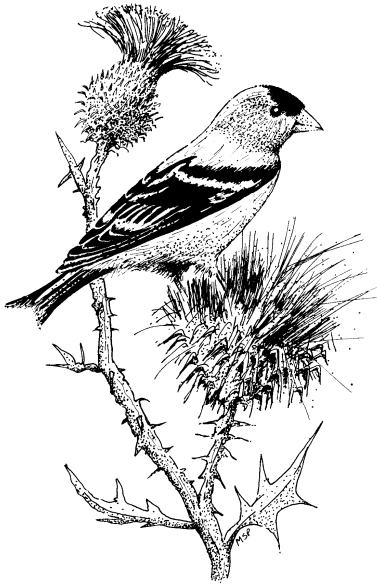


The Goldfinch

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



CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, January 13, 2011 “Maryland's Secretive Marsh Birds: Will They Survive Sea Level Rise?” by David Brinker, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources. Using survey studies done in the 1990's and updated MD/DC Atlas data, a prediction can be made about coastal area changes in 60-100 years. Meeting is held at Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046.

Thursday, February 10, 2011 “The Robinson Nature Center, Its History and Future,” by Mark Raab, Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks. Mark will discuss ways our club can interact with the nature center. We expect that short tours of the facility will be available beginning an hour before the 8:00 p.m. meeting. **LOCATION CHANGE** (February meeting only) Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044 (Just north of MD 32, west side of Cedar Lane. A map will be posted on the club website after the January meeting.)

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.

CLARKSVILLE ELEMENTARY STUDENT WINS ART CONTEST

BY KATE TUFTS

Ten-year old Amy Li, a fifth grader at Clarksville Elementary School, is the first place winner in the Howard County Bird Club's student art contest. Amy's watercolor rendering of a pair of Mallards was considered to be top-notch by the contest's judge, professional artist, Brenda Kiddera. Ms. Kiddera, a former Bird Club member, teaches watercolor painting and is well known around Howard County and the state for her pastoral local scenes and portraits. She also produced this year's Wine in the Woods poster. Ms. Kiddera stated that Amy

showed good control of the watercolors which can be difficult for such a young artist.

Amy's prize is a backpack containing a pair of Eagle Optics binoculars, a copy of *The Young Birder's Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America*, other assorted birding books and a one year membership in the Howard County Bird Club.

A photo of Amy's watercolor can be viewed on the club's website, www.howardbirds.org.

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

Copy deadline for the March/April 2011 issue is January 25, 2011.

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

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MIDWINTER COUNT

BY JOE BYRNES AND JOE HANFMAN

Join the Howard County Bird Club's Twenty-Sixth Annual Midwinter Count on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Joe Byrnes (410-730-5329 / LBRoller@verizon.net) and Joe Hanfman (Cell 443-745-7378 / auk1844@comcast.net) are the count coordinators. You may volunteer to participate by signing up at a meeting, by calling Joe Byrnes, or by contacting one of the area coordinators.

Beginning birders are always welcome, as are individuals who wish to count only for part of the day. If you wish to count only at your feeder, call Joe B. or Joe H. and request a feeder form.

The evening potluck tally will be at Jeff and Karen Culler's at 2672 Thornbrook Rd, Ellicott City, MD. Please contact the Cullers at 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com by Wednesday, February 2nd, to sign up for a vegetable, salad, or dessert, and to obtain directions. If you cannot make the meal, you are welcome to drop in about 7:30 p.m. for the tally.

If there is a question about the weather, we will try to make a decision the night before. Call your area coordinator, Joe B. or Joe H. (between 5:00 & 6:00 a.m. on the day of the count) if you are unsure of the status of the count.

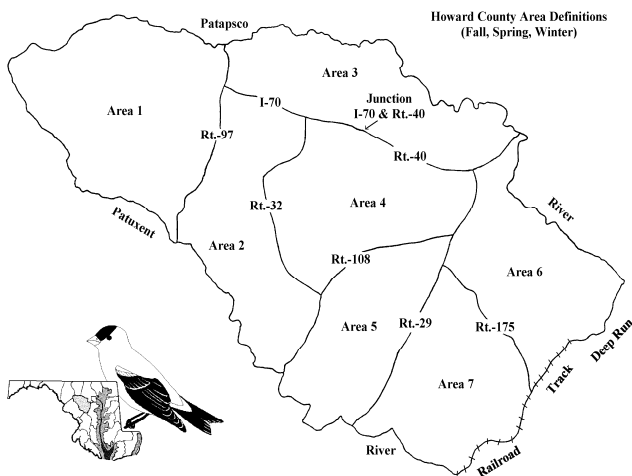
DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

BY BOB SOLEM

In late November 2010, the Howard County Bird Club sent an email to all members notifying them that the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board turned down the request from Terrapin Adventures to expand its zipline onto Howard County public park land. If you did not receive this email, we do not have your correct email address. If emails we send are returned because of delivery failure, we remove your email address from the system.

If you received that email, you need to do nothing; the system works. But if you did not receive it and want to receive subsequent notices by email from the Bird Club, send an email to webmaster@howardbirds.org and ask to have your email address added (or corrected). Remember, this service is only available to members who are current with their dues. We may expand the number of notices and publications sent by email in the future.

Area 1	Mark Wallace Wes Earp	301-725-6370 410-531-3197	abcxyz5@verizon.net the_carp@verizon.net
Area 2	Ward Ebert	301-490-5807	wardebert@verizon.net
Area 3	Maureen & Dave Harvey	410-795-3117	dahtangara@verizon.net
Area 4	Mike McClure	410-531-2780	michael.mcclure@jhuapl.edu
Area 5	Michele Wright	410-465-6057	wrightm_29067@msn.com
Area 6	Bonnie Ott	410-461-3361	bonnicott@verizon.net
Area 7	Kurt Schwarz	410-461-1643	krschwa1@verizon.net



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.

January 28, 2011
 Jim Lubitz
 10908 Millbank Row
 Columbia, MD 21044
 410-730-7958

February 24, 2011
 Jo Solem
 10617 Graeloch Road
 Laurel, MD 20723
 301-725-5037

SEED SALE A SUCCESS BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The Howard County Bird Club Seed Sale took place on October 2nd at the Wildlife Authority on US 40 west of Ellicott City. Kevin Cassidy, the owner, went out of his way to make us feel welcome and to make the sale a success. Kevin's staff unloaded the truck and loaded seed into each customer's car making logistics easy for the club. He also provided a discount card for each customer to be used on the day of the sale and another for the first full week in December. The 8695 lbs. of seed sold would have netted \$869.50 for conservation, but Kevin generously rounded the total up to \$1000. The money will be donated to help the birds of the Gulf Coast.

I would like to thank all of our customers for hanging in there with us during the changes that have taken place over the last couple of years. Your support is much appreciated. I would also like to thank Michael O'Sullivan who took all of the orders and worked the desk the day of the sale. Finally, I would like to give a big thank you to Kevin Cassidy and the staff of the Wildlife Authority for their dedication and generosity. This would not have worked without them. If you get a chance, stop in and thank them yourself. They have high quality seed at a great price and a good selection of

feeders, jewelry, books, etc. The store is located on the north side of Rt. 40 a few blocks west of Bethany Lane behind the Cat Rescue.

Plan to purchase your seed at our October 2011 sale knowing that all



WINTER FIELD TRIPS

BY BONNIE OTT & 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 bonniecott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

BY AMANDA WITT

Did you miss the Midwinter Count or do you just want an excuse to do more birding? If so, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is for you. The GBBC is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and will be held February 18-21, 2011. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Observers then enter their tallies on the GBBC website, www.birdcount.org. You can explore the results of prior years by visiting www.birdsource.org/gbbc/.

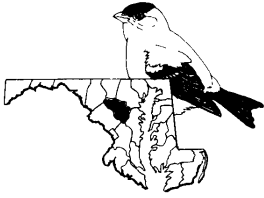
START YOUR YEAR LIST

Jan. 1, Sat. (8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
Meet at Centennial Park boat ramp off MD108. If ramp parking lot is still closed due to construction, go to top of the hill. Park either near the pavilions or in the lot near the park offices. Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year when every bird's new! Facilities available. *Leader - Bonnie Ott, bonniecott@verizon.net or 410-461-3361.*

MIDWINTER COUNT Feb. 5, Sat. (See page 2 for more info.)

HOW TO FIND AN OWL

Feb. 19, Sat. (1:00 p.m., possibility of birding till dusk.) *Meet at Annapolis Rock Rd horse trailer parking lot, midway between Hipsley Mill Rd and Rt. 94.* Snow/rain date February 26. Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Jay is an expert at finding owls and will share his skills and knowledge as to how to find different species. No facilities. Contact the leader to sign up so participants can be advised of weather-related changes. *Leader - Jay Sheppard, JMSheppard@aol.com or 301-725-5559.*



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

BY KATHIE LILLIE

The annual potluck dinner will again be held at the Owen Brown Community Center on Saturday, March 12, 2011. The social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. All club members and their guests are invited to share in the fun, the food and the program. The club furnishes beverages, social hour snacks, rolls and eating utensils. Those attending may bring a main dish, a salad, a vegetable or a dessert. Be sure to mark your dishes and any accompanying serving implements with your name so we can get them back to the right person. If you cannot cook, other arrangements can be made.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the "slide show," so bring your nature photos. **However,**

please note that this year we ask each person to limit his photographs to no more than 15 images. Presentation time is limited, so please respect this request! You can bring digital photos (or a PowerPoint presentation) on a CD or USB thumb drive. If you have 35 mm slides, please bring them mounted in a carousel. The club will provide both a conventional slide projector and a laptop with multimedia projector. For more information, contact **June Tveekrem** 410-715-3979, or june@southernspreadwing.com

You **MUST** reserve in advance so we can arrange for sufficient beverages, etc. You may sign up at either the February or March club meeting, or contact **Kathie Lillie** by Friday, March 11, 2011 at 410-489-5262, or

klillie3@verizon.net. You will need to specify the number of attendees and what food you are bringing. Let Kathie know if you would like to come early to help set up (5:00-6:00 p.m.), help clean up afterwards (9:30-10:00 p.m.) or help in any other way. If you are a new member, or if you have not attended our dinner before, we strongly encourage you to come and get to know others who share your passion for birds and birding. There will be many delicious dishes and great photo presentations. So mark your calendars and come join the fun!

Directions: The Owen Brown Community Center is located on the east side of Columbia at 6800 Cradlerock Way, off Broken Land Parkway from Route 29. There is ample parking.