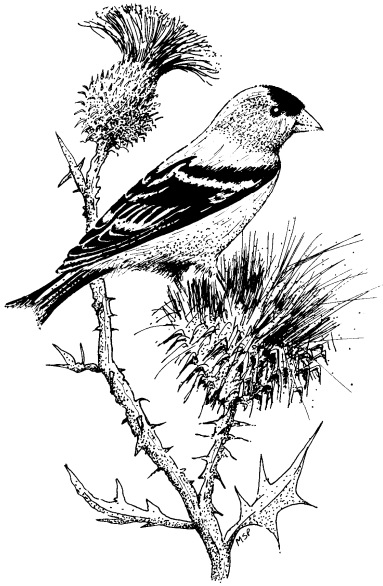


The Goldfinch

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



CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, September 10, 2009 "A Field of Dreams: Restoration of Native Prairie for Grassland Birds in Maryland," by Douglas Gill, University of Maryland. His ten-year study of experimental fields on the Eastern Shore has shown major, positive responses of non-game and game species. Dr. Gill is also involved in research with amphibians, insects, and plants in many tropical countries and leads ecotours to these areas as well.

Thursday, October 8, 2009 "Birding Peru's Andes," by Dave Harvey. Three weeks of birding at high altitude were rewarded with colorful tanagers, woodpeckers, and nifty flycatchers. Dave has been a birding enthusiast for more than 26 years. He and his wife, Maureen, have traveled many times to Central and South America. The Marvelous Spatuletail, a fancy hummingbird, was a highlight of this trip. **LOCATION CHANGE** (Oct. meeting only) - Glenwood Community Center (2400 Route 97, Cooksville, MD 21723).

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
President's Welcome	1
Spring Bird Records	2
Dragonfly Count Results	5
Board of Directors Meetings	5
Field Trips	6
Fall Count Announcement	7
May Count Results	8
Seed Sale 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 2009 issue is September 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.

Copy may be sent to:

Amanda Witt
8865 Purple Iris Lane
Elkridge, MD 21075
amanda.witt@yahoo.com

Please visit the Club's website at www.howardbirds.org

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

BY THOMAS MILLER

Welcome to the 37th year of the Howard County Bird Club. As we continue our interest in birds, I think about the many members that have varying interests in the natural world. Not only can they teach us more about sparrows, hawks, waterfowl, owls, and shorebirds, but also about other pieces of the natural world such as wildflowers, butterflies, frogs, dragonflies, trees, and plants. Our members' knowledge is a great help to both new and old members as we seek to enjoy the world around us.

Also, with the widespread use of digital cameras, pictures are more

plentiful. Many great pictures taken of the amazing outdoors are appearing at club meetings as fantastic presentations of the natural wonders around us. The programs last year took us around the world through the use of attractive photographs. I'm looking forward to the learning experiences that we will receive from the many programs planned for this year.

Consider joining us on a field trip, seasonal count, potluck dinner, or other activity throughout the year. Put on your learning hat, as we seek to have another enjoyable year observing and helping birds.

SPRING BIRD RECORDS: MARCH 1 – MAY 31, 2009

BY JOANNE SOLEM

It isn't often that Maryland birders flock to this small county, but 2009 is proving to be an exceptional year. White-winged Crossbills at Centennial continued, a Harris's Sparrow (4th record) stayed for more than six weeks, a Painted Bunting (2nd) was seen for more than two weeks, and a Sedge Wren (~12th) proved accommodating for three days. Other special species were a Wood Stork (1st record if accepted by MD/DCRC), a flock of five Sandhill Cranes (6th), an Iceland Gull (11th), and a Henslow's Sparrow (12th). Virginia Rails nested, a rare county event. Also reported were Red-necked Grebes, a Golden Eagle, a Common Moorhen, and a Black-bellied Plover. A remarkable season!

Waterfowl numbers were low, with a few bright spots: two **Snow Geese** (bl.) at Johns Hopkins APL 3/7 (**J&TDC**) and one (wh.) at Centennial Park 3/15 (**JHl**); four **Cackling Geese** in a flock of **Canada Geese** at Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 3/10 (**BHb**); a major movement of Canadas 3/18-19 over southern Howard County (**MW**); **Gadwalls**, on 3/14, at both Lake Kittamaquindi (**SAr+ - 2**) and Race Road Wetlands (RACRW) (**SAr+ - 6**); more **Blue-winged Teal** reports than usual with a high of 18 on 4/9 (**CBz**); and **Northern Shovelers** twice in March (**TRs; NM,JS**). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** popped up at TRIRS 3/19 (**EH; JHf**), and one appeared at Warfields Pond Park 4/1 (**K&BBl**) to 4/8 (**BHi**). A **Red-breasted Merganser** female daddled at Lake Elkhorn from 3/30 (**JW**) to 4/16 (**FFl**). The 400+

Common Mergansers at Brighton Dam 3/7 were the spring high (**NM,JS**).

Wild Turkeys were noted at four locations, with eight reports in May along River Rd, south of Sykesville (**FLv**). A late **Common Loon** was spotted at Brighton Dam 5/29 (**JHf**), and a lingering **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on a Hunt Ridge area pond 5/30, a new late date (**CSt**). **Red-necked Grebes** were sighted at four locations; the high was seven at TRIRS 3/14 (**SAr+**). The **Double-crested Cormorant** high was 29 at Wilde Lake 4/17 (**MO'S**).

American Bitterns were noted at four spots including two birds at the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDCF) 4/19, the first time more than one has been seen (**BO,JCu,EH,SAr**). At Vantage Point, 30 **Great Blue Herons** were counted on 25 nests 3/15 (**EH,JS**); 12 nests were present along the Patuxent River north of Haviland Mill Rd 3/30 (**JSh**). An ad. **Little Blue Heron** was spotted at Fore Bay Pond 4/2 (**CBz**); one ad. was also at RACRW 5/9 (**BO,EH**) where an im. bird appeared 5/24 (**TFe,GKg**). The first **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at Wilde Lake 4/16 (**MO'S**) and the first **Yellow-crowned** at Lake Elkhorn 4/28 (**JMcK**). Night-herons peaked at six (one Yellow-crowned) at Wilde Lake 5/19 (**JHf,MO'S+**). A **Wood Stork** was reported from the Woodbine area 4/11 (**JKz**). Details were submitted to the MD/DCRC. If accepted, it would be a new county record.

The three **Northern Harriers** at UMDCF 4/11 equaled the county high (**BO+**). An unusually late im. **Northern Goshawk** was reported over Martin Rd, W. Columbia 4/18 (**J&JnHf**). (Acceptance will be decided on the state level.) The **Broad-winged Hawk** flight peaked the third week of April: 213 at Centennial 4/18 (**MKw**), 40 at Centennial 4/23 (**BO,EH,JS**), and 20 at Meadowbrook Park 4/23 (**BO,EH,JS**). An im. **Golden Eagle** sailed over Lake Kittamaquindi 3/22 for just the second spring record (**MO'S**). A **Merlin** was noted at Centennial 4/18 (**MKw**), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted at Gateway 3/29 (**SFk**).

Two **Virginia Rails** were detected at UMDCF's swale on a record-early 4/11 (**BO+**); by 4/22, two territorial pairs were present (**BO, EH,JS**). Two adults (**BO,JCu, JHf,JS**) and one downy chick (**BO**) were recorded on 5/21—a rare county nesting record. **Soras** were noted at UMDCF from 4/19 (**NM,JHf,JS - 2**) to 5/2 (**BO+ - 1**) and at Hanover/Race Rd 5/9 (**BO,EH - 2**) and 5/17 (**KS - 1**). A cooperative **Common Moorhen** appeared at Centennial 5/3 (**MKw**) and stayed until 5/10 (**MKw**). Five **Sandhill Cranes** were heard and seen over Gateway 3/31 (**REl,BAd,KCk**), the sixth county record.

Shorebird migration was disappointing. Above normal precipitation reduced suitable habitat. A **Black-bellied Plover** at Alpha Ridge Landfill on HCMC (second earliest) was one of the few high-

(Records continued on page 3)

(Records continued from page 2)
lights (RC). The **Wilson's Snipe** high was 35 at UMDCF 4/22 (BO,EH,JS), with 17 at Western Regional Park 3/25 (LC). Six **Am. Woodcock** engaged in courtship flights at Annapolis Rock Rd 3/8 (NM,EH,JS,RTd); one was noted the same date at RACRW (TRs). Good news from the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) was that a few woodcock were present much of March (CFr; Jcf).

Bonaparte's Gulls moved through the county quickly with 35 at Wilde Lake 3/31 (EH) and 34 at Fulton Pond 4/1 (JGr). A choice sighting was a second winter **Ice-land Gull** over Centennial 3/8 (POs,BAg,DZk) for the 11th county record. A second winter **Great Black-backed Gull** visited Wilde Lake 4/17 (MO'S). **Caspian Terns** drifted through from 4/2 Fulton (JHf - 2) to 4/23 Elkhorn (JW - 2). The high count was 27 at Kittamaqundi 4/12 (CSt).

Black-billed Cuckoos hung around Centennial from 5/2 (MKw) to 5/5 (JHf). Owl nesting reports included two **Eastern Screech-Owls** fledging ~5/25 from a nest box at Hallmark (WEB); a **Great Horned Owl** on a nest at West Friendship 4/5 (JCu); and a **Barred Owl** pair with a fledgling at Lake Elkhorn 4/30+ (MSt,BMr,SN+). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared at River Rd 4/10 (FLv). Adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were present briefly: Allview 5/1-3 (JMck) and Roxbury Rd 5/2 (KBl).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted at MPEA 5/29 (DHs) and 5/31 (J&JnHf). Two record-early

Acadian Flycatchers arrived at MPEA 4/25 (KS+). Single **Least Flycatchers** were noted at the Patuxent Branch Trail 5/7 (SCI) and at Bonnie Branch M.S. 5/10 (TFe,RGb+). A **White-eyed Vireo**, heard and seen at Centennial 4/10, established a new early date (CSt). A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Western RP on 4/7 tied the second earliest arrival (BHi). At least 272 migrating **Blue Jays** moved over Rockburn Branch Park 4/26 (KS). **Common Ravens** wandered the county with half a dozen sightings. The most intriguing was a bird seen along I-95 just north of Rocky Gorge Dam a little after noon on 3/25 (JHf); at 4:20 p.m. one was spotted near the I-95/MD 216 interchange, less than a mile from the first sighting (MW).

A **Tree Swallow** at Centennial 3/8 was the second earliest ever (MKw). A **Sedge Wren**, present 5/5 (SCI) to 5/7 (KS) along the Patuxent Branch Trail, provided excellent looks at an elusive species. A **Marsh Wren** at UMDCF 5/6 (BO,EH,JS) was the season's only one. The single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** report came from Annapolis Rock Rd 5/23 (JGr). Although migrant thrushes were few, **Cedar Waxwing** numbers were unusually high. Totals during May ranged up to 100 at River Rd 5/15 (FLv), while the 1,015 on HCMC set a new record (KHf).

Ward Ebert's comment, "The warbler list for the yard is dismal," was shared by many. Numbers of some species were low; for others, the season was startlingly abbreviated. The lone **Cape May Warbler** was in southeastern Howard Co. 5/9 (POs,DKd). The high **Yellow-rumped Warbler** count was a

modest 47 near River Rd 4/24 (FLv). **Blackburnians** were picked up from 5/12 Brush Run, E. Columbia (JW - 1) to 5/15 River Rd (FLv - 2). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were slow to arrive along the Patapsco with the earliest at Henryton 4/17 (JHf). **Bay-breasted Warblers** are a choice species with three sightings (5/9 NM; 5/12 SCI, RRf; 5/24 FLv+). A **Blackpoll** lingered until 5/30 at Font Hill (ES); ten in proximity at Kittamaqundi on 5/22 were a pleasant surprise (J&RLb). A **Cerulean Warbler** took up residence near River Rd where seven sightings were recorded between 5/18 and 5/30 (FLv). **Prothonotary Warblers** appeared at four locations from 4/26 at Henryton (NM) to 5/24 at MPEA (BO,EH). **Ovenbirds** moved in on 4/24 with reports from Schooley Mill Park (NM) and MPEA (JMcCl). The first **Northern Waterthrush** showed up at Daniels 4/25 (J&TDC); resident **Louisianas**, which arrive weeks sooner, were also first detected at Daniels, but on 3/31 (SBg; BO). A male **Common Yellowthroat**, both seen and heard, was found at David Force on the strange date of 3/20 (JTv). **Wilson's Warblers** were spotted in a one week window from 5/8 at RACRW (TFe,GKg) to 5/15 at River Rd (FLv, TMcL). **Canada Warblers** were seen only a few times from 5/9 (HCMC - 3) to 5/19 Brush Run (JW - 1).

Single **Summer Tanagers** were picked up on the Eden Brook side of Gorman NRA 5/7 (SAr) and at Annapolis Rock Rd 5/9 (JSh,MSz).

(Records continued from page 3)

The last wintering **American Tree Sparrow** lingered until 3/31 at MPEA (**JHf**). The lone **Vesper Sparrow** was detected at UMDCF 4/22 (**BO,EH,JS**). **Savannah Sparrow** numbers were modest with a high of 60 at UMDCF 4/5 (**BO,EH,JS**). By 5/2, there were 15 **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Alpha Ridge Landfill (**BO,RC+**). A **Henslow's Sparrow** turned up at Bonnie Branch M.S. 5/9 (**BO, EH**). The last previous one had been logged April 28, 1990 at Rockburn E.S. by, who else, Bonnie Ott! **Fox Sparrows** wasted no time moving through with the last ones reported 4/5 at Sandchain, E. Col. (**J&TDC** - 2) and Rockburn (**KS+ - 1**). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were detected at Hanover Rd 5/9 (**BO,EH-1**) and at Bonnie Branch M.S. 5/10 (**TFe,RGb+-2**).

A star of the season was a **Harris's Sparrow** (fourth record) spotted under an office window at Gateway on 3/19 (**KCK**). A feeding station at the edge of a woods with a stream provided food and shelter for this midcontinental wanderer until 5/4 (**LDr**). Dozens of Maryland birders accepted Ken's hospitality. The last **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at Elioak, MD 108 on 5/11 (**WE**).

Two **Blue Grosbeaks** beat the old arrival date of 4/24/98 with one at Elkhorn 4/12 (**JW**) and the other at Rockburn 4/19 (**KHf,KDy**). A male **Painted Bunting** (second county record) appeared briefly 3/11 at a feeder on Savage-Guilford Rd (**S&ECI**). Two weeks later it reappeared a few blocks away on Red Jacket Way (**G& ARo**). On 3/27, it was observed there by half a dozen Howard birders. In a few days, the bird was

seen more consistently a few houses away on the same street where it was last seen 4/11 (**DLp**). Like the Harris's Sparrow, this bird attracted statewide attention. Thanks to **Stan Arnold** and **Kurt Schwarz** who served as point men during the influx of birders.

Despite declines in the **Rusty Blackbird** population, the species appeared at two locations: RACRW 3/14 (**NM** - 11) with a high of 30 on 4/3 (**NM,EH**), and near Fore Bay 4/4 (**JW; JHf** - 10) to 4/10 (**J&TDC** - 7). The wintering male **Baltimore Oriole** continued at Burleigh Manor until 3/2 (**JHp**); it then moved to nearby Font Hill from 3/12 to 3/18 (**GAn**). One was noted at MPEA on the unusually early date of 4/12 (**SBg**). At Timberleigh, three were vying for space at a suet feeder 4/27 (**DN**).

Small numbers of **Purple Finches** continued to be seen with the last at Brush Run 4/25 (**JW**). The high was 12 at Hunt Ridge 3/1 (**CSt**). **White-winged Crossbills**, which had been a major attraction during the winter, continued with a high of 20 at Centennial 3/8 (**JHf+**); eight were in the firs at Schooley Mill Park 3/6 (**NM,JBy,JCu**). The final sighting was at Centennial 4/15 (**JW**). **Pine Siskins** stayed though the season in good numbers. HCMC tallied 42 (32 at one location - **RC**). The late departure date had been May 26, 2008. This year a bird was seen on 5/28 in the Font Hill area (**GAn**) and three were still present at West Friendship on 5/31 (**RC**).

HCMC - Howard County May Count, May 9, 2009

Observers: **BAd** - Bill Adams, **SAr** - Stan Arnold, **BAG** - Bob Augustine, - **GAn** - Glenn Austin, **SBg** - Scott Berglund, **BB1** - Bill Blum, **KB1** - Karan Blum, **CBz** - Charles Buzzanca, **JBy** - Joe Byrnes, **JCf** - Jeff Claffy, **KCK** - Ken Clark, **ECI** - Eva Claudy, **SCI** - Steve Claudy, **LC** - Lisa Colangelo, **SCI** - Steve Collins, **JC** - Jane Coskren, **TDC** - T. Dennis Coskren, **JCu** - Jeff Culler, **RC** - Ralph Cullison III, **KDy** - Karen Darcy, **LDr** - Lori Dreyer, **WE** - Wes Earp, **Web** - Ward Ebert, **RE1** - Robert Elvander, **FF1** - Fred Fallon, **Cfr** - Cheryl Farfaras, **SFk** - Sandra Farkas, **TFe** - Tom Feild, **JGr** - Jim Green, **RGB** - Ron Gutberlet, **DHs** - Dan Haas, **JH1** - Jacob Hall, **JnHf** - Jane Hanfman, **JHf** - Joe Hanfman, **JHp** - Jim Happel, **KHf** - Kevin Heffernan, **BHi** - Bill Hill, **EH** - Emmalyn Holdridge, **BHb** - Bill Hubick, **MKw** - Mike Kerwin, **DKd** - David Kidwell, **GKg** - Geraldine King, **JKz** - Janet Kinzer, **DLp** - Donna Lipka, **FLv** - Felicia Lovelett, **JLb** - Jim Lubitz, **RLb** - Rosa Lubitz, **NM** - Nancy Magnusson, **JMcCl** - Jenny McClintock, **JMcK** - John McKitterick, **TMcL** - Taylor McLean, **BMr** - Barry Miller, **DN** - Diane Nagengast, **SN** - Sue Neri, **POs** - Peter Osenton, **MO'S** - Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** - Bonnie Ott, **ARo** - Alix Rolph, **GRo** - Glenn Rolph, **TRs** - Timothy Rosen, **RRf** - Russ Ruffing, **KS** - Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** - Jay Sheppard, **JS** - Jo Solem, **MSt** - Michelle Stewart, **CSt** - Chuck Stirrat, **MSz** - Marcy Stutzman, **ES** - Eva Sunell, **RTd** - Robin Todd, **JTv** - June Tveekrem, **MW** - Mark Wallace, **JW** - Jim Wilkinson, **DZk** - David Ziolkowski.

RESULTS OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

BY JUNE TVEEKREM

The weather was perfect for the Howard County Dragonfly Count held on July 25, 2009. It was sunny with temperatures in the upper 80's and light winds. The weather timing was also perfect – thunderstorms came through the county about two hours after the count was finished! The event, co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, attracted thirty-two participants. Participants came from Howard, Carroll, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Frederick Counties. Additionally, there were four participants from northern Virginia this year.

Seven groups of observers fanned out throughout the county, which was divided into five territories or areas: 1-west county, 2-north, 3-

central, 4-south, 5-east.

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

Forty-four species of odonates were seen, out of a "possible" fifty-three. Some of the better finds were Slender Bluet (which set a new late date), Swamp Spreadwing, Swamp Darner, and Swift River Cruiser. The most abundant species by far were Citrine Forktail with an estimated 4,000 individuals and Eastern Amberwing with an estimated 2,200 individuals. The complete results are posted online at <http://southernspreadwing.com/odes/count2009/>.

Thank you to our group leaders: Sue Muller (Area 1), Wes and Sue Earp (Area 1), David Smith (Area

2), Ken Clayton (Area 3), June Tveekrem (Area 3, and overall count coordinator), Bob Solem (Area 4), and Jo Solem (Area 5).

In addition to the group leaders, participants were: Pat Caro, Mia Dubin, Rena Dubin, John Fisher, Sherry Fisher, Michelle Gaddy, Beth Johnson, Paul Koehler, Mike MacConnell, Nancy Magnusson, Magan Marshall, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure, Michelle Morrow, Andy Moser, Jared Putman, Linda Roberts, Barb Schmeckpeper, Derek Sedell, Bill Sherman, JoD Straub, Chris Talsma, Robin Todd, and Michele Wright.

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

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 24, Thursday

Bonnie Ott
8664 Manahan Drive
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
410-461-3361

October 22, Thursday


Sherry Tomlinson
6501 Woodbridge Circle
Catonsville, Md. 21228
410-747-2382

2009-2010 HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Thomas Miller
Vice-President:	Ward Ebert
Secretary:	Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer:	Emy Holdridge
Chapter Directors:	Wes Earp (1 st year) June Tveekrem (2 nd year)
State Directors:	Mary-Jo Betts Karen Darcy Kate Tufts

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 trips not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Bonnie Ott at bonnicott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

 **BUTTERFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS - MEADOWBROOK PARK** Sept. 5, Sat. 9:30 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at Meadowbrook Park east parking lot (the Rt. 100 Park and Ride lot).* Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies, and receive expert instruction on their identification. Easy walking on the paved path by the fields and marshes. Bring close-focus binoculars for a first view of nectaring behavior, but Dick will also be conducting a careful netting and later release of selected species after transferring them to jars for brief close-up examinations. Facilities available. *Leader- Dick Smith 410-997-7439.*

WOODLAND WALK AT THE MPEA Sept. 6, Sun. 7:30 a.m. (half day) *Meet at the Clegg Meadow entrance off South Wind Circle.* Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. If time and birds warrant, we will also do the Trotter Rd. Loop. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails. No facilities. *Leader- Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643 or krschwa1@verizon.net.*

ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK Sept. 12, Sat., 8:00 a.m. (half day) *From the Montgomery Road entrance, meet in the 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 or KJHeff@aol.com.*


HENRYTON ROAD, PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK Sept. 16, Wed., 8:00 a.m. (half day) *Meet at bottom of Henryton Rd at the dead end.* 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. *Leaders- Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329 and Jeff Culler 410-465-9006.*

FALL COUNT Sept. 19, Saturday (See page 7 for details.)

 **FONT HILL WETLANDS PARK** Sept. 26, Sat., 7:30 a.m., (2-3 hours) *Meet at park entrance on Font Hill Drive.* Ponds, stream, second-growth, cattail marsh, and deciduous woods provide a variety of species. Easy walking along paved paths and boardwalks. Mown areas allow additional access along edge vegetation. No facilities. *Leader- Joe Hanfman 410-772-8424 or auk1844@comcast.net.*

WESTERN REGIONAL PARK Sept. 27, 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 RMCullison@comcast.net or 410-442-2181.*

 **LAKE ELKHORN** Oct. 3, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at Broken Land Parkway parking lot.* Easy walking along the lake and to Fore Bay Pond. Migrants will be moving through. Warblers are generally in abundance. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. Hawks are also possible flying over. No facilities. *Leader- Tom Miller 410-795-7005.*

PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP AT WESTERN REGIONAL PARK Oct. 4, Sun., 8:30 a.m., (2-3 hours) Each person must bring a camera. *Meet at first parking lot on left after entering the park.* Moderate walking on grass. Slow pace to allow plenty of time for taking photos. Photographers of all skill levels, using cameras ranging from simple to sophisticated, are encouraged to participate. Pond near entrance often has interesting shorebirds in October. Habitat includes fields, ponds, brushy areas, and woods, making for a good variety of birds and other fauna. Facilities available. *For more information contact June Treekrem at 410-715-3979 or June@SouthernSpreadwing.com.*

BON SECOURS SPIRITUAL CENTER Oct. 6, Tuesday, 8:30 a.m., (2 hours) *Meet at visitors' parking lot.* Easy walking through the grounds of this spiritual retreat

(Field Trips continued on page 7)

(*Field Trips continued from page 6*)

center. Woods, fields and hedgerows provide opportunities for a variety of birds. Facilities available. *Leader- Michele Wright 410-465-6057.*

MT. PLEASANT FARM - HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY Oct. 10, Sat., 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 or kerschwa1@verizon.net.*

SPARROW BIG DAY

Oct. 17, Sat. (all day)
Limit: 12 people
Search the wetland 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 Ott to sign up and get info. 410-461-3361.*

DAVID FORCE PARK

Oct. 22, Thurs., 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. No facilities. *Leader – Jo Solem, 301-725-5037 or odenata@msn.com.*

WEST FRIENDSHIP PARK

Oct. 25, 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. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. No facilities. *Leader - Jeff Culler 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com.*

 = Great for beginner birders

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL FALL COUNT

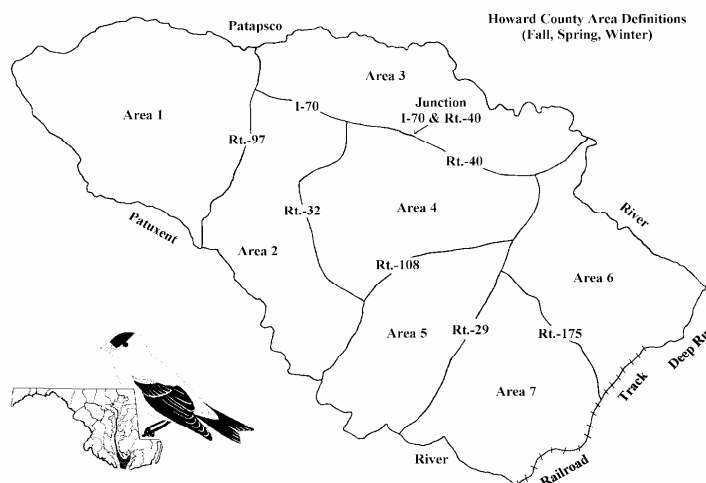
BY MICHAEL MCCLURE

The Howard County Bird Club's annual Fall Count, scheduled each year on the third Saturday of September, will be on September 19th. **Mike McClure** 410-531-2780 and **Chuck Stirrat** 410-531-2417 are the county 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 at 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 pot luck dinner will be served at approximately 7:00 p.m., call them by Sept. 18th, to reserve space, choose a food to bring, and if necessary obtain directions.



HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT, MAY 9, 2009

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

Seventy-two birders participated in the 36th annual May Count which was held on May 9, 2009. The day was partly to mostly cloudy with high temperatures in the mid-80's. The 147 species seen during the count ties the ninth highest; the total number of birds (29,987) was the third highest since the Howard Co. Bird Club's organizing began in 1974. A total of 228 species has been seen over those 36 years. Seventy-eight species have been seen every year while 23 species have been seen only once.

One species, Black-bellied Plover, was counted for the first time while Little Blue Heron, Common Moorhen, and Henslow's Sparrow were seen for only the second time. Virginia Rail was seen the third time, and Sora for the fourth time. Great Egret is clearly increasing. This species was seen for the ninth time including the last six years in a row.

All spring people have been asking, "Where are the hummingbirds?" Interestingly, 39 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted, the highest May Count total ever. The following 27 species also had the highest numbers ever seen on May Count: Wild Turkey, Little Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, Black-bellied Plover, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Fish Crow, Caro-

lina Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Louisiana Waterthrush, Chipping Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Pine Siskin. There were 1,015 Cedar Waxwings seen during the 2009 count, which is significantly more than the previous high of 749.

Six additional species had 10-year high counts: Bufflehead, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Ringed-billed Gull, Eastern Kingbird, and Purple Martin.

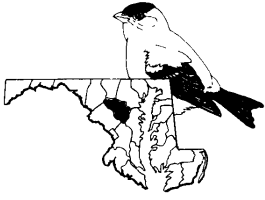
Only one species tied its all-time low count; for the second year in a row only a single American Kestrel was seen. Six species had 10-year low counts: Mallard, Least Sandpiper, Wood Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Mute Swan was missed for the first time since 1984. The number of warbler species seen each count tends to vary from 27 to 33. The 28 species that we saw this year was the third lowest in the last 22 years.

Many thanks to our compiler, Chuck Stirrat. His tireless efforts make this task much easier than it would otherwise be. I also want to thank the Area Coordinators, Wes Earp (for Kate Tufts), Felicia Lovelett (for Chuck Stirrat), Mike McClure, Karen Darcy, Bonnie Ott, and Jo Solem. Finally, I want to give a special thanks to June Tveekrem for again volunteering to host the tally rally. Her hospitality was very much appreciated.

And to the following participants, a big thank you; without you, these counts cannot happen: Stan Arnold, Randy Beaton, Scott Berglund, Bill Blum, Karan Blum, Monika Botsai, Jim Brighton, Jim Brinkley, Marilyn Brinkley, Joe Byrnes, Lisa Colangelo, T. Dennis Coskren, Jane Coskren, Jeff Culler, Ralph Cullison III, Karen Darcy (Area 5 coordinator), Sue Earp, Wes Earp, Ward Ebert, Tom Feild, Ron Gutberlet, Joe Hanfman, Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, Kevin Heffernan (Area 2, and county coordinator), Bill Hill, Gayle Hill, Emy Holdridge, Matt Jens, Mike Kerwin, Brenda Kidera, David Kidwell, Geraldine King, Dave Kubitsky, Mike Leumas, Kathie Lillie, Felicia Lovelett, Bridgette Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Jenny McClintock, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure (Area 4 coordinator), John McKitterick, Elayne Metter, Jeff Metter, Barry Miller, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Carol Newman, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott (Area 6 coordinator), Karla Pearce, Sherry Peruzzi, Ron Polniaszek, Susan Polniaszek, Sue Probst, Kurt Schwarz, Jay Sheppard, Romaine Smith, Bob Solem, Jo Solem (Area 7 coordinator), Michelle Stewart, Tom Strikwerda, Marcy Stutzman, Eva Sunell, Robin Todd, Ginny Walker, Mark Wallace, Dave Wilusz, Michele Wright, Linda Wyatt, and Paul Zucker.

HOWARD COUNTY MAY COUNT RESULTS - MAY 9, 2009

Canada Goose	770	Downy Woodpecker	135	Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	68
Wood Duck	37	Hairy Woodpecker	38	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	73
Mallard	148	Northern(Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	59	Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	9
Ring-necked Duck	1	Pileated Woodpecker	46	Pine Warbler	9
Bufflehead	1	Eastern Wood-Pewee	97	Prairie Warbler	50
Wild Turkey	4	Acadian Flycatcher	166	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Common Loon	6	Eastern Phoebe	86	Blackpoll Warbler	35
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Great Crested Flycatcher	100	Cerulean Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	38	Eastern Kingbird	163	Black-&-white Warbler	44
American Bittern	1	White-eyed Vireo	87	American Redstart	59
Great Blue Heron	46	Yellow-throated Vireo	42	Worm-eating Warbler	12
Great Egret	8	Blue-headed Vireo	5	Ovenbird	198
Little Blue Heron	1	Warbling Vireo	33	Northern Waterthrush	6
Green Heron	29	Red-eyed Vireo	496	Louisiana Waterthrush	65
Black Vulture	116	Blue Jay	805	Kentucky Warbler	14
Turkey Vulture	325	American Crow	432	Common Yellowthroat	386
Osprey	9	Fish Crow	80	Hooded Warbler	15
Bald Eagle	7	<i>crow species</i>	168	Wilson's Warbler	4
Northern Harrier	5	Horned Lark	16	Canada Warbler	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	Purple Martin	53	Yellow-breasted Chat	25
Cooper's Hawk	13	Tree Swallow	154	Scarlet Tanager	166
<i>accipiter species</i>	2	N. Rough-winged Swallow	90	Eastern Towhee	237
Red-shouldered Hawk	67	Bank Swallow	1	Chipping Sparrow	378
Broad-winged Hawk	7	Cliff Swallow	62	Field Sparrow	108
Red-tailed Hawk	52	Barn Swallow	370	Savannah Sparrow	29
American Kestrel	1	Carolina Chickadee	420	Grasshopper Sparrow	55
Virginia Rail	2	Tufted Titmouse	484	Henslow's Sparrow	1
Sora	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	104	Song Sparrow	215
Common Moorhen	1	Carolina Wren	347	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Black-bellied Plover	1	House Wren	206	Swamp Sparrow	5
Killdeer	52	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	White-throated Sparrow	57
Greater Yellowlegs	5	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	366	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	Eastern Bluebird	224	Northern Cardinal	1,017
Solitary Sandpiper	73	Veery	22	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	26
Spotted Sandpiper	21	Swainson's Thrush	21	Blue Grosbeak	12
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5	Hermit Thrush	3	Indigo Bunting	281
Least Sandpiper	12	Wood Thrush	366	Bobolink	253
Wilson's Snipe	3	American Robin	935	Red-winged Blackbird	841
Ring-billed Gull	59	Gray Catbird	867	Eastern Meadowlark	13
Rock Pigeon	151	Northern Mockingbird	246	Common Grackle	445
Mourning Dove	426	Brown Thrasher	45	Brown-headed Cowbird	344
Black-billed Cuckoo	3	European Starling	851	Orchard Oriole	94
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	12	Cedar Waxwing	1,015	Baltimore Oriole	269
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	Blue-winged Warbler	19	House Finch	203
Great Horned Owl	5	Tennessee Warbler	3	Pine Siskin	42
Barred Owl	25	Nashville Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	485
Common Nighthawk	3	Northern Parula	223	House Sparrow	416
Chimney Swift	178	Yellow Warbler	153	Total Birds	20,987
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	39	Chestnut-sided Warbler	23	Total Species	147
Belted Kingfisher	23	Magnolia Warbler	17		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	353	Cape May Warbler	1		



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 2009 - Inside This Issue:

Club Meetings	President's Welcome
Spring Bird Records	Dragonfly Count Results
Board of Directors Meetings	Field Trips
Fall Count Announcement	May Count Results
Seed Sale Announcement	Membership Application

2009 SEED SALE

BY SHERRY TOMLINSON

For the 2009 Seed Sale, the Howard County Bird Club has teamed with Pennington Seed, one of the largest seed producers in the world. The seed sale will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at the Pennington Seed Maryland Division warehouse location in North Laurel. The warehouse address is 9327 US Route 1, Suite J, Laurel, MD 20723. Directions to the warehouse will be included on the seed sale flyer and are also available on the Club's website.

Your seed order can be picked up from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on September 26th. The proceeds from the sale will be used towards habitat preservation and conservation, which is something we all can be proud of. So please support this sale by placing a large order, a small order, or giving a donation. All make a difference and the funds raised will add up quickly.

The seed sale flyer will be mailed in late August or early September with the seed choices and prices.

Alternatively, you can find the order form and download it from the Club's website. All order forms need to be submitted by September 11, 2009. Volunteers are needed to help at the check-in desk and to load cars. If you would like to volunteer, please mark the appropriate spot on the order form and you will be contacted.

Pennington Seed is looking forward to working with the Howard County Bird Club.