



The Goldfinch

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

www.howardbirds.org



CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

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Thursday, March 14, 2013 "Shorebirds: Selected Identification Challenges," by Cyndie Loeper and John Bjerke. These Montgomery County shorebird enthusiasts will share their strategies to identify common migrants in the Mid-Atlantic region. John is a current volunteer for the Audubon Naturalist Society as well as past president and board member of that organization. Cyndie is an active member of the Montgomery chapter of MOS.

Thursday, April 11, 2013 "Enhanced Identification: Seeing Beyond Color," by David Holmes. Plumage color is an obvious field mark for nailing down the bird you have spotted, but many other features are equally useful. David will draw upon years of bird banding experience to help us hone our identification skills. David is a long-time member of our club and a hummingbird bander. He is also the Triadelphia Christmas Count compiler.

Meetings are at the **Robinson Nature Center**, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality at 7:30 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 8:00 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 7:15 p.m. and locked again at 8:15 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS:

AUGUST 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2012

BY JOANNE SOLEM

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Can you identify the eggs shown in this picture? This species is easily found in the county year-round.

Answer on page [5](#).



Weather, intensive birding, and luck combined to produce a season birders will long remember. That was the opening sentence of the autumn 2011 article; unbelievably, autumn 2012 was even more memorable. A [Sabine's Gull](#), a gorgeous wanderer from the Arctic, established a new county record, while a [Brant](#) merited almost equal attention since the two previous sightings were made more than 50 years ago (1957, 1959). A [Summer Tanager](#) in late November set a state late record and a [Le Conte's Sparrow](#) was a third county record. There were 17 species reported that had been seen 20 or fewer times in the last 60 years, five set new arrival or departure dates, and at least 26 set second earliest or latest records! The capstone was the invasion of boreal species in unprecedented variety. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak were all reported in a *single* season! (In 1975 and 1977, a slightly different mix of six species was reported, but those appeared over three seasons, not one.)

(Records continued on page 3)

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

WINTER SPARROW SEARCH

March 2, Saturday (half day) Limit: 12 people
Search the wetlands and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Previous years have turned up non-sparrow rarities! Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. *Contact Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net, 443-285-3302 to sign up and get info.*

[CENTENNIAL PARK](#)

March 3, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected; early migrant passerines possible. *Leader - Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408.*

WATERFOWL SEARCH

March 9, Saturday 8:00 a.m. (half day) *Meet at Broken Land Pkwy and Rt. 32 Park & Ride (west side 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 krschwal@verizon.net.*

[CENTENNIAL PARK](#)

March 10, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) Note that Daylight Saving Time starts, so set clocks ahead. *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* See March 3 for description. *Leader - Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329 or LBRoller@verizon.net.*

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

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the May/June 2013 issue is March 25, 2013.

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

[CENTENNIAL PARK](#)

March 17, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* See March 3 for description. *Leader - Allen Lewis, allenrlewis@gmail.com.*

SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM

March 23, Saturday 8:00 a.m. (half day) *Meet at farm parking area; follow dirt road between barns. Park on right. From I-70, take MD 97 south to right on Jennings Chapel Rd., 1 mile to right into farm at sign.* Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads, and paths on this working farm. Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, Cattail Creek and floodplain, three ponds and five shallow waterfowl impoundments make for diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear required for part of walk. *Leader - Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197.*

[CENTENNIAL PARK](#)

March 24, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* See March 3 for description. *Leader - Jeff Culler, cullerfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006.*

ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL

April 6, Saturday, 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, rocii@cullison.org or 410-442-2181.*

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTRAL FARM

April 14, Sunday (half day) Limited to 12 people.
Email Bonnie to sign up. Moderate to difficult walking though the fields and wetlands of this private property. Knee boots a must. No facilities. *Leader - Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net or 443-285-3302.*

[MT. PLEASANT FARM](#) - HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY

April 20, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) Earth Day Walk in conjunction with the Howard County Conservancy. *Meet at parking lot near the barn.* Easy walking through the

(Field Trips continued on page 5)

(Records continued from page 1)

A **Snow Goose** (wh.) was noted at FULPD 10/15 (**JHf**). Storm Sandy dropped a third record **Brant** at the same location 10/30 (**KS**). It was photographed on the ground shortly before a **Bald Eagle** swooped over scattering the waterfowl. Two other birders in the immediate vicinity saw the Brant in the air as it departed (**JHf, DCm**); unfortunately, despite an intensive search, the bird was not seen again. A **Cackling Goose** was detected at FULPD 10/15 (**JHf**) and one was spotted at CENPK 11/18 (**KS+**). Peak **Tundra Swan** migration took place 11/14 with each observer reporting a flock at a different site (**DCm, SE, WE, KLz, MRg, RRf**). The 35 **Wood Ducks** at TRIRS 11/1 were a good count (**JHf**), as were 63 wary **Mallards** at Waterford 11/10 (**WE**). The 38 **Blue-winged Teal** at CENPK 8/28 didn't linger (**BO**); six **Northern Shovelers** were noted at Race Rd Wetlands 11/23 (**ALw**); while the only autumn **Northern Pintail** reported was at TRIRS 9/9 (**JSc**). **Greater Scaup** were present at Larriland 11/8 (**RRf-4**) and 11/10 (**ALw-7**); one was at TRIRS 11/15 (**DCm**). A **White-winged Scoter** was an excellent find at Gateway 11/7 (**ALw+**). Three female **Black Scoters** on Wilde Lake 10/30 were a gift from Sandy (**KS+**); two males were found at TRIRS 11/4 (**DCm**). A **Long-tailed Duck** was picked out of a flock of 45 **Buffleheads** at TRIRS 11/14 (**JHf+**). The high count of **Ruddy Ducks** was 51 at CENPK 10/30 (**RRf**).

Wild Turkeys were seen again east of US29 (8/5 **DHs-3**; 11/6 **SMcG-1**) as well as north of US40/St. Johns La (**MSp-1**), Hipsley Mill Rd 8/21 (**KTf-9**), so. of Patapsco River/e. of Morgan Stat. Rd 9/4 (**NSz-18**), and at Waterford 9/15 (**MW-1**). A **Red-throated Loon** made a brief appearance at CENPK 11/18. Reported at 3:00 p.m. (**BHi**), it departed at 4:00 p.m. (**HPt**). At Waterford, an **American Bittern** flushed on 10/5, and nearly full-grown **Great Blue Herons** were last heard in/near nests 8/7 (**MW**). The last two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were spotted at Wilde Lake 9/15 (**CNw, JOD**).

A **Mississippi Kite** flew over Meadowbrook Pk 9/3 (**BO**). This season **Bald Eagles** began nest building in a sycamore at UMDCF—probably the pair that reportedly lost their nest tree on private property two miles away (**NM; JS; WE**). Peak **Broad-winged Hawk** flights were on 9/15 CENPK (**MKw-279**), 9/16 late afternoon, Alpha Ridge Park (**BO-450**) plus at 4:00 p.m. a steady stream over the Elkridge library (**MMx**), and 9/20 W. Friendship Pk (**BO-450**). A **Sora** was present at UMDCF 9/28-10/6 (**BO+**).

Special shorebirds and a few good counts enlivened the season. An **American Golden-Plover** visited TRIRS 9/12 (**BHi, JHf**) to

9/15 (**HFk, KDy, HPt**); one turned up at FULPD 9/16 (the TRIRS individual?) (**JMo+**) and was last seen 9/22 (**MW**). The high **Killdeer** count was 65 at No. TRIRS (**RRf**). An **American Avocet** established a seventh record appearing at TRIRS 8/7 (**W&RDb+**). The **Spotted Sandpiper** that lingered until 11/22 at CENPK was the second latest ever (**RHI**). A **Sanderling** and a **Baird's Sandpiper** appeared at TRIRS 9/9 (**JHf; BO, EH, RGb**); on 9/13 the same two species (same two individuals?) were spotted at FULPD (**HFk; JHf+**). A count of 82 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at BRNBR 8/19 was the second highest on record (**NM**). **Western Sandpipers** appeared at BRNBR 8/2 (**CSt+**; **JHf-1**) to 8/4 (**JHf-2**), as well as at No. TRIRS 8/5 (**JHf-3**) and 9/1 (**KHf, KDy-1**). **Least Sandpipers** reached a peak of 60 at No. TRIRS 8/5 (**JHf**). **Pectorals** were present from 8/1 at BRNBR (**JHf-4**) to 9/16 at FULPD (**JMr-1**), with a high of 15 at No. TRIRS on 8/16 (**NM**). A **Dunlin** rested at FULPD 11/3 (**MKw; JHf+**). The season's only **Stilt Sandpiper** was at No. TRIRS 8/5 (**JHf**). **American Woodcock** are infrequently reported in fall. This year one was at Cavey La 10/6 (**ALw**) and another at Wilde Lake 10/31 (**JMa**).

Bonaparte's Gulls were present from 10/30 at FULPD (**KS+-1**) to 11/17 at Lake Kittamaqundi (**KS-3**). **Laughing Gulls** showed up at TRIRS 9/9 (**AWs, D&MO'S+-1**), Manahan Dr 9/16 (**BO-3**), and FULPD 10/30 (**JHf, RRf; KS+-2**). A **Forster's Tern** at TRIRS 10/30 was the second latest record (**JHf+**). The county's first **Sabine's Gull** was spotted at TRIRS after a storm the evening of 9/8 (**TFe, GKg**). To the delight of dozens of Maryland and Mid-Atlantic birders, this elegant and highly photogenic rarity stayed until 9/12 (**JCu, NM, JW+**).

Fall Count produced a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Atholton Park 9/15 (**ESu, DJn**); another (possibly injured) was seen at CENPK 10/12-16 setting a new late date (**BO+**) [10/10/81 **J. Sheppard**]. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was located at Annapolis Rock 11/8 (**JSh+**). A high of 150 **Chimney Swifts** passed over Cavey La 9/10 (**RRf**). The last reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** zipped around the Elkhorn Garden Plots 10/8 (**JW+**). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** appeared at six sites from 9/9 MPEA (**JHf**) to 9/29 Western Reg. Pk (**EHn**); one at Atholton Pk 9/16 was at an infrequently birded location (**DCm**). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Manahan 9/8 was the second earliest (**BO**).

A **Merlin** at BRNBR 8/2 was a new early date (**BO, ROr**) [8/14/08 **E. Holdridge, J. Solem**]. **Peregrine Falcons** were reported from seven locations from 9/9 at Schooley Mill Pk (**JSc**) to 11/17 at FULPD (**JW**).

(Records continued on page 4)

(Records continued from page 3)

Three species of flycatchers set second earliest dates: **Olive-sided** at W. Friendship 8/12 (**JCu**), **Yellow-bellied** at MPEA 8/18 (**JHf**), and **Least** at MPEA 8/19 (**ALw**, **MKw**). On 9/23, late Leasts were at Cavey La (**RRf-1**) and MPEA (**PKs-1**).

Two **Blue-headed Vireos** at Cavey La 9/11 set a new early date (**RRf**) [9/12/80 **J. Sheppard**]. **Philadelphia Vireos** were well-reported with records from seven locations; the high was three at MPEA 9/19 (**NM**). That observer had eight from 9/12 to 9/27. **Blue Jay** migration is often overlooked (or not obvious), but this year, from 9/22 to 9/30, there were four counts of more than 100. The highest totals were 400 at MTPLT 9/25 (**BO**) and 255 at CENPK 9/30 (**MKw**). **Common Ravens** were noted five times: one chased by six **American Crows** at Gorman NRA (Kindler) 9/28 (**JS**); one chased by 36 American Crows at Cavey La 9/29 (**RRf**); two at MTPLT 10/9 (**KDy**, **HPt**); one at Centennial Park 10/17 (**BO**); and one at Lake Elkhorn 11/8 (**ALw**). A late **Tree Swallow** at TRIRS was spotted 11/3 (**CPr**). Fifteen **Cliff Swallows** hunted over FULPD 8/18 (**DCm**).

The first **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were three at MPEA 8/30 (**JHf**). At least 27 observers reported the species at 23 locations. **House Wrens** hit a high of 12 at MTPLT 9/7 (**BO**). A **Sedge Wren** at Cavey La 10/13 was one of the season's choice sightings (**RRf+**). A **Marsh Wren** was present at UMDCF 9/21-10/18 (**BO+**). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at MPEA 8/21 was the second earliest (**RRf**, **NM**, **KDy**, **HPt**).

Bluebirders can appreciate **Lisa Colangelo's** delight as she reported *zero House Sparrows* for the first time in the 16 years she has monitored the trail at W. Friendship Pk! The **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at MPEA 9/9 tied the second earliest (**PKs**); 40 Swainson's Thrushes at dawn at Annapolis Rock 9/25 (**JGr**) was a new high count [32 - **J. McKitterick** 5/12/07]; three **Hermit Thrushes** turned up at Duvall Rd 10/15 (**KTf**); and 175 **American Robins** were counted at CENPK 11/4 (**MKw**). The last **Gray Catbird** of the season was logged at Forebay 11/22 (**JW**).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** at CENPK 9/30 (**MKw**) was the second latest. The **Golden-winged** female at MPEA 8/18 was the second earliest (**JHf**); a male was also seen there 8/24 (**DCm**). Ten **Black-and-whites** set a second high count on 9/29 at MPEA (**KS**, **HPt**). Autumn's lone **Prothonotary** appeared at Cavey La 9/8 (**RRf**). As usual, there were numerous **Tennessees** over an extended period with one on 8/19 at MPEA the second earliest (**RHI**); the last three, also at MPEA, were seen 10/26 (**MRg**). **Connecticut's** were reported from six sites (**MRg**; **ALw**, **DCm**; **JHf**, **JCu**, **HPt**; **JMcK**; **BO**; **W&LSb**; **MLm+**). A **Mourning**

was spotted at MTPLT 9/6 (**BO**, **EH**). The high **Common Yellowthroat** count was 14 at MTPLT 9/25 (**BO**). The last **Hooded Warbler** was at Ilchester 9/15 (**HFk**). A **Cape May** at MPEA 8/21 set a new early date (**DCm**) [8/23/82 **R. Munro**]. The high was four on 9/10 at Cavey La (**RRf**). **Bay-breasteds** were noted from 9/12 at MPEA (**DCm**) to 10/7 at So. Trotter (**WE**). A **Black-throated Blue** male on 8/18 at MPEA was the second earliest (**MKw**), while a female at Sharp Rd 11/7 set a new late date (**RSm**) [10/30/05 **E. & J. Metter**; '06 **R. Ringler**]. **Palm Warblers** were present from 9/6 at W. Friendship (**BO**, **ROr-1 w.**) into Nov: 11/9 Elkhorn Garden Plots (**JW-1 e.**) and 11/10 GATWY (**JW-1 e.**). A **Wilson's** 8/23 at Cavey La was the second earliest (**RRf**). A **Brewster's** at MPEA 8/26 was the 17th record (**DCm**).

An **American Tree Sparrow** at MTPLT 10/20 was the second earliest (**HPt**, **EHn**). One was also spotted at Elkhorn 11/26 (**ALw**). **Chipping Sparrows** peaked at 65 at Waterford 9/30 (**BO**) and 52 at Meadowbrook 10/13 (**BO**). The season's only 12-sparrow day produced the county's tenth **Clay-colored Sparrow**, at Waterford 10/23 (**BO**, **ALw**, **DCm**). **Vespers** were more frequently detected than usual with reports from five locations with a seasonal high of seven at MTPLT on 10/27 (**MIf**, **JHf**, **NM**, **JCu**). A nice count of **Savannahs** was 110 at UMDCF 10/1 (**BO+**). A **Grasshopper** hung around until 10/27 at Waterford tying the second latest date (**JHf**). A third record **Le Conte's Sparrow** at MTPLT the evening of 10/25 was the outstanding sparrow sighting of the season (**RRf**, ph.; **DCm**). A search the following morning by a dozen birders failed to relocate it. A single **Nelson's** this season was spotted at UMDCF 10/14 (**BO+**). An early **Fox Sparrow** was at CENPK 10/16 (**RRf**). Often overlooked **Lincoln's** were present in good numbers with the one on 9/10 at Fox Chase the second earliest (**BO**) and a high of eight at UMDCF 10/1 (**BO**, **DCm**, **CSt**). The species was reported from 11 locations on 28 dates—more than half by **BO**. Other sightings (some with ph.) came from **HFk**, **MKw**, **KLz**, **NM**, **RRf**, **KS**, and **JW**.

A female **Summer Tanager** appeared in a Sebring Dr. yard 11/24 (**BDn**), although birders were not aware of it until early December. The bird continued well into the winter season setting state records.

One hundred **Bobolinks** at Waterford 9/15 was the season's peak (**MW**). There were scattered **Rusty Blackbird** reports with a high of 11 at MTPLT 11/4 (**DGr**). Winter invasives created excitement with a **Purple Finch** at Allview 9/11, the second earliest (**ESu**). There were 22 reports, mostly of three or fewer. **Red Crossbills**

(Records continued on page 5)

(Records continued from page 4)

were noted over MD175/Snowden River Pkwy 11/6 (**JW-1**) and at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens 11/30 (**ALw, KDy-3**). **White-winged Crossbills** began to filter in on 11/9 at both CENPK (**MRg-6**) and Gateway (**BHb-1**), followed by 11/14 at Manahan (**BO-22**), 11/17 at Mt. Hebron (**JCu-2**), 11/29 at Crest Lawn (**JHf-2**), and 11/30 at Font Hill Wetland Pk (**JW-3**). **Pine Siskins** arrived the last half of Oct, diminished rapidly the first half of Nov, and nearly disappeared by the middle of the month. At least 17 locations were represented. On 10/26, flocks of 100+ were counted at Diversified La (**KDy**) and Manahan (**BO**). Flashy **Evening Grosbeaks** also made an appearance: 10/26-11/1 at Cavey La (**RRf-1**), 10/27 MTPLT (**KS-1**), 11/4 Stone Hill Dr (**KLz-4**), 11/12 Dorsey Hall (**MRg-10**), and 10/22 Branch Woods Ct (**SBw-2**). At least 116 **American Goldfinches** were at MTPLT 9/6 (**CSt**).


Many thanks to Nancy Magnusson and Joe Hanfman for assistance with this compilation.

Abbreviations: **BRNBR** - Browns Bridge, **CENPK** - Centennial Park, **FULPD** - Fulton Pond, **MPEA** - Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, **MTPLT** - Mt. Pleasant, **No. TRIRES** - north end of TRI Reservoir, **TRIRES** - Triadelphia Reservoir, **UMDCF** - University of Maryland Central Farm; e - eastern; w - western; ph. - photograph.

Observers: **SBw** - Sue Buswell, **JCu** - Jeff Culler, **DCm** - David Cummings, **KDy** - Karen Darcy, **RDb** - Rae Dubois, **WDb** - Woody Dubois, **BDn** - Brian Duncan, **SE** - Sue Earp, **WE** - Wes Earp, **TFe** - Tom Feild, **HfK** - Harry Fink, **DGr** - David Gersten, **JGr** - Jim Green, **RGb** - Ron Gutberlet, **JHf** - Joe Hanfman, **DHs** - Don Haskins, **KHf** - Kevin Heffernan, **EHn** - Elaine Hendricks, **BHi** - Bill Hill, **RHi** - Russell Hillsley, **EH** - Emy Holdridge, **BHb** - Bill Hubick, **MIf** - Marshall Iliff, **DJn** - Diane Johns, **PKs** - Peter Kaestner, **MKw** - Mike Kerwin, **GKg** - Geraldine King, **ALw** - Allen Lewis, **KLz** - Kathy Litzinger, **NM** - Nancy Magnusson, **JMa** - John Maloney, **JMr** - Joel Martin, **MMx** - Mary Maxey, **SMcG** - Sean McGuin, **JMcK** - John McKitterick, **JMo** - Jim Moore, **CNw** - Carol Newman, **JOd** - Jeanne Odermatt, **ROr** - Richard Orr, **DO'S** - Dana O'Sullivan, **MO'S** - Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** - Bonnie Ott, **CPr** - Cythina Parr, **HPt** - Howard Patterson, **MRg** - Matt Rogosky, **RRf** - Russ Ruffing, **JSc** - Jared Satchell, **KS** - Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** - Jay Sheppard, **RSm** - Romayne Smith, **JS** - Jo Solem, **MSp** - Mary Speuce, **CSt** - Chuck Stirrat, **ESu** - Eva Sunell, **NSz** - Nancy Szalasa, **LSb** - Lisa Strobel, **WSb** - Warren Strobel, **KTf** - Kate Tufts, **MW** - Mark Wallace, **JW** - Jim Wilkinson, **AWs** - Andy Wilson.

(Field Trips continued from page 2)

fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. *Leaders* - Scott Berglund, 410-750-2568 or Business250@yahoo.com and Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408.

 = Great for beginning birders

2013 GREENFEST

BY KATE TUFTS

This year's GreenFest will be on Saturday, April 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Howard County Community College. The theme is "Get Up, Get Out, Get Green." Again, the Howard County Bird Club will have a booth at the fest. We are looking for volunteers to spend a couple of hours representing the Bird Club at our display. It's fun and easy. Almost all questions concern backyard birds.

If you would like to volunteer to help with our display, please contact Kate Tufts at ktufts@verizon.net.

HELP WANTED

Reporter for Chapter Chatter Column - Requires submitting chapter news to The Maryland Yellowthroat. It's an easy job as there are only five submissions per year. The column practically writes itself. If interested, contact Kate Tufts at ktufts@verizon.net.

Goldfinch Editor - Requires good writing skills, basic knowledge of *Microsoft Word and Excel*, and email access. The newsletter is currently produced five times a year in *Microsoft Publisher*, and template files will be provided or graphic files that can be imported into another publishing program. If you are interested in the job, we will work closely with you to get out your first issue at the end of August. If interested, contact Amanda Witt at amanda.witt@yahoo.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

March 28, 2013

Karen Darcy
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 418-8731

April 25, 2013

Kathie Lillie
4102 Roxbury Mill Road
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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ANSWER:

Northern Mockingbird



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

10970 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044

March/April 2013 - Inside This Issue

Club Meetings	Autumn Bird Records
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2012 ODONATE SURVEY

BY JOANNE SOLEM

This year numerous early and late dates for species were established, along with the verification of an addition to the county list. Rambur's Forktail (*Ischnura ramburii*) was verified with excellent photos in three locations in mid-July (Bonnie Ott). It was assumed to be number 96 on the Howard County list until Richard Orr uncovered a mislabeled photo of a female he had taken July 5, 2005 at Fulton schools.

New early dates were as follows (any photo records were vetted by R. Orr): Stream Bluet 5/17 (BO), Orange Blue 4/2 (RO), Eastern Forktail 4/8 (Wes Earp), Common Green Darner 3/13 (RO-state record), Springtime Darner 4/7 (BO), Cyrano Darner 5/25 (RO), Lancet Clubtail 4/20 (Bob & Jo Solem, ph.), Ashy Clubtail 4/20 (Annette Allor, ph.), Rapids Clubtail 5/25 (RO), Stream Cruiser 3/26 (B&JS, Grazina McClure, Geraldine King), Swift River Cruiser 5/25 (RO), and Blue Corporal 4/2 (WE). Interestingly, seven of the early dates were at least one week to as much as a month prior to the old dates and, of these, six were in March

and April—indicative of an unusually warm early spring.

Late dates were all thanks to Bonnie's sharp eyes: Familiar Bluet 11/11, Common Green Darner 11/11, Tiger Spiketail, ph., 8/30 (a month's extension), and Twelve-spotted Skimmer (tied 10/17 record).

An odonate photo gallery to assist in local identification was assembled by Bob Solem. It was added to the club's website in the fall. Amazingly, there is at least one local photo illustrating every species on the county list.

The seventh annual Howard County Dragonfly Count, coordinated by Beth Johnson, was held July 28. Thirty-nine species were tabulated by 33 observers. The count was summarized in the Nov/Dec 2012 Goldfinch.