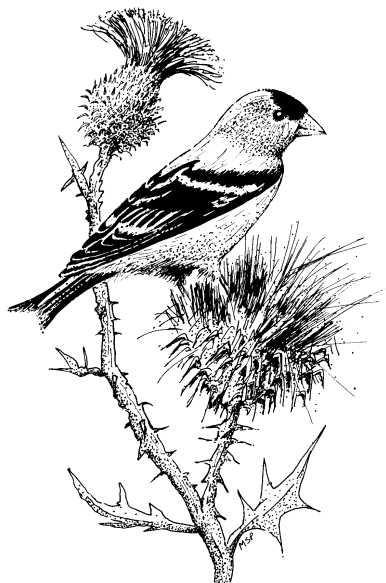


# The Goldfinch

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



## CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, March 12, 2009 “Brazil Highlights,” by Greg Kearns, Naturalist, Patuxent River Park. Learn about the natural history and astonishing biodiversity of this country. Greg recently spent time in Brazil on an exchange program invitation through Partners of the Americas. We look forward to his enthusiasm as he shares pictures and fascinating stories. Greg has spoken to our club on a number of previous occasions.

Thursday, April 9, 2009 “Puerto Rico, Jewel of the Caribbean,” by Terry Neumyer. After retiring from science teaching, Terry has traveled extensively and now works and volunteers for many environmental organizations on the East Coast. Terry has photographed fourteen of the sixteen Puerto Rican endemic bird species, such as the Puerto Rican Parrot and Puerto Rican Tody. His talk will include the Las Cabas de San Juan, a nature reserve with five distinct habitats.

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.

## Inside This Issue

Club Meetings .....	1
Autumn Bird Records .....	1
Spring Field Trips .....	4
Website Focus .....	5
Habitat Preservation Effort .....	6
Board of Directors Meetings .....	6
Odonate Survey .....	7
Annual County List .....	7
Compiler Needed .....	7
Mt. Pleasant Trails .....	7
GreenFest .....	8

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the May/June issue is March 25, 2009.

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

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

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Please visit the Club's website at [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org)

## AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS: AUGUST 1 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2008

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Autumn produced excellent species including Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Ring-necked Pheasant, Golden Eagle, Baird's Sandpiper, Dunlin, Common Tern, Golden-winged Warbler, and Dickcissel, along with a Brewster's Warbler and a Lawrence's.

An early **Snow Goose** (ad.) appeared at the Marriottsville Pond 9/24 (RR). Forty **Canada Geese** were flying south high over Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 9/16, earlier than usual (BHi). The six

**Cackling Geese** at TRIRS 11/15 were shared by a field trip (KS+). Peak **Tundra Swan** flights appeared to be 11/17: Lake Elkhorn 60 (SN), Timberleigh 50 (DN), TRIRS 2 (KS), and 11/18 Duvall (flock heard) (KTf).

Fourteen **Wood Ducks** were at Gateway 11/17 (JMCK). TRIRS waterfowl included 10 **Gadwalls** 11/10 (BHi); the season's only **Blue-winged Teal** 8/30 (NM); **Northern Shovelers** 10/19

(Records continued on page 2)

*(Records continued from page 1)*

(**NM,EH-5**) to 11/4 (**BHi-2**), with 15 (a new high) 10/22-26 (**BHi; NM**); **Greater Scaup** 11/25 (**BHi,JC**-2) to 11/29 (**BHi-1**); and two eleventh county records: a **White-winged Scoter** on the strangely early date of 8/26 (**BHi, ph.**) and two **Surf Scoters** 11/2 (**TFe**). The reservoir held a new high of 220 **Buffleheads** 11/10 (**BHi**). The record dated to 11/6/57! A **Common Merganser** there on 11/3 was the third earliest (**JHf**). The first **Ruddy Duck** appeared on Woodmark Lake 9/20 (**M&GMcC,RSm**).

Three **Wild Turkeys** walked the shore south of Nichols Cove (TRIRS) 10/24 (**NM**). A hen **Ring-necked Pheasant**, seen earlier in 2008 along Lime Kiln Rd, was spotted near the pond on 10/22 (**KMr**). A **Common Loon** at TRIRS 8/28 (**BHi**) to 8/30 (**NM**) was the county's first Aug. record. A **Double-crested Cormorant** at TRIRS 11/17 was a good Piedmont date (**JHf**); the largest flock totaled 48 over Thornbrook Rd 10/17 (**JCu**). The last **Great Egret** was at Centennial Park 11/2 (**BO**); the high was six at the Race Rd Wetlands 8/30 (**NM**). Did one im. **Little Blue Heron** wander the county for a month? Reports were from Wilde Lake 8/7 (**ROr**), Centennial 8/10 (**MKw**), Race Rd 8/30 (**NM**), and Elkhorn 9/5 (**SN**).

**Bald Eagle** highs were four at TRIRS 9/6 (**NM**) and three at Centennial 10/1 (**MKw**), with three reports on 11/29: Centennial (**EHn**), TRIRS (**NM**), and Elkhorn (**SBw**). In addition to nests at the reservoirs, a central Howard Co. pair produced a nestling in 2008 (*vide* **WE**). The first **No. Har-**

**rier** was spotted at Centennial 8/31 (**MKw**). Major **Broad-winged Hawk** flights either bypassed the county or escaped notice. The first sighting on 9/17 was also the peak: David Force Pk 104 (**SBg**), Bethany La/Md 99 7 (**JCu**), Sykes./River Rd 6 (**FLv**), and Manahan Dr 200 (**BO-a.m.**), 200+ (**JOt**-p.m.). Barely a week later the last three were seen at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) 9/25 (**JHf**). The county's eleventh **Golden Eagle** (and second latest) was observed from Brighton Dam 11/15 (**KS,WE+**). **Merlins** were noted in all four months beginning with a record-early fall migrant at TRIRS 8/14 (**EH,JS**). Possibly the same bird was seen in the area several more times into Sept. (**BHi; NM**). One at W. Friendship 10/19 (**JCu,LC**) and one on 11/28 at Woodmont Academy on Md 144 (**JW**) rounded out the last sightings. Half a dozen **Peregrine Falcon** reports ran from TRIRS 9/24 (**BHi**) to one over the Patapsco River, Hollofield Rd 11/18 (**SE**).

The only **Sora** was at Alpha Ridge Landfill 10/11 (**RC**). An **Am. Coot** at Elkhorn 8/19 was a new early record (**KS**); the high was three at Centennial 11/23 (**RR**).

Shorebirds were the expected species with two exceptions, both at Western RP: a **Dunlin** 10/24-25 (**JTv, ph.**) and a third record **Baird's Sandpiper** 8/17 (**G&BHi, ph.**). Unfortunately, the Baird's arrived at dusk and was gone by dawn. **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen at TRIRS during the week of 8/31 (**NM,EH,JS**) to 9/6 (**NM**). Browns Bridge produced the **Killdeer** peak of 61 on 8/7 (**NM**). At Western RP 8/1,

shorebird turnover was substantial from a.m. (**BHi**) to p.m. (**JHf**), underscoring the value of checking prime sites frequently during migration.

TRIRS produced terns and gulls. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at least eight times 10/28--11/18 (**BHi-1**), with a high of 25+ on 11/21 (**NM,KS**). Although **Caspian Terns** were present 8/6 (**BHi-7**) to 9/13 (**NM-2**), totals were low. A seasonal highlight was the county's seventh **Common Tern** record on 9/5; an adult and an immature stayed the day (**NM+, ph.**). Autumn's only **Forster's Tern** was observed 9/4 (**BHi; EH**).

**Cuckoos** appeared in the Benson Branch watershed in early Aug. with **Black-bills** the first week and 8/12-13 and **Yellow-bills** 8/11 and 8/20 (**M&GMcC**). The first **Common Nighthawk** was spotted over Western RP 8/16 (**BHi**); the last at Jennings Chapel Rd 9/20 (**TFe**). Others included 14 at Hobbs Rd 9/1 and 10 on 9/7 (**B&GHi**), 16 at River Rd 9/8 (**FLv**), four at River Hill, W. Col. 8/28 (**W&SE**), three at W. Friendship 9/9 (**LC**), and one at Hallmark 8/19 (**WEb**).

Watching a **Chimney Swift** flock funnel into a chimney is thrilling. Two locations this fall were Savage Mill 9/17 (**SMu-200+**) and the old school in Clarksville 9/30 (**BO-300+**). People with hummer feeders are becoming alert to late migrants. A bird in River Hill banded 11/7 (**DHm,BPj**) proved to be a hatching-year female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. It was last seen 11/8, the latest verified

*(Records continued on page 3)*

*(Records continued from page 2)*

county record (**BCt**). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** along the Patapsco River, east of Md 97 were a nice find 9/20 (**WE**). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** showed up on 9/20 at Centennial (**ML,PWf-1**) and Hipsley Mill Rd (**TFe-1**).

The first **Least Flycatcher** was seen and heard at Rockburn Branch Pk 9/1 (**JCu**). **Eastern Kingbird** numbers peaked on 8/21: Rockburn 38 (a new high; 22 between 7:30-7:40 a.m.) (**BO,EH**), Meadowbrook Park 2 (**BO**), and Centennial 1 (**BO**). **Philadelphia Vireo** reports were from 9/1 MPEA (**KS-1**) to three on 9/20: Rockburn (**BO,EH-1**), Dan./Old Fred. Rd (**GB,CSt-1**), MPEA (**KS,JFn-1**). Eighty **Fish Crows** were counted at the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDCF) 10/18 (**NM**). Four **Common Raven** sightings were added to the 2008 total: Hobbs Rd 9/16 (**BHi**), TRIRS 9/24 (**NM**), Mt. Pleasant 10/4 (**KS**), and Brighton Dam 10/21 (**JHf**). One to five **Horned Larks** were at Western RP through the fall (**BHi**); three at MPEA 8/23, were at an unexpected location (**BO**). More than 100 **Barn Swallows** gathered over S. Trotter Rd 8/15 feasting on flying ants (**W&SE**).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were few: Brush Run, E. Col. 10/12 (**JW-1**) and Sykes./River Rd 10/16 (**FLv-1**). A **Winter Wren** in Swansfield, W. Col. 9/20 was early (**MWr,KP**). Two **Marsh Wrens** appeared at UMDCF 10/1 (**BO,EH,JS**) with three present 10/5 and 10/18 (**BO+**). Flocks of **Eastern Bluebirds** were present at Western RP 10/6 (**BHi-55**) and at Schooley MP 10/18 (**NM-23**). The only **Gray-checked Thrush**

report was from the MPEA 9/26 (**JHf**); his **Swainson's Thrush** there 10/28 was the third latest record. New late dates were a **Veery** in an Allview yard 10/25 (**ES**) and a **Wood Thrush** at Centennial 10/31 (**JCu**). **Am. Robins** dominated the fauna at MPEA 10/13 with 2,000+ present (**KS**). At least one **Gray Catbird** was seen through the period at Centennial (**MKw+**); another catbird was at Elkhorn Garden Plots 11/4 (**JW,JHf**). A lingering **Brown Thrasher** was in a Long Corner Rd yard 11/17 (**RSch**). The high **American Pipit** count was 11/2: Centennial (**BO+-2**) and Woodmont Academy (**JW-15**).

A female **Golden-winged Warbler** in the Sykes./River Rd area 9/5 was a seasonal highlight (**FLv**). **Tennessee Warblers** were reported from 9/7 at MPEA (**BO-1**) to 10/11 Elkhorn GP (**JW-1**). Good warbler counts at MPEA on 9/16 included **Chestnut-sided** 15 (new high), **Magnolia** 29, **Blackburnian** 2, and **American Redstart** 14 (**BO,JS**). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported at Schooley MP 9/28 (**RB-1**), Wynfield Dr 10/2 (**NM-1**), and Mt. Pleasant 10/4 (**KS+-1-2**). **Cape Mays** frequented Wynfield 9/29-10/16 with a high of four "frequently" (**RC**). The **Yellow-rumped Warbler** high was 51 at MPEA 10/13 (**KS**). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Waterford Farm 9/20 tied the second latest date (**MW**). The first eastern **Palm** showed up 9/28 at Western RP (**RC+**); the last was at Centennial 11/23 (**ROr+**). Western Palms were present at Elkhorn GP 9/24 (**JW-1**) to 10/20 (**KGr-1**) with a high of nine on 10/11 (**JW+**). Seldom reported in fall, a **Cerulean Warbler** was seen 9/20 (second

latest) at Dan./Old Fred. (**GBt**). The peak **Black-and-white Warbler** movement was 9/1 with 14 at MPEA (**KS**) and one at Talbots Landing (**R&JG**). **Mourning Warblers** were seen from 9/9 at MPEA (**BHi**) until 10/17 at Elkhorn GP (**JW**), a new departure record (a first-year bird that had appeared 10/1). A first-year bird was also at the Patuxent Branch Trail 10/6 (**SCI**). The only **Wilson's** was at the landfill 9/20 (**RC**). **Canada Warblers** were widely reported from Patuxent BT 8/18 (**SCI-1**) to Sandchain, E. Col. 10/7, tying the 1969 departure date (**J&TDC**); one at Font Hill Wetland Pk 10/5 was the third latest (**JTv**). Both a **Lawrence's Warbler** (fifth record) at Schooley MP 9/7 (**RB**), and a **Brewster's** at No. Laurel 9/10 (**PWf**) were good finds. **Rod Burley** proved it isn't always necessary to bird at dawn. On the rainy afternoon of 9/28, he had 15 warbler species, including an Orange-crowned at Schooley MP.

The only **Am. Tree Sparrows** were at W. Friendship 11/23 (**JCu-3**). The high count of **Chipping Sparrows** was 22 at Rockburn BP 10/2 (**BO**). A **Vesper** was seen at the landfill 10/11 and 10/18 (**RC+**). A **Savannah** on 8/22 at MPEA was the earliest fall date away from known nesting sites (**JHf**); the high was 250+ at UMDCF 10/26 (**BO+**). The latest **Grasshopper Sparrow** was spotted at the landfill 10/11 (**RC,BO+**). Disappointingly, for just the second time in a decade, no **Nelson's Sharp-tailed** was detected despite repeated searches. Unlike 2004, a lack of precipitation could not be blamed. **Fox Spar-**

*(Records continued on page 6)*

## SPRING 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](mailto:bonnieott@verizon.net). HCBC members receive priority on trips with a limited number of participants. No pets.

### POTLUCK DINNER

March 7, Sat. 6:30 p.m. social hour and 7:00 p.m. dinner. Held at the Owen Brown Community Center. Contact Sue Probst at 410-992-3489 or [mprobst2@verizon.net](mailto:mprobst2@verizon.net) by Friday, March 6th for reservations.

### CENTENNIAL PARK

March 8, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* 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. Facilities available. *Leader- Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.*

### HOWARD WATERFOWL

**SEARCH** March 14, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (half day) *Meet at Broken Land Parkway lot at Lake Elkhorn.* Plan to visit the Columbia lakes, possibly the western ponds, and Triadelphia Reservoir to search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons, and other waterfowl. Easy walking involved. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available at certain locations. *Leader - Stan Arnold 410-768-0155.*

### CENTENNIAL PARK

March 15, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* See March 8 for description. *Leader- Joe Hanfman 410-772-8424.*

### CENTENNIAL PARK

March 22, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* See March 8 for description. *Leader- Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.*

### CENTENNIAL PARK

March 29, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* See March 8 for description. *Leader- Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329.*

### ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK

April 5, 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 early migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. *Leaders - Karen Darcy and Kevin Hefernan 410-418-8731.*

### WEEKDAY WALK AT CENTENNIAL PARK

April 9, Thurs. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* See March 8 for description. *Leader- Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.*

### UNIVERSITY OF MD FARM

April 11, Sat. 7:00 a.m. (half day) Limit: 12 people Moderate to difficult walking through the fields and wetlands of this private property. Knee boots

a must and waterproof pants advisable. No facilities.

*Call Bonnie to sign up 410-461-3361.*

### PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP AT FONT HILL PARK

April 18, Sat. 8:00 am (2-3 hours) Limit: 12 people; each person must bring a camera. *Meet at park entrance on Font Hill Drive.* Easy walking on paved paths and boardwalk. Slow pace to allow plenty of time for taking pictures of birds and other wildlife. Photographers of all skill levels are welcome. Possible photo subjects include migrant warblers, herons, butterflies, dragonflies, and wildflowers. No facilities. *To sign up contact June Treekrem at [June@SouthernSpreadwing.com](mailto:June@SouthernSpreadwing.com) or 410-715-3979.*

### BEGINNER'S WALK - EARTH DAY AT MT. PLEASANT

April 18, Sat. (2 hours) 8:00 a.m. *Meet at shed.* Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Learn the basics of binocular and field guide use. Facilities available. *Leader - Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.*

### SCHOOLEY MILL PARK

April 19, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (half day) *Meet at upper parking lot near facilities.* Moderate walking along field edges

and woodland trails for migrants. Wetland area may hold some surprises. Excellent habitat for warblers, thrushes, and vireos. Facilities available. *Leader- Joe Hanfman 410-772-8424.*

### WEEKDAY WALK AT BON SECOURS

April 22, Wed. 8:00 a.m. (2 hours)  
*Meet at visitor lot at the top left of the entrance road.* Moderate to easy walking through the grounds of this mixed habitat adjoining Patapsco State Park. Facilities available. *Leader- Michele Wright 410-465-6057.*

### MIDDLE PATUXENT ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

April 25, Sat. 7:30 a.m. (half day)  
*Meet at Clegg's Meadow entrance off South Wind Circle.* Moderate to difficult walking through the wooded paths and along the river. This is a fabulous area for migrants. Boots recommended; grass can be tall and paths may be muddy. No facilities. *Leader- Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.*

### WILDFLOWERS AT PATAPSCO - DANIELS AREA

April 26, Sun. 1:00 p.m. (2 hours)  
*Meet at first parking lot on left at bottom of Daniels Road. (Additional parking farther on right.)* Look for spring wildflowers on a flat and sometimes muddy path. No facilities. *Leaders - Bob and Jo Solem 301-725-5037.*

### HAWKS AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK

April 26, Sun. 9:00 a.m. (all day)  
*Meet near the Hollywood Video Store in the parking lot of the Lyndwood Shopping Center on Marshalee Drive to car-pool.* Though primarily a hawk watching trip, the park has the potential for a number of other kinds

of birds. Bring lunch, drinks, sunscreen and a chair. There are portable toilets, but no drinking water. A 100 yard walk is all that is involved. Weinberg Park is nearby for those interested. There is a nominal admission charge. *Leader- Ralph Geuder 410-788-3764.*

### BIG DAY

May 2, Sat. Limit: 12  
All day listing extravaganza! Plan to spend the day hiking around the county in search of as many species as possible. All types of footwear needed. Bring food and drinks. Brief lunch stop planned. Facilities in some spots. *Call Bonnie to sign up 410-461-3361.*

### DAVID FORCE PARK BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

May 3, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (3 hours)  
*Meet in gravel lot off Turf Valley Road across from the country club.* Easy walking through the woodlands and along field edges. Learn basic techniques of binocular use. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. No facilities. *Leader- Michele Wright 410-465-6057.*

 = Great for beginner birders



Herring Gull—Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## WEBSITE FOCUS – SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BY AMANDA WITT

As you know, the Howard County Bird Club provides in-depth information on county birding. Because there is too much information available to include all of it in *The Goldfinch*, the club maintains a very detailed website, [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org).

This issue's featured section of the website is the species accounts. This is another section of the web revision of *Birding Howard County, Maryland*. It details each species that has been seen in the county. The species accounts are current through the last completed calendar year and often through the last completed season. Sightings that are under review by the Maryland/DC Records Committee are also included.

The description for each bird includes its abundance, the seasons that it appears in the county, and some locations where the bird has been seen in the county. Breeding information is also provided. If available, there are links to club's photo page for each bird as well as a link to the Breeding Bird Atlas page.

(*Records continued from page 3*)

**rows** were slow to arrive with the two earliest reports 11/2: Allview (**ES**) and w. of Ellicott City (**KHf, KD**); the high was five at Meadowbrook 11/23 (**JW**). **Song Sparrow** numbers spiked by the middle of Oct. with 84 on 10/12 UMDCF (**BO**); on 10/18 Alpha Ridge Pk had 117 (**RC, BO+**) and Waterford 51 (**BO, MW+**). **Lincoln's** were well reported from 9/28 at Western RP (**RC, BO+-2**) to one at Elkhorn GP 10/20 (**JW**); the high was five at W. Friendship 10/12 (**JCu, BO+**). A **White-throated Sparrow** at MPEA 9/1 set a new arrival date (**KS**).

Up to two **Dickcissels** were present 10/18-10/26 at UMDCF (**BO+**). The last **Bobolink** was seen at UMDCF 10/5 (**BO+**). The **Eastern Meadowlark** high was 11 at the landfill 10/11 (**RC**). The only **Rusty Blackbird** report came from Savage Junc. Bus. Pk 10/15-16 (**TMr-3**). A mixed flock of 3,000 blackbirds was present at Race Rd 10/21 (**NM**). **Purple Finches** appeared at Elkhorn GP 10/2 (**JHf-1**); there were 15 re-

ports from 10 locations. Two **Pine Siskins** showed up at Elkhorn GP 10/20 (**KGr**); the high of 20 was at Wynfield 11/9 (**RC**), with a total of eight reports from seven locations. **Am. Goldfinches** had a banner year judging from the 80+ counted at Wynfield 11/21 (**RC**) and 225 at Mt. Pleasant (175 in one flock) 11/23 (**BO**).

im. - immature

ph. - photograph

UMDCF - University of Maryland Central Farm

MPEA - Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

TRIRS - Triadelphia Reservoir

**Observers:** **GBt** - Giff Beaton, **SBg** - Scott Berglund, **RB** - Rod Burley, **SBw** - Sue Buswell, **BCt** - Brenda Carter, **LC** - Lisa Colangelo, **SCI** - Steve Collins, **JC** - Jane Coskren, **TDC** - T. Dennis Coskren, **JCu** - Jeff Culler, **RC** - Ralph Cullison III, **SE** - Sue Earp, **WE** - Wesley Earp, **KD** - Karen Darcy, **WEb** - Ward Ebert, **TFe** - Tom Feild, **JFn** - John Finedore, **JG** - Jane Geuder, **RG** - Ralph Geuder, **KGr** - Kevin Graff, **JHf** -

Joe Hanfman, **KHf** - Kevin Hefernan, **BHi** - Bill Hill, **GHi** - Gayle Hill, **EHn** - Elaine Hendricks, **EH** - Emmalyn Holdridge, **DHm** - David Holmes, **MKw** - Mike Kerwin, **MLm** - Mike Leumas, **FLv** - Felicia Lovelett, **NM** - Nancy Magnusson, **KMr** - Kathy Mariano, **GMcC** - Grazina McClure, **MMcC** - Mike McClure, **JMcK** - John McKitterick, **TMr** - Tom Miller, **SMu** - Sue Muller, **DN** - Diane Nagengast, **SN** - Sue Neri, **ROr** - Richard Orr, **BO** - Bonnie Ott, **JOtt** - John Ott, **KP** - Karla Pearce, **BPj** - Bruce Peterjohn, **RR** - Robert Ringler, **RSch** - Robert Schaefer, **KS** - Kurt Schwarz, **RSm** - Romaine Smith, **JS** - Jo Solem, **CSt** - Chuck Stirrat, **ES** - Eva Sunell, **KTf** - Kate Tufts, **JTv** - June Tveekrem, **MW** - Mark Wallace, **JW** - Jim Wilkinson, **PWf** - Paul Woodford, **MWr** - Michele Wright.

## HABITAT PRESERVATION EFFORT REMINDER

**A**s mentioned in the January/February issue of *The Goldfinch*, the Howard County Bird Club's habitat preservation effort this year is the Thick-billed Parrot Conservation Project of the American Bird Conservancy. Please help us reach our goal of \$400, so we can receive a matching contribution by an anonymous do-

nor. Make your tax-deductible check to "Howard County Chapter MOS," with "habitat" in the memo portion. Direct it to Emy Holdridge, Treasurer HCBC, 5812 Harness Court, Columbia, MD 21044. Please send your donation by April 30, 2009.

### 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.

#### March 26, Thursday

June Tveekrem  
10970 Millbank Row  
Columbia, Md. 21044  
410-715-3979

#### April 23, Thursday

Kate Tufts  
2830 Duvall Rd.  
Woodbine, Md. 21797  
410-489-7052

# HOWARD COUNTY ODONATE SURVEY 2008

BY JOANNE AND BOB SOLEM

**A** new county dragonfly was added in 2008. The Mocha Emerald (*Somatochlora linearis*) was spotted along an intermittent stream at North Laurel Park, August 31, 2008 (Bob & Jo Solem). That addition brings the county list to 95 species after 13 years.

The third annual Howard County Dragonfly Count, coordinated by June Tveekrem, was held on August 23. Twenty-three participants tallied 38 species. Complete details have been previously published. The date for this year's count is July 25, 2009.

Extensions were recorded for the following species: Twin-spotted

Spiketail 4/26 (JTv), Stream Cruiser 4/18 (Wes Earp), Bar-winged Skimmer 5/30 (Ken Clayton), and Wandering Glider 11/6 (JTv). The spiketail was a new species for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area bringing that list to 51. Skimming Bluet (B&JS) and Blue Corporal (Jim Wilkinson) were added to Western Regional Park's list bringing it to 33.

Thanks to all contributors as well as Sue Muller for Howard Co. Recreation and Parks' data and to Richard Orr for encouragement and expertise.



*Mocha Emerald*

*photograph by June Tveekrem*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL COUNTY LIST TO APPEAR

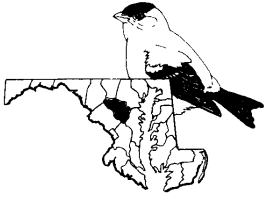
**T**he Howard County Bird Club is pleased to announce that it will resume publishing an annual list of birds seen in the county. Ward Ebert will be compiling the list from data in seasonal reports, countywide count totals, and individual sightings. The list will only be published on the club's website, [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org), and will be available in early April. It will be complete through 2008.

### COMPILER NEEDED

**T**he Triadelphia Christmas Count is in need of a compiler. If you want to find out what the position entails, contact Jay Jones ([jayrjones@juno.com](mailto:jayrjones@juno.com)) or State Compiler Norm Saunders ([marshhawk@verizon.net](mailto:marshhawk@verizon.net)). Jay is willing to assist the initial year. This is a long-standing count that is traditionally held the Saturday before Christmas. About 40% of the count circle is in Howard County.

### MT. PLEASANT TRAILS

**T**he trails at Mount Pleasant, the Howard County Conservancy property, are now open dawn to dusk seven days a week. No prior permission is necessary for their use.



## HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

*Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

6007 Flywheel Court

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### March/April 2009 - Inside This Issue:

Club Meetings

Spring Field Trips

Habitat Preservation Effort

Annual County List

Mt. Pleasant Trails

Autumn Bird Records

Website Focus

Odonate Survey

Compiler Needed

GreenFest

## HOWARD COUNTY GREENFEST 2009

BY SUSAN MULLER

County Executive Ken Ulman invites you to Howard County's second annual "GreenFest" on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Howard Community College. Sponsored by the Departments of Recreation and Parks, Planning and Zoning, and the Bureau of Environmental Services, this free family event celebrates Earth Month. The theme for GreenFest is "Energy and Water Conservation" and features displays to provide citizens with practical information about these topics— both home and office— and how new energy-efficient technology can be used to promote more ecologically sound lifestyles.

The festival will also feature exhibits from community groups that focus on environmental awareness, including the Howard County Bird Club. Other exhibitors include: Frogwatch USA, Howard Astronomical League, Mom's Organic Market, Habitat Stewards, Howard County Forestry Board, Howard County Conservancy, Sierra Club, Growth Adventures, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Master Gardeners, and the Enviro Center, just to name a few.

Activities include a nature walk on the campus nature trail. There will be sign-ups for free home energy audits, tours of the Elkridge recycling facility and many free giveaways. "Reptiles Alive" will be

displaying live animals on site between noon and 4:00 p.m. Several other children's activities are planned to help them learn more about the environment and nature. Local author Christine Gainer Barton will schedule a reading of her book, "The Long Journey of Mother Turtle." In addition, free document shredding will be available. There will be a drop-off site for used cell phones and eyeglasses.

For more information on the event and the schedule of activities, visit the county's website at <http://www.hcgreenfest.org>. If you have questions you may call Sue Muller at 410-313-4697.