – Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **SPz** – Sherry Peruzzi, **FP** – Fred Pierce, **SPr** – Suzanne Probst, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **JS** – Jo Solem, **MSt** – Michelle Stewart, **CSt** – Chuck Stirrat, **MSz** – Marcy Stutzman, **ES** – Eva Sunell, **KTf** – Kate Tufts, **JTv** – June Tveekrem, **HWd** – Holly Waddell, **GW** – Ginny Walker, **MW** – Mark Wallace, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson.

Note: Ordinarily, a new breeding record for the county would deserve top billing in any seasonal summary. That was not possible for **Common Merganser**. It was not until April 2008 that JS was shown a photograph taken 4/16/2007 at Centennial Park of a female with downy chicks on her back. The stunning image was taken by local photographer Rick Mandelson. To see it, check the photo page of the club's website: www.howardbirds.org. This constitutes one of the few verified breeding records for Maryland.



Sora - Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Erin Eve, an active member of the Howard County Bird Club since 2004, was selected to receive a University Scholarship from Frostburg State University based on her outstanding academic record. The University Scholarship represents a part of Frostburg's commitment to acknowledge academically talented students. Erin, a graduate of Hammond High School, will be majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries with a Wildlife Biology option.

Since joining the club, Erin has participated in most of the seasonal counts, helped with the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and helped with a site guide for Birding Howard County, Maryland. Erin is also a volunteer for Howard County Recreation and Parks as a Nest Box Monitor, Odonate Surveyor, and an observer for Frogwatch USA. She also volunteers for the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge where she co-leads bird walks, owl prowls, and herpetological searches.

DON'T BE FOOLED

BY KURT SCHWARZ

You no doubt have seen or heard recent ads on television and radio from the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the like telling us, "Times have changed." These ads go on to tell us the obvious, that energy prices have skyrocketed. From these ads conclude that it's time to open up for drilling those areas previously closed to oil exploration: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and the Atlantic Coast. Times have indeed changed, but the solution is not to perpetuate the same old policies that got us here in the first place. As oilman T. Boone Pickens has told us on TV and radio, "This is one emergency we cannot drill our way out of."

The oil industry would have us believe that opening the ANWR and Atlantic Coast would alleviate the shortages and, it is implied, prices. This is nonsense. A 2004 study by the U.S. Energy Information Agency posited production at ANWR to begin in 2013, which

was nine years out from the date of the study. Peak production was estimated to follow 12 years later, in 2025. So, we can expect that it would take close to a decade before ANWR oil came to market, with peak production another decade-plus away. Those reserves are estimated to range from 1.9 to 4.3 billion barrels, with 2.6 billion being the likely number. This would amount to a six month supply for the United States. The mid-Atlantic Coast is estimated to hold less, just 1.5 billion barrels of oil (and 15.13 trillion cubic feet of natural gas). According to a geologist with the U.S. Mineral Management Service, it would probably take 15 to 20 years to find that oil and bring it to market.

What would we lose for these mere drops in the bucket that are likely decades away from realization? ANWR is comprised of 19.2 million acres, eight million of which are designated as wilderness. It is home to teeming masses of breed-

(Oil continued on page 9)

FALL FIELD TRIPS - BY BONNIE OTT

Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places, and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for locations not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Bonnie Ott at bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips with a limited number of participants. No pets.

BUTTERFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS

Aug. 30, Sat. 9:30 a.m. (2-3 hours)
Meet at Meadowbrook Park EAST lot (the Rt. 100 Park and Ride lot). Dick will provide information on host and nectar plants for different species. Easy walking on paved path near the fields and marshes. He 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. Close focus binoculars helpful. Facilities available. *Leader- Dick Smith 410-997-7439.*

BEGINNERS BIRD WALK AT WILDE LAKE

Sept. 7, Sun. 8:30 a.m. (2-3 hours)
Meet at the gravel lot by barn. Easy walking on the path along the lake and woodlands. Learn tips on bird identification. Learn which species of birds are common to our area. Advice on binocular and field guide selection and use. Combination of water, woods, and a stream should provide a wide variety of species. No facilities. *Leaders- Mike and Grazyna McClure 410-531-2780.*

WEEKDAY WALK AT DAVID FORCE PARK

Sept. 10, Wed. 8:00 a.m. (2 hours)
Meet at the sign on Pebble Beach Drive. Easy walking through the wooded trails and fields of this Howard County Open Space. Streams and pond provide habitat for numerous bird species. Migrant warblers, thrushes, and other passerines likely. Good view of the open sky

for flyover hawks. No facilities.
Leader- Michele Wright 410-465-6057.

ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK

Sept. 14, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (half day)
From the Montgomery Road 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. This is an excellent park in which to find a wide variety of species. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other passerines likely. Hawk flyovers can be easily seen. Facilities available. *Leaders- Karen Dary and Kevin Hefferman 410-418-8731.*

FALL COUNT Sept. 20, Saturday
(See page 10 for details.)

WEEKDAY WALK AT LAKE ELKHORN

Sept. 22, Mon. 8:30 a.m. (2-3 hours)
Meet at the Broken Land Parkway lot. Easy walking on paved path around the lake to learn bird identification tips. Advice on binocular and field guide selection and use. Combination of water, woods, and fields should provide a wide variety of species. No facilities. *Leader- Joe Byrnes- 410-730-5329.*

WESTERN REGIONAL PARK

Sept. 28, 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, shorebirds, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available. *Leader- Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181.*

MT. PLEASANT FARM

Oct. 4, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (half day)
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.*

UNIVERSITY OF MD FARM

Oct. 5, Sun. (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.*

BON SECOURS SPIRITUAL CENTER

Oct. 8, Wed. 8:30 a.m. (2 hours)
Meet at visitors' parking lot. Easy walking through the grounds of this spiritual retreat. Woods, fields and hedgerows provide opportunities for a variety of birds. Hawk watching is optimal with wide views of the sky. Facilities available. *Leader- Michele Wright 410-465-6057.*

ELKHORN GARDEN PLOTS

Oct. 11, Sat. 8:30 a.m. (2 hours)
From the intersection of Snowden River Parkway and Oakland Mills Road, drive 0.9 mile north on Oakland Mills Road and make a right turn at a metal gate onto a gravel road. Parking is anywhere along the garden plots on the right. The garden plots offer excellent

(Trips continued on page 7)

(Trips continued from page 6)
opportunities for unusual sparrows, migrant passerines, and interesting late season butterflies. No facilities. *Leader- Jim Wilkinson 410-381-9250.*

WEST FRIENDSHIP PARK

Oct. 12, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (half day)
Meet at shopping center just west of Md 32/Md 144. Will carpool to nearby park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. This is a great location for sparrows. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. No facilities. *Leaders- Jeff Culler 410-465-9006 and Lisa Colangelo 410-489-4287.*

SPARROW BIG DAY

Oct. 18, Sat. (all day)
Limit: 12 people
Search the 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.*

HAWK WATCH AT MEADOWBROOK

Oct. 19, Sun. 9:30 a.m. (all day)
Meet at hawk watch site on hilltop. Bring a chair and sustenance for however long you plan to stay. Drop by for an hour or stay for the entire day (until mid to late afternoon). There are nearby ponds and field edges that might turn up some non-hawk species. Learn tips and techniques to separate hawks in flight. Facilities available. *Leader-Kurt Schwarz. 410-461-1643.*


WEEKDAY WALK AT CENTENNIAL PARK

Oct. 23, Thurs. 8:00 a.m. (2-3

hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* Easy walking on paved path around the lake. This park always has the potential for some surprises. Facilities available. *Leader- Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329.*

DICKEY FARM

Oct. 25, Sat. 7:30 a.m. (half day)
Meet at Md 32/I-70 Park and Ride. Moderate walking through the woodlands and field edges of this private farm. Several ponds provide chances for some water birds. Great habitat for sparrows. Expect wet grass and primitive paths. No facilities. *Leaders- Dave and Maureen Harvey 410-795-3117.*

 = Great for beginning birders

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 25, Thursday

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

October 23, Thursday

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

2008-2009 OFFICERS

President:	Tom Miller
Vice President:	Ward Ebert
Treasurer:	Emmalyn Holdridge
Secretary:	Charles Stirrat
Chapter Director:	June Tveekrem
State Directors:	Mary-Jo Betts
	Karen Darcy
	Kate Tufts

SEED SALE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SHERRY TOMLINSON

The 2008 Howard County Bird Club's Annual Seed Sale is cancelled this year due to soaring seed prices that fluctuate on a weekly and almost daily basis. Many factors are contributing to this historically high pricing in the seed industry: high fuel costs, competition for sunflower seed, and competition for acreage because more land is now being used for growing alternative fuel sources. When organizing this fundraiser the event has to benefit all involved to make it work: appealing price to the buyers, cost of goods, and the proceeds for donation.

The Howard County Bird Club members and friends have always looked forward to the annual seed sale and will again in the future when seed prices stabilize. In the meantime, the club's board of directors will be focusing on this matter at the September meeting. The 2008-2009 Bird Club year is just starting and there is time to organize a habitat fundraiser of some kind. The Board would like to thank all individuals who supported the seed sale for more than 25 years and look forward to their continued support of future fundraising events.

(Welcome continued from page 1)
invite a young person to enjoy the great outdoors with us.

I hope to see everyone on September 11, 2008 as we get back together for our first program of the year.

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT, MAY 10, 2008

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

Sixty-eight birders participated in the 35th annual May Count which was held on May 10, 2008. The day started out wet, but it cleared by mid to late morning. High temperatures were in the upper 50s to low 60s. The 145 species seen was about average (tied for 13th); however, the total number of birds (18,313) was the sixth highest since 1974. Seventy-eight species have been seen every year.

Two species were counted for the first time: Sandhill Crane and Common Raven. Sora was seen for only the third time, Ring-necked Duck for the fifth, and Great Egret, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, and Mourning Warbler for the eighth time. Interestingly, Semipalmated Plover has been seen for the last four years and Great Egret for the last five. The following 18 species had the highest numbers ever seen on a May Count: Black-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Sora, Sandhill Crane, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Screech-Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Tree, Northern Rough-winged, and Barn swallows, House Wren, Savannah Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Orchard Oriole. Seven additional species had 10 year high counts: Common

Loon, Lesser Yellowlegs, Northern Flicker, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Eastern Meadowlark.

One species had an all-time low count; only a single American Kestrel was seen. Twelve species had 10-year low counts: Mute Swan, American Kestrel, Great Blue Heron, Cliff Swallow, along with Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Blackpoll, Cerulean, Kentucky, Wilson's, and Canada warblers. Blackpoll Warbler followed an all-time high last year of 207 with a 10-year low of 12. Canada Warbler did the same with 42 last year and two this year. Yellow-throated Warbler has been seen 28 out of 35 years, but we missed the last three. Overall, there were 1,000 fewer Warblers seen this than last year (2,419 vs. 1,420).

Many thanks to our compiler, Chuck Stirrat. His tireless efforts make this task much easier than it would otherwise be. I also want to give a special thanks to June Tveekrem for again 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 hap-

pen: Randy Beaton, Scott Berglund, Bill Blum, Karan Blum, Monika Botsai, Jim Brinkley, Marilyn Brinkley, Joe Byrnes, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Jeff Culler, Ralph Cullison, Karen Darcy (Area 5 coordinator), Sue Earp, Wes Earp, Jane Ebert, Ward Ebert, Erin Eve, Tracy Eve, Tom Feild, Joe Hanfman, Kevin Heffernan (Area 2 coordinator), Jane Heim, Bill Hill, Gayle Hill, Emy Holdridge, Mike Kerwin, Brenda Kidera, Dave Kubitsky, Mike Leumas, Felicia Lovelett, Bob Lund, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Jenny McClintock, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure (Area 4 coordinator), John McKitterick, Elayne Metter, Jeff Metter, Barry Miller, Tom Miller, Sue Neri, Carol Newman, Daryl Olson, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott (Area 6 coordinator), Karla Pearce, Sherry Peruzzi, Sue Probst, Jay Sheppard, Romaine Smith, Bob Solem, Jo Solem (Area 7 coordinator), Michelle Stewart, Chuck Stirrat (Area 3 coordinator, Compiler), Tom Strikwerda, Marcy Stutzman, Robin Todd, Kate Tufts (Area 1 coordinator), Marilyn Veek, Ginny Walker, Mark Wallace, Jim Wilkinson, Michele Wright, Paul Zucker and Sherry Zucker.

SITE GUIDE UPDATE

The following Site Guides have been posted on the website:

Lake Kittamaqundi
Race Road Wetlands (PVSP)
Sykesville/River Rd. (PVSP)
Brown's Bridge, Rocky Gorge Reservoir

Poplar Springs Park
Hollofield (PVSP)
Gorman NRA: Kindler and Eden Brook

Savage Mill Trail
Daniels (PVSP)

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 10, 2008

Canada Goose	552	Black-billed Cuckoo	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	66	Louisiana Waterthrush	55
Mute Swan	1	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	Carolina Wren	288	Kentucky Warbler	13
Wood Duck	26	Eastern Screech-Owl	4	House Wren	185	Mourning Warbler	1
Mallard	161	Great Horned Owl	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Common Yellowthroat	381
Ring-necked Duck	1	Barred Owl	16	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	294	Hooded Warbler	16
Wild Turkey	1	Chimney Swift	152	Eastern Bluebird	203	Wilson's Warbler	2
Common Loon	7	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	17	Veery	24	Canada Warbler	2
Double-crested Cormorant	18	Belted Kingfisher	20	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	21
Great Blue Heron	42	Red-bellied Woodpecker	271	Swainson's Thrush	21	Scarlet Tanager	155
Great Egret	2	Downy Woodpecker	128	Wood Thrush	427	Eastern Towhee	270
Green Heron	35	Hairy Woodpecker	32	American Robin	773	Chipping Sparrow	258
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3	Northern(Yellow-sh'd) Flicke	81	Gray Catbird	659	Field Sparrow	129
Black Vulture	97	Pileated Woodpecker	51	Northern Mockingbird	207	Savannah Sparrow	81
Turkey Vulture	200	Eastern Wood-Pewee	49	Brown Thrasher	47	Grasshopper Sparrow	31
Osprey	13	Acadian Flycatcher	92	European Starling	877	Song Sparrow	243
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	1	Willow Flycatcher	4	American Pipit	3	Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Eastern Phoebe	77	Cedar Waxwing	126	Swamp Sparrow	14
Cooper's Hawk	17	Great Crested Flycatcher	81	Blue-winged Warbler	11	White-throated Sparrow	71
<i>accipiter species</i>	4	Eastern Kingbird	136	Tennessee Warbler	2	White-crowned Sparrow	6
Red-shouldered Hawk	60	White-eyed Vireo	90	Nashville Warbler	1	Dark-eyed Junco	1
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Yellow-throated Vireo	17	Northern Parula	167	Northern Cardinal	910
Red-tailed Hawk	53	Blue-headed Vireo	5	Yellow Warbler	96	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	13
<i>buteo species</i>	5	Warbling Vireo	23	Chestnut-sided Warbler	14	Blue Grosbeak	10
American Kestrel	1	Red-eyed Vireo	542	Magnolia Warbler	13	Indigo Bunting	243
Sora	1	Blue Jay	339	Cape May Warbler	1	Bobolink	285
American Coot	1	American Crow	356	Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	119	Red-winged Blackbird	712
Sandhill Crane	1	Fish Crow	42	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warb	42	Eastern Meadowlark	17
Semipalmated Plover	3	<i>crow species</i>	204	Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	33	Common Grackle	444
Killdeer	30	Common Raven	1	Blackburnian Warbler	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	346
Greater Yellowlegs	5	Horned Lark	21	Pine Warbler	7	Orchard Oriole	98
Lesser Yellowlegs	21	Purple Martin	29	Prairie Warbler	46	Baltimore Oriole	243
Solitary Sandpiper	159	Tree Swallow	288	Blackpoll Warbler	12	House Finch	183
Spotted Sandpiper	96	N. Rough-winged Swallow	120	Cerulean Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	503
Least Sandpiper	59	Bank Swallow	2	Black-&-white Warbler	55	House Sparrow	381
Wilson's Snipe	8	Cliff Swallow	18	American Redstart	54		
Ring-billed Gull	2	Barn Swallow	736	Worm-eating Warbler	15		
Rock Pigeon	173	Carolina Chickadee	326	Ovenbird	228	Total Birds	18313
Mourning Dove	404	Tufted Titmouse	392	Northern Waterthrush	8	Total Species	145

(Oil continued from page 5)

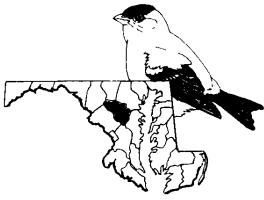
ing geese, ducks, shorebirds, jaegers, and gulls, including the federally endangered Spectacled Eider, and hundreds of thousands of migratory caribou, while providing subsistence to native Inupiaq Eskimos and the Athabaskan Indians. I don't think I have to relate the wonders of the Atlantic Coast to this audience. To put it succinctly, the opening of these areas to drilling will provide no tangible relief to energy prices, while despoiling one of the greatest, untrammeled wildernesses left in world.

What, then, is the solution? We

need vision, which has been so sadly lacking since the first energy crisis of the 1970s. A concerted effort to find alternative sources of energy and a conservation commitment on the order of a super Manhattan Project or Apollo Program is what is required. This can be done, if only the leadership is exercised. To those who say it will cripple our economy, I again say nonsense. We were told that curbing sulfur dioxide emissions and banning chlorinated fluorocarbons would cripple our economy. But here we are decades later, acid rain has been curbed and the ozone hole is mending. And, oddly, the

economy has grown, at least until unsound lending threw a monkey wrench into the economy.

We have little to lose, but much to gain: cleaner air, mitigation of global warming, reduction of the trade deficit, increased economic security to mention just a few. Urge your representatives and senators to exercise leadership and break our "addiction to oil." Senator Cardin can be reached at <http://cardin.senate.gov/> and Senator Mikulski can be reached at <http://mikulski.senate.gov/>. Your U.S. Representative can be looked up at <http://www.house.gov/>.



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 2008 - Inside This Issue:

Club Meetings	President's Welcome
Spring Bird Records	Congratulations Erin Eve
Don't Be Fooled	Fall Field Trips
Seed Sale Announcement	May Count Results
Board of Directors Meetings	Site Guide Update
Fall Count Announcement	

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT

BY MICHAEL MCCLURE

The Howard County Bird Club's annual Fall Count, scheduled each year on the third Saturday of September, will be on September 20th. **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 to the right) which are used for all annual counts. A fall season field sheet for Howard County is available on the Club's website. 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: Area 1: Mark Wallace 301-725-6370 and Wes Earp 410-531-3197; Area 2: Jeff Culler 410-465-9006; Area 3: Karen Darcy & Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731; Area 4: Bill & Karan Blum 410-489-9197; Area 5: Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643; Area 6: Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361; and Area 7: Eva Sunell 410-995-0029. 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. 19th, to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.

