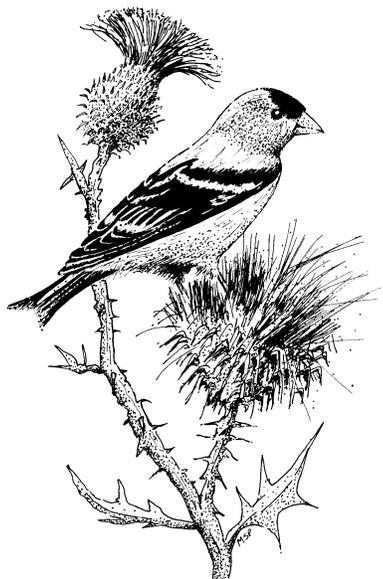


The Goldfinch

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



CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, March 11, 2010 "Birding in the Land of the Thunder Dragon-Bhutan," by Gail Mackiernan. Only open to tourism since 1979, the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is one of the world's premier birding destinations. The country's enlightened environmental policies have protected its forests and wildlife. Gail is a marine biologist by training. As research director for the University of Maryland Sea Grant College, she oversaw studies directed toward the Bay and its ecology. Since retiring, in 1997, she and husband Barry Cooper have traveled to every continent in search of birds.

Thursday, April 8, 2010 "Birding South Florida, the Keys, and the Dry Tortugas," by Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy. Waders, the endemic Scrub Jay, ABA birds found most easily in Florida, Caribbean vagrants, seabirds, established exotics, and Florida subspecies draw serious listers as well as more casual birders to the Sunshine State. Kevin and Karen are club members and will be using pictures and information from several trips to Florida for their talk.

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 Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

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AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS: AUGUST 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2009

BY JOANNE SOLEM

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

Copy deadline for the May/June 2010 issue is March 25, 2010.

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

Birders always anticipate autumn rarities. This year they were not disappointed. With birds brought by storms and erratic migration, 2009 is proving to be a year to remember. Notable species this season included all three scoters, Red-throated Loon (12th record), Golden Eagle (14th), American Golden-Plover (16th), White-rumped Sandpiper (11th & 12th), Stilt Sandpiper (6th), Black Tern (19th), Barn Owl (first since 2004), Clay-colored Sparrow (7th), Lark Sparrow (3rd), and Snow Bunting (12th).

A probable **Cackling Goose** was seen with two normal-sized **Canadas** flying over Western Regional Pk 9/27 (**RC,JHf,JS**), an early date. The high

for **Tundra Swans** was ~300 over Timberleigh 11/28 (**DNg**). Forty **Wood Ducks** were at Race Rd Wetlands 11/5 (**NM**). The only **American Wigeons** were two on a Daisy Rd pond 11/23 (**KTf**). **Blue-winged Teal** were at Western RP 9/4-7 (**JW-2**) and at the University of MD Central Farm (UMDCF) 9/30 (1) to 10/17 (**BO+-3**). At Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS), one **Northern Pintail** 11/28 (**NM**) and two **Redheads** 11/12 (**JCu**) were solo sightings. The first **Ring-necked Duck** was at Lake Elkhorn 10/3 (**SN**). Four **Black Scoters** (9th record) at TRIRS 11/2 (**BHi**) were a great find. Creating even more excitement were the two **White-**

(Records continued on page 2)

(*Records continued from page 1*)
wingeds (12th), two **Surfs** (12th), and seven **Blacks** (10th) on 11/23. All three on one day was a first for the county (**JHf**)! TRIRS had **Long-tailed Ducks** from 11/11 (**JHf**) to 11/28 (**CSt**); a **Bufflehead** high of 39 on 11/16 (**NM**); two **Common Goldeneyes** 11/11 (**JHf, BHb**); a **Red-throated Loon** 11/11 (**JHf, BHb**) to 11/24 (**JHf, JHb, MO'S, NM**); 18 **Common Loons** 11/11 (**JHf, BHb**); and eight **Horned Grebes** 11/12 (**JHf, NM**). On 11/11, there were seven **Red-breasted Mergansers** at TRIRS (**JHf, BHb**) and three at Centennial (**JW**). The **Hooded Merganser** high was seven at the Stanford Blvd pond 11/30 (**SN**).

A hen **Ring-necked Pheasant** was flushed at Schooley Mill Pk 9/20 (**NM, PGc**). **Wild Turkey** sightings from late Oct to mid-Nov were passed along by **MBr, BMy**, and **BQk**. A male **Northern Bobwhite** was seen and photographed at Centennial 8/16 (**DMac**); two were heard later that day (**MKw**). No one is known to be releasing them near the park, so their origin remains a mystery. The last **Double-crested Cormorant** was present at TRIRS 11/16 (**NM**).

A **Great Egret** hung around Lake Elkhorn until 11/20 (**SN; MSt**). **Little Blue Herons** were noted at Elkhorn (**JW; SN; J&TDC**); Race Rd (**NM; KS**), upper TRIRS (**NM**), and Browns Bridge (**NM; JHf+**). Elkhorn hosted the last **Black-crowned Night-Heron** on 9/19 (**BMi, MSt, SN**) and the last **Yellow-crowned** on 8/17 (**JW**).

Bald Eagles were widely reported with a high of six on Howard County Fall Count (HCFC), 9/19. Accipiters were moving on 9/25 with 18 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and 10 **Cooper's** spotted over Martin Rd, W. Col. (**JHf**). **Broad-winged Hawk** migration began with three over Centennial 9/5 (**MKw**), rose to 247 (**BO**) and 34

(**R&JGd**) on 9/14 at Rockburn Branch Pk, hit 500 on 9/20 at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) (**JHf, JCu, CSt**), peaked on 9/25 with 200 at Browns Bridge and 900 at Martin Rd (**JHf**), and ended 10/9 with one at Mt. Pleasant (**SBg**). An im. **Golden Eagle** was the star of the Centennial trip 11/15 (**KHf, KDy, WE+**). **American Kestrel** numbers have been low for years so eight at Dayton and five at Sheppard La 9/29 were welcome (**WE**); in addition, there were six at Mt. Pleasant 9/7 (**BO**) and six at Alpha Ridge Landfill 10/12 (**RC**). Six Merlin reports ran from 9/10 (**BO, JHf+**) to 10/9 (**NM**). **Peregrine Falcons** included two at UMDCF 9/26 (**JHf, JCu**).

Four **American Coots** at Lake Kittamaquidi 10/5 were the only record (**ROr**). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were reported to eBird over Wilde Lake 11/2 (**LCp, SWy**). Minimal details make them Probables. A flyover **American Golden-Plover** was a highlight at UMDCF 9/26 (**BO, NM, RC, EH, JS**). **Semipalmated Plovers** were scarce this year with a lone bird spotted in a construction area along Montgomery Rd 8/29 following heavy rains (**BO**); it was seen again early on 8/30 (**NM**). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Scotts Cove 11/19 tied the late date (**WE**). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were detected just three times, from 8/8 (**JHf**) to 9/17 (**BHb**). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were reported: one at Fulton 8/8 provided few good looks and even fewer photo opportunities (**BHi**). (Thanks to Joe Hanfman for pursuing the i.d.) A much more cooperative White-rump was at Browns Bridge 9/16 (**JHf; m.obs.**). **Pectoral Sandpipers** peaked at three at Big Branch 10/7 (**JHf, EH**). Four **Dunlin** hung around TRIRS from 10/15 (**JHf**) to 10/23 (**JS; NM**); two stayed until 10/27 (**JCu**). One of the season's prizes was a **Stilt Sandpiper** at Browns Bridge 9/10 (**JHf; EH, JS**); it stayed until 9/13 (**NM+**). An early **Wilson's Snipe** showed up at UMDCF 8/30 (**BO+**). Two **American Woodcock**

were detected: 10/19 MPEA (**BQk**) and 11/7 Houchen's, Woodbine Morgan Rd (**JCu**).

For the first time in a decade, there were more than three **Laughing Gull** reports. The seven dates ranged from 8/30 over Manahan Dr (**BO-2**) to 11/28 at TRIRS (**CSt-1**). A flock of 84 loafed at Fulton 8/30 (**JHf**) to the delight of many observers; 25 touched down briefly at Centennial 9/14 (**BO**). The season's last **Bonaparte's Gull** was at TRIRS 11/27 (**NM, BHi**). **Caspian Tern** sightings were mostly at TRIRS from 8/20 (**BHi-2**) to 9/4 (**JW-5**); one was at Centennial 8/22 (**MKw**). A **Black Tern** spotted at TRIRS on 8/21 understandably attracted much attention (**B&GHi**). **Forster's Terns** were there 8/2 (**BHi, J&JnHf-2**) to 8/23 (**JHf-3**). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were noted in w. HOWCO 9/19 (**M&JBr**). Reports of **Barn Owls** in the county are exciting. Two spent a day in an open horse barn in Glenwood in late Sept/early Oct (**HFs**). (Thanks to Maureen Harvey for the contact.). Two young birders identified a **Barred Owl** which landed in their W. Friendship yard 10/25 (**A&LoCo**). **Common Nighthawks** were well-reported from 8/25 at Thornbrook Rd (**JCu-3**) to seven on HCFC 9/19; the high was 19 at Mt. Pleasant 8/30 (**BO**). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported from Cavey La 10/22 (**RRf**). Unfortunately, the single early morning call and extremely late date for this county rarity put it in the Possible (but intriguing) category. The last **Chimney Swift** was spotted over Mt. Pleasant 10/20 (**JHf, JS**). A green hummingbird zipped through a Timberleigh yard 11/9 without visiting a feeder (**DNg**). By this date, western visitors are possible so it remains **hummingbird sp.**

Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were spotted from 9/13 at Centennial (**MKw**) to 11/8 at Western RP (**NM**), with a high of six on HCFC 9/19. Several **Eastern Wood-Pewees**

(*Records continued on page 3*)

(*Records continued from page 2*) nested late judging by a begging bird being fed at Houchen's 9/3 (**BO, JHf+**) and an adult with food at W. Friendship 9/30 (**BO+**). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** made a nice showing: 9/6 Schooley (**NM**), 9/19 W. Friendship (**JHf, JBy, JCu**), 9/19 w. HOWCO (**T&GFe**), and 9/23 Mt. Pleasant (**BO**). **Least Flycatchers** were noted from 9/6 at Schooley (**NM**) to 9/23 at Mt. Pleasant (**BO**). A **White-eyed Vireo** heard at Meadowbrook 11/15 is so late that without visual verification it is listed as Possible (**DFd**). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at MPEA on 10/11 established a new late date (**KS**). A **Blue-headed Vireo** at Rockburn 9/14 was early (**BO**). Eight reports of **Philadelphia Vireos** were more than usual. Dates were from 8/30 at Western RP (**BO-1**) to 10/4 at MPEA (**KS-2**). A **Common Raven** was heard at Annapolis Rock 11/20 (**SBg**). The earliest **Red-breasted Nuthatch** appeared at W. Friendship 9/20 (**EH**); one was present intermittently at Mt. Albert Rd from 10/7 to 11/30 (**M&GMcC**). The first **Brown Creeper** showed up in Worthington 10/2 (**EMe**). Five **Marsh Wrens** at UMDCF 9/26 set a new high (**BO+**). Thrush migration was mediocre with two reports of **Gray-cheekeds**: MPEA 9/28 (**JHf-1**) and 9/29 Kindler Rd (**NM, JS-1**). **Gray Catbirds** hit highs of 54 at River Rd, Sykesville 8/28 (**FLv**) and 20 at Centennial 9/5 (**MKw**). A **Brown Thrasher** at Schooley 11/22 was a nice date (**NM**).

The lone **Orange-crowned Warbler** was detected at Schooley 11/20, the second latest record (**HHb**). The last **Nashville Warbler** was at Mt. Pleasant 11/5 (**BO**); five **Cape Mays** were counted at Wynfield Rd 9/25 (**RC**); the first **Yellow-rumped** was at Centennial 9/13 (**MKw**); the last **Blackpoll** was at Schooley 10/14 (**DHv**), HCFC 9/19 turned up both a **Yellow-throated (MW)** and a **Cerulean (RBt, SEg, CSt)**. The **Palm Warbler** high count was 30 (24 eastern, 6 western) at UMDCF 9/26 (**BO+**). **Con-**

nnecticut Warblers made a good showing beginning with one at W. Friendship 9/19 (**JHf, JBy, JCu**). One that popped into view at Schooley 10/11 (**NM**) was re-found about noon 10/12 (**T&GFe**); later the same day, they found another at Florence Rd/Shaffersville Rd! Oct 11th also produced one along Old Columbia Rd/Little Patuxent River (**P&TWf**).

Ten **Eastern Towhees** were present at MPEA 10/4 (**KS**). Sparrow highlights were many and not confined to Oct. The season's first **American Tree Sparrows** were detected at the landfill 11/21 (**RC-2**) and at Mt. Pleasant 11/29 (**JCu-1**). A flock of 70+ (mostly im.) **Chipping Sparrows** was present at Rockburn 10/20 (**JS**); on 10/12, single **Vesper's** were spotted at both Western RP (**JW**) and the landfill (**RC, JHf**) — three were there on 10/31 (**RC+**); the **Savannah** high count was 10/17 with 140 at the landfill (**RC, BO+**) and 80 at UMDCF (**BO+**); five **Grasshoppers** at the landfill 10/17 were the last of the season (**RC, BO+**); and the high **Fox Sparrow** count was 11 at Schooley 11/22 (**NM**). A leucistic **Song Sparrow** (extensive white on the head) was seen at Centennial 11/1 (**KS**). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Meadowbrook 11/11 (**JW**) stayed until 11/14 (**BO, JHf+**). A first-winter **Lark Sparrow** at W. Friendship was detected 9/21 by, you guessed it, **Bonnie Ott**. Unfortunately, it was not re-found. A **Nelson's Sparrow** was present at UMDCF 9/30 to 10/3 (**BO+**); another was at the landfill 10/31, a new late date (**RC**). There were 16 records of **Lincoln's** from 10 locations with a high of eight at the landfill 10/17 (**RC, BO+**). The **White-throated Sparrow** record of 200 was shattered when 315 visited the River Rd scrubland 10/25 (**FLv**). A lone **Snow Bunting** at the landfill 10/31 set a new early record (**RC+**).

An **Indigo Bunting** at Schooley 10/26 tied the second latest date (**NM**). The **Eastern Meadowlark** peak was 16 at the landfill 10/3 (**RC,**

JHf). On 9/3, five were seen in a field near Western RP, including a young bird being fed (**BO+**). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported four times between 10/17 (**RC, BO+**) and 11/6 (**JW**) with a high of five at Race Rd 11/5 (**NM**). A few **Purple Finches** dribbled in with the first two at Stone Hill Dr, E.C. 10/17 (**KLz**); the high was three at Centennial 10/25 (**MKw**).

Exotics included a **Greylag Goose** at Western RP 9/17 (**BHb**) and three **Black Swans** which appeared at a pond on MD 144 opposite the fairgrounds 11/7, also present 11/15, and 11/29 (**JCu**). Oddly, one was also seen at Waterford, Jennings Chapel Rd 11/15 (**CSh, fide WE**).

Observers: **RBt** – Randy Beaton, **SBg** – Scott Berglund, **JBr** – Jim Brinkley, **MBr** – Marilyn Brinkley, **JBy** – Joe Byrnes, **LCp** – Lou Carpenter, **ACo** – Andrew Colangelo, **LoCo** – Louis Colangelo, **JC** – Jane Coskren, **TDC** – T. Dennis Coskren, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **RC** – Ralph Cullison III, **KDy** – Karen Darcy, **WE** – Wes Earp, **SEg** – Sid England, **HF**s – Henry Fasteau, **GFe** – Geraldine Feild, **TFe** – Tom Feild, **DFd** – Diane Ford, **PGc** – Pablo Garcia, **JGd** – Jane Geuder, **RGd** – Ralph Geuder, **JnHf** – Jane Hanfman, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **DHv** – Dave Harvey, **KHf** – Kevin Heffernan, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **GHi** – Gayle Hill, **HHb** – Hans Holbrook, **EH** – Emmalyn Holdridge, **JHb** – John Hubbell, **BHb** – Bill Hubick, **MKw** – Mike Kerwin, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **DMac** – Debbie MacArthur, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **GMcC** – Grazina McClure, **MMcC** – Mike McClure, **EMe** – Elayne Metter, **BMr** – Barry Miller, **BMy** – Bryan Moody, **DNg** – Diane Nangengast, **SN** – Sue Neri, **ROr** – Richard Orr, **MO'S** – Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **BQk** – Brad Quickel, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **CSh** – Chuck Sharp, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **JS** – Jo Solem, **MSt** – Michelle Stewart, **CSt** – Chuck Stirrat, **KTf** – Kate Tufts, **MW** – Mark Wallace, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson, **PWf** – Paul Woodford, **TWf** – Timothy Woodford, **SWy** – Sandy Wynandi.

SPRING FIELD TRIPS

BY BONNIE OTT AND JOE HANFMAN

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 bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 7, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* Easy walking around the lake 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 - Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329 or LBRoller@verizon.net.*

WATERFOWL SEARCH

March 13, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (half day) *Meet at Broken Land Parkway Park & Ride west lot.* We'll carpool to search the Howard County waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers, and loons. Chance of an early migrant. *Leader - Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643 or kerschwa1@verizon.net.*

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 14, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* See March 7 for description. *Leader - Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net or 410-772-8424.*

POTLUCK DINNER

March 20, Sat. 6:30 p.m. Held at the Owen Brown Community Center. Contact Sue Probst by Friday, March 19, 2010 at 410-992-3489 or msprobst2@verizon.net for reservations.

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 21, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3

hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* See March 7 for description. *Leader - Jeff Culler 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com.*

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 28, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at West parking lot on Centennial Lane.* See March 7 for description. *Leader - Jeff Culler 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com.*

ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL

April 3, Sat. 7:45 a.m. (half day) *Meet at Alpha Ridge Park to carpool to landfill.* Carpooling required. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. Vesper Sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels and other open country birds expected. Rarities possible. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park. *Leader - Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181 or RMCullison@comcast.net*

UNIVERSITY OF MD FARM

April 11, Sun. (half day)
Limit: 12 people
Moderate to difficult walking though the fields and wetlands of this private property. Knee boots a must and waterproof pants advisable. No facilities. *Call Bonnie Ott to sign up 410-461-3361.*

BON SECOURS SPIRITUAL CENTER

April 21, Wed. 8:00 a.m. (2 hours)
Meet at visitor lot at the top left of the

entrance road. Easy walking through the grounds of this spiritual retreat. Woods, fields and hedgerows provide opportunities for a variety of birds. Facilities available. *Leader - Michele Wright 410-465-6057 or WrightM_29067@msn.com.*

HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY

April 24, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)
Meet at parking lot near the barn. Earth Day Walk in conjunction with the Howard County Conservancy. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. *Leaders - Mike Kerwin 240-357-7625 or m63kerwin@verizon.net and Scott Berglund 410-750-2568 or Business250@yahoo.com.*

FULTON SOUTH BIO-BLITZ

April 25, Sun. 8:00 a.m. (half day)
Meet at Reservoir High School in Fulton. Take the first right into the school parking lot. Carpooling is required. This trip will focus on herps, wildflowers, fungi, insects, and birds. Help to establish baseline data for undeveloped county parkland. *Leaders - Sue Muller 410-313-4697 or smuller@howardcountymd.gov, Bob & Jo Solem 301-725-5037, or odinata@msn.com and Richard Orr.*

 = Great for beginning birders

2009 COUNTY ODONATE SURVEY

BY JOANNE AND BOB SOLEM

The fourth annual Howard County Dragonfly Count, coordinated by June Tveekrem, was held on July 25, 2009. Thirty-two observers tallied 44 species. A new location was established for Swamp Spreadwing, which had been known from a single farm pond (Wes & Sue Earp, Mike & Grazina McClure). Survey results were published in the September/October 2009 issue of *The Goldfinch*. Watch for announcement of the 2010 count to be held in June.

No new species was added to the county list in 2009; however, Richard Orr added Mocha Emerald to the MPEA list (total 52), Great Spread-

wing and Fawn Darner to that of Rockburn Branch Park, and Great Spreadwing to Western Regional Park's list (34). Extensions were recorded for the following: Slender Bluet 7/25 (W&SE, M&GMcC), Swamp Darner 11/29 (Jo Solem), Eastern Least Clubtail 8/1 (W&SE, M&GMcC), and Twelve-spotted Skimmer 5/9 (JS).

In October, Kimberley Knox, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's community outreach manager, interviewed Bob and Jo Solem for a podcast concerning the odes found on reservoir property, especially Pigtail.

HERP ATLAS

BY SUE MULLER

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Natural History Society of Maryland are sponsoring a five-year atlas from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2015. Atlas blocks (no quarterblocks) are the same as those for the recent Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas.

Herps (frogs, toads, turtles, snakes, salamanders, and lizards) have never been consistently surveyed in this state. Because there are so many fewer herp enthusiasts than birders, the help of birders is essential. As county coordinator, I welcome observations whether you volunteer to cover a block (please consider it) or simply send individual sightings to me from wherever you bird (date, specific location, and photos for some species) at smuller@co.ho.md.us.

This atlas is still in the organizational stage; however, sometime soon I will forward a more detailed e-mail to Howard County Bird Club members. I expect to hold training sessions and field trips to cover some locations intensively. There is a field trip scheduled on April 25th which will include a search for herps. (See page 4 for details.) Expand your understanding of local habitats. Please, keep your eyes and ears open this spring when you are birding.

HOWARD COUNTY GREENFEST 2010

BY SUE MULLER

County Executive Ken Ulman invites you to Howard County's third annual "GreenFest" on Saturday April 17th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Howard Community College. Sponsored by the Departments of Recreation & Parks, Planning and Zoning, and the Bureau of Environmental Services, this free family event celebrates Earth Month. The theme for GreenFest is "Greener Choices, Greener World, One Person at a Time" and features displays to provide citizens with practical information for making choices to lead a more ecologically sound lifestyle – both at home and the office.

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

Climate Change Initiative, just to name a few.

There will be a rain barrel workshop and you will be able to take home a rain barrel for \$25! There will also be a bluebird box workshop and you can take home a nest box for \$15! Sign up in advance for both workshops with Sue Muller at smuller@howardcountymd.gov.

Activities include a nature walk on the campus nature trail. There will be sign-ups for tours of the Elkridge recycling facility and many free giveaways. The Mid-Atlantic Turtle & Tortoise Society will have live reptiles and the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center will display live raptors. Several other children's activities are planned to help them learn more about the environment and nature. In addition, free document shredding will be available in the parking lot. For more information and the schedule of activities, visit the county's website at <http://www.hcgreenfest.org>.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed.

March 25, 2010

June Tveekrem (410-715-3979)
10970 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044

April 22, 2010

Ward Ebert (301-490-5807)
7366 Hallmark Rd
Clarksville, MD 21029



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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FROM COLUMBIA TO COLOMBIA

BY KURT SCHWARZ

Since the inception of its seed sale more than two decades ago, the Howard County Bird Club has raised \$64,769 for habitat preservation. To the seed sale's profits and donations, the club's bookstore contributed \$1,000, which brought the grand total of habitat presentation donations to approximately \$66,000.

We have invested in habitat projects as close as Columbia, MD, and as far afield as Ecuador. The other nations south of the border where our funds have been sent are Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Here in Maryland we have benefited the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in Columbia, Belt Woods in Prince George's County, Assateague, Nassawango Creek, and Frostburg.

Nearby, we have contributed toward the purchase of Delaware Bay shoreline, to help preserve it for the rapidly declining Red Knot and other shorebirds populations. We have also contributed toward the planting of turtlehead, the host plant for the larvae of the threatened Baltimore Checkerspot, and been a regular supporter of All Creatures Great and Small, a wildlife rehabilitator in Columbia.

The Board of Directors decided to invest \$1,420 this year, dividing it among three projects. The first is the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. The county wishes to improve its American Woodcock habitat and requested \$420 to fund native seed of plants that would enhance that habitat. The second donation was to continue our support of All Creatures

Great and Small. Lastly, the balance will be devoted to reforestation of abandoned mine land in the Appalachian Mountains, to benefit the declining Cerulean Warbler and other forest species under the auspices of the American Bird Conservancy.

With this contribution, we will have invested funds to benefit the Cerulean Warbler at both ends of its range: its wintering range in Colombia, and now, its breeding range in Kentucky, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. So our money has been spread from Columbia to Colombia and a little beyond to Ecuador.

Thank you for supporting the seed sale and for your additional contributions. Stay tuned for the 2010 plans to support our habitat preservation efforts.