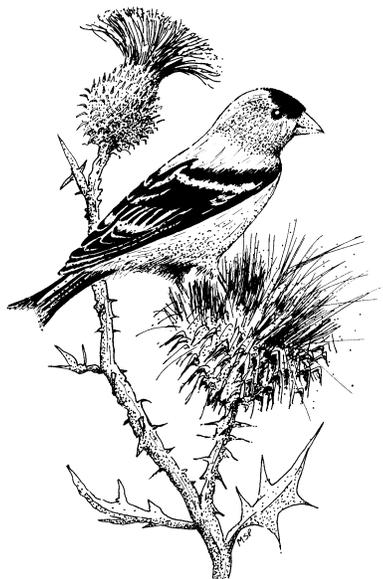


The Goldfinch

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



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

Copy deadline for the September/October 2010 issue is July 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.

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

CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, May 13, 2010 "Temperate Zone Biases in Studies of Plumage and Song Evolution: Why Baltimore Orioles Led Us Astray," by Dr. Kevin Omland, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Understanding the causes of bright bird coloration has been a focus of ornithology since Darwin. Using DNA sequence data to produce a family tree for the whole oriole group, the UMBC researchers challenged some of the long-held assumptions about bright male coloration. According to Dr. Omland, "Our group has used DNA sequence data to produce a family tree for the whole oriole group. Using this evolutionary tree, we can infer that the ancestral oriole was a tropical species that had elaborate coloration and song in both sexes. Male-only color has repeatedly evolved in orioles due to losses in females in temperate species. Modern evolutionary approaches that lead us to consider both temperate and tropical species help avoid biases determined by which species breed in our back yards."

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.

WINTER BIRD RECORDS: DECEMBER 1, 2009 – FEBRUARY 28, 2010

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Record snowfalls, postponed and cancelled counts, and missing invasives reduced birds and birding opportunities this season. Despite the challenges, a few exceptional birds were reported: seven Cackling Geese tied the high count, a Lesser Black-backed Gull was the first since 2005, a Warbling Vireo was a state-late bird, a January Palm Warbler was the county's first, a Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was the second record, and a Lapland Longspur sighting was the 12th record.

Snow Geese were few, but a blue phase at Larriland, MD94 on 1/18

(**JCu, JHf**) and a flock of nine (wh.) over Dark Hawk Cir, E. Col. 2/15 (**MO'S**) were notable. Seven **Cackling Geese** at Centennial 1/9 tied the county high (**MOstw, ROstw**); single Cacklers were reported from three other locations (**JHf; NM**). Many of the **Canada Geese** in western Howard Co. must have been in a huge cornfield along Shaffers Mill Rd 12/29 when 7,000+ were counted at sunset as they left in small to medium-sized flocks (mostly east) (**MBr**). Two counts of 3,000+ were made along Jennings Chapel Rd (**NM-2/13-2/14; MW-2/20**).

(Records continued on page 2)

(Records continued from page 1)

Although the variety and number of most other waterfowl were generally unremarkable, a **Northern Shoveler** (f.) was spotted at Lake Kittamaquundi 12/18 (JHf); a **Northern Pintail** (m.) was present along Daisy Rd 1/21 for a few days (JHf,MBw); the **Ring-necked Duck** high was 113 at Centennial 12/13 (KS); and **Greater Scaup** were reported from both Centennial 1/4 (JHf-1 m.) and the quarry pond at Springdale Rd 1/29 (NM-2 m., 1 f.). The 1,300 **Common Mergansers** at Triadelphia Reservoir 1/30 marked the sixth year of the last seven in which more than 1,000 have wintered (NM). The **Red-breasted Merganser** high was 15 at the Springdale Rd quarry pond 1/9 (MKw).

Wild Turkeys were reported at River Rd, Sykesville 12/26 (2) and 2/25 (1) (FLv). One **Horned Grebe** was at Rocky Gorge Dam 1/2 (KS,JS). **Double-crested Cormorants** dawdled into January at several locations. On 1/2, four were at Rocky Gorge Dam (KS,JS) and one was at Brighton Dam (MHw, AMt); the last to depart was at Lake Elkhorn 1/4 (SN).

Bald Eagles continued to be seen regularly at the central lakes; the winter high was 11 at Brighton Dam 1/11 (NM). It was surprising to see three at Fulton Pond 12/30 (JBI). A **Merlin** was spotted at Warfields Pond Park 12/14 (BHi). A **Peregrine Falcon** blew past observers at Underwood Rd 12/31 (JHf,NM,JS+), and one was at Brighton Dam 1/28 (NM). There were four reports of wintering **Wilson's Snipe** (MBr,JHf, M&GMcC,NM) with a high of three at Florence Rd/Shaffersville

Rd 1/31 (MBr). Although deep snow still covered most of the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area on 2/22, an **American Woodcock** flushed from the cleared Trotter Rd parking lot (JBt).

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was picked out of a flock of 300+ gulls (JHf) in a field south of the circle at Brighton Dam Rd/Ten Oaks Rd in early afternoon 1/25. Later, the flock swelled to 700 (NM), but the LBBG could not be refound. It was relocated in the same area 1/26 with 130 gulls (JGr). A second-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** appeared at Brighton Dam 2/3-2/4 (JHf).

All three resident owls were reported with **Eastern Screech-Owls** found at three locations on 12/27 (JHf). Mating **Barred Owls** were observed in a Columbia Hills yard in late February (M&RBt). A **Pileated Woodpecker** (f), an infrequent feeder bird, visited suet in Timberleigh yards in late January (DNg; CFr).

A state-late **Warbling Vireo** on Thornbrook Rd 12/15 was nicely documented with a photo (JCu). **Horned Lark** highs were 60 along Underwood Rd 12/31 (JHf,NM+) and 41 on Daisy Rd 2/27 (NM). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce with no more than one highly intermittent bird at each of seven locations (M&RBt,MBr, JCu,W&SE,M&GMcC,JTv,MW). The lone winter **House Wren** was seen at Meadowbrook 12/12 (JW). **Winter Wrens** are infrequent yard birds. One was at Hallmark 12/8 (WEb) and one at Sandchain, E. Col. 2/1-2/2 (J&TDC). Eight **Eastern Bluebirds** enjoyed sunflower chips all winter at an All-

view feeder (JMck). Deep snow brought **Hermit Thrushes** into yards in Braeburn 2/11 (JRn) and Hammond Village 2/12 (JS).

A **Gray Catbird** was still at Centennial 12/5 (MKw). An unusual number of **Brown Thrashers** wintered: Schooley Mill Park 12/12-1/24 (NM+-1); north end of Triadelphia 1/2 (B&GHi-2), an Old Scaggsville Rd yard 2/8-2/13 (BNw-1), and multiple reports from Florence Rd/Shaffersville Rd 1/16 (JW-2) to 2/21 (M&JBr-1).

Cedar Waxwings were still seen in good numbers in December when 26 were at Centennial 12/12 (MKw) and a high of 160+ were counted at Warfields Pond Park 12/13 (NM). After that, reports were few and numbers dropped to single digits. A yellow **Palm Warbler** at Triadelphia 1/2 was the county's first January record (MW). The last **Common Yellowthroat** was detected at Schooley 12/12 (NM).

American Tree Sparrows were reported at seven locations; unfortunately, the maximum number was two. **Chipping Sparrows** hung around all winter with highs of five at West Friendship 12/15 (JCu) and three at Schooley 12/6-1/2 (NM). Two were noted at Mt. Pleasant 1/15 (CSt) and one was at Thornbrook 2/6 (JCu). **Field Sparrows** were not widely reported with a high of 12 at Schooley 12/9 (JW). **Savannah Sparrow** records were scattered with a high of six at Underwood Rd 12/6 (JHf). Two **Fox Sparrows** weathered winter's storms at feeders at Sandchain, E. Col. (J&TDC). The **White-crowned Sparrow** high was a modest 10 at Clark's, Rox-

(Records continued on page 3)

(*Records continued from page 2*)
bury Rd 2/20 (**MW**). A **Gambel's** subspecies was present 12/25-26 at a Thornbrook feeder, the second county record (**JCu**, ph.). Two **Lapland Longspurs** spotted along Underwood Rd on 12/31 were the 12th county record. That sighting brought a dramatic end to **Joe Hanfman's** quest to establish a new one-year Howard County record. The longspurs were species #225, besting **Bonnie Ott's** total of 224 established in 2001. What a Hollywood ending!

The lone **Rusty Blackbird** sighting was at Reservoir Overlook 1/31 (**BGr-2**). The largest blackbird flocks were 4,800 **Common Grackles** over Daisy Rd 1/21 (**NM**) and 4,000+ passing River Rd, Sykesville 1/22 (**FLv**). A **Baltimore Oriole** was noted at Furrow Ave 12/10 (**JCu**, ph.); one

also appeared at a Sharp Rd feeder 2/6 and remained into March (**RSm, CRO**, ph.). **Purple Finch** reports were few. The highest number was 15 at Timberleigh 12/19 (**DNg**). A **Pine Siskin** made a brief appearance at a Millbank Row, W. Col. feeder 2/12 (**JTv**).

Exotics: **Black Swans** continued at two locations. Two were present at Moxleys, MD144 (opposite fairgrounds) 12/28 (**JCu**) and one remained at Waterford, Jennings Chapel Rd 2/20 where it has resided since 11/15/09 (**CSh; MW**).

f. – female; m. – male
ph. – photograph

Observers: JBl – John Blaisdell, **MBt** – Monika Botsai, **Rbt** – Rod Botsai, **MBw** – Mike Bowen, **Jbt** – Jim Brighton, **JBr** – Jim Brinkley,

MBr – Marilyn Brinkley, **Jc** – Jane Coskren, **TDC** – T. Dennis Coskren, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **SE** – Sue Earp, **WE** – Wes Earp, **WEb** – Ward Ebert, **Cfr** – Cathy Franklin, **JGr** – Jim Green, **BGr** – B. Griffin, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **GHi** – Gayle Hill, **MHw** – Marshall Howe, **Mkw** – Mike Kerwin, **FLv** – Felicia Love-lett, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **AMt** – Andy Martin, **GMcC** – Grazina McClure, **MMcC** – Mike McClure, **JMcK** – John McKitterick, **DNg** – Diane Nagengast, **SN** – Sue Neri, **BNw** – Bea Newkirk, **MOstw** – Michael Ostrowski, **ROstw** – Robert Ostrowski, **MO'S** – Michael O'Sullivan, **JRn** – Jan Randle, **CRO** – Clyde Robinette, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **CSh** – Chuck Sharp, **RSm** – Romaine Smith, **JS** – Jo Solem, **JTv** – June Tveekrem, **MW** – Mark Wallace, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson.

YOUR DONATIONS = MORE PARROTS

BY KURT SCHWARZ

The Howard County Bird Club members donated \$2,000 in the 2009 fundraiser. The Club's Board of Directors decided to send \$1,800 of that amount to the American Bird Conservancy for their Thick-billed Parrot Nest Box Program. The balance of the money was sent to the Howard County wildlife rehabilitation organization All Creatures Great and Small.

As you may recall, we asked you to donate to benefit the Thick-billed Parrot Conservation Project of the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). ABC partnered with Pro Natura Noreste to purchase 2,470 acres of old-growth forest, habitat for the Thick-billed Parrot, in Mexico's Sierra Madre Occiden-

tal. Old-growth forest in the Sierra Madre Occidental had declined by 99.4%, while the population of the Thick-billed Parrot also declined throughout its range. But even with secure habitat, the parrots' troubles continued. The quaking aspen tree, which is prone to cavities, was in short supply. And the species that had excavated holes in other tree species, the Imperial Woodpecker, was extinct. The parrots, as cavity nesters, were faced with a severe housing shortage. So ABC and Pro Natura Noreste hit upon the solution of providing nest boxes. This is what your donation provided.

Regrettably, we don't often get feedback on our donations. But ABC in its latest issue of Bird Calls

reports that in the past season, the parrots used eight boxes, a significant increase over the three boxes used in the previous year. A total of 20 eggs were laid in the boxes, and 18 chicks fledged. So the boxes you helped buy brought 18 more Thick-billed Parrots into the world. Perhaps, some day, their numbers will increase to the point that the species can be reintroduced into Arizona, and it can resume its place on the ABA area checklist.

While the Club Board has yet to decide on what form the fundraiser will assume this year, we hope that you will be generous in order to benefit the birds.

SUMMER 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.

PIGTAIL - TRIADELPHIA

May 1, Sat., 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)
Meet at the Green Bridge Road parking lot which is off Triadelphia Mill Rd in Howard County. In conjunction with WSSC and Montgomery County Bird Club. The cove is bordered on three sides by deciduous and coniferous woods. Extensive mudflats may exist with the possibility of shorebirds. Facilities available (rustic). Leader – Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net or 410-772-8424.

MAY COUNT

May 8, Sat. (See page 5 for details.)

BIG DAY

May 15, Saturday. Limit 12
All day listing extravaganza! Email or call the leader to sign up. 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. Facilities in some spots. Leader - Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net or 410-461-3361.

 **HENRYTON ROAD, PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK** May 19, Wed. 8:00 a.m. (half day) Meet at bottom of Henryton Rd at the dead end. Walk along the Patapsco River looking for spring migrants. Easy walking along the river for nesting Worm-Eating and Yellow-Throated warblers. Plan for moderate walking and possible

muddy trails areas. No facilities.

Leaders- Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329, LBRoller@verizon.net and Jeff Culler 410-465-9006.

HOT SPOTS FOR RED KNOTS, EPISODE V

May 22, Sat., 6:00 a.m. (all day)
Meet at the Brokenland Parkway Park-and-Ride West lot. Joint trip with Montgomery County. We will concentrate on the middle Delaware Bay shore, beginning at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, as well as the impoundments on Broadkill Rd. We will also visit Dupont Nature Center at Mispillion Harbor. We will work our way north, visiting hotspots such as Ted Harvey Wildlife Management Area, and, time permitting, Bombay Hook NWR. Expect shorebirds, late waterfowl, and gulls. Facilities are available at some stops. Short walks from the cars. Mud possible. Bring water, food, sunscreen, and lots of insect repellent. Note that the water at Bombay Hook continues to be unsuitable for drinking.

The trip will be limited to 12 persons/three cars per chapter. Reserve a spot with one of the leaders. Leaders - Kurt Schwarz krschwa1@verizon.net, 410-461-1643 before 8 p.m., or Peter Osen-ton, 410-799-8584, roadwarrior71@verizon.net. Cyndia Loeper will lead for MontCo.

PATAPSCO SCRUBLAND

May 23, Sun., 7:30 a.m. (half day)
Meet at 735 River Road (up long drive take right-hand split & park by house). Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. Moderate to possibly difficult walking: steep trails with several stream crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. Facilities available. Leader - Felicia Lovelett 410-489-7169 or c5nest@gmail.com.

DRAGONFLY COUNT

June 5, Sat. (See page 7 for details.)

POPLAR ISLAND

July 27, Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Reservations required. Contact the coordinator. Poplar Island is an environmental restoration project similar to Hart-Miller. When completed, it will provide approximately 570 acres of wetland and 570 acres of upland habitat. It is reached by a 20-30 minute boat ride from Tilghman Island. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Limit 24. Leader: Robin Armetta. Coordinator - Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net or 410-772-8424.

 = Great for beginning birders

MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The May Count is held the second Saturday in May each year. It is timed to coincide with the peak of the spring migration. Over the last 10 years across the county, we have tallied an average of 147 species during the May count. This year it is on May 8th the earliest date it can be. It will be interesting to see if more of the early migrants are seen than in years in which the count has been later in the month.

For the count, Howard County is divided up into seven areas as shown on the map. Each area has an Area Coordinator (name and phone number listed below) who communicates with the counters, assigns territories, and compiles area results. If you are a beginner, ask to be paired with a more experienced birder. Since the point is to tally every individual bird, extra eyes and ears are helpful. If you want to see a particular species, give me a call (410-418-8731) and I

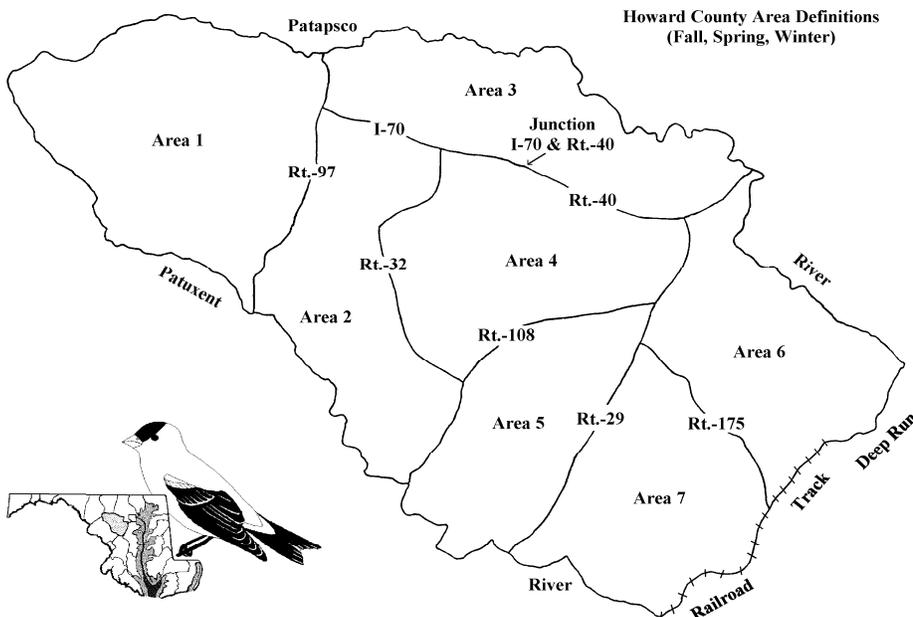
will try to place you in a location where you might have a good chance of seeing that bird. The checklist is available on the club's website or you can ask your area coordinator to email or mail you a copy.

At the end of the day, all of the counters are invited to a tally rally at June Tveekrem's house to share what was seen and come up with the county totals. It is a great opportunity to relax, swap stories of the day, and find out what everyone else has seen. Please call June in advance (410-715-3979) and let her know how many are coming from your party and your choice of

food or beverage to bring. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m. and the tally rally will start at 8 p.m. The completed checklist must be turned in to the area coordinators at the tally rally. If you cannot make it, be sure that your checklist gets delivered or gets called in by 7:00 p.m. We will find out what rarities were seen and often go out the next day to try to relocate them.

Come join us. We guarantee that you will see a lot of birds many of which you can only see this time of year.

Area 1	Wes Earp	410-531-3197
Area 2	Kevin Heffernan	410-418-8731
Area 3	Chuck Stirrat	410-531-2417
Area 4	Mike McClure	410-531-2780
Area 5	Karen Darcy	443-857-1789
Area 6	Bonnie Ott	410-461-3361
Area 7	Jo Solem	301-725-5037



TWENTY-FIFTH HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Two major snowstorms within a week forced the postponement and eventually the cancellation of the 25th Howard County Midwinter Count, so there is no summary. Beginning with next year's count Joe Hanfman will compile the data and write the article; Joe Byrnes will continue as the organizational co-compiler. As I step down, this is a good time to look back to how the count originated, to spotlight key people, and to remember some of the high points.

In the mid-1980s, after years of discussion by birders as to how accurately Christmas Counts reflect true wintering birds in Maryland, Teresa Simons in Allegany County and I in Howard (as part of MOS's Long Range Planning Committee) agreed to organize a trial count beginning in 1986. It would be conducted in January or early February and run for 3-5 years. By the time the trial period ended, other counties had joined the fun, so county-based midwinter counts became established over much of the state. (For someone who barely tolerates cold weather, there is no small irony in my association with any winter count.)

For the initial years of 1986-1997, David Holmes compiled the data and wrote the articles making selected comparisons to the Triadelphia Christmas Count results; I served as organizer. For 1998 and 1999, I temporarily filled both functions. Since that time, three highly-organized co-compilers (Mary-Jo Betts 2000-2004, Emy

Holdridge 2005, and Joe Byrnes 2006-2010) made my job easy.

So many people have contributed to making this count a success that they cannot all be named; however, area compilers are key components. Kudos to all who have served in that capacity over the years. There have been dozens of field counters who volunteer annually (some of the faithful participants come from adjoining counties), and there have been consistent feeder-watchers. All have been appreciated.

From the beginning, one of the most anticipated aspects of the count has been the tally. The first year Jane Coskren, on short notice, cheerfully volunteered her home. Many counters will remember cold, snowy years (1987-1991, '93, '94) when warm-hearted tallies were hosted by Zelda and Hal Simon. Bonnie Ott generously filled in for 1995. Martha and Don Waugh stepped forward in 1992, then later volunteered as hosts for a decade (1996-2005) providing a much-anticipated ending to cold days in the field. From 2006 to the present, Karen and Jeff Culler have kindly offered their hospitality. Hats off to each of them! Thanks for so many pleasant memories.

From 1992-2000, counters listed raptor sighting details for the Mid-Atlantic Raptor Society. Despite Mike McClure's careful work to reduce duplication, Howard's counters reported so many more individual birds than the Society's more limited roadside surveys that our data could not be incorporated

with theirs, so the effort was discontinued. In 1996, Chuck Stirrat began computerizing results in a standard format for all county counts—a boon to all seasonal count compilers.

During the 24 years the count has been completed, it has been run as early as January 26 and as late as February 11 (1995, when weather conditions forced a one-week postponement). The lowest species total was 78 in 1987; the high was 94 in 1994, '97, 2002, 2008. The 2008 high count was first among equals because the landfill was no longer active (final year 1997 which removed potential gull species) and the county's last wild resident Mute Swan died in 2007. The first videotaped verification was Bob Ringler's Lapland Longspur in 2004. In 2007, observers began reporting the number of deer seen—a figure that should have been collected from the beginning.

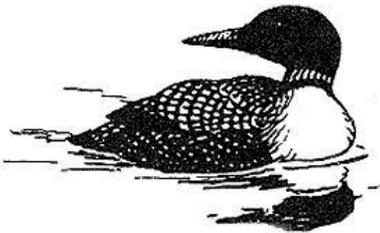
One tends to think that trends cannot be seen in a relatively short span, but a few have been obvious. Northern Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant are no longer expected as they were on the first five counts. House Finch numbers dropped in the late 1990s due to region-wide disease and are slowly climbing again; American Kestrel and American Tree Sparrow numbers are down and show little sign of rebounding; while the flocks of Evening Grosbeaks from the first year of the count are a distant memory. Bald Eagles have been the most dramatic success story. A species which barely registered on

(Count continued on page 7)

(Count continued from page 6)

the first dozen counts now winters consistently, often in the double digits.

My heartfelt thanks to each individual who has contributed to the success of these first 24 counts. As Joe H. and Joe B. lead us into the next quarter-century, we can anticipate that whether the species tallied are expected or unusual, they will add to our understanding of Maryland's wintering birds.



Common Loon—Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

THIRD GRADER WINS ESSAY CONTEST

BY KATE TUFTS

Nine-year-old Ethan Herder of Glenwood accepted the challenge to write about his favorite bird watching experience for the Bird Club's youth essay contest. The third grader's finished product was the winner. He described watching a nuthatch at his backyard feeder. Ethan likes the bird because "... he does a lot of acrobatics. He looks like a motorcycle driver twisting his hands." Ethan was awarded a backpack containing a pair of Eagle Optics binoculars and assorted field guides plus a one-year membership in the Club.

Congratulations Ethan!

ANNUAL LIST FOR THE COUNTY

BY WARD EBERT

Last year, 2009, was a spectacular year in which we greatly surpassed our previous record high of 236 species with a tally of 241. There is a possibility the total could be 242 depending on whether the Maryland/DC Records Committee accepts the Henslow's Sparrow report. Harris's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Painted Bunting, and Iceland Gull were other notable species that hadn't been recorded in recent years. Look for the complete list on our website, www.howardbirds.org.

The wanderings of a few rarities are not the real story; rather, it is the extra efforts of many birders to get out and see what we really have. There were an equal number of species that were recorded in 2008 which did not appear in 2009, including Mute Swan, Cattle Egret, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden-winged Warbler and Mourning Warbler. So there is certainly the possibility of pushing the total higher in 2010 and beyond.

STUDENT ART CONTEST ANNOUNCED

BY KATE TUFTS

Here is a chance for students to release their inner Audubon. This summer, students age nine to thirteen may draw, paint or sculpt a bird image for a chance to win a backpack containing Eagle Optics binoculars plus field guides and a one-year membership in the Howard County Bird Club. Attention to detail in the drawings, paintings, and sculptures is a plus.

Artists must be Howard County residents. Previous backpack winners are not eligible. For further details, visit our website at www.howardbirds.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.

May 27, 2010

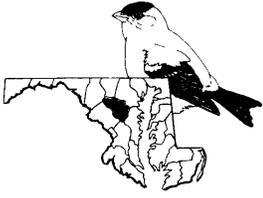
Amanda Witt
8865 Purple Iris Lane
Elkridge, MD 21075
(410) 312-0504

HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

BY JUNE TVEEKREM

Saturday June 5, 2010

No experience needed! Join fellow birders and naturalists in enjoying these beautiful insects. Each group of observers, with an experienced leader, visits ponds and rivers in an assigned territory. The group identifies and counts every dragonfly and damselfly seen. Visit www.southernspreadwing.com for more details and results of previous counts. Tally and snacks 4:00 pm at June Tveekrem's house. To sign up contact June Tveekrem at June@SouthernSpreadwing.com or 410-715-3979.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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May/June 2010 - Inside This Issue:

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POTLUCK THANKS

BY SUE PROBST

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the 2010 Potluck Dinner a wonderful success! As in past years, I had a lot of great volunteers, but I want to give a special "thank you" to several members who volunteered their services to help make it so much fun for the rest of us. First, many thanks to Marty Chestem who produced our wonderful "bird cartoon" placemats that have been a potluck tradition for so many years. Also, thanks to Ward Ebert for purchasing the sodas and water, Jeff Culler for bringing the ice,

Tom Miller for setting up the power strips, Sherry Tomlinson and Susan Sandborn for help with the floral table arrangements, and June Tveekrem for her technical expertise in running our slide show.

I am also very grateful to the many club members who were kind enough to come early to set up the room and/or stay late to clean up. This annual event could not run as smoothly as it does without all of your help! Finally, I would like to thank Kathie Lillie for her assis-

tance as our potluck dinner co-chair this year. Kathie has graciously volunteered to organize next year's dinner. I am confident that all of you will be as helpful to Kathie as you have been to me in these past years.